

= Princess Alice of the United Kingdom =

Princess Alice of the United Kingdom (Alice Maud Mary ; 25 April 1843 ? 14 December 1878 ; later Princess Louis of Hesse and Grand Duchess of Hesse and by Rhine) was the third child and second daughter of Queen Victoria and Albert , Prince Consort . Alice was the first of Queen Victoria 's nine children to die , and one of three to be outlived by their mother , who died in 1901 .

Alice spent her early childhood in the company of her parents and siblings , travelling between the British royal residences . Her education was devised by Albert 's close friend and adviser , Baron Stockmar , and included practical activities such as needlework and woodwork as well as French and German . When her father , Prince Albert , was diagnosed with typhoid fever in December 1861 , Alice nursed him until his death on 14 December that year . Following his death , Queen Victoria entered a period of intense mourning and Alice spent the next six months acting as her mother 's unofficial secretary . On 1 July 1862 , while the court was still at the height of mourning , Alice married the minor German Prince Louis of Hesse , heir to the Grand Duchy of Hesse . The ceremony ? conducted privately and with unrelieved gloom at Osborne House ? was described by the Queen as " more of a funeral than a wedding " . The Princess 's life in Darmstadt was unhappy as a result of impoverishment , family tragedy , and worsening relations with her husband and mother .

Alice was a prolific patron of women 's causes and showed an interest in nursing , especially the work of Florence Nightingale . When Hesse became involved in the Austro -@- Prussian War , Darmstadt filled with the injured ; the heavily pregnant Alice devoted much of her time to the management of field hospitals . One of her organisations , the Princess Alice Women 's Guild , took over much of the day @-@ to @-@ day running of the state 's military hospitals . As a result of this activity , Queen Victoria became concerned about Alice 's directness about medical , and , in particular , gynaecological , matters . In 1871 , she wrote to Alice 's younger sister , Princess Louise , who had recently married : " Don 't let Alice pump you . Be very silent and cautious about your ' interior ' " . In 1877 , Alice became Grand Duchess upon the accession of her husband ; her increased duties putting further strains on her health . In the latter months of 1878 , diphtheria infected the Hessian court . Alice nursed her family for over a month before falling ill herself .

Princess Alice was the mother of Tsaritsa Alexandra Feodorovna of Russia (empress consort of Tsar Nicholas II) , maternal grandmother of Louis Mountbatten , 1st Earl Mountbatten of Burma , the last Viceroy of India , and maternal great @-@ grandmother of Prince Philip , Duke of Edinburgh , consort of Queen Elizabeth II . Another daughter , Elisabeth , who had married Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich of Russia , was , like the tsaritsa and her family , killed by the Bolsheviks in 1918 .

= = Early life = =

= = = Childhood = = =

Alice was born on 25 April 1843 at Buckingham Palace in London . She was the second daughter and third child of Queen Victoria , and her husband Albert , Prince Consort . She was christened " Alice Maud Mary " in the private chapel at Buckingham Palace by The Archbishop of Canterbury , William Howley , on 2 June 1843 . She was named " Alice " to honour Victoria 's first Prime Minister , Lord Melbourne , who was a passionate admirer of the Queen and had once commented that the name " Alice " was his favourite female name . " Maud " , the Anglo @-@ Saxon name for Matilda , was chosen in honour of one of Alice 's godparents , Princess Sophia Matilda of Gloucester , a niece of King George III . " Mary " was chosen because Alice was born on the same day as her maternal great @-@ aunt , The Duchess of Gloucester . Her gender was greeted with mixed feelings from the public , and even the Privy Council sent a message to Albert expressing its " congratulation and condolence " on the birth of a second daughter . Her godparents were The King of Hanover , for whom The Duke of Cambridge stood proxy ; The Princess of Hohenlohe @-@ Langenburg , for whom The Dowager Duchess of Kent stood proxy ; The Hereditary Prince of Saxe

@-@ Coburg and Gotha , for whom The Hereditary Grand Duke of Mecklenburg @-@ Strelitz stood proxy ; and Princess Sophia Matilda of Gloucester .

Alice 's birth prompted her parents to find a larger family home . Buckingham Palace was not equipped with the private apartments that Victoria 's growing family needed , including suitable nurseries . Therefore , in 1844 , Victoria and Albert purchased Osborne House on the Isle of Wight as a family holiday home . Alice 's education was devised by her father and his close friend , Baron Stockmar . At Osborne , Alice and her siblings were taught practical skills such as housekeeping , cooking , gardening and carpentry , as well as daily lessons in English , French and German . Victoria and Albert favoured a monarchy based on family values ; Alice and her siblings , who wore middle class clothing on a daily basis , slept in sparsely furnished bedrooms with little heating . Alice was fascinated with the world outside the Royal Household ; at Balmoral , where she seemed happiest , she visited the tenants living and working on the estate . On one occasion , she escaped from her governess at the chapel at Windsor Castle and sat in a public pew , so she could better understand people who were not strict adherents to royal protocol . In 1854 , during the Crimean War , the eleven @-@ year @-@ old Alice toured London hospitals for wounded soldiers with her mother and her eldest sister . She was the most emotionally sensitive of her siblings and was sympathetic to other people 's burdens , possessing a sharp tongue and an easily triggered temper . In her childhood , Alice formed a close relationship with her brother , the Prince of Wales , and her eldest sister , The Princess Royal . Victoria 's marriage to Prince Frederick of Prussia in 1858 greatly upset her .

= = = Family caregiver = = =

Alice 's compassion for other people 's suffering established her role as the family caregiver in 1861 . Her maternal grandmother and paternal great @-@ aunt Victoria , Duchess of Kent , died at Frogmore on 16 March 1861 . Alice had spent much of her time at her grandmother 's side , often played the piano for her in Frogmore 's drawing room , and nursed her through the final stages of illness . Following her mother 's death , the Queen broke down with grief and relied heavily on Alice , to whom Albert had given the instruction : " Go and comfort Mama . " The Queen wrote to her uncle , King Leopold of Belgium , that " dear good Alice was full of intense tenderness , affection and distress for me " .

Only a few months later , on 14 December 1861 , Albert died at Windsor Castle . During his final illness , Alice remained at his bedside . Alice sent for the Prince of Wales by telegram , without the knowledge of the Queen , who refused to notify him because she blamed him for Albert 's death . The Queen was distraught by her husband 's death , and the court entered a period of intense mourning . Alice became her mother 's unofficial secretary , and for the next six months , the physical representation of the monarch . Through her passed the Queen 's official papers to and from her government ministers , while the Queen secluded herself from all public life . Alice was aided in this task by her younger sister Princess Louise . Although Princess Helena , Louise 's elder sister , would normally have been selected to assist , her inability to go long without crying was held against her .

= = Marriage = =

= = = Suitors = = =

Alice 's matrimonial plans were begun in 1860 by her mother . Queen Victoria had expressed her wish that her children should marry for love , but this did not mean that her choice of suitors would necessarily be extended to anybody outside the royal houses of Europe . Raising a British subject to royalty , however high their rank , was politically objectionable , and also wasted any opportunity for a useful foreign alliance . The Queen instructed her daughter Princess Frederick of Prussia , recently married to Prince Frederick of Prussia , to produce a list of eligible princes in Europe . Her

search produced only two suitable candidates : The Prince of Orange ; and Prince Albert of Prussia , cousin to Victoria 's husband Frederick . The Prince of Orange was soon discounted . He journeyed to Windsor Castle so that Queen Victoria could look him over in person , but he proved unpalatable to Alice . The prince too showed little interest in Alice , despite strong pressure from his pro @-@ British mother , Queen Sophie of the Netherlands . Prince Albrecht , too , was spurned , with Prince Frederick of Prussia remarking that his cousin would not do for " one who deserves the very best " .

With both of the leading candidates now discounted , Princess Victoria suggested Prince Louis of Hesse , a minor German royal , the nephew of The Grand Duke of Hesse . Princess Victoria had gone to the court of Hesse to inspect Louis 's sister , Princess Anna , as a potential bride for her brother , The Prince of Wales . Although not favourably impressed with Princess Anna , she was impressed with Louis and his brother Prince Henry . Both were invited to Windsor Castle in 1860 , ostensibly so they could watch the Ascot Races in the company of the royal family , but in reality , the visit was a chance for the Queen to inspect her potential son @-@ in @-@ law . The Queen admired both Louis and Henry , but noted how well Louis and Alice got along together . When the Hessian family departed , Louis requested Alice 's photograph , and Alice made it clear that she was attracted to him .

= = = Engagement and wedding = = =

Alice was engaged to Prince Louis of Hesse on 30 April 1861 , following the Queen 's consent . The Queen persuaded the Prime Minister , Lord Palmerston , to vote Alice a dowry of £ 30 @,@ 000 . Although the amount was considered generous at the time , Prince Albert remarked that " she will not be able to do great things with it " in the little realm of Hesse , compared to the riches that her sister Victoria would inherit as future Queen of Prussia and German Empress . Furthermore , the couple 's future home in Darmstadt , the Grand Ducal seat , was uncertain . Although Queen Victoria expected that a new palace would be built , the people of Darmstadt did not want to meet that expense , and the resulting controversy caused resentment there . This meant that Alice was unpopular in Darmstadt before she even arrived .

Between the engagement and the wedding , Alice 's father Prince Albert died on 14 December 1861 . Despite the Queen 's grief , she ordered that the wedding should continue as planned . On 1 July 1862 , Alice and Louis were married privately in the dining room of Osborne House , which was converted into a temporary chapel . The Queen was ushered in by her four sons , acting as a living screen blocking her from view , and took her place in an armchair near the altar . Alice was given away by her uncle , Albert 's brother Ernest II , Duke of Saxe @-@ Coburg and Gotha , and was flanked by four bridesmaids : her younger sisters , Princesses Helena , Louise and Beatrice , as well as Louis 's sister Princess Anna . For the ceremony , Alice wore a white dress with a veil of Honiton lace , but was required to wear black mourning clothes before and after the ceremony . The Queen , sitting in an armchair , struggled to hold back her tears , and was shielded from view by the Prince of Wales and Prince Alfred , her second son , who cried throughout the service . The weather at Osborne was dreary , with winds blowing up from the Channel . The Queen wrote to her eldest daughter , Victoria , that the ceremony was " more of a funeral than a wedding " , and remarked to Alfred , Lord Tennyson that it was " the saddest day I can remember " . The Queen gave her daughter a gold , diamond and pearl bracelet , inscribed as a gift from both parents To dear Alice from her loving parents Albert and Victoria R who though visibly parted are ever united , April 25 , 1863 . The ceremony ? described by Gerard Noel as " the saddest royal wedding in modern times " ? was over by 4 pm , and the couple set off for their honeymoon at St Claire in Ryde , a house lent to them by the Vernon Harcourt family . Alice 's entourage consisted of Lady Churchill , General Seymour and Baron Westerweller (a Hessian courtier) . Alice was careful not to displease the Queen after her marriage . When the Queen visited the couple at St Claire , Alice tried not to appear " too happy " . Despite this , Alice 's displays of romantic bliss made the Queen jealous of her daughter 's happiness .

= = Princess Louis of Hesse = =

= = = Settling in Darmstadt = = =

Alice and Louis arrived at Bingen on 12 July 1862 and were greeted by cheering crowds gathered in spite of pouring rain . After being introduced to town officials , they took a train to Mainz , where they had breakfast , before taking a steamer along the Rhine to Gustavsburg . From there , they took a train to Darmstadt , where they were greeted with great enthusiasm . Alice wrote back to her mother that " I believe the people never gave so hearty a welcome " , while her sister Helena wrote that " nothing could have been more enthusiastic than her entry into Darmstadt was ? . Alice did not adapt immediately to her new surroundings . She was homesick , and could not believe that while she was so far away from England , her father was not still alive and comforting her mother . The Queen confided to her journal :

Already nearly a fortnight since our dear Alice has left and strange to say ? much as she has been to me ? and dear and precious as a comfort and an assistance , I hardly miss her at all , or felt her going ? so utterly alone am I ? by that one dreadful loss ? that one thought , that everything passed by unheeded !

The question of Alice 's residence became an issue after her arrival , with the Grand Duke unwilling to fund a residence befitting a daughter of Queen Victoria with the low Hessian funds . The pair were given a house in Darmstadt 's " Old Quarter " , which overlooked the street . The carts rumbling past could easily be heard through the house 's thin walls . However , it seemed to suit Alice well , and she spent as much time in Hesse as possible to familiarise herself with her new surroundings . In 1863 , She travelled to England for the marriage of her brother , the Prince of Wales , and Princess Alexandra of Denmark ; Alice delivered her first child , Victoria Alberta Elisabeth Mathilde Marie , on 5 April in the presence of Queen Victoria . The Darmstadt court chaplain was called over to England especially for the christening .

Alice 's relationship with her mother became difficult , which would continue until her death . After returning to Darmstadt in May , Alice and Louis were given a new residence , Kranichstein , north @-@ east of Darmstadt . Alice gave birth to her second daughter Elizabeth , nicknamed " Ella " , on 1 November 1864 ; Alice 's decision to breastfeed her newborn daughter upset her mother , who was against breast feeding . The Queen was further upset at the realisation that Alice , having found true happiness , would be visiting England less and less .

= = = Austro @-@ Prussian War = = =

In 1866 , Austria called for Prussia to hand over administration of Schleswig @-@ Holstein , which had until that point been jointly administered by the two powers , to the Duke of Augustenberg . Prussia refused , and Otto von Bismarck sent troops into Austrian @-@ administered Holstein . This provoked war between Austria and Prussia , with Hesse siding with the Austrians , technically making Alice and her sister Victoria enemies .

Alice , heavily pregnant with her third child , saw Louis depart to command the Hessian cavalry against the Prussians , and sent her children to stay with Queen Victoria in England . Despite her pregnancy , she performed the royal duties expected of her sex and station , making bandages for troops and preparing hospitals . On 11 July , she gave birth to Princess Irene ; Prussian troops were on the verge of entering Darmstadt , she begged the Grand Duke to surrender on Prussia 's terms . This provoked fury from the fiercely anti @-@ Prussian Prince Alexander , but Alice realised that the conquered German states would likely form a union which she , like her sister Victoria , supported .

Alice and Louis communicated extensively during the war , with Alice urging Louis not to take too many risks , and Louis urging her not to worry . Panic ensued in Darmstadt , with the youth corps fleeing their posts , leaving only the palace sentries to defend the city . Eventually an armistice between Prussia and Hesse was concluded , and Louis wrote that they were now " safe " . He was reunited with Alice after the two met unexpectedly in the street , and they visited the wounded

together . The Prussians entered Darmstadt , and Alice devoted much of her time to the sick and wounded . She was a friend of Florence Nightingale , who was able to collect and send money from England , and Alice used Nightingale 's advice as to cleanliness and ventilation in hospitals .

Despite being relieved that war was over , Alice was appalled by the behaviour of Prussian troops in Hesse ; Berlin took the grand duchy 's railways and telegraph systems , and assessed Hesse for three million florins in indemnity . Alice wrote to her mother , who in turn wrote to Princess Victoria , who responded that there was nothing she could do to relieve the " painful and distressing position darling Alice was in " , as it was " one of the unavoidable results of this dreadful war " . Influence came from the Emperor of Russia , who urged the Prussian King to allow the Grand Duke to keep his throne . The facts that the Emperor 's mother was the Grand Duke 's aunt , and Alice 's sister being also the Prussian Crown Princess are likely to have influenced Prussia 's generosity . However , Alice was angered by an untactful visit by Princess Victoria to the conquered region of Homburg , originally part of Hesse , shortly after it became Prussian territory .

= = = Religious beliefs = = =

Alice developed a friendship with the theologian David Friedrich Strauss . He was a controversial figure at the time ; in 1835 , he published *The Life of Jesus* , which argued that the Bible could not be literally interpreted as God 's word , a view akin to heresy in orthodox circles . Alice 's view was similar to Strauss ' , and she believed that contemporary Victorian society was presenting God in a way that would be " unrecognisable to early Christians " . Strauss also offered Alice an intellectual companionship that her husband was not equipped to provide , and he was regularly invited to the New Palace to read to Alice privately . The friendship flourished ; Strauss was introduced to Alice 's sister Victoria and her brother @-@ in @-@ law Frederick , and he was invited by them to Berlin . In 1870 , Strauss wanted to dedicate his new work *Lectures on Voltaire* to Alice , but he was too afraid to ask her ; she spared him the need by asking him to dedicate them to her . However , Alice 's relationship with Strauss angered Empress Augusta , who labelled Alice a " complete atheist " after hearing about his promotion .

= = Later life = =

Tragedy befell Alice on 29 May 1873 , when her youngest and favourite son , Friedrich , called " Frittie " , died after falling 20 feet from a window . The child suffered from haemophilia , and although he regained consciousness , the internal bleeding could not be stopped . Alice never recovered from Frittie 's death , writing to her mother two months later : " I am glad you have a little coloured picture of my darling . I feel lower and sadder than ever and miss him so much , so continually . " However , the Queen 's attention was more focused on the engagement of her son Prince Alfred to the Grand Duchess Marie Alexandrovna of Russia , the only surviving daughter of Tsar Alexander II and his first wife , Empress Marie Alexandrovna . The Tsar had refused to present his daughter for pre @-@ marriage inspection in England , and instead invited the Queen to meet the family in Germany . Alice supported this suggestion , and on the same day she wrote the Queen about how much she missed Frittie , the Queen wrote Alice in scathing terms : " You have entirely taken the Russian side , and I do not think , dear child , that you should tell me ... what I ought to do . "

After Frittie 's death , Alice attached herself more closely to her only surviving son , Ernest , and her newborn daughter Marie . In 1875 she resumed her public duties , including fund @-@ raising , medical and social work , which had always held her interest . She maintained active correspondence with the social reformer Octavia Hill . However , in these years , relations with her husband deteriorated . In late 1876 , she travelled to England for treatment due to an internal complaint caused by a backward curvature of the womb , and remained at Balmoral while she recovered . From Balmoral , she wrote to her husband criticising the childishness of his letters : " [i] f my children wrote me such childish letters ? only short accounts ? of where and what they had eaten or where they had been etc . , and no opinions , observations and remarks , I should be

surprised ? and how much more so when you write like that ! " On 3 October 1876 , she wrote another despairing letter to Louis :

I longed for real companionship , for apart from that life had nothing to offer me in Darmstadt ... So naturally I am bitterly disappointed with myself when I look back , and see that in spite of great ambitions , good intentions , and real effort , my hopes have nevertheless been completely ship @-@ wrecked ... You say , darling , that you would never have caused me hardship intentionally ... I only regret the lack of any intention or desire ? or rather insight ? to be more to me , and that does not mean spending all your time with me , without wishing to share anything with me at the same time . But I am wrong to talk of these things . Your letters are so dear and kind ? but so empty and bare ? I feel myself through them that I have less to say to you than any other person . Rain ? fine weather ? things that have happened ? that is all I ever have to tell you about ? so utterly cut off is my real self , my innermost life , from yours ... I have tried again and again to talk to you about more serious things , when I felt the need to do so ? but we never meet each other ? we have developed separately ... and that is why I feel true companionship is an impossibility for us ? because our thoughts will never meet ... I love you too so very much , my darling husband , and that is why it is so sad to feel that our life is nevertheless so incomplete ... But you are never intentionally to blame for this ? I never think that , never ...

The following day , Alice wrote a much shorter letter to Louis in which she looked forward to their meeting , and hoped that " my letter did not distress you ? but it is better to be quite honest about all one 's feelings " . Despite marital problems , Alice remained a strong supporter of her husband , being highly critical when his abilities or talents were not fully recognised . On 20 March 1877 , Louis ' father Prince Charles died , making Louis heir apparent . On 13 June the same year , Charles 's successor Grand Duke Louis III died , and Louis and Alice became the Grand Duke and Duchess of Hesse . Her continued unpopularity in Darmstadt , however , coupled with her mother not wanting her in England , caused strain , and she and her children spent July and August in Houlgate , Normandy , where Louis often visited them . She was hurt by her reputation in Darmstadt , and she became increasingly bitter towards it ; Louis wrote in August 1877 expressing the hope that " bitterness of the salt water will drive away the bitterness that you still feel against Darmstadt . Please my darling , don 't speak so harshly of it when I come to join you ? it would quite spoil my happiness at seeing you again . " Alice took Louis 's letter to heart , responding : " I shall certainly say nothing to you about Darmstadt when you come ... I have no intention of saying anything unpleasant , least of all to you . You shake off anything unpleasant like a poodle shaking off the water when it comes to the sea ? natures like yours are the happiest in themselves , but they are not made to help , comfort and advise others , nor to share with others the heat of life 's noon @-@ day or the cool of the evening , with insight , understanding and sympathy . " In response , Louis sent a letter that " made [Alice] cry " , and after this letter , Alice 's letters to Louis were more encouraging , assuring him of his ability to make decisions by himself .

Alice and Louis 's return to Darmstadt as Grand Duke and Duchess was met with celebration that Alice did not expect . However , she found her duties overwhelming , writing to her mother that she " dreaded everything " . Alice used her new role to reform the social conditions of Darmstadt , but found the responsibility of being Landesmutter (mother of her people) strenuous . In another letter to her mother , she wrote that her duties were " more than she could stand in the long run " . She was distressed by a rumour that she was once unkind to Louis 's aunt , Grand Duchess Mathilde Caroline , and she was hurt by an unkind letter from Queen Victoria . Alice complained to Louis that the letter " made me cry with anger ... I wish I were dead and it probably will not be too long before I give Mama that pleasure . " However , no mention is made of what provoked this angry outburst .

While she tried to involve herself in the arts and sciences and distance herself from society protocols , she continued to feel the burden of her duties . Christmas 1877 provided respite for Alice , as all the family gathered together again , and she doted on her youngest daughters Alix and Marie . She was too exhausted to attend the wedding of her niece , Princess Charlotte of Prussia , in Berlin , in January 1878 . In the Autumn of 1878 , Queen Victoria paid for the Grand Ducal family to holiday in Eastbourne , where they stayed in a house on the Grand Parade . Alice performed various royal duties on this trip and visited her mother at Osborne before returning to the New

Palace at Darmstadt in late 1878 .

= = Final illness and death = =

In November 1878 , the Grand Ducal household fell ill with diphtheria . Alice 's eldest daughter Victoria was the first to fall ill , complaining of a stiff neck in the evening of 5 November . Diphtheria was diagnosed the following morning , and soon the disease spread to Alice 's children Alix , Marie , Irene and Ernest . Her husband Louis became infected shortly thereafter . Elisabeth was the only child to not fall ill , having been sent away by Alice to the palace of the Princess Charles , her mother @-@ in @-@ law .

Marie became seriously ill on 15 November , and Alice was called to her bedside . However , she was too late ; Marie had choked to death by the time Alice arrived . She was distraught , writing to Queen Victoria that the " pain is beyond words " . For several weeks , Alice kept the news of Marie 's death secret from her children , but she finally told Ernest in early December . His reaction was even worse than she had anticipated , and at first , he refused to believe it . As he sat up crying , Alice broke her rule about physical contact with the ill and gave him a kiss . At first , however , Alice did not fall ill . She met her sister Victoria as the latter was passing through Darmstadt on the way to England , and wrote to her mother with " a hint of resumed cheerfulness " on the same day . However , by Saturday , 14 December , the anniversary of her father 's death , she became seriously ill with the diphtheria caught from her son . Her last words were " dear Papa " , and she fell unconscious at 2 : 30 am . Just after 8 : 30 am , she died . Alice was buried on 18 December 1878 at the Grand Ducal mausoleum at Rosenhöhe outside Darmstadt , with the Union Flag draped over her coffin . A special monument of Alice and her daughter Marie was erected there by Joseph Boehm .

She was the first child of Queen Victoria to die , with her mother outliving her by more than 20 years . Victoria noted the coincidence of the dates of Albert 's and Alice 's deaths as " almost incredible and most mysterious " . Writing in her journal on the day of Alice 's death , Queen Victoria referred to the recent sufferings of the family : " This terrible day come round again ! " Shocked by grief , she wrote to her daughter Princess Victoria : " My precious child , who stood by me and upheld me seventeen years ago on the same day taken , and by such an awful and fearful disease ... She had darling Papa 's nature , and much of his self @-@ sacrificing character and fearless and entire devotion to duty ! " The animosity that Victoria had towards Alice seemed no longer present . Princess Victoria expressed her grief to her mother in a 39 @-@ page letter , and deeply mourned Alice , the sister to whom she was closest . However , both she and her husband were forbidden from attending the funeral by the Emperor of Germany , who was worried about their safety .

Alice 's death was felt in both in Britain and Hesse . The Times wrote : " The humblest of people felt that they had the kinship of nature with a Princess who was the model of family virtue as a daughter , a sister , a wife and a mother ... Her abundant sympathies sought for objects of help in the great unknown waste of human distress " . The Illustrated London News wrote that the " lesson of the late Princess 's life is as noble as it is obvious . Moral worth is far more important than high position " . The death was also heavily felt by the royal family , especially by Alice 's brother and sister @-@ in @-@ law , the Prince and Princess of Wales . The Princess of Wales , upon meeting the Queen after Alice 's death , exclaimed " I wish I had died instead of her " . The Prince , meanwhile , wrote to the Earl of Granville that Alice " was my favourite sister . So good , so kind , so clever ! We had gone through so much together ... "

= = Legacy = =

Alice founded the Alice @-@ Hospital in Darmstadt in 1869 , to treat the city 's sick and wounded . The organisation continued to flourish long after Alice 's death , and in 1953 , her grandson Louis , Earl Mountbatten of Burma gave a lecture on the hospital . He spoke highly of Alice , saying " [for her] the point of departure always remained a human being who was ill and needed help , and his needs in war and peace . At his side stood the person willing to give help , wishing to ameliorate his

needs and for this purpose could make use of an organisation which was becoming more and more streamlined . " Among Alice 's other establishments were the Alice Society for Women 's Training and Industry , for the purpose of educating women , and the Princess Alice Women 's Guild , an organisation devoted to training nurses . These organisations were especially active and important during the Austro -@-@ Prussian war , but the time Alice dedicated to them annoyed her husband , who saw them as consuming his wife 's time at his expense .

= = = Descendants = = =

Alice 's descendants went on to play significant roles in world history . Her fourth daughter , Alix , married Tsar Nicholas II of Russia , passing her mother 's gene for haemophilia on to her only son , the Tsarevich Alexei . Alix , her husband , and her children were killed by the Bolsheviks in the city of Ekaterinburg in the summer of 1918 , sixteen months after the February Revolution forced Nicholas to abdicate . Alice 's second daughter , Elizabeth , who had married Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich of Russia , and had become a nun after his assassination in 1905 , met a similar fate , being killed by the Bolsheviks the day after the former tsar and tsaritsa . Louis Mountbatten , son of Alice 's eldest daughter , Victoria , was the last Viceroy of India . He was assassinated by the IRA in 1979 . Prince Philip of Greece and Denmark , her great @-@ grandson through Victoria 's daughter Princess Alice of Battenberg , married Elizabeth II of the United Kingdom .

= = Titles , styles , honours and arms = =

= = = Titles and styles = = =

25 April 1843 ? 1 July 1862 : Her Royal Highness The Princess Alice

1 July 1862 ? 13 June 1877 : Her Royal Highness Princess Louis of Hesse and by Rhine

13 June 1877 ? 14 December 1878 : Her Royal Highness The Grand Duchess of Hesse and by Rhine

= = = Honours = = =

1 January 1878 : Companion of the Order of the Crown of India

= = = Arms = = =

In 1858 , Alice and the three younger of her sisters were granted use of the royal arms , with an inescutcheon of the shield of Saxony , representing her father . The shield is differenced by a label argent of three points , demonstrating that she is the child of a monarch ; the outer points bore an ermine spot each , and the centre bore a rose gules , to differentiate her from other members of the royal family .

= = Children = =

= = Ancestors = =