

= Prince Alfred of Great Britain =

The Prince Alfred (22 September 1780 ? 20 August 1782) was a member of the British Royal Family as the 14th child and 9th son of King George III and his queen consort Charlotte of Mecklenburg @-@ Strelitz . Alfred became ill after his inoculation against the smallpox virus ; his early death at the age of nearly two , along with the demise of his brother Prince Octavius six months later , was a shock to their parents . In his later bouts of madness King George would have imagined conversations with both of his youngest sons .

= = Life = =

Prince Alfred was born , on 22 September 1780 , at Windsor Castle , Windsor , England . His father was King George III , his mother Charlotte of Mecklenburg @-@ Strelitz . The prince was baptised by Frederick Cornwallis , The Archbishop of Canterbury , in the Great Council Chamber at St James 's Palace on 21 October 1780 . His godparents were The Prince of Wales (his eldest brother) , The Prince Frederick (his second brother) and The Princess Royal (his eldest sister) . As his parents ' fourteenth child and ninth son , his birth was no surprise but it did bring joy to his family , especially to his older sister Sophia , who , their sister Elizabeth reported , called the new baby her " grandson " .

= = = Death and aftermath = = =

In 1782 , Prince Alfred was inoculated against smallpox . The sickness proved too much for the baby and in June he was taken to Deal with his nurse Lady Charlotte Finch to recover . It was hoped that the sea air , bathing in the water , and horseback riding would improve his condition . While he was there , Alfred endeared himself to many , including an old woman whom he waved to . In spite of his charming disposition , he continued to break out in spots and his chest was troubling him . When he returned to Windsor in August 1782 , the doctors inspected him and realized that the boy had only weeks to live . After suffering bouts of fever and continuing problems with his chest , Prince Alfred died on 20 August 1782 , at Windsor Castle , Berkshire , not even two years old .

Although the household did not go into mourning (it was not prescribed for royal children younger than fourteen) , his parents took the loss harshly . According to Lady Charlotte Finch , the Queen " cried vastly " and was " very much hurt by her loss and the King also . " Alfred was buried at Westminster Abbey , though his remains were later moved to the Royal Vault in St. George 's Chapel , Windsor Castle on 11 February 1820 . His father continued to dwell on his death , and the sight of Alfred 's posthumous portrait in a family painting by Thomas Gainsborough nearly a year after Alfred 's death sent his three eldest sisters into tears . Six months after Alfred 's death , his elder brother Octavius succumbed to the smallpox virus , further devastating the king . During one of his bouts of madness in 1812 , George would have imaginary conversations with his two youngest sons .

His youngest sister Princess Amelia was conceived in the months after Alfred 's death , born almost exactly a year after he died . The first of George III and Queen Charlotte 's children to die , Alfred died nearly seventy five years before his older sister Mary , who was the last survivor of George III and Queen Charlotte 's fifteen children . Alfred is also unique among their first fourteen children for never being an older sibling while he was alive , as the only child younger than him was born after his death .

= = Titles , styles , honours and arms = =

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22 September 1780 ? 20 August 1782 : His Royal Highness The Prince Alfred

= = Ancestry = =