

Visit of the Duke of Sussex to Costessey Hall 1819



A VIEW OF COSSEY.

From a pen-and-ink sketch, probably by LADY BEDINGFIELD.

The Hall and Chapel as they were in 1819, before major additions and alterations were made

In 2012 I came across two old books containing letters that had passed between members of the Jerningham family (of Costessey Hall) in the late 1700s/early 1800s. The family was Catholic and 'converted' many people in the village, in particular those who worked for them directly or indirectly. All of the early Hastings baptisms, without exception, took place at Costessey Hall, initially in an attic area and then in the chapel that was built in 1809.



Dramatis Personae

- Young Lady Jerningham:** *Frances-Henrietta Jerningham (nee Sulyarde), wife of Sir George (below).*
- Lady Bedingfield:** *Charlotte Georgiana, Lady Bedingfeld, nee Jerningham (1770-1854), only daughter of Sir William and Lady Frances Jerningham. Wife of Sir Richard Bedingfeld of Oxburgh, Norfolk.*
- The Duke:** *The Duke of Sussex; Prince Augustus Frederick (1773-1843), the 6th Son of King George III.*
- Sir George:** *George William Jerningham, 7th Baronet (1771-1851), eldest son of Sir William and Lady Frances Jerningham, who was restored as eighth Baron Stafford in 1824. He married Frances-Henrietta Sulyarde.*
- Hastings:** *Very likely to have been Edward Hastings (1786-1868) of Costessey. Although always referred to as a carpenter, two of his children, George Edward and Dominica Maria, were organists and music teachers. As organs were largely constructed of wood, perhaps that gives the carpentry connection.*
- Edward:** *Edward Jerningham (1774-1822), brother of Lady Bedingfield and Sir George Jerningham. A barrister. He designed St. Augustine's Chapel at Costessey Hall (shown above - completed 1809).*
- The Twins:** *Daughters of Sir G. & Young Lady Jerningham. Frances and Georgiana, then 16 years old.*
- Mamselle D.:** *Unknown. A French Governess perhaps?*



Holkham 25th August 1819

From Young Lady Jerningham to Lady Bedingfield

My dearest Sister,

We all went to the Cathedral <Norwich>: it was a beautiful sight - 30,000 people waiting all perfectly quiet and in good humour - and the Procession from the Assembly rooms to the Cathedral, the Duke walking all the way on foot and cheered enthusiastically. We were in Prebendary Wodehouse's and Thurlow's *closets*, upstairs, during the Service and saw it all. Yesterday we Came off at half past eleven, knowing the Duke intended at two to come to Cossey, but it was understood We should be gone, otherwise we could not have arrived here, as we took our own horses to give up the Posters to himself and Suite - He told me he admired Cossey of all things, and the Howard Picture and Queen Mary in the library did not escape him - The Chapel he *was delighted with*, spoke *much* of it as Architectural, and of the beautiful painted glass. - He called for the Twins who, with Mamselle D. *did the honors*. -

I had Hastings placed at the organ who, the moment he entered, played *God Save the King*. - He spoke of Edward very much, said he was a Perfect gentleman, whom he liked, for tho' he was for the liberty of the Subject, he was also for all being in their proper places. - He is himself the most *agreeable* person: universal knowledge and universal *taste* for every thing - and perfect English feelings, never going a *line* too far in his sentiments. Sir G. Says he is most *convivial*; he Sleeps *but 3 hours often - rises at 5 always*, sometimes at four - Studies much, and *now* talks of *learning* Arabic.



Source: The Jerningham Letters 1780-1843 (in 2 Volumes):

<http://archive.org/details/jerninghamlette00jerngoog>

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