

# SIR FRANCIS RAWDON HASTINGS

# 2

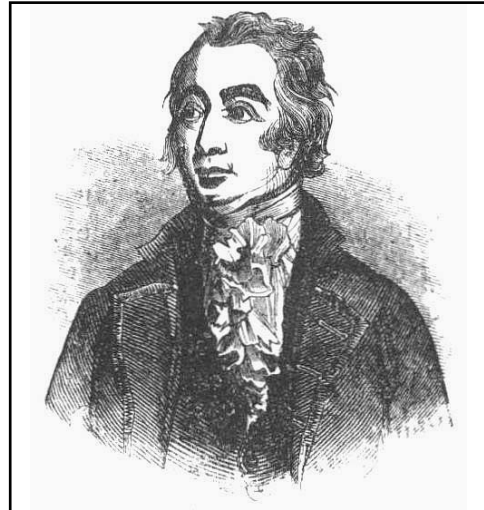
KS 1/2/3  
HISTORY

## THE 2nd EARL OF MOIRA

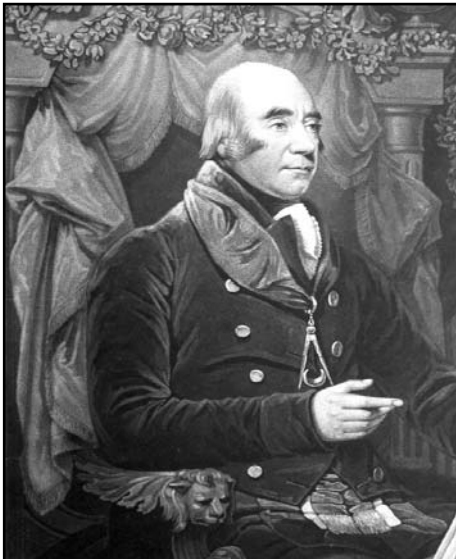
Sir Francis Rawdon Hastings was born in Ireland in 1754. He became a prominent Leicestershire landowner and a significant figure in British politics during the reign of George III.

Francis Rawdon inherited the area of Ashby Woulds from his uncle in 1789 and took the family name of Hastings. In 1793 he inherited his father's property in Ireland and the title of Earl of Moira. Aristocratic landowners had the right to mine, use and sell the mineral reserves that lay below the ground they owned.

Sir Francis was an important military commander. He served in the British Army during the War of American Independence and in 1794 he commanded an expedition to rescue noble families from the revolution in France. He was Commander-in-Chief of the army in Scotland from 1803-1806.



Sir Francis Rawdon Hastings



### Sir Francis, the 2nd Earl of Moira

*Look at his clothes:*

*Are they the same as people wear today?*

*Are they what poor people would have worn in those days?*

In politics Sir Francis was regarded as being brave, talented and loyal but also somewhat foolish. Many people thought that the Prince of Wales took advantage of his weaknesses and played a major part in his later financial difficulties. His friendship with the prince also made him unpopular with King George and is thought to have damaged his reputation and political career.

Like many aristocrats of the time, Sir Francis had large debts and was often in need of money. He sold off his estates in Ireland and parts of his estates in Leicestershire but was determined to keep Ashby Woulds where he hoped that coal mining and iron making would restore his fortunes. Unfortunately, Moira Furnace was never the success that he wished for.

Because of his debts he was unable to live in Britain and died in 1826, while he was Governor of Malta, on the navy ship HMS Revenge anchored at Naples.

### **Aristocratic titles, family trees and coats of arms**

During his life, Sir Francis held all the following aristocratic titles:

Baron Rawdon	Lord of Ashby Manor
2nd Earl of Moira	Baron Botreaux
Baron De Moleyns	Baron Hastings
Baron Hungerford	1st Marquess of Hastings
Viscount Loudoun	Earl Rawdon

A study of the Hastings family tree shows where some of these titles came from. Many were added because of marriages between different families and through the handing down of titles from father to eldest son.

#### **The Hastings Family**

*Can you find Francis Rawdon Hastings and his wife Flora?*

*Why did Sir Francis add 'Hastings' to his name?*

*Why was there not a 5th Marquis of Hastings?*

#### **Family trees**

*Can you draw your own family tree?*

*If you were a Lord or Lady, what title would you choose?*

*Can you design your own coat of arms?*



*Campbell*



*Hastings*



*Shirley*



## TEACHERS' NOTES

In this section you will find information about Sir Francis Rawdon Hastings who played an important part in Moira's past.

Pupils might like to create a factfile for Sir Francis which could include sheets on his working life and what he achieved in his career and a summary sheet of his importance locally or nationally. Further sheets could be added and pupils might produce an obituary for him as it might have been produced in the newspaper at the time.

Pupils could be asked to select one event from Sir Francis's life and draw this to make a montage for display around the class. It could also be clipped onto a timeline around the classroom.

Discuss Francis Rawdon Hasting's family tree and how it is set out. Aspects that could be highlighted might include: fashionable names, any names that recur, marriages and evidence of male primogeniture. You might also want to explore the idea that the Hastings should have been part of today's royal family (see the Channel 4 website).

Pupils could be asked to design their own family tree and/or coats of arms using the templates or web resources.

## WHAT YOU CAN SEE AT MOIRA FURNACE

The 'Hastings Room' contains information about Sir Francis and a life-size mannequin in 18th century military costume.

## USEFUL WEBSITES

### Sir Francis Rawdon Hastings

[www.education.mcgill.ca/profs/cartwright/rawdon/sirfrancis.htm](http://www.education.mcgill.ca/profs/cartwright/rawdon/sirfrancis.htm)

[www.answers.com/topic/marquess-of-hastings](http://www.answers.com/topic/marquess-of-hastings)

[www.channel4.com/history/microsites/H/history/l-m/monarchtree.html](http://www.channel4.com/history/microsites/H/history/l-m/monarchtree.html)

### Aristocratic titles

[www.thepeerage.com](http://www.thepeerage.com)

[www.burkes-peerage.net](http://www.burkes-peerage.net)

### Family trees and coats of arms

[www.digiserve.com/heraldry](http://www.digiserve.com/heraldry)

[www.coatsofarms.addr.com](http://www.coatsofarms.addr.com)

[www.storyboardtoys.com/gallery/coat-of-arms-lesson-plan.htm](http://www.storyboardtoys.com/gallery/coat-of-arms-lesson-plan.htm)

[www.vam.ac.uk/vastatic/microsites/british\\_galleries/designa/coat\\_of\\_arms/coat\\_of\\_arms.html](http://www.vam.ac.uk/vastatic/microsites/british_galleries/designa/coat_of_arms/coat_of_arms.html)

