

# Memoirs of the Court of George III

The Diary of Queen Charlotte,  
1789 and 1794

Edited by  
Michael Kassler



MEMOIRS OF THE COURT OF GEORGE III

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# MEMOIRS OF THE COURT OF GEORGE III

GENERAL EDITOR  
Michael Kassler

Volume 4  
The Diary of Queen Charlotte, 1789 and 1794

*Edited by*  
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## FOREWORD

The Royal Archives was established in the Round Tower in Windsor Castle in 1914 to bring together the private and official papers of the royal family. Although some earlier material is included in the collections held there, the main series of records commence with the papers of the later Georgians: King George III, Queen Charlotte and their children. This family is thus the first royal family whose life is reflected in the letters, account books and other documents in the Royal Archives.

Diaries, perhaps above all other sources, are particularly invaluable for providing an intimate view of the everyday lives of their writers, and this is certainly true of those written by members of the royal family which are in the Royal Archives. The most important of these is undoubtedly the journal of Queen Charlotte's granddaughter, Queen Victoria, which runs from 1832 to 1901, and gives a wonderful impression of the life of the person after whom the Victorian age was named. This valuable document was published online by the Royal Archives in 2012.

By comparison, the small, unassuming-looking diaries of Queen Charlotte, which cover only two years of her life, and do not deal with the big issues of state found in Queen Victoria's journal, may seem rather inconsequential, yet they nevertheless have their own value. Not only are they the only eighteenth-century royal diaries in the Royal Archives, but the picture of the minutiae of the royal family's domestic life which Queen Charlotte presents to us in these volumes gives these diaries a charm and interest which is all their own. I am pleased, therefore, that this publication will bring them to a wider audience.

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Windsor Castle



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## ABBREVIATIONS AND CONVENTIONS

The following abbreviations are used in this book. Abbreviations that Queen Charlotte used are marked by an asterisk after their definition.

<i>Ancestry</i>	Ancestry ( <a href="http://www.ancestry.co.uk">www.ancestry.co.uk</a> )
<i>Aspinall1</i>	A. Aspinall (ed.), <i>The Later Correspondence of George III, Vol. 1, December 1783 to January 1793</i> (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1962)
<i>Aspinall2</i>	A. Aspinall (ed.), <i>The Later Correspondence of George III, Vol. 2, February 1793 to December 1797</i> (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1963)
<i>Aspinall3</i>	A. Aspinall (ed.), <i>The Later Correspondence of George III, Vol. 3, January 1798 to December 1801</i> (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1967)
<i>AspinallPW2</i>	A. Aspinall (ed.), <i>The Correspondence of George Prince of Wales 1770–1812, Vol. 2, 1789–1794</i> , (London: Cassell, 1964)
<i>BD</i>	P. H. Highfill Jr, K. A. Burnim and E. A. Langhans, <i>A Biographical Dictionary of Actors ... in London, 1600–1800</i> (Carbondale, IL: Southern Illinois University Press, 1973–93)
<i>BL</i>	The British Library, London
<i>BL Add. Ms</i>	British Library Additional Manuscript
<i>BM</i>	The British Museum, London
<i>CJL1</i>	P. Sabor (ed.), <i>The Court Journals and Letters of Frances Burney, Vol. 1 (1786)</i> (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011)
<i>CJL2</i>	S. Cooke (ed.), <i>The Court Journals and Letters of Frances Burney, Vol. 2 (1787)</i> (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011)

CJL3	L. J. Clark (ed.), <i>The Court Journals and Letters of Frances Burney, Vol. 3 (1788)</i> (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2014)
col.	column number(s)
C.W.	Caroline Waldegrave*
D.	Duke*
DBCO	R. O. Bucholz (ed.), <i>The Database of Court Officers 1600–1837</i> ( <a href="http://www.luc.edu/history/fac_resources/bucholz/DCO/DCO.html">http://www.luc.edu/history/fac_resources/bucholz/DCO/DCO.html</a> )
DRTour	'An Observer of the Times', <i>A Diary of the Royal Tour, in June, July, August, and September, 1789</i> ... (London: J. Southern, 1789)
fol./fols	folio number(s)
FamSearch	FamilySearch ( <a href="http://www.familysearch.org">www.familysearch.org</a> ), provided by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
FMP	Findmypast ( <a href="http://www.findmypast.co.uk">www.findmypast.co.uk</a> )
fn.	footnote
Fraser	F. Fraser, <i>Princesses: The Six Daughters of George III</i> (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2005)
GIII&QC	J. Roberts (ed.), <i>George III &amp; Queen Charlotte: Patronage, Collecting and Court Taste</i> (London: Royal Collection Publications, 2004)
Greville	F. McK. Bladon (ed.), <i>The Diaries of Colonel The Hon. Robert Fulke Greville</i> (London: John Lane, 1930)
Hedley	O. Hedley, <i>Queen Charlotte</i> (London: John Murray, 1975)
HKW6	J. M. Crook and M. H. Port (eds), <i>The History of the King's Works, Vol. 6, 1782–1851</i> (London: Her Majesty's Stationery Office, 1982)
HPO	History of Parliament Online ( <a href="http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org">http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org</a> )
ms	manuscript(s)
n.s.	new series
ODNB	Oxford Dictionary of National Biography ( <a href="http://www.oxforddnb.com">www.oxforddnb.com</a> )
OED	Oxford English Dictionary ( <a href="http://www.oed.com">www.oed.com</a> )
P.A.	Princess Augusta*

<i>Papendiek</i>	M. Kassler (ed.), <i>The Memoirs of Charlotte Papendiek (1765–1840)</i> (London: Pickering & Chatto, 2015) [Volume 1 of the present set]
P.E.	Princess Elizabeth*
pmk	postmark
P.R.	Princess Royal*
P.W.	Prince of Wales*
<i>QCSC</i>	<i>A Catalogue of the Genuine Library, Prints, and Books of Prints, of An Illustrious Personage [Queen Charlotte], Lately Deceased. Which will be Sold by Auction on Wednesday the 9th of June, 1819, and the Following Days, by Mr Christie ...</i> (London, 1819) [the copy of this catalogue at BL 123.f.16 is annotated with buyers' names and prices fetched]
Q.H.	The Queen's House, London (now Buckingham Palace)*
RA	Royal Archives, Windsor Castle
RCIN	Royal Collection Inventory Number
<i>RHI</i>	Royal Household Index (retrievable on <a href="http://www.findmypast.co.uk">www.findmypast.co.uk</a> )
<i>RK</i>	<i>The Royal Kalendar</i>
<i>Roberts</i>	J. Roberts, <i>Royal Landscape: The Gardens and Parks of Windsor</i> (New Haven, CT, and London: Yale University Press, 1997)
TNA	The National Archives, Kew
wmk	watermark
WSA	Wiltshire and Swindon Archives, Chippenham
Y.P.	younger princesses*

Dates are presented in day/month/year format, i.e. the day precedes the month. The symbols '<' and '>' at the left of a date stand for 'before' and 'after', respectively. A letter is specified by using the format: sender→addressee, date of the letter. The phrase *QCD1* followed by a date refers to the first or only diary entry written by Queen Charlotte for that day. The phrase *QCD2* followed by a date refers to the second diary entry written by Queen Charlotte for that day.

In this book a person born outside England generally is called by the name by which he or she was known in England.



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## INTRODUCTION TO THE DIARY OF QUEEN CHARLOTTE

Queen Charlotte's extant diaries, which record events of 1789 and 1794, are published here for the first time, by gracious permission of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. These diaries, written in nine notebooks, are now in the Royal Archives, Windsor Castle, where they are considered one of the Archives' treasures.<sup>1</sup> They constitute almost certainly only a small portion of the diaries that Queen Charlotte kept, but no trace of other volumes has been found.

The two earliest surviving notebooks, catalogued as RA Add. 43/1 and Add. 43/2, treat the periods 28 August to 18 September 1789, and 28 October to 31 December 1789, respectively. They are about 5½ by 7¼ inches in size and have blue covers and interior paper inlaid with white rules to guide the writer.

The other seven notebooks, catalogued collectively as RA Add. 43, record events of 1794. These volumes, which have faded green covers, measure approximately 3 by 4½ inches. Their paper has inlaid rules, between which Queen Charlotte often wrote several lines of text. She dated and described the contents of these volumes on their front covers, as follows:

*Month of January & part of February 1794*

*Part of February The Month of March & part of Aprill 1794*

*Part of Aprill. Month of May & Part of June to the 10<sup>th</sup> 1794*

*Part of the Month of June The Month of July & part of the Month of August 1794*

*Part of the Month of August & Sep<sup>br</sup>. 1794*

*Part of the Month Sep<sup>br</sup> at Weymouth & The entire Month of October 1794*

*November & December 1794.*

These nine notebooks were transferred to the Royal Archives from the Royal Library, which had received them in June 1902 as a gift from the Princess of Wales. Born Princess Victoria Mary of Teck, she was known as 'Princess May' until she became Queen Mary, consort of King George V, in 1910. She was a great-granddaughter of Queen Charlotte, whom she thought she resembled and with whom she felt a connection.<sup>2</sup> Reflecting this affinity, she collected during the course of her life 'many dozens of items' associated with Queen Charlotte.<sup>3</sup>

It is not known when or from whom Princess May acquired these diaries. Queen Charlotte made no mention of manuscripts in her will,<sup>4</sup> and none were included in the catalogue of the posthumous sale of her library.<sup>5</sup> After her death in 1818 most of her personal papers appear to have been destroyed.<sup>6</sup>

Although Queen Charlotte learned English only after she married George III in 1761 – they communicated initially in German and French – by the mid-1770s she was comfortable writing in English.<sup>7</sup> Her extant diaries are written entirely in English, although their spellings reflect the circumstance that it was not her first language.

Between the end of 1789 and the beginning of 1794 Queen Charlotte changed her style of diary-writing. In 1789 she described the events of a day in a single entry of varying length, but in 1794 she usually wrote two entries for each day, one on right-hand pages of her diary and the other on left-hand pages. In the right-hand entries she recorded events of a personal or family nature, such as meal times, church attendance, social activities, travels and when she sat for portraits. In the left-hand entries she wrote about official events, for instance letters that the king had written or received, news of military activities, proceedings of parliament and the names of people presented to her at drawing-rooms. Because the two entries for a day generally had unequal length, some openings in the 1794 diary, as illustrated in the Frontispiece, have entries for different months on facing pages. On the comparatively few days of 1794 when Queen Charlotte had no official news to record she omitted writing a left-side entry.

In this edition all diary entries have been arranged in chronological order. When Queen Charlotte wrote two entries for the same day, her right-hand ‘personal’ entry has been placed above her left-hand ‘official’ entry. Each entry has been transcribed in full, except for Queen Charlotte’s note of its date and the place or places where she spent some of that day.<sup>8</sup> Instead, the month of each entry is given in the section header, the day’s number within that month is printed in a heading to the entry, and the day’s name and the place or places where Queen Charlotte awoke and retired on that day are inserted within square brackets before the first diary entry for that day, for example: [Monday, London and Windsor.]

Queen Charlotte’s spelling has been preserved. To improve readability her punctuation has been silently changed and new punctuation marks have been silently inserted, but other editorial additions to the text have been placed within square brackets. Question-marks in the transcription indicate letters or words that could not be read. A sequence such as ??? stands for an unreadable passage that Queen Charlotte crossed out. More than 1,400 footnotes have been added by the editor to clarify meaning, to provide context and to identify the numerous persons mentioned in the diaries. Where known, the dates of these persons are given in the index.

In contrast to the court journals of Frances Burney, many of which were composed more than a year after the events they describe,<sup>9</sup> Queen Charlotte appears to have made diary entries on or soon after the day to which they pertain. They therefore can be regarded as her almost immediate responses to the events of a day. As will be seen, the content of her entries principally is factual and only occasionally a record of her feelings.

The diaries reveal that George III frequently confided in Queen Charlotte about the governmental affairs that had occupied his day. He had two governments to look after: that of Great Britain and that of the Duchy of Braunschweig-Lüneburg. The latter government was commonly known as the electorate of Hannover because its prince, George III, had a vote in the election of the Holy Roman emperor.

To enable him to carry out his duties George III was advised by two privy councils, one for each government. George III never visited Hannover (nor did he ever visit Ireland, Scotland, Wales or the north of England). In order to mitigate the distance between the king and his electorate one member of the Hannover privy council was based in London as head of the so-called German Chancery in St James's Palace: from 1772 to 1795 this was Baron Johann Friedrich Karl von Alvensleben.<sup>10</sup> The diaries disclose that both he and George August Best, the secretary of the German Chancery, were in frequent contact with the king, and that Queen Charlotte saw Best even when the king was not present. General Heinrich Wilhelm von Freytag, Field Marshal in the Hannover Army, made multiple trips to England and when there often called upon George III and Queen Charlotte.

Queen Charlotte kept herself informed of events in her home country of Mecklenburg-Strelitz by correspondence and by contacts with its representatives.<sup>11</sup> Her diary reports the visit of Baron Otto Ulrich von Dewitz, president of that country's privy council, to Weymouth and Windsor in September–October 1794, following the death of her brother Adolphus Frederick IV, the reigning duke, in June that year.

William Pitt the younger was Prime Minister of Great Britain in both 1789 and 1794. His correspondence with the king is mentioned in the diaries on several occasions.

The diaries show that Queen Charlotte's life in 1794 differed in significant ways from that of five years earlier. Her extant diaries begin during the royal family's first visit to Weymouth and surrounding areas in 1789, a vacation that was undertaken to strengthen the king's recovery from the severe illness that had incapacitated him mentally as well as physically in the latter months of the preceding year and earlier in 1789.<sup>12</sup> This change of scene and activity – Queen Charlotte noted each time that he or one of their children bathed in the sea – had the desired effect, and the royal family returned to Weymouth for their

summer holidays in many later years, including in 1794, when George III was in good health.

The diaries indicate ways in which national and world affairs varied from 1789 to 1794. For instance, the French revolution had comparatively little impact upon Britain in the former year, but in 1794 Great Britain, Hannover and their allies were engaged in the Flanders military campaign aimed at defeating the French republic, and steps were taken to stop Britons from undertaking seditious activities in England.

The diaries also record changes in Queen Charlotte's leisure activities. She began music lessons with Charles Frederick Horn on 20 October 1789, and her diary shows that during the remainder of that year she spent many hours playing 'upon the harpsichord'. Until 9 October 1793 Horn attended her twice a week,<sup>13</sup> but she apparently stopped playing music soon after then, as the word 'harpsichord' does not appear in her 1794 diary.

Births, engagements, marriages, appointments and deaths of friends and acquaintances are noted in the diary. Queen Charlotte names many people with whom she 'played at cards' or engaged in other social activities. She mentions people she met after church or while walking, and times when the king went riding. However, her diary generally makes no reference to the royal household servants who worked for her. In particular, her Keepers of the Robes, Elisabeth Juliana Schwellenberg, Frances Burney (who left royal service in July 1791) and Burney's successor Caroline Marie Jacobi, are not mentioned at all in the extant diaries, and Charlotte Papendiek is noticed only in the context of her appointment on 16 October 1794 as Assistant Keeper of the Robes, in place of Ann Sandys, who had resigned her position to get married.

Queen Charlotte owned a large library of books and music,<sup>14</sup> and her diaries show that she spent much time reading as well as being read to, principally by the Swiss geologist Jean-André Deluc, who was appointed Reader to the Queen in 1774. They also show that she – together with George III and sometimes with one or more of their children – regularly attended the theatre in London, Windsor and Weymouth, and the Concerts of Antient Music in London.

Of course, the diaries record considerable information about the royal family's activities, including the celebration of their birthdays and anniversaries. George III (1738–1820) and Queen Charlotte (1744–1818) had fifteen children, of whom thirteen – seven princes and six princesses – were alive in 1789 and 1794.

The princes were:

- George, Prince of Wales (1762–1830), from 1811 Prince Regent, from 1820 King George IV of the United Kingdom and of Hannover
- Frederick Augustus (1763–1827), from 1784 Duke of York

- William, Duke of Clarence (1765–1837), from 1830 King William IV of the United Kingdom and of Hannover
- Edward (1767–1820), from 1799 Duke of Kent
- Ernest Augustus (1771–1851), from 1799 Duke of Cumberland, from 1837 King of Hannover
- Augustus Frederick (1773–1843), from 1801 Duke of Sussex
- Adolphus Frederick (1774–1850), from 1801 Duke of Cambridge

In her diary Queen Charlotte referred to her daughters as ‘elder princesses’ and ‘younger princesses’. The three elder princesses were:

- Charlotte, Princess Royal (1766–1828), from 1806 Queen of Württemberg
- Augusta (1768–1840)
- Elizabeth (1770–1840), from 1820 Landgravine of Hesse-Homburg

The three younger princesses were:

- Mary (1776–1857), from 1816 Duchess of Gloucester
- Sophia (1777–1848)
- Amelia (1783–1810)

Of these thirteen princes and princesses only the Duke of York, who married his cousin Frederica Charlotte, Princess of Prussia, in 1791, was legally married in 1794. However, two of his brothers had participated in illegal marriage ceremonies before then. Queen Charlotte noted in her diary on 25 January 1794 that a report of Prince Augustus’s participation in such a ceremony with Lady Augusta Murray had reached George III,<sup>15</sup> and subsequent diary entries record actions that were taken in consequence of this ‘disagreeable news’.

On 24 August 1794 the Prince of Wales, who had taken part nine years earlier in an illegal marriage ceremony with Maria Fitzherbert, informed his father that he had ended his connection with her and desired to marry his cousin Princess Caroline of Brunswick-Wolfenbüttel if the king approved. It is remarkable that Queen Charlotte made no note of this conversation in her diary, conceivably because she disliked the prospect of such a marriage, having recently sent unfavourable reports about Princess Caroline’s behaviour to her brother Duke Charles II of Mecklenburg-Strelitz.<sup>16</sup> However, her diary entries from 8 October 1794 onwards describe a number of initial preparations for the ill-fated marriage of the Prince of Wales to Princess Caroline, which took place in London on 8 April 1795.

The Prince of Wales, the Duke of Clarence and all the royal princesses remained in Britain throughout 1789 and 1794. The other princes were away for at least part of this time.

The Duke of York, who had been created Bishop of Osnabrück at the age of six months, was promoted by George III to general in 1793 and sent to Flanders to command the British forces fighting against France. In her diary Queen Charlotte records many reports of military actions taken under his leadership up to 27 November 1794, when George III recalled him to England. During his service in Flanders the Duchess of York stayed in England and visited George III and Queen Charlotte frequently.

Prince Edward was in Geneva from 1788 to 1790 and was based in Canada from 1791 to 1798. He was promoted to major-general in 1793 and was based in Halifax, Nova Scotia from 1794.<sup>17</sup> The three youngest princes—Ernest, Augustus and Adolphus—were enrolled from July 1786 to January 1791 as students at the University of Göttingen, which had been founded in 1734 by George III's grandfather George II.<sup>18</sup>

A principal responsibility of Queen Charlotte was to attend drawing-rooms in St James's Palace on Thursday afternoons, at which selected persons – subjects as well as foreigners – were presented to George III and his consort, and sometimes also to other members of the royal family. In contrast to *levées*, at which the king received male guests only, persons of both sexes were welcomed at drawing-rooms. In her diary Queen Charlotte names many but not all of the numerous people who were presented to her on such occasions. Information about most of these people has been found and is disclosed in footnotes to the text, but the identity of a few persons about whom she wrote down insufficient detail, such as 'Miss Smith' who was presented to her on 8 May 1794, has eluded the editor.

To attend these drawing-rooms Queen Charlotte had to travel from Windsor, her main home, to London, a trip that took about 2¾ hours in each direction. In May 1794 she participated in four drawing-rooms, spending a few nights midweek in London and returning to Windsor for the weekends. She noted in her diary the times of departure and arrival for each of these trips.

She also chronicled other routine activities, such as when meals were served, at what times she dressed, when the king returned home, when the band of musicians began to play after dinner while the royal family and guests amused themselves in conversation and games, and when she and George III retired for the night. Her visits to Frogmore, her favourite retreat near Windsor Castle that she had purchased in two transactions in 1790 and 1792, are recorded.

Queen Charlotte's nineteenth-century biographers do not appear to have known about her diaries,<sup>19</sup> and the 1975 biography of her by Olwen Hedley, which today remains the standard account of the queen's life, does not refer to them.<sup>20</sup> One reason why they have received little attention up to now is that access to the Royal Archives is restricted, and only a few prior researchers have made the effort to quote from or to refer to the diaries in their publications.<sup>21</sup>

It was initially planned that Hester Davenport would edit Queen Charlotte's 1789 diary and Michael Kassler her 1794 diary. Mrs Davenport's untimely death, soon after she had begun work on the 1789 diary, led Michael Kassler to take responsibility for editing both years of diaries. Two footnotes to the 1789 diary that she wrote during the last weeks of her life are included in the present volume with acknowledgement of her contribution.

## Notes

1. P. Clark et al., *Treasures from the Royal Archives* (London: Royal Collection Trust, 2014), pp. 226–7.
2. According to J. Pope-Hennessy, *Queen Mary 1867–1953* (London: Allen & Unwin, 1959), pp. 135, 163, she believed that she was 'too much like Queen Charlotte ever to be good-looking' and 'all her life ... felt a strong affinity' with her.
3. See C. Gere, 'How Queen Mary collected Queen Charlotte', *Apollo* (August 2004), pp. 50–5.
4. TNA PROB 1/97, signed 16 November 1818 and proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury on 26 January 1819.
5. *QCSC*.
6. See R. Mackworth-Young, 'The Royal Archives, Windsor Castle', *Archives*, 13 (1978) pp. 115–30, on p. 117.
7. In the British Library collection (BL Add. Ms 33131) of eighty-six letters from Queen Charlotte to Mary D'Arcy, Countess of Holderness, all letters of 1773 and 1774 are written in French and all letters from 1776 onwards are written in English.
8. Queen Charlotte sometimes named months using a roman-numeral abbreviation. For instance, at the head of her entry for 31 December 1789 she wrote 'Windsor Thursday the 31<sup>st</sup>/ Xbr. 1789', 'X' standing for December, the tenth month of the old-style calendar in which years began in March. Her method of numbering dates has been misunderstood by some editors, who consequently have misdated some of her writings.
9. See L. J. Clark, 'Dating the Undated: Layers of Narrative in Frances Burney's *Court Journals*', *Lifewriting Annual*, 3 (2012), pp. 119–39.
10. The head of the German Chancery was known as the Hanoverian minister, but his duties differed from those of an ambassador of a foreign country. Between 1714 and 1837, the period of the personal union between Britain and Hannover, Britain sent no diplomatic or consular representatives to Hannover (see U. Dann, *Hanover and Great Britain 1740–1760* (Leicester: Leicester University Press, 1991), p. 10).
11. The Landeshauptarchiv Schwerin holds (catalogue no. 4.3–2, Hausarchiv des Mecklenburg-Strelitzschen Fürstenhauses mit Briefsammlung) more than 440 letters from Queen Charlotte to her brother Charles, who became Duke Charles II of Mecklenburg-Strelitz on 2 June 1794 upon the death of their brother Adolphus Frederick IV.
12. A description of George III's 1788–9 illness is given in *Papendiek*.
13. According to Horn's 31 October 1823 autobiographical letter to the compiler of *A Dictionary of Musicians ...*, printed for Sainsbury & Co. in London in 1824. This letter (Glasgow University Library, Special Collections, ms Euing R.d. 86/105) is transcribed in M. Kassler (ed.), *Charles Edward Horn's Memoirs of his Father and Himself* (Aldershot and London: Ashgate and The Society for Theatre Research, 2003), pp. 73–5.
14. For the former library see *QCSC*; for the latter library see H. J. Marx, "A love of music to distraction...", *Musik im Leben der englischen Königin Charlotte (1744–1818)*, *Archiv*

*für Musikwissenschaft*, 71:1 (2014), pp. 1–19.

15. As the king had not consented to their marriage it was null and void according to the Royal Marriages Act of 1772 (12 George III c.1).
16. Passages from this undated letter are translated from the French in *Hedley* pp. 189–90.
17. The Canadian province of Prince Edward Island was named after him in 1798; its capital, Charlottetown, was named after Queen Charlotte.
18. See F. Frensdorff, 'Die englischen Prinzen in Göttingen', *Zeitschrift des Historischen Vereins für Niedersachsen* (1905), pp. 421–81.
19. Three biographies of Queen Charlotte were published in the year after her death: W. C. Oulton, *Authentic and Impartial Memoirs of her late Majesty Queen Charlotte...* (London: T. Kinnersley, 1819); J. Watkins, *Memoirs of her Most Excellent Majesty Sophia-Charlotte, Queen of Great Britain* (London: Henry Colburn, 1819); and T. Williams, *A Brief Memoir of her late Majesty Queen Charlotte...* (London: Simpkin & Marshall, 1819). P. H. Fitzgerald, *The Good Queen Charlotte* (London: Downey, 1899) appeared eighty years later.
20. *Hedley*.
21. Publications that make reference to the diaries include *Fraser*, *GIII&QC* and *Roberts*.

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## CHRONOLOGY OF 1789 EVENTS

1 March	Thanksgiving celebration of George III's recovery from illness
24 June	George III, Queen Charlotte and the three eldest princesses, accompanied by attendants, leave Windsor for a vacation at Weymouth
15–27 August	At Saltram House near Plymouth, Devon
27–28 August	At Exeter deanery
28 August	Back at Weymouth, where the royal party is based until 14 September
7 September	Visit to Milton Abbey
8 September	George III and Queen Charlotte celebrate the twenty-eighth anniversary of their wedding
14–16 September	Visit to Longleat
16–18 September	Visit to Tottenham Park, Wiltshire
18 September	Return to Windsor; Queen Charlotte reunited with the younger princesses
28 September	Queen Charlotte's first sitting for her portrait by Thomas Lawrence
3 November	Celebration of Princess Sophia's twelfth birthday
5 November	Queen Charlotte attends drawing room at St James's Palace
9 November	Celebration of Princess Augusta's twenty-first birthday
18 November	Goes to Covent Garden Theatre in London for first time since George III's illness
19 November	Attends drawing room at St James's Palace
3 December	Attends drawing room at St James's Palace
5 December	Final sitting for portrait by Thomas Lawrence
17 December	Attends drawing room at St James's Palace



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## CHRONOLOGY OF 1794 EVENTS

2 January	Attends drawing room at St James's Palace
6 January	Attends ball at Windsor Castle
18 January	Public celebration of Queen Charlotte's birthday (her actual birthday was 19 May)
21 January	George III opens Parliament
23 January	Attends drawing room at St James's Palace
25 January	George III learns that Prince Augustus had illegally married Lady Augusta Murray
6 February	Attends drawing room at St James's Palace
8 February	Prince Frederick, Duke of York, arrives in Windsor from Flanders
13 February	Attends drawing room at St James's Palace
20 February	Attends drawing room at St James's Palace
27 February	Attends drawing room at St James's Palace
28 February	George III sees the Duke of York for the last time before his return to Flanders
6 March	Attends drawing room at St James's Palace
13 March	Attends drawing room at St James's Palace
20 March	Attends drawing room at St James's Palace
27 March	Attends drawing room at St James's Palace
3 April	Attends drawing room at St James's Palace
4 April	Queen Charlotte's first sitting for miniature portrait by Edward Miles
10 April	Attends drawing room at St James's Palace
8 May	Attends drawing room at St James's Palace
15 May	Attends drawing room at St James's Palace
19 May	Queen Charlotte's fiftieth birthday celebrated by a rifle salute at Windsor Park
22 May	Attends drawing room at St James's Palace
25 May	Celebration of Princess Mary's eighteenth birthday
29 May	Celebration of Princess Elizabeth's twenty-fourth birthday; Queen Charlotte attends drawing room at St James's Palace
4 June	George III's sixty-first birthday celebrated by firing of guns in London
14 June	Queen Charlotte learns of the death (on 2 June) of her brother Adolphus Frederick IV, Duke of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, and that their brother Charles has succeeded him as Duke Charles II
19 June	Attends drawing room at St James's Palace

21 June	Prince Ernest arrives in Windsor from Flanders, after his left arm was severely wounded in battle
26–30 June	Travels to and from Portsmouth
11 July	George III prorogues Parliament
17 July	Attends drawing room at St James's Palace
31 July	Attends drawing room at St James's Palace
7 August	Celebration of Princess Amelia's eleventh birthday
9 August	Sits for portrait by Gainsborough Dupont
11 August	Celebration, one day early, of the thirty-second birthday of George, Prince of Wales
12 August	Rifle salute at Windsor Park in honour of the birthday of the Prince of Wales
15 August	George III, Queen Charlotte, Prince Ernest and all six princesses leave Windsor for Weymouth
24 August	The Prince of Wales informs his father that he has broken off his connection with Maria Fitzherbert and wishes to marry his cousin Princess Caroline of Brunswick-Wolfenbüttel
8 September	George III and Queen Charlotte celebrate the thirty-third anniversary of their wedding
10 September	Queen Charlotte receives news of the death of her sister Christina Sophina Albertina, Princess of Mecklenburg-Strelitz
18 September	Baron Otto Ulrich von Dewitz, president of the Mecklenburg-Strelitz privy council, arrives at Weymouth with an account of the debts of Queen Charlotte's late brother Duke Adolphus Frederick IV
22 September	George III and Queen Charlotte celebrate the thirty-third anniversary of their coronation
23 September	George III and Queen Charlotte visit Milton Abbey
27 September	Royal family returns from Weymouth to Windsor
29 September	Celebration of the twenty-eighth birthday of Charlotte, Princess Royal; News received of a plot to kill George III
23 October	Attends drawing room at St James's Palace; Prince Ernest takes leave to return to the continent
25 October	Goes with the royal princesses to early prayers in recognition of today being the anniversary of George III's accession to the throne
31 October	George III signs treaty of marriage between the Prince of Wales and Princess Caroline of Brunswick-Wolfenbüttel
3 November	Celebration of Princess Sophia's seventeenth birthday
6 November	Attends drawing room at St James's Palace
22 November	Arrangements begun to have robes made for Princess Caroline's wedding
24 November	George III agrees to recall the Duke of York from his command
27 November	Attends drawing-room at St James's Palace
6 December	The Duke of York arrives at Windsor from the continent
30 December	George III opens Parliament

## AUGUST 1789

23<sup>rd</sup>

[Sunday. Saltram.<sup>1</sup>] We Breakfasted by 9 & went to Chapel by 10. Prayers being read again by the Reverend Mr Mayo.<sup>2</sup> We came Home by 11 & the K<sup>s</sup>[.] Princesses & myself retired to our rooms about 12. L<sup>ds</sup> Chesterfield[.] Hood & Stopford<sup>3</sup> came. L<sup>rd</sup> Chatham<sup>4</sup> arrived at one a Clock, His Majesty saw Him in private. After the Gentlemen were gone we Dressed[.] I read a Sermon to the Princesses. We dined at 4 & in the Evening the Princesses [and] the 2 L<sup>dy</sup> Waldegraves<sup>5</sup> walkd with the Gentlemen & the K<sup>s</sup>[.] myself & L<sup>dy</sup> Courtown<sup>6</sup> went in a carriage to the top of the Hill behind the House to see the Prospect which is of great Command. The ascent is made easy by being cut in Grass Drives round the Hill planted on each Side. We Returned by 7. Drank Thea at 8. Myself and P.A. playd at True Madam<sup>7</sup> the rest of the Evening. The K<sup>s</sup> drew & the other L<sup>dies</sup> read, we supped at 10 & retired at 11.

Very Fine Dry Warm Wheather all day.

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1. *Sunday. Saltram*: On 24 June 1789 George III, Queen Charlotte and the three eldest princesses – Charlotte (Princess Royal), Augusta and Elizabeth – left Windsor for Weymouth, accompanied by their attendants (*DRTour*, p. 1). They returned to Windsor on 18 September (see Queen Charlotte's diary entry for that day). On 15 August 1789 the royal family and their attendants travelled to Saltram House near Plymouth, Devon, the seat of John Parker, second Baron Boringdon and from 1815 first Earl of Morley (*London Gazette*, 15–18 August 1789, p. 549). They were there on 23 August 1789, when Queen Charlotte's extant diary starts.
  2. *Reverend Mr Mayo*: Rev. Philip Wynell Mayow, curate of Plymouth St Mary. He had preached before the royal family at the Saltram chapel on the preceding Sunday (*DRTour*, p. 67).
  3. *Chesterfield, Hood & Stopford*: Philip Stanhope, fifth Earl of Chesterfield; Vice-Admiral (later Admiral) Samuel Hood (1724–1816), Baron Hood (in the peerage of Ireland) and from 1796 first Viscount Hood, MP for Westminster and a Lord of the Admiralty; and James George Stopford (Viscount Stopford, later third Earl of Courtown).
  4. *L<sup>rd</sup>Chatham*: John Pitt, second Earl of Chatham. He married Mary Elizabeth Townshend in 1783 and served from 1788 to 1794 as first Lord of the Admiralty.

5. 2 *L<sup>dy</sup> Waldegraves*: Lady Elizabeth Waldegrave, Lady of the Bedchamber to the elder princesses, and her sister Lady Caroline Waldegrave, daughters of John Waldegrave, third Earl Waldegrave.
6. *L<sup>dy</sup> Courtown*: Mary Stopford, wife of James Stopford, second Earl of Courtown, who served as Treasurer of the Household from 1784 to 1793. In 1788 Queen Charlotte appointed her Lady in Waiting with the specific responsibility of serving the queen when she was away from London (*RHI*).
7. *True Madam*: 'Trou Madame' – 'trou' being the French word for 'hole' – was a forerunner of bagatelle, a game similar to billiards. I am grateful to David Parlett for information about this and other historic games.

24<sup>th</sup>

[Monday. Saltram.] We breakfasted at 9 & set out by 10 for Marystow the Seat of Mr Haywood<sup>1</sup> about 8 miles from hence. The K<sup>s</sup> & Gentlemen went on Horseback but the Rain coming on so fast the K. got into Our Carriage & we arrived there by a little after 11. We were received by M<sup>r</sup> & M<sup>rs</sup> Haywood, & Miss Fanny Haywood[,]<sup>2</sup> L<sup>rd</sup> & L<sup>dy</sup> Howe,<sup>3</sup> L<sup>dy</sup> Mary Howe<sup>4</sup> & Monsieur Delcampo the Spanish Ambassador.<sup>5</sup> The rain being over we walkd out immediately through the Woods. The Walks are Shady & the Grounds very Romantic, the Hills Covered with Fine Beach hanging down to the Bottom Banks of the River Tavy which when full must aids greatly to the beauty of the Place, but as this depends upon the Tide & that not Serving to Day, we did not see the place quite in perfection. When we returned from Our Walk we found M<sup>r</sup> and M<sup>rs</sup> Haywood found a very Elegant Breakfast ready & after having taken some refreshment We went into the Drawing room & heard Miss Haywood play upon the Harp accompanied by L<sup>dy</sup> Mary Howe upon the Harpsichord. L<sup>dy</sup> Charlotte & Mr Curzon<sup>6</sup> were also at the House & M<sup>rs</sup> Heywood on account of the Rheumatism did not walk with us, P.E. & L<sup>dy</sup> Charlotte Curzon staid with her. The House is chiefly Old, one Wing new built by M<sup>r</sup> Heywood, which Consists of a Drawing Room, Dining Room, & Library, & over it 3 Bed-Chambers with one Dressing room. The intention was to rebuild the whole but Since His Son[']s Death<sup>7</sup> M<sup>r</sup> Heywood has given up that Idea & wishes to Sell it in his Life Time for the sake of His 4 Daughters of which 3 are married,<sup>8</sup> the Eldest to a M<sup>r</sup> Masters[,] the 2<sup>nd</sup> to Captain Bertie Natural Son of L<sup>rd</sup> Albemarle Bertie, the 3<sup>rd</sup> to a M<sup>r</sup> Montellier of Randal in Surry, & the Youngest lives with them unmarried[.] There is a very pritty Chapel in the House which was also built by M<sup>r</sup> Heywood[.] we left the place about ½ hour after 2 & came home about 4[,] then dressd & went to Dinner. We did not go out in the Evening but read till 8 Drank Thea, playd at Cards, Suppd at 10 & retired about half an hour after.

Very Whet early in the morning changed to Fair about one & rebegun to Rain by 7 in the Evening.

1. *Mr Haywood*: James Modyford Heywood. *DRTour* states on p. 85, presumably incorrectly, that the royal family's visit to Marystow took place on 22 August 1789.
2. *M<sup>r</sup> & M<sup>rs</sup> Haywood, & Miss Fanny Haywood*: James Modyford Heywood married Catharine Hartopp in 1754. Of their daughters only the youngest, Frances, had not yet married in 1789 (see note 8, below).
3. *L<sup>rd</sup> & L<sup>dy</sup> Howe*: Admiral Richard Howe, first Earl Howe, married Mary Hartopp, sister of Catharine Hartopp, in 1758.
4. *L<sup>dy</sup> Mary Howe*: The Howes' second daughter, Lady Mary Juliana Howe.
5. *Monsieur Delcampo the Spanish Ambassador*: Bernardo del Campo y Pérez de la Serna served in London from 1783 to 1795 as ambassador from Spain.
6. *L<sup>dy</sup> Charlotte & Mr Curzon*: The Howes' eldest daughter, Lady Sophia Charlotte Howe, had married Penn Assheton Curzon in 1787.
7. *His Son[']s Death*: The Heywoods' son, James, died in 1784.
8. *4 Daughters of which 3 are married*: The Heywoods' eldest daughter, Sophia Catherine, married John Musters in 1776. The second daughter, Emma, married Captain (later Admiral Sir) Albemarle Bertie in 1783, but he was the natural son not of his namesake but of General Peregrine Bertie, third Duke of Ancaster (according to [http:// www.craocraftspeerage.co.uk/online/content/index513.htm](http://www.craocraftspeerage.co.uk/online/content/index513.htm) [accessed November 2014]). The third daughter, Maria Henrietta, married Lewis Montolieu, third Baron de St Hippolite (who had a home at Randalls near Leatherhead, Surrey) in 1786. The youngest Heywood daughter, Frances, married Thomas Orby Hunter in 1796 (*FMP; Oracle, and Public Advertiser*, 1 October 1796, p. 4).

25<sup>th</sup>

[Tuesday. Saltram.] We Breakfasted about 7 & Our coaches were ate the door by ½ hour after 7. We arrived at a place called the Passage in Cornwall over against the Borough of Saltash 35 minutes after 8 & got into Our Barge proceeded in the same manner as before, to row up the River Tamar. The Beauties of the Banks of this River are diversified with Rocks[,] Hills covered with Beach, Oaks, & Siccamoses, R<sup>o</sup> & a Variety of Gentlemen[']s Seats. We saw at a distance Marystowe, rowed under Pentylly Castle a place belonging to Mrs Tilly a Widow lady<sup>1</sup> & landed at the Woods of Cotehill<sup>2</sup> ½ hour after 10 an old Family Seat of Earl Mount Edgecombe where we found L<sup>rd</sup> & L<sup>dy</sup> Mount Edgecombe<sup>3</sup> ready to receive Us. We went in their Coach up to this Old Family seat of theirs where His Ancestors lived at least 200 Years before they had Mount Edgecombe.<sup>4</sup> it did originally consist of 3 Courts, of which there is now but one existing & Consists of a Large Hall full of Old Armor & Swords & Old Carved Chairs of the Times a Drawing Room Hung with Old Tapestry, the Scirtingboard of which is Straw[,] the Chairs['] Seats made of Priests['] Vestments. A Chapel which is still in good repair, The Window<sup>5</sup> painted Glass but damaged & defaced. A small Bed Chamber, a Closet & a Dressing room, all Hung with Old Tapestry. Above stairs there is a Drawing room[,] The Chairs Black Ebony Carved & a Cabinet

the Same & 4 Bedchambers all Hung the Same. At Breakfast we Eat off the Old Family Pewter, & used the Silver Knives Forks & Spoons which have been Time immemorial in the Family & have always been kept at this place. The Decaners are of the Year 1646. The name of the Wines burnt in the Earthenwear for at that Time Wines were Sold at the Apothecaries[?] Shop & in Sending such a Decanter it was filld with the Wine it bore the Label off.<sup>6</sup> The Des[s]ert Plates are Old Delph of a very large size but make nopart of the Old Family Furniture. We embarkd again 10 minutes after 12 & landed at the Passage ½ an Hour after one. There we found Our Carriages ready & returned at Saltram at 3, Then Dressd, & dined at four, & did not go out after Dinner. Mr Digby<sup>7</sup> was not of Our party but went to Plymouth on Horseback & returned by a quarter before 4. We drank Thea at 8, playd at Cards for an Hour, Suppd at 10 & retired at 11. Extremely Whet in the morning till 1 a Clock. Fair & Warm the rest of the Day.

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1. *Mrs Tilly a Widow Lady*: Mary Tillie, owner of Pentillie Castle, St Mellion, Cornwall, whose husband James Tillie had died in 1772. I am grateful to Ted Coryton of Pentillie Castle and Estate for information about the Tillie family.
  2. *Cotehill*: Cotehele House, near Saltash, Cornwall.
  3. *L<sup>rd</sup> & L<sup>dy</sup> Mount Edgcombe*: Admiral George Edgcombe, Viscount Mount Edgcombe and Valletort, and his wife Emma.
  4. *Mount Edgcombe*: The building of Mount Edgcombe House near Torpoint, Cornwall, began in 1547. The building of Cotehele House began in 1485.
  5. *The Window*: This window has been restored and is on display at Cotehele, now a National Trust property. See <http://www.nationaltrustcollections.org.uk/object/348231> [accessed November 2014].
  6. *bore the Label off*: i.e. bore the label of.
  7. *Mr Digby*: Lieutenant-Colonel Stephen Digby was Vice Chamberlain to Queen Charlotte from c. 1782 to 1792. He subsequently served as Deputy Ranger and then Ranger and Keeper of Richmond Park.

## 26<sup>th</sup>

[Wednesday. Saltram.] We breakfasted at 9 & went Out the K. & Gentlemen on Horseback & myself & L<sup>dies</sup> in the Coaches to see the Country about Saltram, but it ended after having made about 5 miles in our going to Kitley the Seat of Mr Bastard[']s<sup>1</sup> in This County. We drove up He came on foot to meet the K. in the Grounds, & we drove up to the House where we found the present M<sup>rs</sup> Bastard, M<sup>rs</sup> Eduard Bastard His brother[']s Wife & Her eldest son a Boy of 5 years old, & the Dowager M<sup>rs</sup> Bastard the Mother-in-law,<sup>2</sup> L<sup>dy</sup> Hood[,]<sup>3</sup> Mrs Gwynn & Her Brother Colonel Horneck.<sup>4</sup> We went immediately to Breakfast & afterwards went out on Foot to see the Grounds which are Chiefly laid out by the present owner within these five Years. The Ground before the House which was formerly either all Water when the Tide was in or all mud when it went

down is now raised & makes a very fine Lawn. The River Yam near the House is kept in by means of a bank 80 foot deep kept Constantly in. The walk in the Woods which are likewise the drive will be when finished 15 miles round, ~~they~~ the part which we saw is chiefly on a hanging Hill covered with woods to the bottom. There is building Ware Houses for the Slates of which there are Quarries in His Grounds. There is likewise a Copper Mine and Umber Quarry lately discovered, & He intends to build a Dock Yard in order to build small ships. The House consists below of a Hall[,] a Dining room, 2 Drawing Rooms one of which is painted upon the Walls in Landscapes & Bed Chamber, 2 Dressing rooms & a Library & above Stairs of 10 very good BedChambers of which there are 4 with Dressing rooms & they talk of adding still more to the House. We saw a most beautifull piece of Needle Work of Mrs Bastard in Darting stich done in Worsted representing Abraham giving up His Handmaid Hagar. we left the place about a quarter before two & arrived at Saltram about 3 where we found L<sup>rd</sup> Hood,<sup>5</sup> the Commissioner La Forey[,]<sup>6</sup> M<sup>r</sup> John Townsend,<sup>7</sup> L<sup>rd</sup> Stopford, Captain Boyers of the Navy,<sup>8</sup> & L<sup>rd</sup> Chatham who had an Audience of His Majesty. The Commissioner kissed the K<sup>g</sup><sup>l</sup>'s Hands for being created a Baronet, & Captain Boyers had the Honor of Knighthood Conferd upon Him. They were all dismissed about 4, than the K. dressd & we went to Dinner The K. & myself staid at Home all the Evening but The Princesses [and] the 2 L<sup>dy</sup> Waldegraves walkd round the Gardens. we Drank Thea at 8, playd at Cards for an Hour, Suppd at 10 & retired at 11.

Very Whet in the Morning early, but Dry & Warm the rest of the Day.

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1. *Mr Bastard*['s]: John Pollexfen Bastard served as MP for Devonshire from 1784 to 1816.
  2. *Mrs Bastard... the Mother-in-law*: John Pollexfen Bastard married the widow Sarah Wymondsoeld in 1780. His brother Edmund – not Eduard Bastard – married Jane Pownoll at St George's, Hanover Square in 1783 (*FMP*). Their eldest son, Edmund Pollexfen Bastard, was born in 1784. Queen Charlotte's phrase 'Dowager M<sup>rs</sup> Bastard the Mother-in-law' must be mistaken. John Pollexfen Bastard's mother, Anne, died in 1765. Nothing appears to be known about his mother-in-law (see P. Rogers, 'The Second Mrs Wymondsoeld: The Widow, The Divorcee, Johnson, and Reynolds', *Huntington Library Quarterly*, 69:4 (2006), pp. 607–16, on p. 608).
  3. *L<sup>dy</sup> Hood*: Susannah Hood, wife of Vice-Admiral Samuel Hood. In 1795 she was created first Baroness Hood in her own right.
  4. *Mrs Gwynn & Her Brother Colonel Horneck*: Mary Gwyn *née* Horneck and her brother Charles Horneck, later a Lieutenant-General. Mrs Gwyn was the wife of the king's equerry Colonel (from 1808 General) Francis Edward Gwyn (see *QCD*, 08/09/1789, note 3, below).
  5. *L<sup>rd</sup> Hood*: Vice-Admiral (later Admiral) Samuel Hood, Baron Hood.
  6. *Commissioner La Forey*: Admiral Sir John Laforey was appointed Commissioner of Plymouth Dockyard about the year 1783. See A[nne] B[yrne] McLeod, *British Naval Captains of the Seven Years' War: The View from the Quarterdeck* (Woodbridge: Boydell Press, 2012), p. 224–5.

7. *John Townsend*: presumably John Townshend, MP for Westminster.
8. *Captain Boyers of the Navy*: Thomas Byard, captain of the naval ship *Impregnable*. He had steered the ship on which George III reviewed the fleet in 1789.

27<sup>th</sup>

[Thursday. Saltram and Exeter.] This Day being fixd for our departure we left Saltram after our Breakfast exactly at 9 a Clock. Went by Ivy Bridge[,] Ashburton where one of the Portreaves<sup>1</sup> made a Speech to the K. at the Coach door by Chudleigh where we met S<sup>r</sup> Robert Paulke formerly known by the name of Governor Paulke in the East indias. He was accompan & His Son in law S<sup>r</sup> Bowcher Wray.<sup>2</sup> He presented the K. with some fruit & begd His Majesty to drive through His Grounds to Exeter. This we did & stopt at His House for a moment to which He makes considerable additions & alterations, but it appears to be a very indifferent House. The Grounds of Halldown place which is its name are pritty, very uneven Grounds woods through in which there are drives Cut through & some new plantations which thrive amazingly. S<sup>r</sup> Robert bought the place of a Mr —.<sup>3</sup> We saw a Son and Daughter of S<sup>r</sup> Bowcher Wray[']s<sup>4</sup> which are beautifull Children. Not far from this place the Perch of the Princesses['] Coach broke[,] which was not discovered till they came to the House door. We staid there about half an Hour & then set off for Exeter wh & arived at the Deanry & where the dean<sup>5</sup> received us a quarter before 3. L<sup>rd</sup> Fortescue<sup>6</sup> came immediately after Our arrival. We walkd in the Garden till near 4 a Clock when we dined[.] L<sup>rd</sup> Fortescue staid ðin to Dine with Us. After Dinner The K. saw S<sup>r</sup> George Young,<sup>7</sup> we did stay quietly at Home all the rest of the Evening, Drank Thea about 8, Suppd at 10 & retired at 11.  
Very Fine Dry Wheather in this Day.

1. *Portreaves*: in the borough of Ashburton, Devon, a portreeve represents the monarch and performs some official duties.
2. *Robert Paulke ... Bowcher Wray*: Sir Robert Palk was Governor of Madras from 1763 to 1767. His daughter, Anne, married Sir Bouchier Wrey, seventh Baronet.
3. *S<sup>r</sup> Robert bought the place of a Mr —* : Sir Robert Palk bought Haldon House from William Webber in 1769 (see D. Lysons and S. Lysons, *Magna Britannia*, vol. 6 (London: Cadell, 1822), p. 296).
4. *Son and Daughter of S<sup>r</sup> Bowcher Wray*: Bouchier Palk Wray (later eighth Baronet) and Anna Eleanora Wray.
5. *the dean*: Rev. William Buller, Dean of Exeter from 1784 to 1790, and Bishop of Exeter from 1792 to 1796.
6. *L<sup>rd</sup> Fortescue*: Hugh Fortescue, first Earl Fortescue.
7. *S<sup>r</sup> George Young*: presumably Sir George Yonge, fifth Baronet Yonge, Secretary at War and a member of the Privy Council.

28<sup>th</sup>

[Friday. Exeter and Weymouth.] We breakfasted at 7, saw L<sup>rd</sup> Fortescue & the Dean D<sup>r</sup> Buller & left the Deanry of Exeter exactly at 8 a Clock. We went through Honniton where Collonel Vyse left us,<sup>1</sup> Exminster, ~~Chudleigh~~, & Bridport where we stopt for about a quarter of an Hour, & arrived at Weymouth a quarter after 4 a Clock where His Majesty was received with all possible marks of joy. The Guns were K. was Saluted by the *Magnificent* who arrived the Day before, & likewise by the the Canons from the Batterie were also fired off. We dined directly & did not Dress. After Dinner I saw L<sup>dy</sup> Effingham,<sup>2</sup> & staid at Home with the Princesses & L<sup>dies</sup>. The K. took a Walk & returned by 8. I send for L<sup>dy</sup> Frances Howard<sup>3</sup> & we playd at Cards, parted at 10, then Suppd & retired about 11. The whole Town was Illuminated.

Very Fine Dry Warm Wheather, but Foggi at Night.

The Duke of Dorset,<sup>4</sup> L<sup>rd</sup> & L<sup>dy</sup> Westmoreland & their Son Lord Burgues,<sup>5</sup> L<sup>rd</sup> Sidney,<sup>6</sup> General & Mrs Rainsford,<sup>7</sup> Mr & L<sup>dy</sup> Susan Drommond & L<sup>dy</sup> Fane, Collonel & M<sup>rs</sup> Fane,<sup>8</sup> Brother & Sisters to L<sup>rd</sup> Westmoreland, Miss Drummond,<sup>9</sup> [and] M<sup>rs</sup> & Miss Buller<sup>10</sup> arrived to Day at Weymouth & also M<sup>r</sup> John Townsend. Mr Digby left us at Bridgeport & went to the Dowager L<sup>dy</sup> Illchester[']s.<sup>11</sup>

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1. *Collonel Vyse left us*: Richard Vyse, later a general.
  2. *L<sup>dy</sup> Effingham*: Elizabeth Howard, Dowager Countess of Effingham, served as a Lady of the Bedchamber to Queen Charlotte from 1761 to 1791.
  3. *L<sup>dy</sup> Frances Howard*: Lady Frances Herring Howard, a daughter of Elizabeth Howard, Dowager Countess of Effingham.
  4. *The Duke of Dorset*: John Frederick Sackville, third Duke of Dorset, who had served as British Ambassador to France from 1784 until earlier in 1789. On this day, according to *DRTour*, p. 90, 'The King was a long time in conversation with the Duke of Dorset, on the present convulsed state of France, and appeared very anxious to be informed of every minute circumstance'.
  5. *L<sup>rd</sup> & L<sup>dy</sup> Westmoreland & their Son Lord Burgues*: John Fane, tenth Earl of Westmorland of the second creation, his wife Sarah Anne, and their son John, Lord Burghersh (and from 1841 eleventh Earl of Westmorland of the second creation).
  6. *L<sup>rd</sup> Sidney*: Thomas Townshend, first Viscount Sydney. Both Sydney, New South Wales and Sydney, Nova Scotia are named after him.
  7. *General & Mrs Rainsford*: General Charles Rainsford and his wife, Ann.
  8. *Mr & L<sup>dy</sup> Susan Drommond & L<sup>dy</sup> Fane, Collonel & M<sup>rs</sup> Fane*: Lady Susan Fane, sister of the tenth Earl, her husband John Drummond, Lieutenant-Colonel Thomas Fane, MP for Lyme Regis, and his wife, Ann.
  9. *Miss Drummond*: presumably a relative of John Drummond.
  10. *M<sup>rs</sup> & Miss Buller*: presumably Anne Buller, wife of Rev. William Buller, and one of their three daughters.
  11. *Dowager L<sup>dy</sup> Illchester[']s*: Elizabeth Fox-Strangways, widow of Stephen Fox-Strangways,

first Earl of Ilchester, was Stephen Digby's aunt (see *CJLI*, p. 88, fn. 324).

## 29<sup>th</sup>

[Saturday, Weymouth.] This Morning about 7 a Clock arrived the *Southampton* Frigate & in Her L<sup>rd</sup> Chatham & L<sup>rd</sup> Stopford. We breakfasted at 9. I sent for L<sup>dy</sup> Effingham & begun my new Muslin Work. ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ None of Our party went out in the Morning. We read & workd, Dressd, & dined at 4[.] Went out immediately after Dinner, & saw:

New Collonel March of the 77th Regiment of Foot.<sup>1</sup>

Collonel Williams Deputy Adjutant General.<sup>2</sup>

M<sup>r</sup> George Villars Youngest Brother to L<sup>rd</sup> Clarindon, & one of the K's Grooms of the BedChamber.<sup>3</sup>

Dowager L<sup>dy</sup> Reed of Oxfordshire.<sup>4</sup>

M<sup>r</sup> Purlin Member for Weymouth.<sup>5</sup>

M<sup>r</sup> Liggin Member for Worcester[,] His Wife and Son.<sup>6</sup>

L<sup>rd</sup> & L<sup>dy</sup> Howe & L<sup>dy</sup> Mary Howe.

Master William & Horace Townsends[,]<sup>7</sup> L<sup>rd</sup> Sidney[']s Sons.

M<sup>r</sup> & M<sup>rs</sup> Call[,]<sup>8</sup> one of the Surveyors of the Forest, &

L<sup>dy</sup> Harriot Ackland Sister to L<sup>rd</sup> Ilchester & Her Daughter.<sup>9</sup>

We came home by 8[,] Drank Tea. L<sup>rd</sup> Weymouth<sup>10</sup> came to return thanks to the K. for being Made a Marquis[,] for which He Kissd Hands[.] He was presented to me afterwards & we playd at Cards with him, L<sup>rd</sup> Chesterfield, L<sup>dy</sup> Chatham & L<sup>dy</sup> Sidney [and] L<sup>dy</sup> Effingham. We parted about a quarter before 11. Supp & retired about half an Hour after.

The Duke of Dorset went away this afternoon & L<sup>rd</sup> Stopford at Night. The D. Richmond arrived this Evening in His Yacht from Plymouth.<sup>11</sup>

Very fine Dry Warm Weather all Day.

1. *Collonel March of the 77th Regiment of Foot*: James Marsh, first colonel of this regiment.
2. *Collonel Williams Deputy Adjutant General*: Adam Williamson (later Lieutenant-General Sir Adam) was appointed Deputy Adjutant General of the forces in South Britain in December 1778 (*ODNB*).
3. *M<sup>r</sup> George Villars ... of the BedChamber*: George Villiers, a Groom of the Bedchamber to George III from 1783, was the youngest brother of Thomas Villiers, second Earl of Clarendon of the second creation.
4. *Dowager L<sup>dy</sup> Reed of Oxfordshire*: Harriott Reade, widow of John Reade, fifth Baronet.
5. *M<sup>r</sup> Purlin Member for Weymouth*: John Purling, MP for Weymouth and Melcombe Regis.
6. *M<sup>r</sup> Liggin ... His Wife and Son*: William Lygon, MP for Worcestershire and from 1815 first Earl Beauchamp, his wife Catherine and their son William Beauchamp Lygon, who became second Earl Beauchamp when his father died in 1816.
7. *Master William & Horace Townsends*: William and Horace Townshend, sons of Thomas

- Townshend, first Viscount Sydney, and his wife Elizabeth. Their dates are not known.
8. *M<sup>r</sup> & M<sup>rs</sup> Call*: John Call, MP for Callington and from 1791 first Baronet, and his wife Philadelphia. In May 1789 Call was appointed one of three commissioners 'to enquire into the state and condition of woods, forests and land revenues belonging to the Crown' (*Journals of the House of Commons*, vol. 44, 25 May 1789, p. 414).
  9. *L<sup>dy</sup> Harriot Ackland ... & Her Daughter*: Christian Henrietta Caroline 'Harriet' Fox-Strangways, sister of Henry Thomas Fox-Strangways, second Earl of Ilchester, married Major John Dyke Acland in 1770. Their daughter Elizabeth 'Kitty' Acland married Henry George Herbert, from 1811 second Earl of Carnarvon of the third creation, in 1796.
  10. *L<sup>rd</sup> Weymouth*: The peerage Marquess of Bath was created for Thomas Thynne, Viscount Weymouth, in 1789.
  11. *D. Richmond ... from Plymouth*: Field Marshal Charles Lennox, third Duke of Richmond of the third creation.

30<sup>th</sup>

[Sunday. Weymouth.] We breakfasted by 9. Afterwards I read a Sermon to the Princesses[.] We went to Church by 11. The Reverend D<sup>r</sup> Groves preachd[.]<sup>1</sup> After our return from Church, The K.[.] myself, Princesses A. & E.[.] L<sup>dy</sup> Effingham & the 2 L<sup>dy</sup> Waldegraves walked upon the Esplanade. We came home by two & Dressd, Dined at 4. Could not walk on account of the rain, but went to the rooms at 8, which were very full. We drunk Thea in the Card room, & Our Company Consisted besides our Family of L<sup>dies</sup> Chesterfield, Westmoreland, Chatham[.] Howe, Effingham, Sidney, L<sup>dy</sup> Francis Howard, L<sup>dy</sup> Mary Howe & Miss Townsend,<sup>2</sup> L<sup>rds</sup> Chatham, Bath,<sup>3</sup> Chesterfield, Howe. We staid till 10, then went home[.] suppd & retired at 11.

P.E. Bathed for the 15<sup>th</sup> Time.

L<sup>dy</sup> Courtown received an Account from Her Youngest Son Richard at Dalkeith the news of M<sup>r</sup> Lenox[.] Son to L<sup>rd</sup> George Lenox & Nephew to the Duke of Richmond[.] being married at Edinbrough to L<sup>dy</sup> Charlotte Gordon[.]<sup>4</sup> Eldest Daughter to the Duke of Gordon.

We were also told at the rooms at Night that M<sup>r</sup> Harvey Aston was to marry Miss Ingram[.] Youngest Daughter to L<sup>dy</sup> Irwin.<sup>5</sup>

The D. of Richmond Saild for Portsmouth about 4 a Clock.

Very Whet in the Morning. Fair in the Middle of the Day, rainy at Night.

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1. *Reverend D<sup>r</sup> Groves preachd*: Rev. Thomas Grove, rector of Melcombe Regis, the community adjacent to Weymouth, from 1777 to 1800.
  2. *Miss Townsend*: Georgiana Townshend, daughter of Thomas Townshend, first Viscount Sydney (*Hedley*, pp. 176–7, confirms her presence in Weymouth at this time). In 1801 she was appointed housekeeper of Windsor Castle.
  3. *L<sup>rds</sup> ... Bath*: Thomas Thynne, first Marquess of Bath.
  4. *L<sup>dy</sup> Charlotte Gordon*: eldest child of Alexander Gordon, fourth Duke of Gordon. She married Charles Lennox, from 1806 fourth Duke of Richmond of the third creation, on

- 3 September 1789. His father was General Lord George Henry Lennox.
5. *Miss Ingram ... L<sup>dy</sup> Irwin*: Harriet Ingram-Shepherd, daughter of Charles Ingram, ninth Viscount of Irvine, and his widow Frances, married Colonel Henry Hervey-Aston in September 1789. See *Queen Charlotte's diary* entry for 13 September 1789, below.

### 31<sup>st</sup>

[Monday. Weymouth.] The K. Bathed this Morning for the 14<sup>th</sup> Time. We breakfasted at 9, & went on Board the *Southampton* Frigate about 11. The Howes & L<sup>rd</sup> Chatham attended us & M<sup>r</sup> George Villars[.] P.R. was not of the party. We sailed till about half an Hour after 3 & came home a little after 4. We dressd, Dined at a 5, & did not go out after Dinner. Drank Thea about 8 & playd at Cards with L<sup>rds</sup> Chesterfield & Chatham, & L<sup>dies</sup> Effingham, Chesterfield & Westmoreland. We parted a quarter before 11. Suppd, & retired about half an Hour after 11.

We saw at Our return landing upon at the Pier M<sup>r</sup> & M<sup>rs</sup> Weld of Lullworth Castle.<sup>1</sup>

Very Fine & warm in the Morning. Whet & Windy in the afternoon.

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1. *M<sup>r</sup> & M<sup>rs</sup> Weld of Lullworth Castle*: Thomas Weld of Lullworth Castle, Dorset, and his wife Mary.

## SEPTEMBER 1789

1<sup>st</sup>

[Tuesday. Weymouth.] P.E. Bathed to Day for the 16<sup>th</sup> Time. We Breakfasted at 9 & Staid at home all Morning X & read, wrote, & Workd. About one the K. saw General Schlieven Governor of Wesel in the Prussian Service.<sup>1</sup> I saw him for a moment at L<sup>dy</sup> Courtown[']s. We dined at 4, did not go out in the Afternoon but read & workd. Drank Tea between 7–8, & playd at Cards with L<sup>rd</sup> Chesterfield & Chatham, L<sup>rd</sup> & L<sup>dy</sup>, & L<sup>dy</sup> Mary Howe & L<sup>dy</sup> Effingham. We parted about a quarter before 11. Suppd & retired in about half an Hour. I finished to Day Monsieur d'Anquetil[']s Work of Louis 14.<sup>2</sup>  
Very Whet & Stormy all Day.

1. *General Schlieven ... in the Prussian Service*: King Frederick William II of Prussia appointed Lieutenant-General Martin Ernst von Schlieffen governor of Wesel (now in North Rhine-Westphalia) in April 1789 and sent him on a diplomatic mission to London that year (see his biography in A. B. König, *Biographisches Lexikon Aller Helden und Militairpersonen, Welche Sich in Preußischen Diensten Berühmt Gemacht Haben* (Berlin: Wever, 1790) vol. 3, pp. 382–3). The Hamburg publication the *British Mercury*, 9:37, 12 September 1789, p. 344, published the rumour that his purposes were 'to solicit the hand of the Princess Royal for the Prince of Prussia' (the future king Frederick William III), and 'to settle the conduct of the two Courts' – Prussia and Hannover – 'on the election of the King' of the Holy Roman Empire.
2. *Louis 14: Louis XIV, sa cour, et le Régent*, by Louis-Pierre Anquetil, published in Paris in four volumes in 1789 (*QCSC*, no. 3695). The regent was King Louis XIV's mother Queen Anne 'of Austria'. In her 17 October 1789 letter to her son Prince Augustus, then a student at the University of Göttingen, Queen Charlotte wrote: 'Have you seen a book published lately by Monsieur d'Anquetil, *L'Histoire de Louis XIV, Sa Cour & le Régent*? ... His stile is so well known that I shall say but little of it, for every word & every line from his pen is not only charming but quite superior to anything else. It is melancholi to compare that time with the present. ... in case you have not seen it & should like to read it I can send you that work....' (RA Add. Georgian 9/76, transcribed in *Aspinall1*, pp. 440–1).

2<sup>nd</sup>

[Wednesday. Weymouth.] The K. Bathed this Morning for the 15<sup>th</sup> time & P. Royal for the 12<sup>th</sup>. We Breakfasted at 9 & went out about 10, the K & Gentlemen on Horseback & myself[,] Princesses & Our L<sup>dies</sup> in Coaches. We went as far as Dorchester & returned by 2. We dressd & Dined at 4, did not go out after Dinner. We saw L<sup>dy</sup> Harriet Stanhope[,] L<sup>rd</sup> Chesterfield[']s Daughter[,] about 7 & sent also for Him to come. We drank Tea & then playd at Cards With Him[,] L<sup>rd</sup> Chatham[,] L<sup>rd</sup> & L<sup>dy</sup> Sidney & L<sup>dy</sup> Chatham, L<sup>dy</sup> Effingham & L<sup>dy</sup> Francis Howard. We did not part till near 11, then Suppd, & retired about ½ hour after.

M<sup>r</sup> Digby returned to Day from l<sup>dy</sup> Ilchester.<sup>1</sup>

Very Fine Dry Clear Wheather all Day.

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1. *l<sup>dy</sup> Ilchester*: As Queen Charlotte, in her diary entry for 28 August 1789, identified the person whom Stephen Digby was visiting as the Dowager Lady Ilchester, this reference presumably is to her.

3<sup>rd</sup>

[Thursday. Weymouth.] P.E. Bathed to Day for the 17<sup>th</sup> Time. We breakfasted at 9 & retired afterwards each to Our Rooms, Where we read & Workd. Dined at 4 & did not go out after Dinner. We read till 7 & workd, Drank Tea, & playd at Cards with L<sup>rd</sup> Chesterfield[,] Chatham, L<sup>dy</sup> Effingham & L<sup>dy</sup> Frances Howard & S<sup>r</sup> George Howard.<sup>1</sup> We parted a little before 11. Suppd & retired in about half an Hour.

Very bad rainy & ~~W~~ Stormy all Day.

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1. *L<sup>dy</sup> Frances Howard & S<sup>r</sup> George Howard*: General Sir George Howard, from 1793 a Field Marshal, married Elizabeth Howard *née* Beckford, Dowager Countess of Effingham, in 1776. He was MP for Stamford and governor of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea.

4<sup>th</sup>

[Friday. Weymouth.] The K. Bathed for the 16<sup>th</sup> Time this Morning. We Brekfasted at 9 & went to Dorchester by the Bridport road. L<sup>rd</sup> Chesterfield & L<sup>rd</sup> Sidney attended the K. on Horseback besides his own attendance, & L<sup>dy</sup> Howe went Out with me besides the Princesses & the other L<sup>dies</sup>. We came home by about 3, Dined at 4, did not go out after Dinner, Workd & read till 7. Drank

Tea, & playd at Cards with L<sup>rds</sup> Chatham & Westmoreland, L<sup>dys</sup> Chesterfield & Westmoreland & Effingham, parted about half an Hour past 10. Suppd & retired a little after 11.

Fine Early in the Morning. Rainy about Noon, & Very Fine by 8 in the Evening.

### 5<sup>th</sup>

[Saturday. Weymouth.] P.E. Bathed to Day for the 18<sup>th</sup> & the P.R. for the 13[th] time[.] We Breakfasted by 9 & went on board the *Southampton* Frigate a little after 10, attended[,] besides the King[']s Gentlemen, by L<sup>rds</sup> Chatham, Westmoreland[,] Sidney & Howe & L<sup>dy</sup> & L<sup>dy</sup> Mary Howe. We sailed Backwards & forwards in the Day. A little after 2 Captain Douglas<sup>1</sup> allowed the Sailors to Dance, their Ball lasted till half an Hour after 3[,] when we left the Ship & came Home at 4. Then Dressed[,] Dined at 6 & w<sup>h</sup>te went to the Play at 7.<sup>2</sup> We saw *The Busybody* & *Harlequin Fortunatus*.<sup>3</sup> We returned a little before 11. Suppd & retired by a quarter before 12.

L<sup>dy</sup> Courtown being Confined to Her room, L<sup>dy</sup> Effingham Dined & Supped with Us.

We received an account from Town of the Dutchess of S<sup>t</sup> Albans['] Death on Friday the 5<sup>th</sup> 7<sup>ter</sup>.<sup>4</sup>

Very Fine in the Morning, Show[e]ry in the Afternoon.

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1. *Captain Douglas*: Andrew Snape Douglas, whom George III knighted on 13 September 1789 (see Queen Charlotte's diary entry for that day).
  2. *Play at 7*: At the Weymouth theatre, which accommodated about four hundred people. See A. Chedzoy, *Seaside Sovereign: King George III at Weymouth* (Wimborne: Dovecote Press, 2003), p. 26.
  3. *The Busybody* & *Harlequin Fortunatus*: *The Busybody*, by Susanna Centlivre, was first performed in London in 1709. The pantomime *Harlequin Fortunatus*, by Henry Woodward, was originally performed under the title *Fortunatus* in 1753. The actor James Chalmers 'from the Dublin theatre, made his first appearance, in the character of Marplot [in *The Busybody*], and was favourably received' ('Account of their Majesties [*sic*] Journey to Weymouth and Plymouth', *The Annual Register ... for the Year 1789*, 2nd edn (London, 1802), pp. 260–8, on p. 266).
  4. *Dutchess of S<sup>t</sup> Albans ... the 5<sup>th</sup> 7<sup>ter</sup>*: Catherine Elizabeth Beauclerk, wife of Aubrey Beauclerk, fifth Duke of St Albans, died on 4 September 1789. Queen Charlotte mistakenly wrote 'Friday the 5<sup>th</sup>' instead of 'Friday the 4<sup>th</sup>'.

6<sup>th</sup>

[Sunday. Weymouth.] The K. bathed this Morning for the 17<sup>th</sup> time. We Breakfasted at 9 & half an Hour after 11 We Went on Board the *Magnificent* to Prayers, there were besides Our own attenance[,] L<sup>dy</sup> Courtown excepted, L<sup>rds</sup> & L<sup>dy</sup> Chatham, L<sup>rd</sup> & L<sup>dy</sup> & L<sup>dy</sup> Mary How[e], L<sup>rd</sup> & L<sup>dy</sup> Sidney & Miss Townsend. The Prayers were read by the Reverend M<sup>r</sup> Clifton,<sup>1</sup> Chaplain to the *Goliath* & lent to the *Magnificent*. He has also the Living of Alstone near Cows in Hampshire. He preachd a very fine Sermon.<sup>2</sup> After Prayers we Breakfasted on Board & returned by 2. We Dressd & Dined at 4. After Dinner the K. & Princesses Walkd upon the Esplanade, I staid at Home, & at 8 We went to the Public Rooms, Drank Tea in the Ball & had Card room & had besides our o[w]n attendance L<sup>rd</sup> & L<sup>dy</sup> Chatham, L<sup>rd</sup> & L<sup>dy</sup> Chesterfield,<sup>3</sup> L<sup>rd</sup> & L<sup>dy</sup> Westmorland, & L<sup>dy</sup> Mary Fane,<sup>4</sup> L<sup>rd</sup> & L<sup>dy</sup> Sidney & Miss Townsend, L<sup>rd</sup> & L<sup>dy</sup> & L<sup>dy</sup> Mary How[e], L<sup>dy</sup> Effingham & L<sup>dy</sup> Frances Howard, & L<sup>dy</sup> Frances Quin.<sup>5</sup> We left came home by 10. Suppd & retired by 11.

Very Fine Dry Warm Wheather all Day.

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1. *Reverend M<sup>r</sup> Clifton*: Identifiable as Rev. Richard Clifton, the only naval chaplain of this time listed in G. Taylor, *The Sea Chaplains ...* (Oxford: Oxford Illustrated Press, 1978), p. 509.
  2. *very fine Sermon*: ‘The conclusion of the sermon was a modest and well-written panegyric on the best of Kings, for the excellent example he has ever shewn his subjects on all occasions, more especially on his due performance of religious duties. This part of his discourse wound up the feelings of all the Royal Family, and Her Majesty, in particular, could not refrain from expressing them in tears ... As soon as the service was over ... the Queen expressed her wish to have the sermon transcribed and sent to her’ (*DRTour*, pp. 96–7).
  3. *L<sup>rd</sup> & L<sup>dy</sup> Chesterfield*: Philip Stanhope, fifth Earl of Chesterfield, and his wife Anne.
  4. *L<sup>dy</sup> Mary Fane*: the youngest sister of John Fane, tenth Earl of Westmorland of the second creation.
  5. *L<sup>dy</sup> Frances Quin*: Lady Frances Muriel Fox-Strangways, daughter of Stephen Fox-Strangways, first Earl of Ilchester, had married Valentine Richard Quin, first Baronet Quin and from 1822 first Earl of Dunraven, in 1777.

7<sup>th</sup>

[Monday. Weymouth.] P[.]E. Bathed this Morning for the 19<sup>th</sup>, & P.R. for the 14<sup>th</sup> Time[.] We Breakfasted by 8 & set out at 9 for Milton Abbey[,] 17 Miles from hence, where we arrived about half an Hour after 11 & were received by L<sup>rd</sup> Milton & Miss Deamer His Daughter.<sup>1</sup> In Walking through the Court, 6 little Girls Dressd in Blue walkd before Us & Strewd Flowers. They are Miss Deamer[']s Spinning School.<sup>2</sup> L<sup>rd</sup> Milton calls them *Les Filles de S<sup>t</sup> Cyr*, & Miss Deamer Mamsell Maintenon.<sup>3</sup> When we came near the Hall they Stopd & we &

we went immediately to the Drawing room & from thence all round the House, than Breakfasted, & afterwards got into the open Chaises to see the Place, the K. & Gentleman went on Horseback, the 2 Elder Princesses & Miss Deamer went with me, & P.E[.], L<sup>dy</sup> Courtown & the 2 L<sup>dy</sup>[s] Went in another Chaise.

The Place is of great extent & Chiefly made by L<sup>rd</sup> Milton. The Plantations which were made about 30 Years ago consist Chiefly of Oak, Beach, & Furs.<sup>4</sup> You have a view from the different Hills of Portland Island, the Isle of Wight, Sherborne Castle, & Store Head[,] S<sup>r</sup> Richard Hoare[']s Place in Wiltshire.<sup>5</sup> You have One of the finest Prospects is th<sup>t</sup> Blackmore Vale which also belongs to L<sup>rd</sup> Milton & in which there is a Bridge called Kings Stag Bridge on account of a M<sup>r</sup> delalaine<sup>6</sup> in Henry the 3<sup>ds</sup> time have shot a royal deer which so offended the K. that He made Him pay a Considerable Fine which L<sup>rd</sup> Milton having purchased the Estate is obliged to continue.

Milton Abbey was founded by K. Athelstan in the Year 843 & given to the Benedictine Monks. When K. Henry the 8<sup>th</sup> destroyd the Monasteries He granted it to the Tregannon Family.<sup>7</sup> The Heiress of that Family married twice, & having no Children by Hi she left the Estate to Her 2<sup>d</sup> Husband M<sup>r</sup> Banks[,]<sup>8</sup> who was an a Swede who was an Adventurier, & of this Family L<sup>rd</sup> Milton bought the place 40 Years ago. The Abbey Church & Hall are still existing to which Mylord has join'd the House. The Abbey is in a very ruinous Condition & nothing remarkable in it[,] but the Monument put up by Mylord for His L<sup>dy</sup> who was the only Daughter of the Old Duke of Dorset.<sup>9</sup> The Hall is quite perfect in Gothic Stile & full of Coats of Arms, among which are those of K. Athelstan, & K. Edward the Confessor, & that of the Convent[,] which is 3 Argent Bread Baskets upon an Azure Field[.] There is likewise one Coat of Arms which is an antient pun upon the name of Milton & Consists of a Windmill upon a Tun<sup>10</sup> in proper Colours. The House below Consists, of a Drawing room, Dining room, small Vestibule[,] Library, 2 Dressing rooms & a BedChamber which makes one front, over which is the great Apartment unfinished Consisting of 4 rooms. Miss Deamer[']s Apartments was is below stairs & Consists of a BedChamber[,] Dressing room & Servants room. There are besides upwards of 30 bedChambers in the House all with 2 Dressingrooms & a small Servant room.

We returned by 5 to the House, Dined[,] L<sup>rd</sup> Milton & Miss Deamer Dined with us besides Our L<sup>dies</sup>. After Dinner we drunk Caffè & a little after 6 a Clock left this place, & came to Weymouth by 9 a Clock. We Suppd at 10 a Clock & retired by 11.

Very fine Warne Wheather all Day.

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1. L<sup>rd</sup> Milton & Miss Deamer His Daughter: Joseph Damer, Baron Milton (and from 1792 first Earl of Dorchester), and his daughter Caroline Damer.
  2. *Spinning School*: According to F. Archer (ed.), *'The Countryman' Cottage Life Book*

- (Newton Abbot: David & Charles, 1974), p. 46, Caroline Damer's school for twelve poor children taught, in addition to spinning, reading and buttony – the latter being a Dorset cottage industry in which women made buttons, many of which were exported. See D. Hilliam, *The Little Book of Dorset* (Stroud: History Press, 2010), p. 84.
3. *Mamsell Maintenon*: After Françoise d'Aubigné, Marquise de Maintenon, who from about 1685 was the unannounced second wife of King Louis XIV of France, persuaded him to establish in 1684, at St Cyr near Paris, the Maison royale de Saint-Louis boarding school for poor children of noble families. Mme de Maintenon was much involved in the development of this school and its curriculum.
  4. *Oak, Beach, & Furs*: i.e. oak, beech and firs.
  5. *S<sup>r</sup> Richard Hoare[s] Place in Wiltshire*: The antiquary and archaeologist Richard Colt Hoare, second Baronet Hoare of Barn Elms, owned the Stourhead estate in Wiltshire, which the royal party visited on 14 September 1789.
  6. *M<sup>e</sup> delalaine*: Queen Charlotte is referring to Sir John de la Lynde.
  7. *Tregonnon Family*: Sir John Tregonwell, a lawyer who, in accordance with a commission from King Henry VIII, dissolved the Benedictine monastery at Milton Abbey in 1539, was granted Milton Abbey in 1540, together with his nephew John Southcote II, for a payment of £1,000 (*ODNB* article on Tregonwell).
  8. *M<sup>e</sup> Banks*: Mary Tregonwell married Colonel Francis Luttrell, MP for Minehead, in 1680. He died in 1690 and in 1696 she married Captain Jacob Bancks, *later* Banks (from 1698 Sir Jacob), a Swedish diplomat who had joined the Royal Navy in 1681; in 1698 he became MP for Minehead. The genealogy of the Tregonwell family is presented in J. Burke, *A Genealogical and Heraldic History of the Landed Gentry ...* (London: Henry Colburn, 1837), vol. 2, pp. 403–6.
  9. *His L<sup>dy</sup> ... of Dorset*: Joseph Damer married Lady Caroline Sackville, daughter of Lionel Cranfield Sackville, first Duke of Dorset, in 1742.
  10. *Tun*: a large cask for holding liquids such as wine or beer.

8<sup>th</sup>

[Tuesday. Weymouth.] The K. bathed this Morning for the 18<sup>th</sup> Time. We Breakfasted at 9. The K. went out on Horseback a little after 10 & was attended by L<sup>rds</sup> Chesterfield & Howe besides His own attendance. I ~~staid at Home~~ The Princes[s]es & L<sup>dy</sup> Waldegrave walkd upon the Sands with L<sup>dy</sup> Howe & L<sup>dy</sup> Mary Howe. I staid at home till 12 & then went out with L<sup>dy</sup> Chesterfield in Her Carriage upon the Sands accompanied by P.E. & L<sup>dy</sup> Courtown. At my return I met the K. & we came Home about 2, then Dressd & went to Dinner at 4. After Dinner the Princesses went to Dress for the Ball which the K. gave them on account of its being Our Wedding Day.<sup>1</sup> A quarter before 8 The Company Assembled & they begun Dancing about a quarter after 8. They Danced till Midnight, than Suppd, & rebegun Dancing about 1 in the Morning, & Danced till half an Hour after 2 ~~than we retired &~~ & we parted with the Company about a quarter before 3.

The Company consisted of:

L<sup>rd</sup> & L<sup>dy</sup> Westmoreland & L<sup>dy</sup> Mary Fane Mylords Youngest Sister.

L<sup>rd</sup> & L<sup>dy</sup> Chesterfield.

L<sup>rd</sup> & L<sup>dy</sup> Chatham.

L<sup>rd</sup> & L<sup>dy</sup> & L<sup>dy</sup> Mary Howe.

L<sup>rd</sup> & L<sup>dy</sup> Mount Edgumbe & L<sup>rd</sup> Valitort their Son.

L<sup>dy</sup> Effingham & L<sup>dy</sup> Frances Howard.

L<sup>rd</sup> & L<sup>dy</sup> Sidney & Miss Townsend.

L<sup>rd</sup> Milton & Miss Deamer.

L<sup>dy</sup> Frances Quin.

The 2 L<sup>dy</sup> Waldegraves.

L<sup>rd</sup> & L<sup>dy</sup> Courtown.

L<sup>rd</sup> Pembroke[,]<sup>2</sup> who is just come from Abroad.

M<sup>r</sup> Digby.

Collonels Goldsworthy & Gwynn.<sup>3</sup>

S<sup>r</sup> George Howard K. B.<sup>4</sup>

Colonel Fane[,] L<sup>rd</sup> Westmoreland[']s Brother.

Colonel Elliott<sup>5</sup> E<sup>r</sup> Son to L<sup>rd</sup> Heathfield.

Captains Onslow<sup>6</sup> & Douglas.

Colonel Vyse[,]<sup>7</sup> Son in law to S<sup>r</sup> George Howard.

L<sup>rd</sup> Chesterfield Danced the first six Dances, & playd afterward at Cards with His Majesty[,] b L<sup>dys</sup> Westmoreland & Chatham[,] both before & after Supper.

Very fine & Dry all Day.

Governor Perry of Barbadoes<sup>8</sup> made me a present this Morning of a most beautiful Peroquet<sup>9</sup> the Plumage of which is Orange[,] blue & Green tipped with red.

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1. *Our Wedding Day*: George III and Queen Charlotte were married on 8 September 1761, the day after her arrival in England. This was their twenty-eighth anniversary.
  2. *L<sup>rd</sup> Pembroke*: Henry Herbert, tenth Earl of Pembroke of the tenth creation.
  3. *Collonels Goldsworthy & Gwynn*: Colonel (later Lieutenant-General) Philip Goldsworthy was appointed equerry to George III in March 1788; Colonel (later General) Francis Edward Gwyn was appointed equerry to George III in January 1787 (*RHI*).
  4. *S<sup>r</sup> George Howard K. B.*: Field Marshal Sir George Howard was appointed Knight of the Bath ('K. B.') in 1763.
  5. *Colonel Elliott*: Francis Augustus Elliott, from 1790 second Baron Heathfield, was the son of Major-General George Augustus Elliott, first Baron Heathfield.
  6. *Onslow*: Captain (later Admiral Sir) Richard Onslow, from 1797 first Baronet Onslow of the second creation.
  7. *Colonel Vyse*: Richard Vyse married Anne Howard in 1780.
  8. *Governor Perry of Barbadoes*: Major David Parry served as governor of Barbados from 1784 to 1793.
  9. *Peroquet*: 'Perroquet' is the French word for parrot.