

JUL 16 1980

PWC - Historic Buildings
(Effingham)



THE BEAUTIFUL AND HISTORIC EFFINGHAM ESTATE

June 2, 1968

Revolutionary-Period Estate Restored William Public Library
Manassas, Va.

P.R. Edm. Co. History

Effingham Marker Is Dedicated

Under warm and sunny skies the dedication of a marker at historic Effingham, home of Dr. and Mrs. O. Anderson Engh, took place Saturday afternoon near Aden.

Some 200 persons were on hand for the ceremony held on the lawn of one of Prince William County's most handsomely restored Revolutionary-period places. The program was conducted by Mrs. James E. King, regent of the Elizabeth McIntosh Hammill Chapter, Daugh-

ters of the American Revolution, which planned the ceremony.

"Effingham" was built on the old Brent Town Tract about 1765 by William Alexander, great-grandson of John Alexander who patented 6,000 acres of land on Hunting Creek in 1669 upon which the City of Alexandria was erected. The city was subsequently named for the Alexander family.

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Principal speaker was the State Regent of the Virginia DAR, Mrs. John Victor Buffington, who took the title of her talk from the tombstone inscription on the grave of William Alexander: "Though Gone From Sight, To Memory Dear." He is buried in the family cemetery on the adjacent hillside.

Mrs. Buffington related, in giving highlights of his life, his ancestry and a brief account of some of his descendants. He was a member of the Prince William County Committee of Safety in 1774, along with Hoses, Ew-

ington; Mrs. J. L. Converse, Union Bridge, Md. Rear Adm. Robert R. Craighill of McLean; Mrs. Joseph C. Hummer of Alexandria; and Robert Marsteller of Manassas.

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Thought to have been built about 1765, Effingham is a two-story frame-over-brick rectangular building, flanked by two massive brick double chimneys. In addition to the full attic, there are nine large rooms and a

basement, which was originally a wine cellar. There is a hall running the width of the first floor, on either side of which is an unusual architectural feature of the period, hidden stairways.

The original panelling of the drawing room had been removed and sold many years before the Enghs obtained ownership. When they bought it in 1955, there were no liveable buildings among those then standing. Slowly over a period of years they restored the house, the old barn, the smokehouse, and the native stone blacksmith shop, in which the Enghs have placed antique blacksmith tools, and some farming tools which the smithy might have furnished

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his patrons. Effingham is reputed to have had the first terraced garden in the Colony, and Mrs. Engh is gradually restoring it to its former beauty.

Although Effingham has changed hands 11 times, the ownership has been kept within a few families during these two hundred plus intervening years. Three of the first four owners were Alexander descendants, the next four were Howson descendants, and the remaining five were in connection with the town of Twin and the remaining five were in connection with the town of Beth Rowell and the plaque.