

**IN MEMORY OF THOMAS, 11th LORD WILLOUGHBY, OF
PARHAM, IN SUFFOLK, OF HORWICH, ADLINGTON AND SHAW
PLACE,** IN THIS COUNTY, WHO DIED FEBRUARY 28th 1691, AGED 89
YEARS; ALSO OF ELEANOR, LADY WILLOUGHBY, DIED 1665, AGED
67; AND HUGH, THEIR ELDEST SON, 12th LORD, DIED JUNE 1712, AGED
75; ALSO OF ANNE, HIS LORDSHIP'S FIRST WIFE WHO DIED IN 1690, AGED
52; LIKEWISE THE LADY HONORA, HIS SECOND WIFE, ELDEST DAUGHTER OF
LORD LEIGH, OF STONELEIGH, AND RELICT OF SIR WILLIAM EGERTON, OF WORS-
LEY, KNIGHT OF THE BATH, SECOND SON OF JOHN, EARL OF BRIDGEWATER,
AND HIS COUNTESS, ELIZABETH, DAUGHTER OF HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF
NEWCASTLE; SHE DIED IN 1750, AGED 77; - A TRULY CONGENIAL PAIR –
FONDLY ATTACHED TO RURAL SCENES AND RETIREMENT - AND ENDEARED
TO ALL AROUND THEM BY THE URBANITY, BENEVOLENCE AND PURITY OF LIFE
EVINCED AT THEIR FAVOURITE RETREAT, WORSLEY HALL. LORD WILLOUGHBY
IN PURSUITS, LIKE THE NOBLE EARL HIMSELF, SPIRITED, PRACTICAL AGRICULTU-
RISTS AFFORDING EMPLOYMENT TO VAST NUMBERS ON THAT FINE DOMAIN, A
DOWER POSSESSED IN RIGHT OF HER LADYSHIP'S FIRST ESPOUSAL, HAVING
ISSUE THEREBY JOHN AND HONORA EGERTON, ALSO OF EDWARD, 13th LORD, WHO
DIED, UNMARRIED, IN FLANDERS, VALIANTLY FIGHTING UNDER THE RENOWNED
DUKE OF MARLBOROUGH, IN APRIL 1713, AGED 37 YEARS; AND THERE HE FOUND
THE WARRIOR'S GRAVE; ALSO OF CHARLES, HIS BROTHER, 14th LORD, WHO DIED JUNE
12th 1715, AGED 34 – (SONS OF THE HON:ble FRANCIS, ALAS ! IN THE MUTABILITY OF
EVENTS HOW FLEETING THE NEPHEWS' SUCCESSION OF HONOURS AND PATERNAL IN-
HERITANCE) ALSO HESTER, LADY WILLOUGHBY, HIS WIFE, WHO DIED IN 1758, AGED 73,
YOUNGEST DAUGHTER OF HENRY DAVENPORT, ESQUIRE, OF DARCY LEVER, SURVIVING
BRANCH OF THE ANCIENT DAVENPORTS, OF DAVENPORT, IN THE COUNTY OF CHESTER,
AND, EVENTUALLY, HEIRESS TO HER BROTHER AND SISTER; AN EMINENTLY DISTIN-
GUISHED FAMILY AMONG THE DISSENTERS OF THAT PERIOD --- EDUCATED IN THE AD-
JOINING TOWNSHIP, UNDER THEIR RELATIVE THE VENERABLE OLIVER HEYWOOD, M.A.
THE FATHER OF THE NONCONFORMIST DIVINES AND A NATIVE OF LITTLE LEVER.

LASTLY, OF THE Rt HONble HUGH, THEIR ONLY SON AND
15th BARON WILLOUGHBY, OF PAREHAM, WHO EXPIRED, AT HIS HOUSE IN LONDON, UN-
MARRIED, JANy 17th 1765, AGED 51,(INTERRED BY HIS LORDSHIP'S EXPRESS DESIRE IN
THE FAMILY VAULT OF HIS ANCESTORS WITHIN HORWICH CHURCH, FEBy 9th AND HAD
A BEFITTING FUNERAL FOR SO EXALTED A CHARACTER AND PEER OF THE REALM.
THE NOBILITY, OFFICERS OF STATE, PATRONS, AND DIRECTORS OF THE VARIOUS INSTI-
TUTIONS JOINING THE SOLEMN CAVALCADE THROUGH THE CITY TO St ALBANS ON
IT'S ROUTE TO LANCASHIRE, WHICH WAS NIGH 3 WEEKS) IN WHOM, TOO, THE MALE LINE
OF HIS BRANCH BECAME EXTINCT; A CONSTANT ATTENDER AND SUPPORTER WITH HIS
REVERED EARLY WIDOWED, EXEMPLARY MOTHER, OF THIS CHAPEL, AND TO WHICH HE BE-
QUEATHED THE SUM OF ONE HUNDRED POUNDS. HERE AS THE SON, THE BROTHER, THE FRIEND,
ABOVE ALL, AS THE CHRISTIAN, HIS NAME IS PERPETUATED. AN ELEGANT AND ACCOMPLISH-
ED SCHOLAR, WHO AFTER ENJOYING THE ADVANTAGE OF FOREIGN TRAVEL FOR SOME YEARS
RETURNED TO ENGLAND, FILLED WITH A PATRIOTIC DEVOTION FOR HIS NATIVE COUNTRY;
OPEN, KIND-HEARTED, AND MAGNANIMOUS, HE COMMENCED HIS ONEROUS PARLIA-

MENTARY DUTY AND SOON GAVE EVIDENCE OF THAT LEGISLATIVE TALENT WHICH AFTERWARDS SHONE FORTH WITH SO MUCH SPLENDOUR, CONFERRING UPON HIM BY BEING UNANIMOUSLY CHOSEN CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF PEERS, AN OFFICIAL REWARD AND THE LASTING ESTEEM OF HIS MOST GRACIOUS SOVEREIGNS GEORGE 2nd AND 3rd, TO THE CLOSE OF A TRANSCENDENTLY BRILLIANT POLITICAL CAREER, WHILE HIS UNIVERSALLY ACKNOWLEDGED REFINEMENT OF TASTE, ENRICHED ABROAD AND EXTENSIVELY CULTIVATED AT HOME, AND JUDICIOUS ESTOWAL OF PATRONAGE EXERCISED IN THE PROMOTION OF LITERATURE, SCIENCE AND THE ARTS, IN WHATEVER WALK HIS COMPREHENSIVE MIND DISCERNED GENIUS OR OPPRESSED WORTH, HIS FOSTERING HAND BROUGHT FORTH THE “ FLOWER BORN TO BLUSH UNSEEN “, WHICH IN SPEEDY REQUITAL FOR SUCH TRUE GREATNESS OF SOUL OBTAINED FOR HIM THE ADDITIONAL VERY HIGH APPOINTMENTS, viz: PRESIDENT OF THE SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES, AND VICE PRESIDENT OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY, SUCCEEDING THE LEARNED MARTIN FOLKES ESQ, VICE PRESIDENT OF THE SOCIETY FOR THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF THE FINE ARTS; A TRUSTEE FOR THE BRITISH MUSEUM; AND ONE OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF LONGITUDE; A NOBLEMAN WHO ADORNED THE TITLE DERIVED FROM HIS FOREFATHERS BY HIS OWN SOCIAL AND DOMESTIC VIRTUE LEAVING A GRATEFUL NATION TO DEPLORE HIS UNEXPECTED REMOVAL FROM THIS SUBLUNARY STATE, AND TWO SISTERS HIS CO-HEIRESSES AT LAW THE HON^{obl} HELENA, WIFE OF BAXTER ROSCOE ESQ^{re}, AND THE HON^{obl} ELIZABETH, WIFE OF JOHN SHAW ESQ^{re}.

AS A TRIBUTE OF AFFECTIONATE REGARD DUE TO SO LAMENTED A SENATOR, PHILANTHROPIST, AND RELATIVE, THIS MONUMENT IS ERECTED BY HIS GRAND-NEPHEWS AND NIECES.

*Friends we have had --- the years flew by,
How many have they borne away;
Man, like the hours is born to die
The last year's hours, oh where are they
“ Catch, then O catch the transient hour
Improve each moment as it flies;
So teach us in our solemn hour,*

*This is a short summer, man a flower –
He dies alas, how soon he dies !”
Yet all these flowers now lost by death,
In other worlds shall brightly bloom
Spring with fresh life, immortal breath
And burst the confines of the tomb.*

When the Willoughby Memorial was restored in 1993, it was not possible to recut the text at the base. The following is a transcription of the original text.

Recorded in the Museum : “ The illustrious Lord Willoughby, who holds a distinguished place in the Temple of Science and as a pre-eminent personage elected to fill the two offices vacant by the demise of the justly celebrated Martin Foulkes, Esqr, powerfully aided in design and furtherance of its objects this stupendous structure, by his unremitting zeal and matured conception as a virtuoso. Founded in his 39th year A.D. 1753.” Extract from Lysons : “ His Lordship’s stipend from Government was 1200 guineas per annum. He was a father to the poor, a benefactor and protector of indigent deserving authors, a munificent patron of learning, music, painting, and poetry, and a statesman who sought without fear or favour the common good. “ These mementoes of five generations and alliances of a patrician race summoned to Parliament 7th Edward II, 1313, are faithfully detailed from authentic documents possessed only by the writer himself, who snatched them from oblivion, and compiled chiefly for the Antiquary and Herald, every vestige beside regarding them being flagrantly destroyed with the ancient sacred edifice wherein reposed their bodies.

Notes :

- 1/ Different versions of the verse at the bottom of the memorial have been recorded – one even has an extra line.
- 2/ The memorial installed here in Rivington Chapel, commissioned by John Shaw in 1845, is a copy of the now lost original that was in Horwich Parish Church.
- 3/ More biographical information on the barons Willoughby is available on the internet , contributed by P Lacy on Angelfire.