

Princess' Grandfather Played Cricket Here



Welcome

On this happy occasion we join with all our peoples in Loyal Greetings to our Royal Visitors.

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Charlottetown

A mishap at a cricket game in Charlottetown during the visit here of Princess Elizabeth's grandfather, Prince George (later King George V.) in 1884, which might have had tragic consequences for the Empire, was recalled a few years ago by a Guardian correspondent who was an eye-witness and participant in the event.

Prince George visited here at that time as a midshipman on H.M.S. "Canada". The "Canada" remained in port for several days, and Charlottetown was en fete during practically the whole time.

The late Lieut. Colonel Frederick W. L. Moore, R.L., of Victoria, recalled the details of the cricket game in a letter appearing in The Guardian in 1947. He wrote:

"When I think of the 'Garden of the Gull' it brings fond memories of Dr. Alex. Anderson, headmaster of old Prince of Wales College, of the Abegweit Rugby Football Club, the Phoenix Cricket Club, and Prof. Thomas A. LePage, our captain the day we played a game with officers and ratings of H.M.S. 'Canada' during which (as LePage said to me on the grounds at Victoria Park) 'We almost changed the succession to the British Crown'.

"That was when Prince George got knocked senseless by a bumping ball bowled by his brother George, our fast round-arm bowler."

An earlier and more detailed account of the game was contributed to The Guardian by Colonel Moore in 1936, from which the following excerpts are quoted:

Student Days

"I think it was in the year of grace 1884. Your narrator was just eighteen, a student at the Prince of Wales College, and also reading for the Bar. One of his masters, the late Professor Thomas A. LePage, was that year Captain of our Phoenix Cricket Club at Charlottetown.

"Our Queen, Her Majesty, Victoria the Good, was as usual kind enough to give us all a holiday on her birthday—the twenty-fourth of May; and by a break of luck in the early morning we saw the three square-rigged masts and single funnel of H.M.S. 'Canada'



The above picture is a memento of the visit of Prince George (later to become King George V) to Charlottetown in 1884. Then a naval cadet on H.M.S. Canada, the Prince and fellow cadets participated in a cricket game at Victoria Park with local players. He is seen standing in front and slightly to the left of the doorway. In his vicinity are shown several Charlottetown cricketers, including Major W. A. Weeks, Harrison Carvell, G. C. LePage, Dr. James Warburton, R. V. Longworth, W. C. Hobbkirk, Dr. J. W. Murray, J. A. Longworth, Sidney Grey, R. R. Fitzgerald, Robert Hodgson, T. W. LePage and Frank Arnaud, all of whom have since passed away. Others in the group are naval cadets and officers.

loom against the horizon as she sailed in from Hillsborough Bay, past the Blockhouse, through the Three Tides, and came to anchor off Fort Edward.

"That was a proud sight to us, as we rolled our pitch overlooking that unsurpassable waterfront; for she was 'the bark that bore a Prince,' and we paused at our work to give her three hearty British cheers, on her arrival from the winter station of the North American and West Indies Fleet at Bermuda Isles.

A Friendly Game

"Our Captain went aboard at once, and arranged a friendly game with her officers and other ratings

for that same day.

"You will remember that H.R.H. Albert Edward, Prince of Wales, had two sons. The first, Prince Albert, Duke of Clarence, was still living; so that Prince George was second in direct line of succession after his father and elder brother.

"Prince George came ashore and played for his ship. They won the toss, and went to bat. Our Captain put on his brother George to bowl—our deadliest swift-round-arm bowler. I think it was only the second time I had seen that style used in a match. We were practising over-arm deliveries, but in a game were not allowed to raise the hand above the shoulder. I was fielding a close point.

"In that incomparable early summer of the 'Garden of the Gull,' where 'winter lingers in the lap of spring,' it was too soon to expect a decent pitch and 'bumps' abounded in front of wickets. As

the Prince came out to bat I breathed a silent aspiration that 'Spud' LePage might hold his arm, and not send them down too fast and furious.

"But he didn't. After knocking up a few runs, Prince George was hit by a 'hot one' breaking up sharply. He fell to the turf, writhing in agony. We carried him in to the Pavilion, and after ten minutes with ice on his head and a shot of brandy, he regained consciousness.

Finished the Game

"Though dissuaded by his comrades, he insisted on coming out again, finished his innings with quite a score, and his ship's team won the match. LePage had whispered to me (both our faces were very pallid). 'With bad luck that ball might have changed the succession to the Throne!'

"Later on, when he came to be

Prince of Wales, and we met him on tour in out-of-the-way corners of the Empire, and again at his coronation as King George V., we as Old Boys, witnesses of his endurance, character and courage, that lovely day at Victoria Park in Charlottetown—remembered; and had no fear for him but that, just as when a young officer of Her Majesty's Navy he played cricket, so he would right to the end 'Play the Game,'—and he did."

From contemporary reports it appears that other Charlottetown players in this memorable cricket game of 1884 were Messrs. Harrison Carvell, Dr. James Warburton, R. V. Longworth, William Murray, J. A. Longworth, Sidney Grey, R. R. Fitzgerald, and W. A. Weeks. R. R. Hodgson was umpire. All these veteran sportsmen have since passed away, but their descendants survive in large numbers, and the story related by Colonel Moore is doubtless well known to many of them.

Welcome

To Their

Royal Highnesses

As Proud Citizens of Prince Edward Island and as Loyal Supporters of the ideals embodied in The British Sovereignty, we wholeheartedly unite in Greetings to our Royal Visitors.

Universal as is the esteem in which the British Monarchy is held, Their Highnesses will find no warmer welcome anywhere than that which will be accorded them here.

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WEDDING RING OF WELSH GOLD

Canadians of Welsh birth and their descendants will take particular interest in a small, almost unnoticeable item of jewelry Princess Elizabeth is wearing—her wedding ring.

In telling about the wedding preparations, Miss Marion Crawford, the Princess' governess, says in her book 'The Little Princesses': "The people of Wales sent a piece of Welsh gold for the wedding ring. This is a metal found only in very small quantities in Wales. It looks the same as any other yellow gold. The royal wedding rings are always made of it. Lilibet was particularly pleased when the piece that was to make her ring arrived, and in that delightful way she had of always wanting to see Margaret, was left out, she told me 'There is enough for two rings. We can save a piece for Margaret.'"



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and

PRINCE PHILIP

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