

Thomas Howard, third Earl of Effingham: the concerns of an eighteenth century freemason

by *John Goodchild, M. Univ.*

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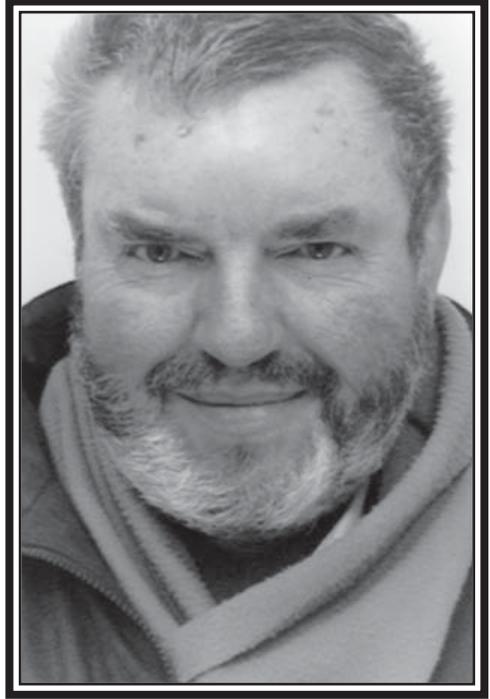
John Goodchild was born in Wakefield in 1935. He was employed in archive and regional historical studies, with an intervening decade as founder curator of Cusworth Hall Museum near Doncaster. He is author of some 200 books and printed essays and has lectured extensively. The John Goodchild Collection is a unique Local History Study Centre at Wakefield and is openly freely to researchers, who come from all over the world. The Open University awarded him an honorary Master's degree in recognition of his 'academic and scholarly distinction and for public services' – their words, not his.

Bro John was initiated in the Lodge of Unanimity No. 154 in 1966 and was its Master in 1971-72. He was Senior Warden of the Province of Yorkshire, West Riding, Master of the Leeds & District Lodge of Installed Masters No. 7918 and became a Grand Officer in 1996. He is an active Unitarian and past president of the Yorkshire Unitarian Union.

Thomas, the third Earl of Effingham (1746-1791), Acting Grand Master of the premier Grand Lodge from 1782-1789, regarded Freemasonry as the 'noblest Institution in the World'. The Craft has indeed influenced both society and individuals within it in a wide variety of ways, and in the study of lives of those who have been influenced by it and then gone on to influence others, must necessarily be a major concern of masonic historians. But when the 18th century is studied, while something is often known of the careers of individuals who were also freemasons, little is often recorded of the personsw concerns and interests, not to mention their motivations.

With Lord Effingham a more fully rounded picture emerges from the study of national and local source materials: his masonic, military and Parliamentary careers are indeed recorded in some formal detail, but his lifestyle and informal interests and concerns happen also to be so well documented that it is possible to see him also in his roles of country gentleman, magistrate, local administrator and minor industrialist.

Much of Effingham's role in and contribution to the society of his time emerges from this study: his enthusiasm for the ideals of Freemasonry is evident, together with some suggestion of how he translated this into his personal life and his relationship with society.



little over two hundred years ago, in 1791, there died in distant and then remote Jamaica the British Governor there, Thomas Howard, the third Earl of Effingham (of the first creation). My own interest in him was kindled by my discovery, among rubbish in a dark, dirty and damp local solicitor's cellar, of some bundles of papers illustrating aspects of the Earl's life and milieu; my interest was enhanced by finding that he was both a man of eminence in Britain in his own time and an active, enthusiastic and ultimately prominent freemason but also a man of whose story little had previously appeared in print. Using, in addition to the papers which I had rescued, printed sources of Effingham's own times and later, it has been possible to contemplate a study of this man who had been a quite major figure in the fields of politics, government, social life, home and colonial administration – and Freemasonry. No significant study of his life features in the *Dictionary of National Biography* or in the modern Oxford *DNB* or in our own *Transactions*; nor do any other large collections of his papers appear to survive elsewhere. Our study is therefore perforce one which emphasizes Effingham's role as a country gentleman, socialite and local administrator, filling in somewhat sparsely his varied other interests

from printed sources only. It appears that he was a man of ability, goodwill, a social conscience and liberal attitude and an enthusiast for the ideals of Freemasonry.

Thomas Howard was baptized at the fashionable St. George's Church, Hanover Square in London, early in 1747; his father, a professional soldier, was already Earl of Effingham and hence the son bore the courtesy title of Lord Howard from birth. He was educated at Eton and entered the army in the Coldstream Guards at fifteen, while at sixteen, in 1763, he succeeded on his father's death to the title, as third Earl of Effingham. He was not a Yorkshireman by birth, but his attachment to that county was strengthened, if not initiated, with the person of the under-aged Catherine Proctor of Thorpe Hall, on the southern outskirts of modern Leeds. The lady's home still stands, albeit in great ruin. As runaways, the young Earl, and the lass from near Leeds married in Scotland in 1765 when he was only nineteen and again, more formally, at Rotherham parish church some ten and a half months subsequently. They set up their home not at Great Bookham in Surrey, from whence the family came and where the young Earl's widowed mother continued to live but rather at the modest Holmes Hall in then rural Kimberworth, close to the market town of Rotherham, where his family, a junior branch of the great Howards, owned the Manor of Rotherham, the patronage of its church and an estate including the minor mansion Holmes Hall.

The couple were both of relatively modest means as aristocrats; his wife brought a modest dowry of £10,000, although he may have come into some further monies upon his mother's remarriage in 1776, a period which coincided, with his building of a new grand mansion. The lack of a major fortune was no hindrance, to the Effinghams' enjoyment of life in Yorkshire. In 1777, for example, Lord and Lady Effingham were at the opening of the new Assembly Rooms in Leeds – which still stand – when a celebratory ball, attracted some two hundred from among the socially influential, while in 1781 he took the chair at the peripatetic West Riding Quarter Sessions held at Leeds, and he was chairman again at the annual meeting of Quarter Sessions in April 1786. To do this, he had necessarily to be a man of some intellectual ability. He had less intellectually taxing interests too. In 1783 he and Col Thornton of Allerton Park had a bet on the success of his own pack of hounds when he was at the Boroughbridge races, and he was honorary Steward of the Sheffield Races in 1777.



The Earl and his lady obviously participated in the social life of the more well-to-do in the West Riding, but he was a man both willing and able to take a part in the chore of county administration: he was a radical by political inclination and one on friendly terms with the numerous radical gentry of the West Riding. He much disapproved of the war with the rebelling North American colonists – which led, of course to the ultimate emergence of the United States – and he showed his disapproval by publicly renouncing in the House of Lords his commission in the British army, as the newspapers of the day reported at length, while he made some most able speeches in the Lords and organized seventeen protests against the Government's actions, his resignation was much approved of in Yorkshire, where there was much support, for the American cause, and where, incidentally, the great Triumphal Arch near Aberford was built to celebrate the defeat of the British forces. It still stands. Effingham himself celebrated the American victory, as described; below, by his dedication of the Boston Lodge, also still standing. He was active in his attendance in the House of Lords

and he was near neighbour and friend of the second Marquess of Rockingham of Wentworth Woodhouse, sometime Whig Premier of Great Britain. They visited and corresponded and Effingham became a member of Rockingham's short-lived administration of 1782. He was also an active member of the Yorkshire Association which aimed at national fiscal and parliamentary reform. The Marquess was perhaps rather more of a sobersides than was Effingham and certainly was not lampooned as was the latter for his eccentricities. A thin man in person, Effingham caused comment by his insisting upon carrying in processions in Parliament both his baton as hereditary Deputy Earl Marshal of England and that of his ministerial rank as Treasurer of the Household, from whence was derive his nickname – 'the devil with two sticks'. Earlier, in 1780, he was said to have had, an involvement with the anti-Roman Catholic Gordon Riots, and even reported to have been killed in the streets of London but a wag suggested that as the body found had had ruffles at its wrists, it could not be Effingham's, as he was notorious for his lack of interest in fashion and indeed for his personal dirtiness. Another (Tory) wag commented that the coat in which Effingham later appeared at Court was that in which he had been 'killed' in the Gordon Riots – so disreputable was its appearance.

Effingham was an active, enthusiastic, and ultimately a very eminent, freemason. Initiated in 1775 in the Shakespeare Lodge in London, he was that Lodge's Master in 1776 and 1777; he subsequently joined the Somerset House Lodge in 1778 and the Lodge of the Nine Muses in 1779. In that same year he was also approached to become Grand Master of the independent old Grand Lodge of All England, based at York but replied, courteously, that as he was a freemason and a Past Master under the Moderns' Grand Lodge, he felt unable to support the York Grand Lodge – adding however that he hoped for a reconciliation between all the then existing Grand Lodges and that personally he looked upon Freemasonry as the noblest institution in the world. He apparently never attended the York Grand Lodge's Phoenix Lodge in Rotherham, close to his home and of which town he was lord of the manor and owner of the presentation to the living of its (magnificent) parish church.

It had been proposed at a meeting of the Moderns' Grand Lodge in 1782 that whenever a royal prince should be elected as Grand Master, he should be at liberty to nominate a peer to be Acting Grand Master. The Duke of Cumberland, a grandson of George II, appointed Effingham, who was of a similar age to himself, as the first man to hold this new office, and Effingham was to preside in Grand Lodge on seven occasions between January 1783 and April 1789 when he resigned his office on his going abroad. That office was equivalent in status to that of the later Pro Grand Master, although in the event only Effingham and one successor held the position of Acting Grand Master.

The 1770s and '80s were to be important decades for Effingham. He became well known nationally as a politician, he joined the Craft, and he began to build on a large scale; he also resumed his commission in the army, rising to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, beyond which it was not possible to purchase a commission. His very public advocacy of the North American colonists' cause was also closely related to one of his own estate developments in a curious way.

Effingham owned some rough land on the south-western outskirts of Rotherham, paying local taxes and national rates on what the surviving vouchers describe as old quarry hills and here he began to build what was intended as no more than a gothick folly which would be used as a shooting box and rural retreat. The building survives in a state of considerable dereliction, in a Rotherham public park which was opened in 1876.

At the end of 1773 the foundations for the intended folly were being dug and lime and stone being led 'to Common', presumably the commencement of building was the occasion for festivities which were marked by the purchase of the '17 Rockit [*sic*] sticks at 2d each', a 'standard for the soldiers' at 2s.6d., 'a Board with Letters on for the fire Works' (4s.) and 'a frame making [*sic*] to fix a Cannon upon' (1s.10d.), as recorded in the surviving vouchers. By the early

spring of 1774 scaffolding was required subsequent to which work immediately began on the guttering and in June 1774 door snecks were supplied. The joiner's bill for the work at 'House upon the Common' includes references to architraves, a plinth, shelving and window seats, wainscot, sashes, 'Oval's', banister and hand rails and a fourteen rise staircase and the building was glazed and painted, the latter in oak and stone colours. In July 1774 the accounts first refer to the buildings as 'Boston Castle', and it was now graced with the name which commemorated the famous Boston Tea Party in North America.

1775 The Right Hon^{ble} Earl of Effingham

Feb: 7th 16th 1775 to J^r & James Bagshaw's

James 1 Day & half at fence walls &c at Boston Castle	3 0 0
May 4 th J ^r 1 Day & half	0 3 0
4 5 th James 2 Days at Mill abt Leaps	0 4 0
4 10 th J ^r 1 Day at Boston Cas ^e	0 2 0
4 11 th J ^r half a Day at Warrant house	0 1 0
4 12 th J ^r & James each 2 Day at Boston at fence walls	4 0 0
4 13 th J ^r 1 Day at Holms	0 2 0
4 18 th James 1 Day at Holms	0 2 0
June 9 th 15 th J ^r & James 1 Day & half & J ^r Day at Mill	0 5 0
Races putting Leaps Down	0 5 0
4 19 th J ^r & James each half a Day abt y same	0 2 0
July 4 th 15 th James 1 Day & half at Holms	0 3 0
4 21 st 22 nd James 2 Days at Grange	0 4 0
Aug: 4 th 11 th James 1 Day at Grange	0 2 0
V ^o for sharpening	0 0 4
J ^r & James Each 1 Day abt stone &c for Salmon heek & going to M ^r Hirsts Engine abt three houses	0 4 0
£ 2 1 4	

Read 20th Nov 1775 the Contents on full by Repaym^t

BUILDING BOSTON CASTLE
in 1775.
John Goodchild Collection.

Building Boston Castle, Accounts from 1775

The structure was both battlemented and surmounted with gothick pinnacles, and the builders' account, from John and James Bagshaw, specifies two-foot walls, broached quoins, stone and brick work and mentions two little chambers, the best chamber, a cellar with a stone keeping table, a passage – and a Little House. Significantly, no tea was drunk at Boston Castle in its early days, that liquid being presumably prohibited there on account of the building's new 'dedication' in memory of the Boston Tea Party. In fact, tea was purchased in large quantities for use at home, and (in 1774), Hyson's single and green tea are mentioned in the accounts at 16s., 10s. and 8s. per pound, respectively.

In the neighbouring ancient market town of Rotherham, increasingly becoming industrialized on its outskirts via the exploitation of large sources of coal and ironstone, now since 1751 aided by the opening of the Don Navigation upstream of the town, Lord Effingham was lord of the manor of Rotherham, patron of the living of its church and owner of property in the town. He was also (presumably) an elected member of the body of householder-suffrage town Feoffees, who governed the town, regulated its commons, provided its water supply and the town hall, owned and controlled the grammar school and the town charity school, and administered its various charities, concerned with the poor, endowed sermons, the schools and apprenticeships, &c., &c. The unusual factor was that Effingham actually attended the meetings of the Feoffees and took part in their deliberations. In this, he was, regionally at least, most unusual if not actually unique. He was also personally active and present at the Sheffield Assay Office, established by an Act of 1773. He was present too at the Cutlers' Feast at Sheffield, along with three Dukes, the Marquis of Rockingham, four Earls apart from himself and many others of standing in the West Riding.

Effingham appears to have had no objection to the increased industrialization of his estate at Holmes Hall on the edge of Rotherham, which of course brought him much-needed increased income. In fact, he seems to have encouraged industrial developments and when his lawyer-cum-estate agent, John Foljambe of Rotherham, became interested in glassmaking, Effingham paid for the building of a glassworks which was let to Foljambe and employed a technical expert to build it. The potential of Effingham's estate included excellent supplies of coal and iron and cheap transport via the relatively recently opened Dun (*now* Don) Navigation, and the great South Yorkshire ironmasters, the Walkers, developed their great works utilizing the raw materials and the nearby Navigation. It was perhaps to the Earl's chagrin that they supplied cannon for the use of the British government during the American war, but in 1782, as the war came to its end, from their profits they purchased much of the Effingham estate at Kimberworth, and took outlying parts on lease later. The Effingham estate paid from 1772 '... for Superintending the Management of his Lordship's Collierys [*sic*] within the Manor of Rotherham' and in 1774 railings were put up 'at Owld Engen', and rent was paid for a colliery road across the estate.

Effingham owned the manorial mill, worked by the power of the River Don, a valuable source of power which was to be used for other industrial purposes, and in 1775 new stone-built salmon leaps were put down in the Don at his mills. He was lord of the manors of both Rotherham and Kimberworth and he kept up the manorial courts, which brought in a substantial £80 a year, less the costs. Seventeen men had to be called for the manorial court jury and all subsequently dined, wined and aled; recognizing Effingham's active participation in local affairs, it is not impossible that he sat in on his own manorial courts. He was also patron of the living of Rotherham, and it fell to his lot to appoint one vicar of that parish, while he was also responsible for the repair of the chancel of Rotherham church as lay rector, and he had his own pew there in the chancel.

Of his theological views little is known, apart from the fact that he was visited on a number of occasions by a relative who was assistant minister at the new Essex Street Unitarian Chapel in London, as the minister's diary evidences.

Effingham and his colleague Lord Rockingham headed the subscription list when a new

organ was built by the famous Schnezler for the new Rotherham church in 1777: the papers relating to it survive among the Effingham vouchers, and illustrate his own concern with it.

Meanwhile, Effingham was living at home in Holmes Hall, of which the Revd Joseph Hunter the historian commented half a century later that the house had ‘... become almost uninhabitable, by the extension in that direction of the manufacturers of Rotherham’, as the result of which Effingham had built for himself a new mansion, ‘... more befitting’ his rank.



The New Home of 1777: Thundercliffe Grange

He purchased a neighbouring but much more rural estate which had as its centrepiece a small, old house called The Grange or Thundercliffe Grange, in medieval times the site of an administrative settlement of Kirkstead Abbey in Lincolnshire. The old house stood on the opposite side of the Blackburn Brook, a tributary of the Don, from that which was chosen by Effingham for the site of his new home. The new site lay within Rotherham parish where, of course, he was both lord of the manor and patron of the living.

John Platt, of Rotherham, in South Yorkshire, mason cum architect, recorded in his notebook that in December 1776 he was ‘... at Grange setting out ye House’ and that the building work was subsequently let. Platt had already done work for Effingham in Rotherham town and the new house, Thundercliffe Grange, was built during 1777, apparently to the patron’s satisfaction, as Platt designed a new wing for it in 1782. The mansion still stands, close to the M1 motorway and just to the north of the Tinsley Viaduct. It was clad in stone, presumably on account of the huge numbers of bricks which were bought – with brick interior walls. New furniture was bought – three dining tables, twelve chairs (at only 4s.6d. apiece), three window stools, a large writing desk at 15s. – this last surely secondhand – and shelves were built to set ‘the Globes on’ and various (unspecified) pictures. The larder or the mansion contained a canvas-fronted keeping safe and old Holmes Hall had possessed a Kitchen with its spit before the fire, a dresser and a plate cratch, the servants’ hall had a large table and forms for seating and there were pantry, bakehouse and cellar. The family’s rooms included a parlour with a ‘bright’ or polished steel stove, a Blue Room and one which contained the bath bought in 1771.

It seems likely that the family took their own beds with them when they travelled, as they did frequently – to friends or to London references occur to the taking-down and setting-up of beds and they had a useful boot jack. The men servants were supplied with breeches, buck and ram-skin and six male servants in 1775 had velvet caps, while the servants generally were summoned by wire-operated bells. Lady Effingham had five guineas a week for housekeeping, paid her fortnightly by the estate lawyer-cum-steward but the servants' wages were not paid from this. In 1774, Jones the butler received just 10s.6d. a week, his wife, 9s. and their daughter Ruth, 6s., while four further male servants were paid between 6s. and 10s.6d. and two females each, 6s. – a total of nine living-in servants. Early in 1774, £4.10s.0d. was being paid weekly to thirteen servants, ten of them males; in 1780, for which year the (male) servants' tax returns survive, Effingham paid tax on fourteen males at his new Thundercliffe Grange, a similar number to those employed at the nearby and considerably grander Nostell Priory. The working quarters included a laundry with clothes horses and mangle, a clothes drying ground with posts and a linen press. Water for household use came from a well with pump while a new, fourteen yard deep well was bored and then sunk in 1775 and a 'Whater Cart' moved water about.

The ordinary food stuffs needed by the household cost £59 in one half year, a sum which included payment for many candles. The chimneys required cleaning and, on one occasion, 'a Chimney Doctor' was brought in and eventually a 'Smook Jack' put up. The availability of strong drink was important; the household had its own brewhouse and its own malt mill in preparation for brewing and there was a cellar and bottle racks, while cognac, brandy, Jamaica rum, red and white port, sherry and Madeira were purchased.

Owing to the great interest of the Earl and his lady in horses and racing, the stable department was important, while the farm horses of the home-farm had their separate accommodation in the carthorse stable. The riding horses, in part at least, were shod by the great local firm of ironmasters who traded as Samuel Walker & Co. and thirteen boards were fitted up with the horses' names upon them, while above their stables were the outdoor servant rooms. New horses were of course bought – for example, 'a Black Coach Gelding rising 4 years old' which cost four guineas in 1775. What seems to have been a new coach-house for Holmes Hall was built in 1766 and there was a harness room too. In 1774 Effingham paid £2 tax on 'one Chair with two-wheel Carriage'. In 1771, the horse Lesang, from Newmarket, was dosed with physic.

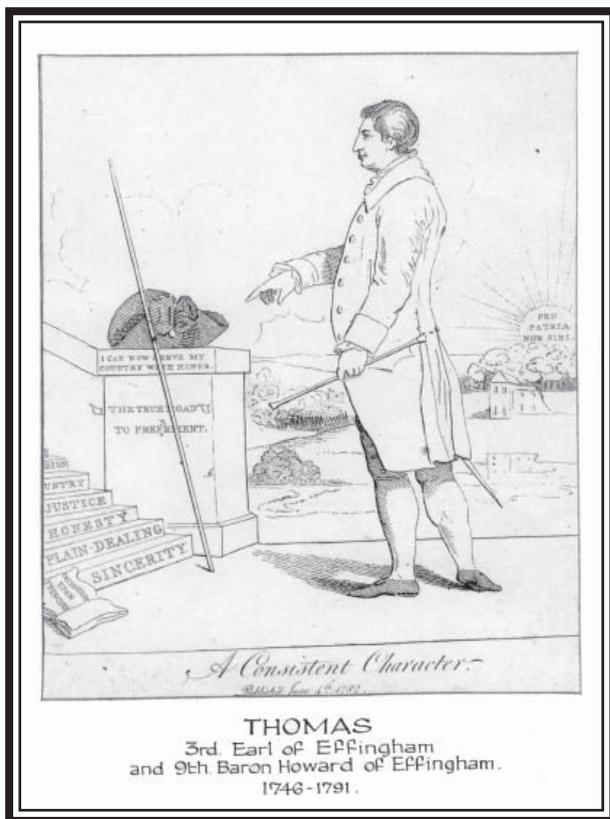
Both the Earl and Lady Effingham – as she is always referred to, rather than as countess, – were gregarious and in two months in the mid 1770s, their own hired chaise fares were paid to Sheffield (twice), Barnsley, Bramley, Worksop, Banktop (near Barnsley), Doncaster and Crookhill. In May 1775 Lady Effingham and friends visited 'the Concert', were regaled with negus (wine and water) and food. The Sheffield Theatre was visited too and in 1770 Effingham paid a five guinea subscription to the Doncaster Races and to those at Sheffield – although his name never appeared among the winners of the St. Leger or the Doncaster Cup. He was one of the Stewards of the Sheffield Races in 1777.

The Earl had become a founding member of the social Monthly Club in Sheffield, established in 1783 upon the occasion of the Cutlers' Feast there. Lady Effingham played the guitar and an account of 1775 refers to her instrument being repaired and twice returned, while it is possible the 'Quilting frame', bought in 1774, was also for her use. The family had 'a Magick Box' bought in 1774 – perhaps for the projection of pictures, while there was a set of skittles and ebony bowls and a large floor cloth painted in diamonds, all of which were probably for entertainment. Sport engrossed much of their attention and, as well as their 'Leaping Barr' for horse jumping, they rode, hunted; fished and fowled. Dog kennels were built behind the stable block and hounds were kept – both hunting dogs and pointers, each dog being provided with an engraved plate, presumably bearing its name. The dogs were treated carefully and the huntsman, Nathaniel Wilkinson, was paid £9.17s.6d. a quarter, plus his clothing and the keep of the dogs,

while occasional payments had to be made for sheep killed by the Earl's hounds. A keeper preserved the pheasants on the estate, and there were turkeys there too. The Effinghams had a boat, 'the Eagle', and references occur to her repair, her rudder, her oars and her mast and to a willow basket for keeping the victuals or, perhaps more likely, the day's catch. There were also fishing nets, rods, boxes, salmon in the dam – and frames for drying the nets upon. Doubtless less welcome were the rats, for which traps were bought, along with an otter cage, a squirrel case; crows' and magpies' heads were paid for at 3d. each and hawks' at one shilling. Rabbits abounded, especially near Boston Castle, where a special gate was built: '... to keep the rabbits in' and rabbit nets purchased. The garrets of Holmes Hall included a room fitted out with pegs for guns; powder and shot were paid for, guns repaired, a brace of pistols cleaned, balls bought and a pair of shot moulds. Effingham also had lark nets and he shot on the moorland which lay at no great distance from his successive Yorkshire homes.

In August (significantly) in 1775, he paid, for 'Expenses on the Moors', including breakfasts, dinner and liquor. Her Ladyship kept a pet pony and was accounted a famous horsewoman, being afraid of no five-barred gate. She also kept a pet dog – in 1774 there is an account for 'Curing my Lady's Pud'. More sedately, the accounts refer to 'the Card Club', when five shillings was paid for twenty nights' absence. The earl also had more sedentary pursuits as he wrote letters extensively and even published a pamphlet or two of his own composing – a work with the title 'A Collection of Letters on ... Parliamentary Reform' in 1783 – a matter of which he approved – and he published, on Pitt's scheme for a national sinking fund in 1787. He bought ink, quills, paper, a 'Spelling Book' and 'shining band' for blotting. A less pleasant sight at Holmes Hall were the 'Six Spitting Boxes' bought in 1773 at a shilling each. Effingham was regularly short of ready money; his banking account he kept with James Meyrick of Parliament Street, London and probably too with Hanbury & Co., also of London but upon occasion he had to borrow heavily: £300 in July 1774, for example, from

his then newly-appointed, estate steward; and lawyer, John Foljambe, to be repaid from the next estate rents, while he owed £4532.0s.1d., for principal and interest to his earlier steward, paid off towards the end of 1775. He was financially saddled with an eighty guinea annuity which had been bought in exchange for ready money by Capt Thomas Buck and other large sums were borrowed, the exact details of which are now irrecoverable. At the beginning of 1775 Effingham was desirous of raising a further £5000 by mortgage although the extent to which his financial situation was relieved by his mother's remarriage remains uncertain. Nevertheless he did have money to build his new house although his rates and taxes were also substantial. Land tax had to be paid on Effingham's land and on the tithes which he owned and the Window Tax had to be met, as well



as the equally usual local rates for the expenses of the poor, constable, church and highways, and the annual Easter Dues for the vicar. The estates were carefully surveyed in the years 1773 to 1775, by Bartholomew Rotherham, who produced detailed maps and surveys of them at a cost of £32.16s.0d. In 1768 a board had been bought for Rotherham to draw a map upon and his plan table was altered at the Earl's expense in 1771.

A little is recorded as to how the Effinghams dressed, but what were the two 'White skins' bought in 1775 at a shilling each – perhaps not for the Earl's masonic costume, despite that being the year of his initiation? Less exotically, in 1773 he had five pairs of breeches and in 1774 he had three pairs washed and the buttons covered, while in 1773-74 he was supplied with a waistcoat, breeches, 'Drawers', a silk waistcoat, a shooting coat and waistcoat, a riding coat and a nightgown, while his lady had a new riding coat, habits, ribbon of a variety of types and colours, gauze, caps, lace, muslin, a cloak and various waistcoats. The indoor male servants sported scarlet jackets and waistcoats and white breeches, the outdoor ones frocks and waistcoats, and the hunt staff were appropriately clothed too.

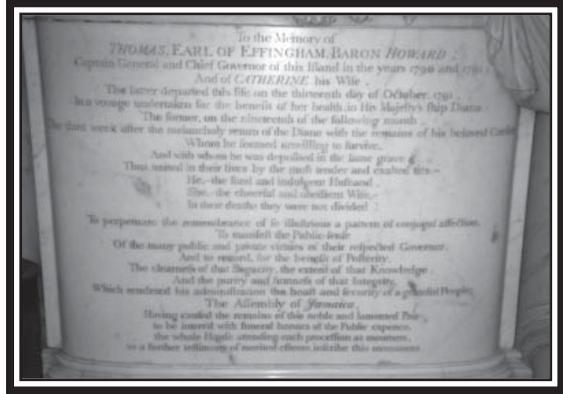
The Effingham estate in Yorkshire was part parkland, part utilized for heavy industry, part a home farm; on the farm, part was arable, wheat and white clover seeds being bought, hay produced and a barn rented at four guineas, while on the pasture sheep, cows and pigs were kept. In mid 1775 thirty acres were mown; lime was bought for the land and manure led and spread, drains cut, fences repaired with hedgewood and with rails and posts. Large quantities of oats were bought, coming in part at least by water on the Don Navigation, while malt, presumably for brewing, was bought in too. A wagon and a cart were used, a new stile erected, gates mended, new wheels and spokes required – this was a working farm.

The Effinghams were much interested in their houses' gardens. There was an ornamental fishpond, railed round, with trees and shrubs and in the gardens gooseberries, green walnut, bay, many ashes, while William & John Perfect, the well known Pontefract seedsmen, provided seeds and broccoli, cauliflower, Italian broccoli, and there was a garden house, papered internally and with internal blinds and shelving. Despite the Earl's reputation for wearing dirty clothes, Holmes Hall was provided with a bath in 1771. Dishes and eating ware were quite sumptuous, some of the plate engraved with his lordship's arms. There were silver loops for wine bottles, gilt goblets, scalloped silver shells, Sheffield plate candlesticks, snuffers and snuffer stands as well as a plate basket. The house too had blinds, there was a clock on the staircase and the new Thundercliffe Grange, at least, was wallpapered at 3s.6d. a dozen and 4s.6d., together with border strips, while payment was made for hanging it and for 'flower [*sic*] for Paist' making.

The Earl had his own workshop and in 1775 Henry Watson was paid a substantial £21 for 'A compleat Set of Specimens of Marbles, Crystals fossils ores &c as described by a Catalogue with them', perhaps suggesting some interest in geology. His Lordship's watch was repaired upon occasion and in 1773 her Ladyship's required a new glass. The domestic arrangements are illustrated in some detail, and while Lady Effingham received her housekeeping money, malt, beef, bacon and groceries were bought in bulk. There were certainly guests: she wrote in mid-December 1775 to their lawyer-agent: '... we expect you both to dinner & to stay all night, according to promise'. When the family travelled, their trunks, hampers and boxes were carried to and from London by water, and Lord Effingham also had a sea chest. Medical attention was necessarily sometimes required, and Benjamin Wainwright charged a round thirty guineas 'for attendance upon the Family' in 1775 and in the January of that year two weeks' board and lodging were provided '... when Master Lindsay was innoculated', presumably a modestly early reference to smallpox innoculation. Although one of the scurrilous magazines of the period claimed in 1782 that Effingham had a mistress, he and his wife give every appearance of having got on together quite well, appearing at balls and races together and ultimately going together to live in a major British colony as the British King's representatives there – despite what the fashionably unkind in London had had to say about his dirty clothes in earlier times.

It was in his last years that Effingham accepted the appointment as Governor of Jamaica – his mother had been born and brought up in the colony. The Effinghams went to Jamaica in 1789, he declining to continue in his offices as Master of the Mint and as Acting Grand Master of the premier Grand Lodge of the Freemasons. Lady Effingham was however to die of liver disease on board HMS *Diana* in October 1791 and he died only a month later at Government House, Jamaica, at the early age of forty-four. A substantial and handsome monument was raised to them both in the English Church in Spanish Town, where both were buried.

Enquiry has produced no evidence of Effingham's having been involved in any masonic activity in Jamaica, but he had another and curious association with the New World, although it is of course now unclear if he himself recognized at the time the far-reaching results to which it was to lead. In 1784 the Black Masons meeting in Boston in what had recently become the new United States of America, were granted a warrant to hold a lodge under the constitution of the premier Grand Lodge in England.



The Memorial. English Church, Spanish Town, Jamaica

It took some two and a half years for the Warrant to reach and become effective in Boston, but it authorized for the first time a group of black Masons to meet, under the title of the African Lodge. Their leader and first Master was the ultimately famous Prince Hall, a slave freed in 1770 who had been initiated into Freemasonry in 1775 in an Irish military Lodge; he and his black brethren had hitherto only been allowed to walk in masonic clothing in procession on St. John's Day, and to bury their dead with masonic honours, but under their new warrant they could 'make' Masons and work as an independent lodge. Their warrant was signed by Lord Effingham as Acting Grand Master of the premier Grand Lodge and it is recognized today as the founding document of Prince Hall Masonry, which is now spread throughout the USA and far beyond, and more and more of whose Grand Lodges of today are being recognized by our United Grand Lodge.

So emerges something of the story and perhaps the character of the third Earl of Effingham: a man of parts, a capable politician and soldier, a reformer and a man of liberal principle, a Government minister, a Privy Counsellor, a man capable of being appointed the Governor of a major British colony, as well as an enthusiastic and leading freemason. He was too a man of character, not altogether liked by the home political establishment but highly regarded in masonic circles and usefully active in his adopted Yorkshire as well as in the metropolis. Diary references, albeit but fleeting ones, show that others of his time thought well of him too.

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Bro David J. Peabody, WM, rose and said:

Brethren, it gives me great pleasure to propose a vote of thanks to Bro Goodchild this evening.

Bro Goodchild, like Bro Wade, back in February, has again pointed out that there is still plenty of unknown Masonic research material out there awaiting discovery. He found, in a solicitor's cellars, a bundle of old papers, discerned their worth, and from them he has been able to present to us this evening, a fascinating insight into the life and times of that Masonic worthy, the third Earl of Effingham, about whom, up to this moment in time, very little has been recorded.

As Bro Goodchild quite rightly points out, very little is recorded in the *DNB*, or the Oxford *DNB*, and when trawling through that most modern of research tools, namely the internet, very little information comes to light. What *is* recorded is the high regard in which he was held in America, where he championed the cause of the colonies in the years leading up to the American Revolution. In the state of Georgia, on its eastern borders, they even named Effingham County after him. In like manner they also named a ship after him – the *Effingham*, a frigate built in Philadelphia in 1776.

What becomes clear in Bro Goodchild's paper is that the Earl of Effingham was a man of both principal and judgement – doubtless the reason he was appointed as Acting Grand Master by HRH Henry Frederick, Duke of Cumberland, who never saw him take post, predeceasing him by just one year, in 1790.

Brethren I feel sure you will all join with me in thanking Bro Goodchild again, for a very interesting and well researched paper.

Bro S. Brent Morris, SW, wrote:

Freemasonry is an institution of men, and it is only by studying those men who are our members that we understand our fraternity. Bro Goodchild has presented the life of Bro Thomas Howard in such a way as help us to appreciate him, his place in English society, and his contributions to the Craft.

For American Masons (and possibly all Masons), Bro. Howard's most significant accomplishment was signing the charter of African Lodge No. 459, which in turn led to a proud and vibrant stream of Freemasonry that has zealously preserved our traditions for over 200 years. It was frustrating for me learn from Bro Goodchild that it is now unclear if Lord Effingham '... recognized at the time the far-reaching results ...' of that charter. One would like to think that an act of such admirable brotherly love would have been acknowledged as something more than a routine endorsement. Or perhaps Bro. Howard's sense of fraternal obligation was so expansive and consistent that such an act was normal for him. We likely will never know.

I do have one caution for Bro Goodchild about his statement that Prince Hall was '... a slave freed in 1770.' While Bro Hall is one of the best known colonial American Masons, the details of his life are as obscure as he is well-known. Bro Trevor McKeown explains on the web site of the Grand Lodge of British Columbia and Yukon that the famous 'Certificate of Manumission deposited in the Boston Athenaeum Library, dated 9 April 1770, cannot be positively identified as referring to Prince Hall [the Mason].' There were in fact several men named 'Prince Hall' in Boston at that time, which confuses any attempt to precisely determine what Bro Prince Hall may have done.

Bro Roger Burt asked:

Why did he go to Jamaica - and why were they prepared to send him?

John Goodchild's paper raises some interesting issues about this early English Grand Master's attitudes towards slavery. On the one hand he rightly notices that Lord Effingham was somewhat of a radical for his time, strongly disapproved of the war with the rebelling North American colonists, resigned his army commission, celebrated their victory, and signed what effectively became the founding document of Prince Hall Freemasonry. On the other hand, at the end of the paper, he

refers to Effingham's apparent abandonment of Masonry, radicalism and domestic politics and society in the early 1790s when he was appointed to the Governorship of Jamaica. Notwithstanding a range of evidence that he was, by all normal measures, financially well-founded and affluent at home by that time, he chose to go to a colony which was virtually devoid of sophisticated settler society and notorious for its high level of disease. With a population of less than 30,000 the island was well known as a charnel house for white newcomers, with roughly one in five dying every year. (see K.E.A. Montieith and G. Richards, eds, *Jamaica in Slavery and Freedom*) It is hard to resist the conclusion that he took the risks primarily to enjoy a share in the high profits made from slave based sugar plantations of the island a poor calculation since both he and his wife died from disease shortly after their arrival. [Not so – his wife died of liver disease on HMS *Diana* Ed.] It could of course have been that he wished to put his radicalism to work – to use the governorship to improve the lot of slaves and perhaps to undermine that institution. There can have been little or no suspicion of this by his political friends. If they had had the slightest concerns, it is most unlikely that a British government, preoccupied with the results of revolution in Europe, would have risked chaos in one of its most valued overseas possessions. They would no doubt have been aware that radical politicians in the Masonic lodges of colonial America had been in the forefront of that revolutionary movement (see S.C. Bullock, *Revolutionary Brotherhood*) and have been loathe to repeat the experience. More evidence of the reasons for Effingham's somewhat sudden change of course, and fatal decision to leave England, would be most helpful in resolving this key issue in the evolution of Masonic attitudes towards the brotherhood of all men.

Bro Peter Lambert wrote:

Firstly I must add my congratulations to those given by members of the Lodge. This was a truly enjoyable and interesting paper.

My question was regarding whether any more information was available regarding Lord Effingham's Masonic career in particular to his time as Acting Grand Master. My own researches have discovered the following:

The minutes of the Moderns Grand Lodge during the period in question are mostly concerned with the building of the new Freemasons' Hall and the fund that had to be set up to finance this. There were even two extraordinary meetings of Grand Lodge on this subject (30 January 1783 and 20 March 1788) but Lord Effingham is not recorded as attending either of these.

The records of attendance seem to be quite exhaustive for this period so we can be relatively sure that Lord Effingham only attended eleven of the thirty-six meetings of Grand Lodge in the period (three quarterly communications and a grand feast each year; the two extraordinary meetings mentioned above and the special Initiation meeting of the Prince of Wales) and only presided at five of them.

Other than the hall fund there was a representation to Grand Lodge from the Grand Lodge of Berlin concerning their relations with another German Grand Lodge but Lord Effingham was not present at the time.

The last mention of Lord Effingham in the minutes of the Grand Lodge was in the Grand Feast of 5 May 1790 when he was replaced by Lord Rawdon as Acting Grand Master.

Other evidence does exist in the library of Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen Street, London: there is a copy of a letter written by the librarian at the Grand Lodge Library from 1983 in response to an earlier enquiry which advises that Lord Effingham, while acting Grand Master, was involved with a presentation from the Grand Lodge of Sweden with a purpose of re-establishing fraternal relations between them and the premier Grand Lodge of England, however I have not been able to find the document to which the librarian at that time referred.

Also indications of Lord Effingham's actions as Acting Grand Master and his other Masonic

activities can be found in the various histories of the three Lodges of which he was a member.

In a pamphlet entitled 'Notes on The Royal Somerset House and Inverness Lodge No 4' by G.F. Cobbold, *MC, MA (UGLE 1.6: BE166(4)COB)* on the sixth page (pages not numbered) it states:

'On 12th May 1783 Mr Henry Harford – an American – was by special dispensation, initiated, passed and raised in Somerset House Lodge. On June 2nd 1783 he was appointed Provincial Grand Master for the State of Maryland, USA.

The Patent was signed by the Deputy Grand Master, Lord Effingham and by Roland Hold and J Heseltine.

The Patent was presented to the Grand Lodge of Maryland by the Royal Somerset House and Inverness Lodge in 1932.'

There is a mistake in the above in that Lord Effingham was Acting Grand Master not Deputy and this fact does not seem to appear in any of the other histories of Lodge No. 4. There is no reference to this in the minutes of the Grand Lodge either. Both of the above may provide an interesting line of further research.

The other Lodge histories that I have seen for these three Lodges, and there are many, all mention that Lord Effingham was a member but do not say much else of note other than the dates of his membership, the fact that he became Acting Grand Master and one or two internal matters that were resolved during his Mastership of these Lodges.

The fact that I could not locate the documents referred to in the librarians letter from 1983 seems to suggest that somewhere in the Library of Freemasons' Hall there is some additional correspondence from the time of Lord Effingham's Acting Grand Mastership that may answer some of the above questions and possibly lead to many more.

Bro Goodchild replied:

It is of course true, as Bro Morris points out, that it is at the moment unclear if Lord Effingham's signing of the African Lodge document was routine or considered, and I do recognize that modern research has cast doubt – perhaps no more – on the claim that Bro Hall was a freed slave. I have no further information on Effingham's activities when Acting Grand Master and I would of course have made reference to any such in my paper: Bro Burt's reference is therefore a most interesting one. I had not been informed of the document's existence.

With regard to Effingham's reasons for accepting office in Jamaica, nothing appears to be recorded, just as nothing is known of his reaction to the French Revolution, or even if he joined the vast army of erstwhile radicals, now older men. Perhaps the records of the government in Jamaica might shew something of any activity of his there, although of course his tenure of office there was but very short. His rather sumptuous monument and its inscription might, perhaps, suggest some degree of his acceptability in Jamaica but then, on whose part?

I am truly grateful for the comments made on my paper, and I would be equally grateful for any further information which might come to light about Lord Effingham.