

John Douglas died 1839

John Douglas was bap St Ann Manchester in 1770 and escaped the ravages of consumption which was rife in Salford and in his family in his early childhood and which had taken the lives of his mother two sisters perhaps three and possibly father? There is an article about John Douglas in the Manchester Guardian in Feb 1825 where he is described as an ambitious man but don't know what else it has to say about him. He was in the cotton trade with his father. On the death of his father John Douglas is writing to kinsman James Douglas of Branham Norfolk to tell him how he is distressed that in a publication, the identity of which is unknown, his father has been called Alexander instead of William. On 19th March 1810 James is writing to the offending party re the error calling William a much respected man..

On 4th March 1805 in Ashton on Mersey John Douglas married Anna Tipping daughter of Joseph Tipping and Ann nee Gartside with the benefit of a marriage settlement...It would be thought that John would be well established at this point in life and lived at Pendleton Old Hall Salford where he lived as a child moving on to live in Flintshire c 1817 However he didn't sever all ties with Manchester and looks as if he moved backwards and forwards between places

Children followed the marriage

James Hargreave (s) bap St Ann Manchester 24th Aug 1808 died Cheltenham 1841 the question arises as to do the later legal proceedings hasten his end? He died a young man. In proceedings he is named as John Henry Douglas

The Chester Chronicle July 1829 carried an announcement to the effect that he was to celebrate his coming of age on 3rd Aug 1829 with a dinner at 4oclock at the White Horse Inn Holly well .His passing is noted in the Cheltenham Looker of 27th March 1841 having died at 2 Royal Oak Terrace aged 32 He was appointed JP in 1836 for the County of Flintshire and was also a land Tax Commissioner he and his father held these offices at the same time as each other therefore John Hargreaves Douglas may still may have been in Flintshire in 1836 and moved Cheltenham after this date ?

Mary Ann bap St Ann Manchester 7th April 1806

Alice Tipping bap St Ann Manchester 28th Sep 1810 married Edward Morgan of Golden Grove 30th July 1832

Helen Sophia bap St Ann Manchester 21st June 1815 described as 4th daughter married R Trimmer in 1847

Elizabeth Joanna bap Cathedral Manchester 19th May 1818 and whose birth was announced in the Manchester Mercury of 31st March 1818

Isabella bap 6th April 1806 Manchester cathedral nb there is already one child bap the day after so? They didn't always have them baptised in any particular order but strangeshe may have died young she may well not belong in here but it looks as if she should do.

Charlotte Maria bap 2nd March 1812 St Ann and she poses a problem as to when she died? She married George Griffith 20th Sep 1836 he was of a very well documented landed family in Wales

George died in 1877 it is said Charlotte died 28th Dec 1842 but others have her as living on another 30 years! So someone is not right! Some have her mother as Mary Young so again not looking good. Have two Charlottes got mixed up here?

John Douglas and family moved to Flintshire where he was a JP in 1836 though it is not known if this was a first appointment but would not have thought so. He was also a Land Tax Commissioner . . The family seemed to get stuck in to Welsh life as in 1829 Ann Douglas and her daughter Alice together with another sister attended the Eisteddfod at Tegognl which held at Newmarket Wales [nothing to do horse racing etc] where they presented honours to the participants Ann was on Bardic honours and Alice presented other honours to Richard Lloyd . Could they understand any of it as it would no doubt have course been in Welsh..... Edward Morgan son in law of Ann Douglas was from a very long standing Welsh family as was George Griffith and it wouldn't be a surprise if they were Welsh speakers Edward Morgan was the president of the Eisteddfod and handily he and his wife lived only one mile away from Gyrn .

John was subscribing and donating to various things such as the Society for the Advancement of Science. In 1803 he is possibly the John Douglas Captain who is a member of the Manchester and Salford Light Horse Volunteers having received a medal in 1802 for spirited and patriotic service

Mill conditions at Holywell Twist sound as bad as in Salford one account says that 7 out of 9 children there absconded as far as adults were concerned in Salford there are reports that many stayed on after apprenticeship and others returned to the mill after having after having left for other jobs! Perhaps it was only the children who bore the brunt of the hardships?

John Douglas may well have inherited a streak from his father Black Douglas, Llanasa was the hub of Methodism and unfortunately The Methodist chapel could be seen from Gyrn and John Douglas did not like it one bit . It is unknown if the problem was the brand of religion or the interruption of the view. The ideal solution for John would have been for it to be knocked down and erected elsewhere However as the Trustees wouldn't play ball he imposed a yearly charge on the Trustees should water drip off the chapel onto his land He also threatened to build a high wall round the chapel to block the light It is said the blatant squire owing to the closure of Holywell Twist and the failure of the Douglas bank had to leave to find less expensive accommodation However it may not be quite as black and white as that This account must be is 1839 as the last record of Bank was about 1838 The **Bank is said** to have been in association with Northern and Central Bank in Brown Street Manchester whose records are now with RBS there is no obvious reference to then in their archives

The Holywell Twist co was getting to be a growing concern and in the 1790s it has an enormous work force and wage bill plus ongoing bills... It may well be that this is why the idea of a bank of their own may have appealed to Douglas and others. When the idea actually came to fruition is not known but Douglas Smalley and co were a bank .They are listed in Pigots directory as early as 1818 which is before they were actually incorporated in 1822 The HSBC archives may be able to help as they have references to the bank in 1822. How long after incorporation the bank got into difficulties isn't known but the final death knell struck 1838 amidst accusations of wrong doing during the handling of monies raised for a welsh mining disaster in 1837 when a mine at Algoed flooded killing 21 . The Flintshire record office have a notice/flyer of them and the disaster appeal collection The notes in circulation for the bank were taken up eventually by another bank . John

Douglas was also a shareholder in the newly formed Imperial Bank of England formed 1838 how much he was in for isn't known but the bank was a disaster waiting to happen before it even started trading needless to say it didn't last long. . Things just went from bad to worse. It is rather reminiscent of John Gartside and his father Robert essentially John Douglas was effectively bankrupt and he had gone from all to nothing. He died leaving the mess with others. To make matters worse there was a slump in the cotton industry which began in 1837 which probably was a situation that poured more oil onto already troubled waters.

8 people carried on business as Douglas and Smalley [the cotton company as opposed to the bank] there were Sedgewick , Weatherby , John Douglas and 5 others Two of them Weatherby and Douglas carried on business together in Manchester as William Douglas and co . Unfortunately Sedgewick and Douglas died within 18 days of each other in 1839 and by the following April all the remaining partners were all bankrupt as well. It was clear that Douglas had been trading as a bankrupt and was therefore responsible for simple contract debts so presumably the same applied to Sedgewick and also to Weatherby and the others . Douglas and Sedgewick owed £16000 to the Manchester Joint Stock Banking Co company and Douglas and Weatherby , [as William Douglas and co],also owed £4000 to them and the bank wanted the money it back There were others creditor as well whom the Joint Stock Bank tried to encourage join them in the action The bank sued by way of one of their public officers namely Brown and it came to Chancery in 1840 as Brown v Douglas 1840 , This case is quite complex as there were arguments about multifariousness, administering bankrupt estates together, who should the bank be going against for the debts , wills etc etc etc This was the ruin of the family as Ann Douglas and John Hargreave were right in the thick of it . The Douglas family had made an attempt to get on with administering the estate of John Douglas but had no grant of probate and were in possession of property and rents Weatherby , himself a bankrupt , was joint exor of the estate of John Douglas along with his wife and son . Although Douglas had given property deeds to the bank before he died, in recognition of the debt, the Bank realised they were insufficient to cover the debts . What a mess.....

Clearly Ann wife of John Douglas was still alive in 1840 and she was ,under the terms of the will of her husband as a beneficiary to get to get an annuity of £500 a year and be allowed to continue to live e at Grin , presumably for her life or remarriage, and all real estate went to son John Hargreaves Douglas The five surviving daughter were to get £2000 each .

This situation seems to have led to a sell off starting with an auction of the art housed at Gyrn which was held 26th 27th Aug 1840 at the house , lot 50 , a picture by Ricci painted in 1716 /20 was sold for 12 and a half guineas to Thomas Agnew of Manchester . The auctioneers of the art sale were Winstanleys. A Rubens ? Went for what is said to be the trifling sum of 155 guineas a list of the principal pictures at Gyrn can be found in an 1824 book by Neale and Moule.

Another court case involving John Douglas started in 1820 when proceedings were brought against him by Lloyd. Once again this is a tortuous situation involving mortgages, rents , entering, into possession people not paying up , dying , wills ,,executors and the like This situation didn't resolve until 1841 when it all came before the court of Exchequer on 24th and 25th of Feb .

In the Flintshire record office there are some 34 bundles relating to the debts of John Douglas starting in 1817 which perhaps coincides with the purchase of Gyrn so the rot may well have set in early on.

The Gyrn estate was, with the approbation of Sir William Horne Chancery Master and by an order in Chancery forced to be sold following 2 cases Douglas v Douglas no 1 and Douglas v Douglas no 2 together with 12 other causes

What the cases are brought by Douglas is here is unclear though it sounds like a family affair i.e. exors taking action against children or other Douglas family members and /or the other way round The other causes should be other creditors of John Douglas

Adverts were place in the London Gazette to the effect that that Tues 19th April , year unclear possibly 1854 , that at the Wellington Hotel Dale street Liverpool pool in one lot there was to be sold the remainder of the Gyrn estate, mansion house , fish ponds, pleasure gardens, several mesuages, pub brewery and other erections and plantations in Picton Axton Celston and Giversbyr. M Manchester Solicitors involved were namely Slater Heelis and Astons. There had been a previous pre emptory sale advertised in the London Gazette 6th Aug 1852 to take place at The Royal Hotel Chester the above property was to be then disposed of in 6 lots . Did it not sell at first try?

Also in the London Gazette 18th April 1853? A notice of sale at Clarendon Hotel Folkestone as to land in the occupation of Ebenezer Pope a yearly tenant of Douglas

Again London Gazette sale to take place 18th April 1853 at the Mostyn Arms at Mostyn station on the Hollyhead to Chester rail lineland total over 100—acres together with several messuages and cottages in Axton being part of the Gyrn estate.

The state was sold in 1854 to Edward Bates and where Ann Douglas then went to is not known assuming she was still alive.