

THE ANCESTRY OF NORMAN DOUGLAS OF DUNDARRACH

I was born at Dunfermline, Fife, on the 25th September 1922, and moved to stay at Rosyth when I was about four years old. My first recollection of an interest in the fact that my name of Douglas had some historical significance, was at Kings Road primary school, when I would be aged about seven years old. The teacher told the class some stories of Scottish history, and amongst other names, the names of several Douglasses were mentioned. This awakened a desire in me to know my family history.

Over the next twenty years or so, my interest in the family waxed and waned. I married Margaret Kellie in 1951 and we had three children Katrina, Sheena and Gordon. It was in 1967, I wrote to the Lord Lyon, King of Arms in Edinburgh to ask for information on how to search for my family. I received a most courteous reply and one of the things which came from that letter to the Lord Lyon was that in 1969, I was granted my own Coat of Arms, and also a great interest in Scottish Heraldry, to such an extent that I have given several lectures on the subject. Another item from the Lord Lyon's letter told me of the Scots Ancestry Research Society in Edinburgh, and so I wrote to them in March 1967 asking them to trace my family for me.

While I was waiting very impatiently for a reply from the Society, my friendship with my cousin Ian Douglas and his wife Wilma was growing, which led to my meeting Ian's father, the only brother of my father whom I got to know very well; and he, my Uncle Charlie, took a great interest in my plan to research

our family. He gave me lots of invaluable information about his family and also lots of stories. One of the stories he told me, was that our family had some connection with Dunscore in the County of Dumfries, but what he did not know.

In November 1967, I received my reply from the Scots Research Society, but unfortunately, it gave me the wrong information about my family. As a result, the Society offered to start all over again and this time, the information I got was correct. It corresponded with the information that my Uncle Charlie had given me previously. Had I not received this information from my Uncle Charlie, I would not have known my correct family. My first lesson in family research, never believe anything unless it is cross checked with another fact.

The information received from the Society in February 1968 showed that my grandfather was indeed John Campbell Douglas and that he had been married twice, first to Florence Robinson, by whom he had eight children, and secondly to the sister of Florence, Alice, who was known to all the children as Aunt Alice. It is interesting to note that the marriage of John Campbell Douglas and Alice Robinson did not take place in a church or registry office, but was by the old Scottish method of declaration before witnesses. It is also worthy of note, that when my father, William Newberry Douglas died in 1953, I found in his safe, a copy of an autobiography of John Campbell Douglas, my grandfather, which my father never told me of, which is surprising considering he knew of my interest in the family.

The report of the Scots Ancestry Research Society showed that my great-grandfather was Robert Douglas born 20th June 1820, who married Margaret Newberry, and also recorded some of their children. Robert Douglas was the son of James Douglas and Jean Thomson, and James was a farmer of Brough, parish of Southwick, county of Kirkcudbrightshire. The report detailed several other children of James Douglas and Jean Thomson as well.

From the information given in the above report, my wife Margaret and I, learned of the existence of birth, marriage, and death certificates, and also census records, old parish registers, and soon found that these records were available for inspection at Register House, Edinburgh. We found that Jean (or Jane) Thomson was born in the parish of Kirkbean, and after that, the Society said they could not help us further. Kirkbean turned out to be next to Southwick. In 1968, we started to use all holiday and off time to travel the country looking for graveyards, taking the children with us. Very soon the children labelled our efforts "grave-scraping-holidays", and there were many times when fellow holiday makers learned of our interests and gave us some most peculiar looks. We found Jane Thomson, wife of James Douglas on one of the flat (through) table stones at Kirkbean, but were dismayed to find that her death date would make her too young to fit in our family. However, after much deliberation, I realised that if the "1" I had read at the end of her death date was instead a "7", then all would fit in. This proved to be correct, after a trip to Edinburgh Register office to check. We have searched year after year, but we never yet have found either the place that James Douglas and Jane Thomson died or were buried, or where they were in 1841. The stone we found, was a Thomson memorial stone to the Thomson family.

we soon found out that there wasn't any graveyard at Southwick Church and that latterly, the parishes of Southwick and Colvend had been united, and so again, one of our early visits was to Colvend Churchyard. Here we found a James Douglas but not the right generation, although we later found that he was of my family. We also found a John Douglas in Thornyhill, and he turned out to be the brother of James Douglas, my great-great-grandfather.

On one of these early visits to the area, we decided to visit Brough Farm, but we had great difficulty in determining where it was, and it was only by studying a very old map of the area that I had, that we found where it was, now called Home Farm. We promptly visited the farm and were fortunate in that the people there knew where the old Southwick church and graveyard were situated at Nether Clifton, and of course, we set off with our family to find it. On arrival, we immediately set about trying to find a James Douglas. A stone was found in the middle of a big holly bush by Sheena, but it was not the James Douglas we were looking for. *To BE CONT.*

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Continuation of "The Ancestry of Norman Douglas of Dundarrach" from Volume 111 of Newsletter.

During this period, our family had many "grave-scraping holidays" to many Douglas areas of Scotland, also visiting many Douglas Castles and Houses. In 1971, we decided to contact Mrs Sheila Pitcairn, a professional researcher who stays in Dunfermline. Mrs Pitcairn tied together some of the information that we had gotten from the gravestones, with the records at Register House; but soon took a new line in June, by finding that the above John Douglas in Thornyhill had a death certificate which showed that his parents were John Douglas and Henriette McMorran, and that from the census records, John in Thornyhill, was born in the parish of Kirkpatrick-Durham. Mrs Pitcairn, like ourselves, guessed that John in Thornyhill was the brother of our James in Brough, due to the very similar pattern of family names, but could we prove it!

We attempted to obtain all the Douglas entries from the 1841 census from the Solway to the County of Stirling, but without any success at finding James Douglas or his wife Jane Thomson. This took us to about March 1979. Sometime earlier than this, I visited the Ewart Library in Dumfries, to search any newspapers for any Douglas information, and from the Dumfries Weekly Journal dated 26/10/1802, I extracted the following:

For Sale, The Lands of Mule, in the parish of Kirkpatrick-Durham, containing 769 acres, possessed by John Douglas at a rent of £63.0.0.

This information I have always kept at the back of my mind. In

April 1972, I was contacted by a second cousin of mine, Elena Hemminger, from New York, who was also interested in compiling our family tree. She gave us the information that she obtained from another second cousin, Dr Ruthven Lang, living in New Zealand, and he told us that my great-grandfather, Robert Douglas, had come from Dunscore. Here again was the same town that my Uncle Charlie had told me of, this time, the information came from the other side of the world. One day, I saw what I had continually missed. Looking again at the Ordnance Survey map of the parish, I found the farm of Mule or Muil as it was now called, near to the village of Dunscore. Could the John Douglas who was selling Mule in 1802, be the father of my James Douglas and his brother, John? I got the answer to this from the records of the Latter Day Saints (the Mormons) which were available to me in Dumbarton Library. From this source, I learned that James was the son of John in Muil, and also that James and John had a sister Ann.

From a booklet of members interests produced by the Glasgow and West of Scotland Family History Society that I had joined in 1977, I got in touch with a Mrs Vera Stammers of Leicester. Mrs Stammers proved of invaluable help to me for she told me of two Douglas stones in the Churchyard of Dunscore, situated just beside the door into the church. Margaret and I had missed them on our previous visit! We visited Dunscore again at the earliest opportunity, and found the two stones, very faded. But after several visits, we determined the writing on them

and they were definately my family. The stone which proved they were our family, was in memory of Margaret Douglas, daughter of Rob Douglas and Margaret Aitkin in New Barns of Barnhourie in the parish of Colvend. Margaret died 1787 aged 7 years. We had already obtained records of this family and knew they were my family. The second stone lying together with the first one, gave the following information:

Here lyes Barbara Smith spouse to James Douglas in Killiylouir (my g.g.g.g.g.grandfather) who died - Dec.1711 aged 37 years. Also John Douglas (my g.g.g.g.g.grandfather) who died March 1756 aged 54 years. Also Elizabeth Mac-ahn- his spouse who died- 1755 aged 50. Also 3 of their children. Repaired by John Douglas, their son.

This last John Douglas, was of course, the John Douglas in Muil, my g.g.g.g.grandfather, and he was married to Henriette McMorran, and so with one stone, I found three generations of my family.

Mrs Stammers had told me previously of the Hearth Tax records that could be obtained from the Ewart library at Dumfries. I sent for copies of the records for the parishes of Dunscore, Irongray and Glencairn. In 1983, I found the only Douglas in the parish of Dunscore was William Douglas of Collieston and his wife Nicolas Hunter, and another William Douglas in Collieston and his wife Jean Gilchrist. I presumed that the second William was the son of the first William as they were both resident in Collieston. On one of my many visits to the Mitchell Library in Glasgow, I discovered a

series of books giving the indices to wills and testaments. I was browsing through the Douglas entries when, to my astonishment, I found three entries as follows:

William Douglas of Collieston 1681, Jean Gilchrist, spouse of William 1678, and also John Douglas in Nethertown of Collieston 1756.

I immediately wrote off to the Record Office in Edinburgh, and in due course, received photo-copies of the wills. It took three months to translate the old Scottish handwriting; but I did it, and it gave me the information that William Douglas of Collieston was married firstly, name not given, and had a daughter Jean; secondly, to Jean Gilchrist and had William, Archibald, James (my g.g.g.g.g.grandfather), and Margaret; and thirdly, to Nicholas Hunter, and had Elizabeth and was expecting another child when he died. This will gave me the whole story of William, and the vital section about James was confirmed in the will of Jean Gilchrist. The third will was of John Douglas in Collieston, grandson of the above William, and this was the John Douglas who died in 1756, named on the Dunscore gravestone. The whole thing all tied up beautifully, but was this now the end of the story?

In 1984, I was re-reading Adams History of the Douglas Family, and I came across a mention of James Grierson of Dalgoner. This immediately rang a bell as I remembered his name in the will of William Douglas of Collieston. On re-checking, I found that Grierson of Dalgoner owed Douglas £40. Further

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reading of Adams History, showed that James Grierson was married to Elizabeth Johnstone, who was the daughter of Robert Johnstone and his wife Barbara Douglas, and Barbara was a younger sister of Sir William Douglas of Cashogle. Was there a relationship there? It turned out that Sir William Douglas of Cashogle only had one son, a natural son called William. Could this William be William Douglas of Collieston? I checked the records carefully, and there are so many cross references that I am quite satisfied that William Douglas of Collieston was the natural son of Sir William Douglas of Cashogle. My proofs have been accepted by the Lord Lyon in Edinburgh for entry in his files, cross referenced to my family back to James Douglas, farmer in Brough, as

recorded on the Coat of Arms granted to me in 1969.

The Douglasses of Cashogle were descended from the Douglasses of Drumlanrig, who were descended from the 1st and 2nd Earls of Douglas and Mar, who in turn, were descended from the first Baron Douglas, which takes my ancestry back to 1059 and perhaps before.

These pages can never indicate all the diversions, side-tracks, and additional information not shown here, which have occurred during the fifty years or so it has taken me to trace this family tree. They can never show all the pleasure, and indeed, often excitement, and the many relations and good friends I have contacted which I would never have known if I had not wanted to know my ancestry.



NORMAN DOUGLAS No. 4.



Ancient Scottish Family

Arms of NORMAN DOUGLAS F.S.A.
OF DUNDARRACH, SCOTLAND.

Description of the Coat of Arms granted to Norman Cairncross Douglas by the Lord Lyon, King of Arms, in 1969. The basic shield is Douglas, that is a shield with a background of argent (silver), with a chief azure (the top horizontal third blue) with three mullets of the first (three silver five pointed stars). In the base a heart gules (a red heart which was added to the Arms of Douglas when the Good Sir James carried the heart of King Robert the Bruce to the Holy Land after Bruce died.) Above this is another chief with background argent (silver) on which is three crossed crosslets gules (three red crosses with each arm crossed) this being the Arms of Cairncross. Around all the above is a bordure or (a gold border) which is to show that my family is a cadet family of the Douglasses and to ensure that my family is a noble family, these Arms were granted to James Douglas my great-great-grand-father. To difference the Arms for granting to me, the bordure or is charged with a crescent and an annulet in dexter and sinister chief and in base a martlet all gules (a red crescent to show my father was a second son, in top left, a red ring, top right, to show my grandfather was a fifth son, and at the bottom of the bordure a red bird to show that my great-grandfather was a fourth son. Above all this is placed a steel helmet faced with gold, and with an open visor (this is equivalent to a feudal baron). From the helmet falls the mantling and torse of the livery colours (blue and silver) this was the silk cape worn to protect the steel armour from getting too hot in the sun. Above all this is my family motto *Toujours en Avant* (which is Always in Front, which answers to the motto of the Chief of the Douglasses which is *Jamais Arriere, Never Behind*)

DRUMLANRIG (continued)
CASHOGLE OR COCHOGLA



John Douglas "of Creetown" was born 20/Jun/1807; died 1875; married Jean, daughter of Walter Patterson and Elizabeth Hannay; and had issue:

1. Jean Douglas born 1828;
2. James Douglas born 1829;

Robert Thomson Douglas born 20/Jun/1820, farmer in Kilmarnock; died 1893; married Margaret Newbury (born Dunscore 1820; died 1887;) and had issue:

1. Alexander Douglas (see under)
2. Duncan Douglas born 1846; died 1905; married Isabella Burns and had issue:
 - 2.1. Currie Douglas
 - 2.2. Frederick T Douglas
3. James Ruthven Douglas born 1848; died 1918; married (1) Annie Shaw and had issue:
 - 3.1. Annie Douglas
 - 3.2. Archibald Douglas
 - 3.3. John R Douglas born 1884; died 1884;
 - 3.4. Infant Douglas born 1885; Died 1885;
 - 3.5. Hugh Alistair Douglas born 1887; died 1887;

James Ruthven Douglas married (2) Helen Lennox Livingston and had issue

- 3.6. Helena Douglas born 1891; died 1971; married Rolf Van Trentini and had issue;
- 3.7. Dorothy Douglas born 1895; married Walter Lang and had issue
- 3.8. Ruthven L Douglas born 1898; married (1) Polly Duncan and had issue;
Ruthven L Douglas married (2) Margaret Carruthers and had issue
- 3.9. Andrew Gordon Douglas born 1905; married and had issue;
4. Frederick William Douglas born 1850;
5. John Campbell Douglas (see under)
6. Mary Douglas born 1856; married Angus Shaw and had
 - 6.1. Jack Shaw
 - 6.2. Grace Maryette Shaw married Allan C Douglas;
 - 6.3. Caroline McInnes Shaw married ? Embleton and had issue
 - 6.4. Robert Shaw married Elsie ? and had issue
7. William Herbert Douglas born Govan, Glasgow 15/Mar/1859; married Madge ? had issue
8. Ellen Caroline Douglas born Kilmarnock, Dumbartonshire, 12/Dec/1863; died 1877.

1. Alexander Douglas born 1844 son of Robert Thomson & Margaret Douglas nee Newbury; married Dumbarton 18/Jun/1869, Margaret Gilchrist; and had issue:

- 1.1. Robert Douglas born Glasgow Anderston, 14/May/1870;
- 1.2. Jessie Jarvis Douglas born Glasgow Blythwood, 15/Dec/1872;
- 1.3. Margaret Newbury Douglas born 1876; died 1905;

5. John Campbell Douglas born Glasgow 07/May/1854; died Glasgow 1932; ship's engineer, later a wine and spirit merchant in Glasgow; married (1) Wallhamstow, Essex, 30/Apr/1881, Florence Robinson daughter of James Robinson and Mary Saunderson; and had issue

- 5.1. Allan Campbell Douglas, Dr. in Dunfermline; married Grace Shaw and had
 - 5.1.1. Grace Mary Douglas married Arthur Easterbrook and had issue;
 - 5.1.2. Muriel Douglas married
 - 5.1.3. Kenneth Malcolm Douglas married (1) Gwyneth (div.) and had issue; married (2) Margaret Beattie or Law
- 5.2. William Newbury Douglas (see under)
- 5.3. John Glencross Douglas born 1887; died 1898;

- 5.4. Robert Percy Douglas, chemist in Bolton; married Jess Ritson and had 3 sons
- 5.5. Arthur Leslie Douglas married Mabel Sole and had 2 sons
- 5.6. Colin Cuthbert Douglas married and had 3 sons
- 5.7. Florence May Douglas married Dick Petter and had 2 daughters and 1 son
- 5.8. Charles Edward Douglas, chemist in Glasgow married Isabella Candell and had
 - 5.8.1. Ian Campbell Douglas married Wilma Smith and had 4 sons.

John Campbell Douglas married (2) Alice Robinson, his sister-in-law; no issue.

5.2. William Newbury Douglas born Glasgow 04/Nov/1884 eldest son of John Campbell & Florence Douglas nee Robinson; dental surgeon in Dunfermline; died Dunfermline, 21/Apr/1953; married Burdington House, Glasgow, 09/Aug/1920 Helen Jamieson Bone Stevenson daughter of William Stevenson; and had issue

- 5.2.1. Norman Cairncross Douglas (see under)
- 5.2.2. Evelyn Douglas born 1926, married Walter Douglas Jamieson

5.2.1. Norman Cairncross Douglas of Dundarrach, Scotland, born Dunfermline 25/Sep/1922 son of William Newbury & Florence Douglas nee Robinson; electrical engineer with the North of Scotland Hydro-Electric Board; died 199?; Norman matriculated his Arms 20/May/1969, the Court of the Lord Lyon, Edinburgh; Motto — *Toujours en avant* — Always in front; married Dunfermline 09/Jun/1951, Margaret Brown, daughter of James Kellie Brown; and had issue

- 5.2.1.1. Katrina Margaret Douglas born 1953; married (1) Thomas Aitken (divorced 1980); married (2) David McConnell and had issue:
 - 5.2.1.1.1. Craig McConnell
- 5.2.1.2. Sheena Marjorie Douglas born 1954; married Campbell Arendt 1952 and had issue:
 - 5.2.1.2.1. Ian Arendt born 1978
 - 5.2.1.2.2. Andrew Arendt
- 5.2.1.3. Gordon Allan Douglas born 31/Jul/1957; electrical engineer in Glasgow;
- 5.2.1.4. Terry Douglas (fostered).

Robert Douglas born 1743 son of John & Elizabeth Douglas nee MacCubbin of "Nethertown" of Collieston, parish of Dunscore, Dumfriesshire; died 1828; married Margaret Aitken daughter of Hugh Aitken in Halhill; and had issue:

- 1. Elizabeth Douglas born and baptized Holywood, 19/Mar/1775;

James Douglas born 1743 son of John Douglas "of Nethertown" of Collieston, parish of Dunscore, Dumfriesshire; (illegitimate); married and had issue:

- 1. James Douglas of Halfmark born 1761; died 1843; married Barbara Rae; and had issue:
 - 1.1. Janet Douglas married David Crosby and had Barbara Crosby;
 - 1.2. Mary Douglas
 - 1.3. John Douglas
 - 1.4. William Douglas born 1791; died 1849;
 - 1.5. Minny Douglas born 1794; died 1851;
 - 1.6. Mary Douglas born 1796; died 1880;
 - 1.7. Henrietta Douglas born 1800; died 1851;
 - 1.8. Marion Douglas born 1801; died 1852;
 - 1.9. Robert Douglas
 - 1.10. Elizabeth Douglas born 1812; married ? Glencorse; and had issue John Glencorse born 1831;

Archibald Douglas son of Sir William & Lady Janet Douglas nee Douglas of Kirkbryde; mentioned in the Privy Council register 1582; married Barbara Napier (on trial for witchcraft 1591, not guilty); issue:

- 1. John Douglas (see under)
- 2. James Douglas

John Douglas son of Archibald & Barbara Douglas nee Napier; 1569; he and his father were in possession of the lands of Durisdeer; 1612; of the lands of Vicarland; married; and had issue and their great grandson was:

James Douglas who obtained in 1714 some lands from Charles Douglas, 3rd Duke of Queensberry.

(Taken from *The History of the Family of Douglas* by Percy Douglas, pp.179-182)

(Taken from the Douglas Family of Cashogle submitted by the late Norman Douglas of Arrochar, Scotland).

