

= Prince George of Denmark =

Prince George of Denmark and Norway , Duke of Cumberland (Danish : Jørgen ; 2 April 1653 ? 28 October 1708) , was the husband of Queen Anne , who reigned over Great Britain from 1702 .

His marriage to Anne was arranged in the early 1680s with a view to developing an Anglo @-@ Danish alliance to contain Dutch maritime power . As a result , George was unpopular with his Dutch brother @-@ in @-@ law William of Orange , who was married to Anne 's elder sister , Mary . William and Mary became joint monarchs of Britain , with Anne as their heiress presumptive , in 1689 after the " Glorious Revolution " deposed James II and VII , the father of both Anne and Mary .

William excluded George from active military service , and neither George nor Anne wielded any great influence until after the deaths of William and Mary , when Anne became queen . During his wife 's reign , George occasionally used his influence in support of his wife , even when privately disagreeing with her views . He had an easy @-@ going manner and little interest in politics ; his appointment as Lord High Admiral in 1702 was largely honorary .

Anne 's seventeen pregnancies by George resulted in twelve miscarriages or stillbirths , four infant deaths , and a chronically sick son , William , who died at the age of eleven . Despite the history of their children , George and Anne 's marriage was a strong one . George died aged 55 from a recurring and chronic lung disease and was buried in Westminster Abbey .

= = Early life = =

George was born in Copenhagen Castle , and was the younger son of King Frederick III of Denmark and Norway and Sophie Amalie of Brunswick @-@ Lüneburg . His mother was the sister of Ernest Augustus , Duke of Brunswick @-@ Lüneburg , later Elector of Hanover . From 1661 , his governor was Otto Grote , later Hanoverian minister to Denmark . Grote was " more courtier and statesman than educator " and when he left for the Hanoverian court in 1665 , he was replaced by the more effective Christen Lodberg . George received military training , and undertook a Grand Tour of Europe , spending eight months in 1668 ? 69 in France and mid @-@ 1669 in England . His father died in 1670 , while George was in Italy , and George 's elder brother , Christian V , inherited the Danish throne . George returned home through Germany . He travelled through Germany again in 1672 ? 73 , to visit two of his sisters , Anna Sophia and Wilhelmine Ernestine , who were married to the electoral princes of Saxony and the Palatinate .

In 1674 , George was a candidate for the Polish elective throne , for which he was backed by King Louis XIV of France . George 's staunch Lutheranism was a barrier to election in Roman Catholic Poland , and John Sobieski was chosen instead . In 1677 , George served with distinction with his elder brother Christian in the Scanian War against Sweden . His brother was captured by the Swedes at the Battle of Landskrona , and George " cut his way through the enemies ' numbers , and rescued him at the imminent danger of his own life . "

As a Protestant , George was considered a suitable partner for the niece of King Charles II of England , Lady Anne . Although they were distantly related (second cousins once removed ; they were both descended from King Frederick II of Denmark) , they had never met . George was hosted by Charles II in London in 1669 , but Anne had been in France at the time of George 's visit . Both Denmark and Britain were Protestant countries , and Louis XIV was keen on an Anglo @-@ Danish alliance to contain the power of the Dutch Republic . Anne 's uncle Laurence Hyde , 1st Earl of Rochester , and the English Secretary of State for the Northern Department , Robert Spencer , 2nd Earl of Sunderland , negotiated a marriage treaty with the Danes in secret , to prevent the plans leaking to the Dutch . Anne 's father , James , Duke of York , welcomed the marriage because it diminished the influence of his other son @-@ in @-@ law , Dutch Stadtholder William III of Orange , who was naturally unhappy with the match .

= = Marriage = =

George and Anne were married on 28 July 1683 in the Chapel Royal at St James 's Palace ,

London , by Henry Compton , Bishop of London . The guests included King Charles II , Queen Catherine , and the Duke and Duchess of York . Anne was voted a parliamentary allowance of £ 20 @, @ 000 a year , while George received £ 10 @, @ 000 a year from his Danish estates , although payments from Denmark were often late or incomplete . King Charles gave them a set of buildings in the Palace of Whitehall known as the Cockpit (near the site of what is now Downing Street in Westminster) as their London residence .

George was not ambitious , and hoped to live a quiet life of domesticity with his wife . He wrote to a friend : " We talk here of going to tea , of going to Winchester , and everything else except sitting still all summer , which was the height of my ambition . God send me a quiet life somewhere , for I shall not be long able to bear this perpetual motion . "

Within months of the marriage , Anne was pregnant but the baby , a girl , was stillborn in May . Anne recovered at the spa town of Tunbridge Wells , and over the next two years , she gave birth to two daughters in quick succession , Mary and Anne Sophia . In early 1687 , within a matter of days , George and his two young daughters caught smallpox , and Anne suffered another miscarriage . George recovered , but both his daughters died . Lady Russell wrote that George and Anne had " taken [the deaths] very heavily . The first relief of that sorrow proceeded from the threatening of a greater , the Prince being so ill of a fever . I never heard any relation more moving than that of seeing them together . Sometimes they wept , sometimes they mourned in words ; then sat silent , hand in hand ; he sick in bed , and she the carefulest nurse to him that can be imagined . " He returned to Denmark for a two @-@ month visit in mid @-@ 1687 , while Anne remained in England . Later that year , after his return , Anne gave birth to another dead child , this time a son .

In February 1685 , King Charles II died without legitimate issue , and George 's father @-@ in @-@ law , the Roman Catholic Duke of York , became king as James II in England and Ireland and James VII in Scotland . George was appointed to the Privy Council and invited to attend Cabinet meetings , although he had no power to alter or affect decisions . William of Orange refused to attend James 's coronation largely because George would take precedence over him . Although they were both sons @-@ in @-@ law of King James , George was also the son and brother of a king and so outranked William , who was an elected stadtholder of a republic .

Anne 's older sister Mary had moved to the Netherlands after her marriage to William of Orange . Protestant opposition to James was therefore increasingly focused around Anne and George instead of Mary , who was heiress presumptive . The social and political grouping centred on George and Anne was known as the " Cockpit Circle " after their London residence . On 5 November 1688 , William invaded England in an action , known as the " Glorious Revolution " , which ultimately deposed King James . George was forewarned by the Danish envoy in London , Frederick Gersdorff , that William was assembling an invasion fleet . George informed Gersdorff that James 's army was disaffected , and as a result he would refuse any command under James , but only serve as an uncommissioned volunteer . Gersdorff 's alternative plan to evacuate George and Anne to Denmark was rejected by George . George accompanied the King 's troops to Salisbury in mid @-@ November , but other nobles and their soldiers soon deserted James for William . At each defection , George apparently exclaimed , " Est @-@ il possible ? " (Is it possible ?) . He abandoned James on 24 November , and sided with William . " So ' Est @-@ il possible ' is gone too " , James supposedly remarked . In his memoirs , James dismissed George 's defection as trivial , saying the loss of one good trooper was of more consequence , but Gersdorff claimed the defection greatly perturbed the King . The defection of George and other nobles was instrumental in whittling away the King 's support . In December , James fled to France , and early the following year William and Mary were declared joint monarchs , with Anne as heiress presumptive . In early April 1689 , William assented to a bill naturalizing George as an English subject , and George was created Duke of Cumberland , Earl of Kendal and Baron of Okeham (Wokingham) by the new monarchs . He took his seat in the House of Lords on 20 April 1689 , being introduced by the Dukes of Somerset and Ormonde .

= = Duke of Cumberland = =

The mistrust between George and William was set aside during the revolution of 1688 ? 89 but dogged relations during the latter 's reign . George held mortgages on Femern , Tremsbüttel and Steinhorst , Schleswig @-@ Holstein , which he surrendered to the Duke of Holstein as part of the peace of Altona of 1689 negotiated by William between Denmark and Sweden . William agreed to pay George interest and the capital in compensation , but George remained unpaid . During the military campaign against James 's supporters in Ireland , George accompanied the Williamite troops at his own expense , but was excluded from command , and was even refused permission to travel in his brother @-@ in @-@ law 's coach . Snubbed from the army by William , George sought to join the navy , without rank , but was again thwarted by his brother @-@ in @-@ law . When William 's Dutch guards failed to salute George , Anne assumed they were acting under orders . George and Anne retired from court . Some degree of reconciliation was achieved following Queen Mary 's sudden and unexpected death from smallpox in 1694 , which made Anne heiress apparent . In November 1699 , William finally recommended that Parliament pay the mortgage debt to George , and in early 1700 , the debt was honoured .

By 1700 , Anne had been pregnant at least seventeen times ; twelve times , she miscarried or gave birth to stillborn children , and two of their five children born alive died within a day . The only one of the couple 's children to survive infancy ? Prince William , Duke of Gloucester ? died in July 1700 at the age of 11 . With Gloucester 's death , Anne was the only person in the line of succession to the throne , as established by the " Glorious Revolution " . To extend the line and secure the Protestant succession , Parliament passed the Act of Settlement 1701 , which designated William and Anne 's nearest Protestant cousins , the House of Hanover , as the next in line after Anne .

George did not play a senior role in government until his wife Anne succeeded as queen on William 's death in 1702 . George was the chief mourner at William 's funeral . Anne appointed him generalissimo of all English military forces on 17 April , and Lord High Admiral , the official but nominal head of the Royal Navy , on 20 May . Actual power at the Admiralty was held by George Churchill , whose elder brother was John Churchill , 1st Duke of Marlborough , a great friend of Anne 's and the captain @-@ general of English land forces . Prince George had known the Churchills for years : another brother Charles Churchill , had been one of his gentlemen of the bedchamber in Denmark , and Marlborough had accompanied George on his journey from Denmark to England for his marriage to Anne in 1683 . His secretary in the 1680s was Colonel Edward Griffith , brother @-@ in @-@ law of the Duchess of Marlborough , who was Anne 's close confidante and friend . George followed William III as Captain @-@ General of the Honourable Artillery Company , and was made Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports . Anne failed , however , in her attempts to persuade the States General of the Netherlands to elect her husband captain @-@ general of all Dutch forces , to maintain the unified command of the Maritime Powers that William had held .

Anne obtained a parliamentary allowance of £ 100 @,@ 000 a year for George in the event of her death . The bill sped through the House of Commons easily but it was only narrowly passed by the House of Lords . Marlborough supported the bill , but one of the lords against was Marlborough 's son @-@ in @-@ law , Charles Spencer , 3rd Earl of Sunderland . Marlborough dissuaded her from asking Parliament to make " her dearly loved husband King Consort " .

Generally , during her reign , Anne and her husband spent the winter at Kensington and St James 's Palaces , and the summer at Windsor Castle or Hampton Court Palace , where the air was fresher . George had recurrent asthma , and the cleaner air in the country was better for his breathing . They visited the spa town of Bath , Somerset , in mid @-@ 1702 , on the advice of George 's doctors , and again in mid @-@ 1703 . They occasionally visited Newmarket , Suffolk , to view the horse racing . On one visit , Anne bought George a horse , Leeds , for the vast sum of a thousand guineas .

At the end of 1702 , the Occasional Conformity Bill was introduced to Parliament . The bill aimed to disqualify Protestant Dissenters from public office by closing a loophole in the Test Acts , legislation that restricted public office to Anglican conformists . The existing law permitted nonconformists to take office if they took Anglican communion once a year . Anne was in favour of the measure , and forced George to vote for the bill in the House of Lords , even though , being a practising Lutheran , he was an occasional conformist himself . As he cast his vote , he reportedly told an opponent of the

bill , " My heart is vid you " [sic] . The bill did not gather sufficient parliamentary support and was eventually dropped . The following year , the bill was revived , but Anne withheld support , fearing its reintroduction was a deliberate pretence to cause a quarrel between the two main political groups : the Tories (who supported the bill) and the Whigs (who opposed it) . Once again it failed . George never became a member of the Church of England , which was headed by his wife throughout her reign . He remained Lutheran even after her accession , and had his own personal chapel .

In the first years of Anne 's reign , the Whigs gained more power and influence at the expense of the Tories . In his capacity as Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports , George held influence in parliamentary boroughs on the south coast of England , which he used to support Whig candidates in the general election of 1705 . In that year 's election for Speaker of the House of Commons , George and Anne supported a Whig candidate , John Smith . George instructed his secretary , George Clarke , who was a Member of Parliament , to vote for Smith , but Clarke refused , instead supporting the Tory candidate William Bromley . Clarke was sacked , and Smith was elected .

= = Illness and death = =

In March and April 1706 , George was seriously ill . There was blood in his sputum , but he seemed to recover , although he was too ill to attend a thanksgiving service at St Paul 's Cathedral in June for a British victory in the Battle of Ramillies . He missed another thanksgiving service in May 1707 , to celebrate the union of England and Scotland , as he was recuperating at Hampton Court .

The Scilly naval disaster of 1707 , in which a fleet commanded by Sir Cloudesley Shovell foundered , highlighted mismanagement at the Admiralty , for which George was nominally responsible . Pressure grew to replace Admiral Churchill with someone more dynamic . By October 1708 , five powerful politicians , known as the Whig Junto ? Lords Somers , Halifax , Orford , Wharton and Sunderland ? were clamouring for the removal of both Prince George and Churchill . Marlborough wrote to his brother telling him to resign , but Churchill refused , protected by Prince George .

Amid the political pressure , George was on his deathbed , suffering from severe asthma and dropsy . He died at 1 : 30 p.m. on 28 October 1708 at Kensington Palace . The Queen was devastated . James Brydges wrote to General Cadogan , " His death has flung the Queen into an unspeakable grief . She never left him till he was dead , but continued kissing him the very moment his breath went out of his body , and ' twas with a great deal of difficulty my Lady Marlborough prevailed upon her to leave him . " Anne wrote to her nephew , Frederick IV of Denmark , " the loss of such a husband , who loved me so dearly and so devotedly , is too crushing for me to be able to bear it as I ought . " Anne was desperate to stay at Kensington with the body of her husband , but under pressure from the Duchess of Marlborough , she reluctantly left Kensington for St James 's Palace . Anne resented the Duchess 's intrusive actions , which included removing a portrait of George from the Queen 's bedchamber and then refusing to return it in the belief that it was natural " to avoid seeing of papers or anything that belonged to one that one loved when they were just dead " . Anne and the Duchess had been very close , but their friendship had become strained over political differences . The immediate aftermath of George 's death damaged their relationship further . He was buried privately at midnight on 13 November in Westminster Abbey .

= = Legacy = =

Anne refused initially to appoint a new Lord High Admiral , and insisted on carrying out the duties of the office herself , without appointing a member of the government to take George 's place . She burst into tears on the first occasion she was brought papers to sign in George 's stead . Undeterred , the Junto demanded the appointment of Lord Orford , a member of the Junto and one of Prince George 's leading critics , as First Lord of the Admiralty . Admiral Churchill retired , and Anne appointed the moderate Tory Lord Pembroke to lead the Admiralty , instead of a Whig . The Junto Whigs Somers and Wharton , however , were appointed to the Cabinet in Pembroke 's vacated posts of Lord President of the Council and Lord Lieutenant of Ireland . The Whigs were still dissatisfied , and continued to pressure Pembroke and the Queen . Pembroke resigned after less

than a year in office . Another month of arguments followed before the Queen finally consented to put Orford in control of the Admiralty as First Lord in November 1709 .

= = = Personal traits and portrayal = = =

Charles II , Anne 's uncle , famously said of Prince George , " I have tried him drunk , and I have tried him sober and there is nothing in him " . He was quiet and self @-@ effacing . John Macky thought him " of a familiar , easy disposition with a good sound understanding but modest in showing it ... very fat , loves news , his bottle & the Queen . " In making fun of George 's asthma , Lord Mulgrave said the Prince was forced to breathe hard in case people mistook him for dead and buried him . By the time of Queen Victoria , George had a reputation as a dullard , and was the target of disdain . Victoria hoped her own husband , Prince Albert , would never fill the " subordinate part played by the very stupid and insignificant husband of Queen Anne " . In the 1930s , Winston Churchill said he " mattered very little " , except to Anne .

He had little impact on the running of the navy , but he was interested enough in navigation and welfare at sea to sponsor the publication of John Flamsteed 's Observations in 1704 . He was not one of the most colourful political characters of his day ? he was content to spend his time building model ships ? but he was a loyal and supportive husband to Queen Anne . Their marriage was a devoted , loving and faithful one , though beset by personal tragedy .

The previous husband of a British queen regnant , William of Orange , had become king , refusing to take a subordinate rank to Mary . William and Mary had exemplified the traditional gender roles of seventeenth @-@ century Europe : Mary was the dutiful wife and William held the power . George and Anne , however , reversed the roles : George was the dutiful husband and it was Anne who exercised the royal prerogatives . William had assumed incorrectly that George would use his marriage to Anne as a means of building a separate power base in Britain , but George never challenged his wife 's authority and never strove to accrue influence . Anne occasionally used the image of wifely virtue to escape unpalatable situations by claiming , as a woman , she knew " nothing except what the prince tells me " , but it was an artifice . Husbands had a legal right to their wife 's property , and it was argued that it was unnatural and against the church 's teachings for a man to be subject to his wife . George made no such claim or demand ; he was content to remain a prince and duke . " I am her Majesty 's subject " , he said , " I shall do naught but what she commands me . " In the words of historian Anne Somerset , " the fact that Prince George was widely regarded as a nonentity helped reconcile people to his anomalous status , and so , almost by accident , George achieved a major advance for feminism . " Winston Churchill wrote that he " was a fine @-@ looking man , tall , blond , and good @-@ natured ... He was neither clever nor learned ? a simple , normal man without envy or ambition , and disposed by remarkable appetite and thirst for all the pleasures of the table . Charles 's well @-@ known verdict ... does not do justice to the homely virtues and unfailing good @-@ humour of his staid and trustworthy character . "

The Prince of Denmark 's March by Jeremiah Clarke was written in his honour , and Prince George 's County , Maryland , was named after him in 1696 . Portraits by Sir Godfrey Kneller are at the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich , Drumlanrig Castle in Dumfriesshire , and (in a double portrait with George Clarke) All Souls College , Oxford . Portraits in Denmark include one by Willem Wissing in the Reedtz @-@ Thott collection and one by Karel van Mander in the national collection at Frederiksborg Palace .

= = Titles , styles , honours and arms = =

= = = Titles = = =

2 April 1653 ? 10 April 1689 : His Royal Highness Prince George of Denmark and Norway

10 April 1689 ? 28 October 1708 : His Royal Highness Prince George of Denmark and Norway , Duke of Cumberland

== = Honours == =

R af E : Knight of the Elephant , from birth
KG : Knight of the Garter , 1 January 1684

== = Arms == =

The royal coat of arms of Denmark with a label of three points Argent , each with three Ermine points . The whole surmounted by a crown of a prince of Denmark . His crest was " out of a coronet Or , a demi @-@ lion rampant guardant Azure , crowned of the first " .

== Issue ==

== Ancestry ==