

# Kate to become Duchess of Cambridge

April 30, 2011.

Prince William has received the title of Duke of Cambridge, which means Catherine Middleton will become a duchess once they are pronounced husband and wife.

The Queen marked Friday's royal wedding by giving her grandson the dukedom - the highest rank in British peerage - as well as two other titles.

"The queen has today been pleased to confer a dukedom on Prince William of Wales. His titles will be Duke of Cambridge, Earl of Strathearn and Baron Carrickfergus," Buckingham Palace said on Friday.

"Prince William thus becomes His Royal Highness The Duke of Cambridge and Miss Catherine Middleton on marriage will become Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Cambridge."

A spokesman for William at Clarence House said he was "honoured".

Tradition dictates that royal men receive at least one title on their wedding day and it was up to the monarch to choose which one to bestow on her grandson and his new wife.

As well as being a duchess, Catherine will also technically be Princess William of Wales, adopting her husband's first name.

She will not officially be Princess Catherine because she was not born a princess in her own right.

The last Duke of Cambridge was Prince George, who was born in 1819, the grandson of George III and the only son of Prince Adolphus Frederick, the 1st Duke of Cambridge.

Like Prince William, he married a commoner for love. Prince George wed the actress Sarah Louisa Fairbrother in 1847.

The title the Earl of Strathearn will link William and Catherine, who met and fell in love in Scotland, to the picturesque area of Perthshire.

Strathearn has had royal connections since Robert Stewart, High Steward of Scotland, was created Earl of Strathearn in 1357.

By becoming Baron and Baroness Carrickfergus, William and Catherine will be linked to Northern Ireland. Carrickfergus is County Antrim's oldest town.

The word means Rock of Fergus and as an urban settlement it predates Belfast.

An Irish Viscounty of Chichester of Carrickfergus now held by the Marquess of Donegall was created in 1625 but Carrickfergus alone only existed as a title between 1841 and 1883.

For members of the royal family, being given a new title on your wedding day is part of a long standing historic tradition.

When Prince Andrew married, he became the Duke of York, Earl of Inverness and Baron Killyleagh.

Prince Edward became the Earl of Wessex and Viscount Severn on his wedding day in 1999.

When William's father the Prince of Wales married Lady Diana Spencer in 1981, he did not take on any additional titles.

But he was already the heir to throne, having become the Duke of Cornwall, Duke of Rothesay, Earl of Carrick, Baron of Renfrew, Lord of the Isles and Prince and Great Steward of Scotland when his mother became Queen in 1952, and later the Prince of Wales and Earl of Chester in 1958.

Even the Queen took on new titles via her husband following her wedding.

When as Princess Elizabeth she married the Duke of Edinburgh, she actually became HRH Princess Elizabeth, Duchess of Edinburgh, Countess of Merioneth and Baroness Greenwich.

Shortly before the wedding, Prince Philip of Greece had been created HRH Duke of Edinburgh, Earl of Merioneth and Baron Greenwich by the Queen's father.

In recent years, there has been much adaptation of the use of traditional royal titles.

When Camilla Parker Bowles married the Prince of Wales in 2005, she became the Duchess of Cornwall, rather than the Princess of Wales.

She is technically the Princess of Wales, but chose not to use this title given its associations with Diana.

Clarence House also said that when Charles becomes King, the Duchess wished to take on the unusual title of "Princess Consort", instead of Queen Consort which the wives of previous kings have taken throughout the ages.

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