

= Anne Hyde =

Anne Hyde ( 12 March 1637 ? 31 March 1671 ) was Duchess of York and of Albany as the first wife of the future King James II of England . Originally an Anglican , she converted to Catholicism soon after her marriage to James . This took place in 1660 after she became pregnant by him , but he is said to have promised to marry her the year before . The two first met in the Netherlands while Anne was living in the household of James ' sister Mary . James and Anne had eight children , but six died in early childhood . The two who survived to adulthood were Lady Mary , who succeeded her father after his deposition during the Glorious Revolution of 1688 and Lady Anne , who succeeded her brother @-@ in @-@ law and became the first monarch of Great Britain .

Born the daughter of a commoner ? Edward Hyde ( later created Earl of Clarendon ) , Anne is best known for her marriage to James , which caused much gossip . Two months after the marriage , Anne gave birth to the couple 's first child , who had obviously been conceived out of wedlock . Until near the end of Anne 's life , some observers disapproved of James ' decision to marry Anne ; but not King Charles II , James ' brother , who wanted the marriage to take place . Another cause of disapproval was the public affection James showed towards Anne , such as kissing and leaning against each other , which was considered improper behaviour from man to wife during the seventeenth century .

James was a known philanderer who kept many mistresses , for which Anne often reproached him , once even complaining to the king , who sent one of James ' mistresses to the countryside where she remained until her death . Nonetheless , James fathered many illegitimate children . Years after Anne had herself converted , James avowed his Catholicism , which was a contributing factor to the Glorious Revolution . This was through Anne 's influence ; she had been exposed to Catholicism during visits to the Netherlands and France , and was strongly attracted thereto . She suffered from advanced breast cancer and died shortly after giving birth to her last child .

= = Early years ( 1637 ? 60 ) = =

In 1629 , Edward Hyde married his first wife , Anne Ayliffe of Grittenham . Six months into the marriage Anne caught smallpox , miscarried and died . Three years later , Hyde married Frances Aylesbury . In 1637 , Anne , the couple 's eldest daughter , was born at Cranbourne Lodge in Windsor . Almost nothing except that she was named after Edward Hyde 's first wife is known of her life before 1649 , when her family fled to the Netherlands after the execution of the deposed King Charles I. They settled in Breda , where they were offered a home by Mary , Princess Royal and Princess of Orange , who had done the same with many English fugitives . The Princess appointed Anne a maid of honour , apparently against the wishes of her mother and late father .

Anne became a general favourite with the people she met either at The Hague or at the Princess of Orange 's country house at Teylingen . She was very attractive and stylish , and attracted many men . One of the first men to fall in love with Anne was Spencer Compton , a son of the Earl of Northampton . However , Anne quickly fell in love with Henry Jermyn , who returned her feelings . Anne dismissed Jermyn just as quickly when she met James , Duke of York , the son of the deposed king . On 24 November 1659 , two or three years after she first met him , James promised he would marry Anne . Charles , James ' brother , forced him reluctantly into this , saying that her strong character would be a positive influence on his weak @-@ willed brother .

= = Duchess of York ( 1660 ? 71 ) = =

= = = Marriage = = =

Anne was visibly pregnant and the couple were obliged to marry . They held an official but private marriage ceremony in London on 3 September 1660 , following the restoration of the monarchy . The wedding took place between 11 at night and 2 in the morning at Worcester House ? her father

's house in the Strand ? and was solemnised by Dr. Joseph Crowther , James ' chaplain . The French Ambassador described Anne as having " courage , cleverness , and energy almost worthy of a King 's blood " . The couple 's first child , Charles , was born in October of that year , but died seven months later . Seven children followed : Mary ( 1662 ? 1694 ) , James ( 1663 ? 1667 ) , Anne ( 1665 ? 1714 ) , Charles ( 1666 ? 1667 ) , Edgar ( 1667 ? 1671 ) , Henrietta ( 1669 ? 1669 ) , and Catherine ( 1671 ? 1671 ) . All of their sons and two of their daughters died in infancy .

Even well after their marriage , some observers disapproved of the prince 's decision , regardless of what he had promised beforehand . Samuel Pepys said of the marriage : " ... that the Duke of York 's marriage with her hath undone the kingdom , by making the Chancellor so great above reach , who otherwise would have been but an ordinary man , to have been dealt with by other people ... " After Anne 's death , the royal court tried to find a new wife for James , but this new wife was not , under any circumstances , to be of humble birth . As good a father as Pepys portrayed James to be , he strangely stated that Anne and James were unaffected by the death of their firstborn son . Pepys also described Anne as " not only the proudest woman in the world , but the most expensfull . " Even in the minds of Anne 's future son @-@ in @-@ law , William III of Orange and that of her cousin @-@ by @-@ marriage , Sophia of Hanover , the stigma of the Hydes ' lowly birth remained .

= = = Domestic life = = =

Anne experienced problems in her married life . She was not very much liked at court and James philandered with younger mistresses such as Arabella Churchill , with whom he fathered many illegitimate children , including two born during Anne 's lifetime ; thus he was called " the most unguarded ogler of his time . " Anne was not oblivious to this : Pepys wrote that she was jealous and chided James , but he also wrote that Anne and James were notorious for showing their affections publicly , kissing and leaning on each other . Pepys also wrote that when James fell in love with Lady Chesterfield , Anne complained to King Charles so insistently that Lady Chesterfield had to retreat to the countryside , where she remained until she died .

Anne became drawn to Catholicism , to which both she and James had been exposed during their time abroad and converted to it almost immediately after the Restoration . John Callow states that Anne " made the greatest single impact upon his thinking . " James also converted to Catholicism eight or nine years after Anne , but he still attended Anglican services until 1676 . James preferred to associate himself with Protestant people , such as John Churchill , whose wife later became a very close friend of Anne 's youngest surviving daughter Lady Anne . King Charles at the time opposed Catholicism and insisted that James ' children be raised in the Anglican faith , although he converted to Catholicism on his deathbed . James and Anne 's surviving daughters were raised as Anglicans .

= = = Death and legacy = = =

Anne was ill for 15 months after the birth of her youngest son , Edgar . She bore Henrietta in 1669 and Catherine in 1671 . Anne never recovered from Catherine 's birth . Ill with breast cancer , she died on 31 March 1671 . On her deathbed , her two brothers Henry and Laurence tried to bring an Anglican priest to give her communion , but Anne refused and she received viaticum of the Catholic Church . Two days after her death , her embalmed body was interred in the vault of Mary , Queen of Scots at Westminster Abbey 's Henry VII Chapel . In June 1671 , Anne 's only surviving son Edgar died of natural causes , followed by Catherine in December , leaving Ladies Mary and Anne as the Duke of York 's heiresses .

After Anne Hyde 's death , a portrait of her painted by Willem Wissing was commissioned by the future Mary II ; this used to hang above the door of the Queen 's Drawing Room of the Garden House at Windsor Castle . Two years after the death of his first wife , James married a Catholic princess , Mary of Modena , who bore James Francis Edward , James ' only son to survive to adulthood . James became king of England , Ireland , and Scotland in 1685 , but was deposed

during the Glorious Revolution of 1688 . The throne was then offered by Parliament to Anne 's eldest daughter Mary and her husband William of Orange . After Mary died in 1694 and William in 1702 , Anne Hyde 's youngest daughter Anne became Queen of the three Kingdoms and , in 1707 , the first sovereign of the united Kingdom of Great Britain .

= = Issue = =

= = Style and arms = =

Following her marriage , Anne was styled as Her Royal Highness the Duchess of York .

= = Ancestry = =

= = Media portrayals = =

In the 2003 mini @-@ series , Charles II : The Power and The Passion ( or The Last King ) , Anne Hyde is portrayed by Tabitha Wady .