



When Victoria's son Albert Edward (later King Edward VII) was Prince of Wales, he needed a home for himself and his new bride, Alexandra. The Queen bought property known today as the Sandringham royal estate.

The existing house was razed, and the home pictured here was built for the Prince of Wales (who continued to use it after he became King Edward VII).

York Cottage, birthplace of Edward and Alexandra's grandchildren, is nearby. The children loved to visit their grandparents at "the big house," where the Queen kept a menagerie of horses, farmyard turkeys, dogs, cats and a large ram - among other animals. It was a more inviting place than their own home, maintained by their parents George V and Queen Mary.

Although the house is large and auspicious, it was a very warm and loving place for the King and Queen's grandchildren. When Bertie, the Duke of York, became King George VI, he frequently stayed at Sandringham (after he purchased the property from his brother David who, as King Edward VIII, had inherited it from their father). Bertie died in his bedroom, at this home, in February of 1952.

Every February thereafter, when she is able, Queen Elizabeth II stays at Sandringham to mark the death of her father and her own accession to the throne.

Today, Sandringham is owned by Queen Elizabeth II, and the royal family is often in residence.

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Photo of Sandringham House, at the Sandringham royal estate in Norfolk, by RXUYDC, online courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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Sandringham - Home of Kings and Queens

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