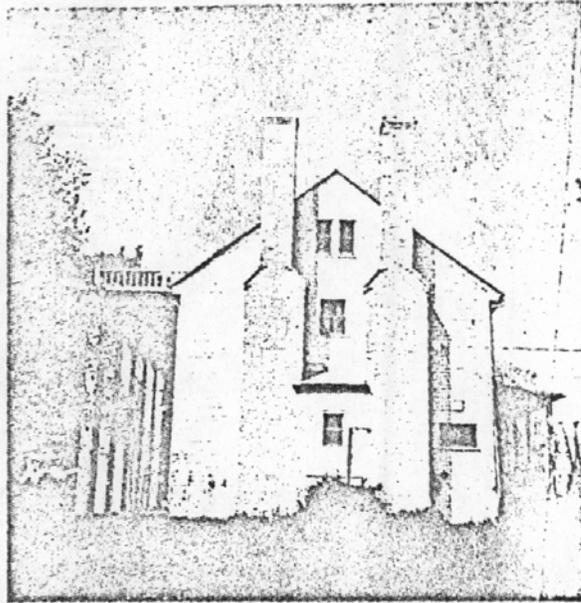


EFFINGHAM—This a front view of the home built by William Alexander about 1765, on the site of Little Hunting Creek, in Prince William County.



END VIEW—Of "Effingham" shows the two large chimneys and the large columns on the front porch. It is surrounded by 6,000 acres off land. And it is also said that the city of Alexandria was named after William Alexander the builder of this home.

Historical Marker Placed By DAR

An event of interest to Northern Virginians was the dedication of a historical marker at "Effingham," country home of Dr. and Mrs. O. Anderson Engh of Alexandria, near Aden, Prince William County, by the Elizabeth McIntosh Hammill Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, on the afternoon of May 25. The ceremony was conducted by Mrs. James E. King of Manassas, chapter regent.

"Effingham" was built about 1765 by William Alexander, great-grandson of John Alexander, who patented the 6,000 acre tract on Great Hunting Creek in 1669 which became the site of the City of Alexandria, and for whom it was named. Many Alexander descendants reside in the Alexandria vicinity now. Among those who attended were the following descendants:

Mrs. Joseph C. Hummer of Alexandria, Mrs. Eleanor Lee Templeman of Arlington, Rear Admiral Robert R. Craighill of McLean, Brig. Gen. John C. McDonnell, U.S.A. Ret. of Warrenton, J. Rutherford Craighill, Robert E. Marsteller of Manassas.

Mrs. John Victor Buffington, State Regent, Virginia DAR, was the principal speaker, choosing for her theme the

tombstone inscription at William Alexander's grave, "Though Gone From Sight, To Memory Dear." She traced his ancestry to the immigrant, John Alexander, and spoke briefly of his descendants. Giving the highlights of William Alexander's life, she noted that he was a member of the Prince William County Committee of Safety in 1774, and Lt. Col. of the Prince William Militia during the Revolutionary War. He served his country in peace as a county Justice until 1789. In 1765, just past his 21st birthday, he married a young lady with the unlikely name of Sigismunda Mary Massie, daughter of Sigismund and Mary (Stuart) Massie. They had 16 children.

"Effingham," thought to have been built about the time of their marriage, is a two-storied frame-over-brick house, flanked on either end by immense double chimneys of brick. There are nine large rooms, in addition to a full attic, and a full basement, which was originally a dirt wine cellar. As is usual with houses of this vintage, a spacious hall cleaves the first floor from front to back. An unusual architectural feature is the hidden stairway on either side of the hall.

The lovely original panelling in the drawing room had long

been removed, and sold, before Dr. and Mrs. Engh acquired the estate in 1955. At that time, they found none of the standing buildings were liveable, and have carefully over the years restored the house, barn, smokehouse, and the native stone blacksmith shop, in which they have placed authentic blacksmith tools and such farm tools as the smithy would have forged for the plantation.

"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 changing hands 11 times during the more than 200 years of its existence, among the first four owners, three were Alexander descendants, and only the remaining three are not related to either family or to each other. Twin descendants of the Howison family, Leigh Ann and Mary Beth Dowell, assisted in the unveiling of the bronze historical marker.

Dr. Engh accepted the plaque, and spoke of their work in restoring the old house.

Among other distinguished guests introduced by Mrs. Robert LeRoy Byrd, Organizing Regent of the chapter, were: Mrs. Leo W. Utz, Vice President General, National Society DAR of

Lancaster; Mrs. Frederick Tracey Morse, Past Curator General, NSDAR of Charlottesville; Mrs. Thomas G. DeShazo, Director District V DAR of Fairfax; Mrs. John C. Biscoe, State Chaplain Va. DAR of Alexandria, Mrs. Samuel P. Sanderslice, State Chapter Organization Chairman of Falls Church; and Mrs. Seddon B. Sadtler, Past Chairman, The Flag of the United States of America Committee of Alexandria.

Following the dedication, a reception was held honoring Mrs. John Victor Buffington, State Regent, Va. DAR, also a member of the Elizabeth McIntosh Hammill Chapter. In the reception line were Mrs. Buffington, Mrs. King, Mrs. Byrd, Dr. and Mrs. Engh, and Mrs. R. J. Ristedt, chapter vice-regent.

Pouring were Mrs. Frank P. Leach, chapter Treasurer, and Mrs. V. V. Gillum, Chapter Chaplain.