

ALEXANDRA, THE QUEEN MOTHER, MOURNED BY THE WHOLE BRITISH EMPIRE

NO BRITISH QUEEN EVER MORE LOVED THAN ALEXANDRA

Sea King's Daughter Won
British Hearts From
the First

KIND TO THE POOR

Prince Was Captivated at the
First Sight of Her
Photograph

Of the queens who have graced the pages of English history one will ever stand alone in the mellow light of tragic romance. And her descendant through three hundred years will ever be remembered as one of the most beautiful and queenly of the consorts of our kings.

Mary, Queen of Scots, and Alexandra, sea king's daughter from over the seas, and beloved consort of Edward the peacemaker, are two of the most picturesque figures in the history of England's royal family. The ill-fated Mary Stuart passed out a martyr to the jealousy of Elizabeth. Alexandra has died in peace, mourned by a great empire, leaving the story of her life as a lasting example for her successors.

The fate of the former was the penalty for her beauty as much as of her ancestry, and it was beauty of character as well as of feature that gave to the latter her fair fame, and established her within the hearts of her husband's people.

Princess Alexandra Caroline Marie Charlotte Louise Julia, eldest daughter of King Christian IX. of Denmark, was born at the Gule Palace, Copenhagen, on December 1, 1844. It was said that her parents' marriage was a love match, certain it is that the princess Louise of Hesse, who was the love and care of a true mother on the children that were born to the royal couple. A chronicle of the time says: "She paid the greatest attention to the education of her children, and was careful, while having them instructed in all the graces and accomplishments befitting their position, to inculcate in them the love of God, the love of their fellow creatures, and the love of family and home."

Loved By English People.

Of her childhood one story may be told that to-day must have a real significance. With her two sisters she was sitting in a sunlit glade of Bernstorf Forest, near her home. "I should like to have power and influence, in order that I might do much good," wished Princess Dagmar, who afterwards became Empress of Russia and mother of the ill-fated Nicholas. "I would like to be clever and accomplished," sighed the Princess Thyra, later the Duchess of Cumberland, and the future Queen of England, heroine of the Primrose Day in London, recipient of a great city's annual demonstration of heart whole affection, wistfully confessed: "I would like above all things to be loved." And above all things was she loved by the English people.

They fell in love with the fair princess who stepped on to their shores in March, 1863, as the bride of the Prince of Wales. She retained that first hold on their affections to the end.

It was not until the princess was eight years of age that her father became heir to the Danish throne. In 1858 the Times, discussing the eventual marriage of the Prince of Wales, named the Princess Alexandra as amongst those from whom his bride would surely be chosen. The young couple met for the first time on September 24 in the ancient cathedral of Speier and by a strange chance at the very foot of the altar. A romantic story is told of the discovery by the prince whilst an undergraduate at Cambridge of a photograph of the beautiful princess which aroused his interest. The meeting resulted, it is said, from his expressed wish to see the living reality that appeared so fair in the portrait.

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SHARED ILLUSTRIOUS CAREER OF EDWARD THE PEACEMAKER



LIKE KING EDWARD WAS REAL LEADER OF ROYAL CIRCLE

Was Princess of Wales 38
Years, During Queen
Victoria's Reign

KEPT EARLY STYLES

Went Home to Denmark Every
Year to Scenes of Her
Childhood

Since the day that she first set foot on British soil, Alexandra was probably the most popular figure of the Royal family.

"Magnetic charm is her chief characteristic," wrote one of her biographers, "that indefinable something that is not beauty, though beauty so helps in making it; that is not merely kindness and benignant graciousness, though without these it cannot exist; that is certainly not intellect, though it includes a fine tact that belongs to the higher mental faculties; but that is a combination of so many gifts and graces that it can be neither defined nor taught. This charm Alexandra has in full measure."

Her life was not always smooth and strewn with roses, but it was pure as crystal. She was a good woman in every sense of the term, devoted to her husband and family, and full of practical sympathy for human suffering in every form.

Princess Alexandra was ten years old when she made her first visit to London as the guest of the Duchess of Cambridge. On that occasion the princess obtained her first glimpse of royal splendor when she attended a party given by the late Queen Victoria at Buckingham Palace. Although the duchess's daughter, Mary, was some years older than Princess Alexandra, a great affection sprang up between them, and many visits were afterwards paid by Alexandra to Rumpelheim-on-the-Main, which belonged to Mary's grandfather, the Landgrave Frederick of Hesse.

The Royal Match-Making

All the European courts were searched when the time came to find a bride for the Prince of Wales. Lady Paget, then only 22 years of age, played a leading part in bringing together the Princess Alexandra and her future husband. Sir Augustus Paget, British minister at Copenhagen, told his wife, Lady Paget: "I know the prettiest, the nicest, the most charming princess in the world. She is only 16 and as good as she is pretty."

The Princess Royal (Queen Victoria's eldest daughter, afterwards the Empress Victoria of Germany), who was informed of the discovery, suggested that Princess Alix should meet her at Streilitz.

Lady Paget heard from England that both the Queen and the Prince Consort were in favor of the marriage, having been entirely satisfied by the accounts given them by the Princess Royal.

A meeting in Germany in the autumn between the Prince of Wales and Princess Alix, as by chance, was arranged, and passed off satisfactorily.

Notwithstanding her age, she retained traces of her early beauty, and on one occasion late in life when in the presence of Adeline Patti, friends declared they were "the youngest looking old woman in England."

She dressed her hair in exactly the same style as when she was Princess of Wales and the "Alexandra dress," which she wore in the famous French couturier Worth built frocks which caused her to be regarded as the best dressed woman in England.

Her Long Widowhood

The queen mother, after the death of King Edward, made her home at Marlborough House, where she passed more than 30 years of her married life. Besides her country residence at Sandringham, she had a villa on Klampenborg Bay, seven miles from Copenhagen where, annually in August, before the war, she held happy reunions with her Danish kinsfolk.

For thirty-eight years the princess, and her husband stood in the shadow of the British throne, maintaining the difficult position of prospective King and Queen with dignity and grace. Alexandra had become the Princess of Wales the aristocracy of England surrendered to her "ladies' set" amongst European royal society as effectively as her husband, as Prince of Wales, ruled the "men's set." From the day of her marriage to the time of her death no word other than good was ever said of Queen Alexandra. By her kindness and tact and her gentle humor she won all hearts and even Queen Victoria's sadness melted under her influence. During the thirty-eight years before Prince Albert Edward became King and Princess Alexandra queen they traveled extensively through the European continent, India, Egypt and other oriental countries. But their happiest days were spent at home, particularly at Sandringham, their beloved Norfolk home. They took the deepest interest in their estate and in the people of their village and were proud of the model conditions existing in their domain. Princess Alexandra always had a warm spot in her heart for Sandringham and its people, and when she became queen her relations to her faithful subjects at Sandringham remained unchanged. Many a story is told giving evidence of her kindness of heart, helpfulness and humane sympathy.

AN ACCOMPLISHED PIANIST

VERY FOND OF GARDENING

Queen Alexandra's favorite pastimes were damasking, the European and her favorite flowers were carnations and roses. Music and photography were her chief recreations. She was an accomplished pianist, a water color painter of no mean order, and had an excellent knowledge of gardening.

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