



## **Douglas, Lords or Lairds of Cavers, Roxburghshire, Scotland - 1 to 20 inclusive**

**Sir Archibald Douglas of Liddesdale and 1st of Cavers - c1372 - he died c1435.** He was the Heritable Sheriff of Teviotdale/Roxburghshire and Regent of Scotland. Sir Archibald married Princess Margaret Stewart c1370 in about 1395. His son was William who follows. His daughters were Eleanor and Elizabeth.

Sir Archibald's nickname was 'Black Archibald'.

King James I confirmed the lands of Cavers on Sir Archibald 1st of Cavers on 30th November, 1412. Cavers was then spelt Cauyers. Archibald was referred to - "as our trustie and weel beloved cousing".

**Sir William Douglas, 2nd of Cavers - c1395 - he died 8th January 1464.** He was the Heritable Sheriff of Teviotdale/Roxburghshire.

He married (1) Margaret Stewart of Lorne in 1419 at Auchenbreck, Argyll. She was the daughter of Robert Stewart 1st Lord of Lorne. His son was Archibald who follows. His daughters were Margaret c1425 and Janet c1428.

He married (2) Catherine Colville. It is said that Sir William Douglas and Catherine Colville had a daughter named Elizabeth Douglas.

There was an Indenture between George fourth Earl of Angus and Sir Archibald Douglas of Cavers relative to the keeping of Hermitage Castle. (24th May 1452. NRS - National Records of Scotland).

There was a retour in 1464 - 1465 of Sir William Douglas 2nd of Cavers by his son Sir Archibald Douglas 3rd of Cavers.

At Peblis (Peebles) on 15th February 1464 - 1465. The 5th year of the King's Reign. There was a Precept of Seizin by King James the 3rd under the Great Seal, directed by David Scott; son and heir apparent of Walter Scott, knight, of Kirkude and John of Anysle of Dolfinstone, Sheriffs of Roxburghshire, to give Seizin to Archibald Douglas heir to his father William Douglas of Cavers, in the Barony and Regality of Cavers, in terms of the preceding Retour, taking security for two red roses by duplication of the blench farm thereof. (History of the Berwickshire Naturalist Club, Scotland - 1876).

Sir Archibald Douglas, 3rd of Cavers - c1424 Cavers, Roxburghshire - he died 8th April 1486, at Cavers, Roxburghshire. He was said to be 61 or 62 when he died. Sir Archibald is buried in the Cavers House, Churchyard (Cavers Old Church Churchyard). He was the Heritable Sheriff of Teviotdale/Roxburghshire. Sir Archibald Douglas was the keeper of the Hermitage Castle. He was also the Baillie of Liddesdale. (Baillie is Scottish and Bailiff is English).

Hermitage Castle was in Liddesdale and it was once known as 'the guardhouse of the bloodiest valley in Britain'.

Sir Archibald Douglas was one of the commissioners for settling a truce with the English in 1457. He was a Warden of the Border Marches in 1459. These marches took place on both sides of the Scottish and English Borders. In Scotland they were divided into West, Middle and East Marches.

Sir Archibald is said to have married Margaret Margery Lady Cessford born c1425. His son was William who follows. His daughter was Elizabeth c1446.

Sir William Douglas, 4th of Cavers - c1450 - he died 26th Oct 1506. He was the Heritable Sheriff of Teviotdale/Roxburghshire. He was keeper of the Hermitage Castle.

In 1494 William was mentioned with his late father Archibald in the Exchequer Rolls.

A charter of 1509 mentions that William Douglas of Cavers had been killed resisting the English. His sons were - William Douglas who died young and James Douglas who follows. There was also a son Robert Douglas who married Helen Douglas and they had a James Douglas.

There was also a David Douglas (Calendar of House of Lords Manuscripts - Historical Manuscripts Commission - 1450 to 1678).

Sir William's daughters may have been Victoria and Elizabeth.

What age was William the son when he died? Was it in about 1502-1503?

Did Sir William the father die in 1506 or 1508? Most records point to 1506.

Edinburgh - 10th December, 1498. Letters of patent of remission by King James 4th, under the great seal, to William Douglas of Cavers, William Douglas and Archibald Douglas, for the treasonable intercommuning with the rebels and traitors of Levin and of all other treasons, crimes and offences before the date of remission, except treason against the King's person. (Transactions of the Hawick Archaeological Society - 1863).

"Intercommuning" referred to the practice of enjoying a common possession or right with another community or individuals.

In 1498 Sir William Douglas held the lands of Esschebank in the Barony of Cavers. (Calendar of House of Lords Manuscripts - Historical Manuscripts Commission - 1450 to 1678).

On 26th November, 1499 an 'Instrument of Sasine' was issued by George Douglas of Bonjedward as deputy for William Douglas of Cavers, the Heritable Sheriff of Teviotdale/Roxburghshire, in favour of William Cranstoun of Cranstoun of lands of Smaiholm, Nether Crailing and Lanton, and of the office of the Coroner of Roxburgh (manuscripts.nls.uk)

Sir William Douglas of Cavers was issued with a charter on 26th May 1500 at Jedworth, confirming the grant of land in Feoroule to Andrew Ker of Over Crailing.

Feoroule itself was a Barony covering a large part of Hobkirk parish, including several estates like Weens and Hallrule. The name is no longer used on modern maps. (AI).

In 1502 a protection was given under the Privy Seal to William Douglas of Cavers, and William Douglas his son and heir, who are to pass on to Denmark.

In 1509 George Douglas of Bonjedward was a witness to a retour of James Douglas of Cavers as heir to his father William Douglas of Cavers. James Douglas may have been quite young.

In 1509 in the Douglas of Cavers papers there is a reference to Gillisland and also to a Gysland. These are thought to refer to Cavers, Roxburghshire and Califorthill, Hobkirk. (Transactions of the Scottish Ecclesiological Society - 1909).

Sir James Douglas, 5th of Cavers - c1480 - he died on 28th September 1545. In 1537 he married Elizabeth Murray, daughter of John Murray of Falahill. Sir James Douglas was the Heritable Sheriff of Teviotdale/Roxburghshire.

In 1511 James IV made a fresh grant of the free Barony of Cavers to a James Douglas of Cavers. His eldest son was James who follows. His other sons were, William of Friarshaw and Robert of Todhills.

Sir James Douglas, 6th of Cavers - 1502 Cavers, Roxburghshire - he died in July, 1558. He was the Heritable Sheriff of Teviotdale/Roxburghshire. Sir James Douglas married Christian Kerr daughter of Andrew Kerr of Ferniehirst. His eldest son was William who follows and his other sons was James and Robert.

William Douglas was mentioned in 1561 in the Privy Council register.

Robert Douglas was mentioned in 1585 in the Acts of Parliament 'as the brother of William Douglas of Cavers'.

In August 1558, held in the Toolbooth of the Burgh of Jedburgh was the Retour of Sir James Douglas, 6th of Cavers by his son Sir William Douglas 7th of Cavers. It involved the Church of Spittalroul the Chaplainry of Carlancrig both in property and tenantry, the town of Cavers and lands thereof, castle, messuage (dwelling house and out buildings), the mill and the two mainss (mains) of Cott and Eschebank, lands of Trows, 'Esfleche and Zarside in property. Together with the service and office of Sheriff of Roxburgh, lying in the Shire thereof. Also, it involved the lands and towns of Dennum, Dennumisden and Balzelhage in tenantry. The Kirkton mains valued at 40s in the Barony of Hawick and Shire of Roxburgh were held in blench farm for one penny if asked. (Calendar of House of Lords Manuscripts - Historical Manuscripts Commission - 1450 to 1678).

1558 - Retour of William Douglas of Cavers (Douglas of Cavers Papers - Inventory 6803. Held in the Manuscripts Division at the National Library of Scotland).

In these early times, Kirkton Parish was more or less wedged in between the two parts of the Cavers Parish.

'Blench farm' was nominal rent if at all.

Did Sir James Douglas die in 1557 or 1558? According to Hawick and Old Memories - James Wilson it was in 1557.

Whittrigs was listed as part of the ancient holdings of Douglas of Cavers in 1509 - 1510 dating back to the time of King David.

The ancient village or town of Cavers was burnt down by Lord Dacre in 1535. Cavers was also burnt by Lord Hertford in 1545.

The size of Cavers had been so considerable that at one point in its early history there were nine Inns or Public Houses.

Bond by James Dowglas of Cavers, Sheriff of Tewydayll and others to John Ker of Farnyhyrst, to enter John Elwand [Elliot], son to Robin of Thorlyshop

and others, on the 20th day of Yule, which is St. Margaret's Day, under pain of £1,000 Scots. (19 Dec 1546, NRS - National Records of Scotland).

**Sir William Douglas, 7th of Cavers - c1525 - he died c1585.** He was the Heritable Sheriff of Teviotdale/Roxburghshire. He married Euphemia Kerr daughter of William Kerr of Cessford. His eldest son James who follows. His other sons were William and Thomas.

Thomas was mentioned in the 1605 Privy Council register 'as being the brother of James Douglas of Cavers'.

**Sir James Douglas, 8th of Cavers - c1555 - he died in 1612.** He was the Heritable Sheriff of Teviotdale/Roxburghshire.

He married (1) on 1st June, 1580 to Margaret Cranstoun daughter of John Cranstoun of that ilk. His eldest son was William who follows. His daughter was Ann Douglas.

He married (2) Miss McGill daughter of Sir James McGill. It is said that his other sons were James Douglas, Minister of Cavers in 1647 to 1658. Also, there was Thomas Douglas born about in 1612? Thomas Douglas was a Baillie for Edinburgh and a Merchant. He died in 1686.

Instrument of Sasine by Mr Archibald Douglas, archdeacon of Glasgow, in favour of Margaret Douglas, daughter of James Douglas of Cavers, of the lands of Briglandis [Briglands], in liferent, following on contract of marriage, 2nd December 1607, between said Margaret Douglas and Mr John Douglas, son and apparent heir of the said Mr Archibald Douglas. Recorded Secretary's Register of Sasines, Berwick &c. (6 January 1608. NRS).

Was there another Douglas son born in about 1590? Perhaps his name was Archibald. His son was George Douglas.

Looking for the Ancestry of the Rev Charles Douglas born in about 1700, Minister for Cavers by 1738. His male Ancestors appear to be Andrew Douglas c1677 Jedburgh, Roxburghshire then James Douglas 1653 Roxburghshire and then George Douglas about 1615 Roxburghshire.

About Thomas Douglas, he became a Baillie. It is said that he was born in about 1616 so it was very unlikely that he was a son of Sir James Douglas, 8th of Cavers. Thus, this family connection could be incorrect. But he is however included in early Douglas Family Histories as a son of Sir James Douglas, 8th of Cavers, Roxburghshire.

The Thomas Douglas inscription in Greyfriars Church, Edinburgh “Baillie Thomas Douglas, his Monument... Thomas Douglas, a son of the ancient and noble family of Douglas of Cavers, citizen and merchant in Edinburgh, not a little honoured both the family from which he descended, and the city into which he was engrafted; by his life and carriage, well worthy of both. In troublesome and difficult times, amidst the various heats of factions, he was entangled by none, nor ill looked upon by any. He was neither slothful, through ease, nor too busie; yet, having acquired an opulent fortune, he rather shun'd offices and honours in the city than desired them, whereby he merited them the more; and, having embraced them, he was twice city baillie, and twice suburban-baillie, with the greatest applause of justice and integrity. At last, having arrived at a considerable age of 70 years, and having performed and discharged all the duties of a godly man and good citizen, towards his linage and relations, towards the city, and towards the poor, he departed in peace, the 9th day of August, the year of man's salvation, 1686, and of his age the 70th.

To the memory of this defunct, his mournful cusings, Mr Richard Douglas and Mr Robert Bennet, advocats, and Robert Blackwood, elder, merchant in Edinburgh, his heirs testamentar, erected this monument, as a pledge of their due gratitude”. (Douglas Archives).

Richard Douglas and Robert Bennet were supposed cousins of Thomas Douglas, Baillie.

Was it Margaret, Elizabeth or Janet Cranstoun who married Sir James Douglas, 8th of Cavers? Margaret seems to be the one.

In 1576 Sir James Douglas 8th of Cavers had a Charter from the Great Seal of Scotland. The Great Seal of Scotland is the principal national symbol of Scotland that allows the monarch to authorise official documents without having to sign each document individually.

Sir William Douglas, 9th of Cavers, MP. c1591 - he died c1658. He was the Heritable Sheriff of Teviotdale/Roxburghshire. He married Ann Douglas daughter of William Douglas 4th of Whittinghame. His eldest son was Archibald Douglas who follows. His other son was John Douglas of Garvald. This John Douglas had issue.

In 1631 there was a notice in The Great Seal Register of John Douglas buying the lands of Garvald from James Douglas son of his uncle William Douglas of Whittinghame.

William also had another son Thomas Douglas. (Decrees of the Privy Council).

Colonel Richard Douglas is said to be a son of Sir William Douglas of Cavers; his father refused (to acknowledge) the Engagers' commission in 1648. As he is not listed as a son (of William)...it seems likely that Richard Douglas was killed at the 'Storm of Dundee' in 1651. (Douglas Archives).

Around 1648 Oliver Cromwell regarded Scottish 'Engagers' as malignants who should be removed from Scottish Military Services, Civil Office and Estates etc.

Sir William's daughters were Helen Douglas and Elizabeth Douglas.

Sir William Bruce, 2nd Baronet of Stenhouse b. 1621, m. Helen Douglas daughter of Sir William Douglas of Cavers. They had two sons: William, who succeeded, and Charles, from whom the Russian General Romulus Bruce and Prussian Peter Bruce are descended. (Douglas Archives).

There was also a daughter Euphemia Douglas c1657 who married Sir James Scott, the 4th of Gala.

On 31st July, 1618 King James VI granted and conveyed to Sir William Douglas of Cavers, then styled William Douglas, fiar of Cavers...all and whole those five merk lands called the kirklands of Cavers underwritten, namely; the three merk land of Cruike, one merk land of Whittriggs, called Husie, and other lands. (Douglas Archives).

The lands at Cruike and Whittriggs (Husie) were owned by Sir William Douglas 9th of Cavers in the 1643 and 1678 according to county



valuations. William Douglas of Cavers paid the land tax on £195 there in 1663. Husie was still in the Barony of Cavers when inherited by Sir Archibald Douglas 13th of Cavers in 1698.

In about 1633 Sir William Douglas the 9th of Cavers presented a petition to the King and Royal Commissioners siting the decree of 1620 abolishing heritable jurisdiction which has been carried out in the case of his Sheriffship. In accordance with the decree, he had consented to part with the office on payment of 20,000 l Scots but had only received a warrant of 4,000 l Scots. Until the payment of the entire sum is completed the Laird refused to surrender the Office and the Vicarage teinds (taxes raised) of Cavers kirk as this would "tend to the undoing and utter ruin of his estate and children". (Calendar of House of Lords Manuscripts - Historical Manuscripts Commission - 1450 to 1678).

This Sir William Douglas was absent in England on State Business in 1640 - 1641. Plus, he was partly absent during sessions in 1664, 1665-1666 and 1670. (Members of Parliament of Scotland).

In 1639 Sir William represented the Scottish army to negotiate with King Charles I.

In 1646 Sir William was the Deputy to negotiate with the followers of the Duke of Montrose.

It has been said George Douglas of Cavers was excommunicated for the slaughter of Mr George Douglas of Tympenden in 1614. It wasn't the latter but it may have been the slaughter of George Douglas of Bonjedward. Who was this George Douglas of Cavers?

George of Bonjedward may have been slain by George Douglas of Cavers, who accused him of cattle theft. George Douglas the 8th of Bonjedward died between 1614 and 1617.

Roxburghshire: Bond of relief by William Cwnyhghame, W.S., to William Douglas, fiar of Cavers, sheriff principal of Roxburgh, and John Rutherford, sheriff depute, for the non-entries and relief due from James, Earl of Glencairne, for his sasine of the lands and barony of Hassinden. (23 Sep 1620 NRS)

Sir Archibald Douglas, 10th of Cavers, MP. c1609 - died c1669. He was the Heritable Sheriff of Teviotdale/Roxburghshire. When an MP he had command of the army of the Parliament.

Transumpt of instrument of sasine following on precept of Chancery directed to Archibald Douglas apparent of Cavers, sheriff depute of Roxburgh, in favour of Thomas Ker now of Cavers, as heir to his grandfather, the deceased Thomas Ker late of Cavers, of the lands of Nether Howden and Hairlaw in the lordship of Lauderdale, sheriffdom of Berwick, and of the lands of Cavers in the barony of Bowden, sheriffdom of Roxburgh and others. (13 Mar 1629 NRS).

In 1658 Sir Archibald Douglas purchased the lands of Denholm, Spittal, etc from William Lord Cranston, whose ancestors had held them in feu from the family of Cavers since they were first granted by a charter of Thomas, Earl of Mar c1330 - 1337

Archibald Douglas married Dame Rachel Skene, daughter of James Skene 'of Halyards/Hallyards', Curriehill, on 2nd February 1629 at Pontefract, Yorkshire, England. His eldest son was William who follows. His other sons were James c1633, he died in 1674 at the age of 41 (murdered); and Archibald c1634. His daughters were Anne c1636 and Elizabeth c1637.

On 25th November, 1675 Andrew Rutherford was executed for the murder of James Douglas (Douglass) brother to Sir William Douglas (Douglass) of Cavers.

It was James Douglas (Douglass), a son of Sir Archibald Douglas (Douglass) 10th of Cavers who was murdered.

In about 1675 - "Andrew Rutherford was accused of having conceived deadly malice against James Douglass; that having dined together in a farmer's house on the 9th of July preceding, in company with several gentlemen, he, urged by this malevolent passion, on their way home from dinner, within half-a-mile of the town of Jedburgh, did murder Douglass, by giving him a mortal wound with a small sword through the arm, and through the body under the right pap, of which wounds he died within four hours; that he immediately fled to England, and would have embarked at South Shields, for Holland, had he not been apprehended. The prisoner pleaded self-defence". (Douglas Archives).

“Robert Scott of Horsleyhill deposed that, about ten at night on the 9th of July, he, with Charles Ker of Abbotrule, William Ker of Newtown, and their servants, the prisoner, and the deceased, after dining at Swanside, called in the evening at the house of John Ker at Berchope, in their way to Jedburgh. Douglass was riding a little way before him, and Rutherford, who was at a distance behind, galloped up beyond him to Douglass. They rode a little way together, then alighted and drew their swords. On galloping up, he saw them pushing at each other, and called to them to desist; but before he could alight they were in each other's arms. He asked if there was any hurt done; to which Rutherford answered, none that he knew of; but at the same time Douglass held out his right hand, and said that he had got blood. He demanded their swords, which they immediately delivered to him. Instantly thereafter Douglass sunk down, and Rutherford fled. A surgeon was sent for from Jedburgh, they being but a quarter of a mile from the town. By his order Douglass was put on a horse...a man sitting behind, and one walking on each side. When they arrived at Jedburgh, Douglass was laid on a bed, but he died within two hours after receiving the wounds. Both in the field and when laid in bed he exclaimed: "Fie! fie! that I should be affronted by such a base man!" The witness did not hear him say he was wounded before he drew; as little did he hear him urge anything before his death in vindication of the prisoner”. (Douglas Archives).

“The jury returned their verdict on the 12th of November, unanimously finding the prisoner guilty; and on the 16th the Court passed sentence of death upon him, ordaining him to be beheaded on the 25th, at the Cross of Edinburgh”. (Douglas Archives).

In about 1634 an Instrument of Resignation was issued whereby Sir Archibald Douglas of Cavers and his spouse Rachel Skene assigned certain of their lands in favour of their eldest son William Douglas and his wife Katherine Rig. (Calendar of House of Lords Manuscripts - Historical Manuscripts Commission - 1450 to 1678).

This Laird Sir Archibald Douglas 10th of Cavers and his wife were fervent Covenanters. In 1662 the Douglasses refused to admit a curate sent by the official Church, and representatives from Jedburgh were stoned by the women of Cavers. After this the Covenanters in the area were persecuted by law and had to resort to secret conventicles and prayer meetings in

hidden places such as Peden's Pulpit on Ruberslaw and Peden's Vale at Denholm Dean. (Alastair M Redpath on Cavers History).

In 1690 the Presbyterians were finally recognised as the established Church in Scotland but the strictest Covenanters would not join it. A group of them known as the Cameronians formed their own congregation in Denholm, under the patronage of the Douglas family at Caversi. (Alastair M Redpath on Cavers History).

After 1664 the estate of Cavers gradually stretched to some 10,000 acres. (Alastair M Redpath on Cavers History).

In 1754 - 1755 its various farms were let to seventeen tenants at £20 per annum, though some chose to pay their dues in 'bear' (barley), 'meal' (oatmeal) and 'boll' (a dry measure of grain). In addition, there were four corn mills on the estate at Cauld Mill, Trow Mill, Denholm Mill and Spittal Mill, mainly used as a food supply for pigs and poultry. (Alastair M Redpath on Cavers History).

The largest farms were required to send dozens of different birds each month to the 'big hoose' i.e. Cavers House, which was also a major employer in the area, with no less than nineteen servants - as well as cooks, chambermaids, kitchen maids, housekeepers, footmen and gardeners. Lady Cavers monthly disbursements paid for services which sustained many Hawick traders through the year, covering all manner of businesses from accoutrement (items of dress or equipment) makers to wrights. As many as 292 carriages of coal were brought from the seams of Northumberland to meet the estate's yearly demands. The grounds to the south of the house were also used to hunt deer and birds. (Alastair M Redpath on Cavers History).

There was lint spinning at Cavers West Mains, clay pits at Cavers Knowes, and as many as 200 men found work in the local quarries when a big job was at hand. The last of the stone from Denholm Hill quarry, for instance, was used in the reconstruction of Cavers House in 1750. (Alastair M Redpath on Cavers History).

**Sir William Douglas, 11th of Cavers - c1632 - he died Dec 1676.** He was the Heritable Sheriff of Teviotdale/Roxburghshire. In March 1659 Sir William Douglas married Katherine Rigg daughter of Thomas Rigg of

Atherne and Euphemia. His sons were William, Archibald, John, James and Thomas. Thomas was born in May, 1677.

William Douglas and then Archibald Douglas became Lords or Lairds of Cavers.

Katherine Rigg the reputed 'Good Lady Cavers', for being a Covenant and not conforming was imprisoned in Stirling Castle in November 1682. She was only released permanently in December 1684, when, upon being given the choice of conforming or leaving the country, she took up residence in England.

Another report says that Lady Cavers was imprisoned in the Stirling Toolbooth.

Samuel Douglas of Cavers, a Covenanter, was amongst those drowned on 'The Crown' in 1679 whilst being transported. Where does Samuel Douglas fit in?

Sir William Douglas follows as 12th of Cavers. Sir Archibald Douglas became the 13th of Cavers.

It was written in the History of 'The Landed Gentry of Great Britain and Ireland' by Sir Bernard Burke that William Douglas 11th of Cavers died in December, 1676 and his 5th son Thomas Douglas was born posthumously in May 1677.

Thomas Douglas of May 1677 married Jean Pringle of Haining, Selkirkshire. They had Andrew Douglas who died in December 1785. (Sir Bernard Burke - History of the Landed Gentry - Great Britain and Ireland (various versions); and Hawick and Its Old Memories - James Wilson in 1858. James was the Town Clerk).

A Pringle site gives Jean as Jean/Jane and her father as Andrew Pringle.

Andrew Douglas who died on 29th December 1785 was initially a London Merchant. Andrew married a Miss Mary Mercer. (Annals of a Border Club - George Tancred 1899 & Sir Bernard Burke - History of the Landed Gentry).

Andrew Douglas and Mary Mercer married on 25th October, 1752 at Wimbledon, Surrey, England. By Licence at St Mary.

Mary Mercer was likely baptised on 16th April, 1734 at St Mary the Virgin, Ewell, Surrey. With her parents being Thomas and Alice Mercer.

Later on in his working career Andrew Douglas was referred to as "Paymaster to the Navy, of Suffolk St, St Martin in the Fields, London. He had Power of Attorney for Viscount Melville, Minister for the Navy. Following Andrew's death there was an inquiry into the handling of Navy funds, involving Henry Dundas, Viscount Melville. Viscount Melville was subsequently acquitted of the charges of misappropriating Navy funds; Andrew Douglas might have been similarly charged had he still been alive" (Douglas Archives).

The 1784 Will of Andrew Douglas, London Merchant and Paymaster to the Navy can be downloaded from the National Archives at the Public Record Office, UK.

In it he refers to his brother Robert Douglas "whatever legal right I have or may have in the House and Lands in the Manor of Taunton Dean, Somerset of which Lands my dearest brother Robert Douglas made a dormant surrender to me which surrender seems never to have both wholly verified by him..."

Three commonplace books of Andrew Douglas, paymaster to the Navy, father of George Douglas of Cavers (born 1753), consisting chiefly of philosophical reflections, poetry, notes on current affairs and medical receipts, mostly taken from printed sources. (Adv.MSS.17.1.10-17.1.12. Dates: 1772- Archives and Manuscripts - National Library of Scotland).

**Andrew Douglas had two sons - George Douglas who became 18th Laird or Lord of Cavers and Archibald Douglas who died in 1825.**

Andrew Douglas' daughters were Jane Rachel and Violet Mary Douglas.

At the St Martin in the Fields records at Family Search there was a Jane Rachel Douglas baptised 25th May, 1756. She was born on 4th May, 1756 at St Martin in the Fields, Westminster, Middlesex.

Violet Mary Douglas was born 3rd May, 1759. She was baptised on 31st May, 1759 at St Martin in the Fields, Westminster, Middlesex.

Archibald Douglas of Adderstone (1755-1825) was the younger son of Andrew Douglas. He was christened at St Martin in the Fields, Westminster, Middlesex on 20th February, 1755, being born on 8th February, 1755.

On the death of Captain John Douglas of Cavers in 1786 Archibald's brother George Douglas succeeded to Cavers, while he (Archibald) inherited the lands of Adderstone and Midshiels (Hawick Parish) and lived at the latter.

Adderstone and Edderston was the same place.

Archibald Douglas was at Midshiels in the period 1788-1795 when taxed for owning a carriage and was taxed for having up to 5 carriage or saddle horses at Midshiels in the period 1787-1797.

Archibald Douglas paid tax on 3 female servants at Midshiels in 1787, 2 in 1788, 1 in 1789 and 2 in 1790 and 1791. He also had 4 male servants at Midshiels in 1790, 3 in 1791-92, 2 in 1793 and 4 in 1794 and 1797.

Archibald Douglas also had 2 farm horses in 1797 and also paid tax on 3 non-working dogs in the same year. He was probably the Douglas of Midshiels who subscribed to John Learmont's book of poetry in 1791. He was recorded as owner of Midshiels in the 1811 Land Tax Rolls.

He was listed as a Commissioner for Roxburghshire in 1805 and 1819.

Archibald Douglas had married Jane Gale from Arkleby, Whitehaven, Cumberland. Their children were - Andrew John - 17 May, 1795 who died at Midshiels in 1806; Archibald Pringle - 10 October, 1796 who succeeded him; Anne Mary b. 25 November 1787, Jane b. 3 April 1789 and Katherine Rachel b. 6 July 1790, who married James Dove of Wexham House near Windsor; Elizabeth b. 9 February 1792, who married Ensign Aaron Reid of the 72nd Highlanders; and Grace Thomasina b. 11 July 1793.

Archibald Pringle Douglas married Margaret Violet Pringle, daughter of Mark Pringle of Haining, Selkirkshire.

There was also an Isabella Douglas born about 1792 and a Thomas Gale Douglas b. 18 January 1798.

All the children were baptised in Wilton, Roxburghshire, with the exception of Isabella Douglas whose baptism has not yet been confirmed.

Letter from Duke of Lauderdale notifying commissioners of treasury and exchequer that gift of ward, non-entry etc of barony of Cavers to John Murray of Philliphaugh is for benefit of younger children of deceased Sir William Douglas of Cavers, Whitehall. (1 Feb 1677. NRS 1677).

Letter from the Duke of Lauderdale to the Earl of Airlie regretting that he cannot obtain for said Earl the gift of the ward and marriage of the heir of the deceased Sir William Douglas of Cavers. Whitehall, 8 February 1677. Letter from A. Forrester to Earl of Airlie relating to foresaid gift and to other such matters - 'As to Watertownes ward my lord Duke sayes he is sory to hear that it is so unconsiderable ....'. [Seal affixed]. Whitehall (8 February 1677. NRS 1677).

James Douglas of 'Trows' was alive in Roxburghshire in the late 1600's - early 1700's. He is said to have been an illegitimate member of the Douglas of Cavers family. He had a daughter Esther Douglas who was born in about 1714, and another daughter Margaret.

**Sir William Douglas, 12th of Cavers - c1660 - he died 28th Feb 1698.** "Sir William was deprived of the Heritable Sheriffship for not complying with the innovations of the Government". He married Elizabeth Douglas daughter of John Douglas of Newcastle. No issue.

John Douglas of Newcastle was an Officer in the Scots Dragoons (Scots Greys). In 1689 he was Captain of the Corps.

Sir William Douglas himself was in the Army and left in 1694 when the Regiment went to Flanders.

Sir William Douglas was interred at Cavers on 17th March, 1698.

Sir William's widow married Sir A Home.



Denholm Games and Fair - "The fair was instituted by William II, in favour of Sir William Douglas of Cavers, on October 12, 1696 – to be held each year on June 16 for eight consecutive days. It was a huge event in the rural calendar, used for hiring seasonal workers, while a muckle bonfire known as the Bough-a-Bale (or Bow-o-Bale, literally a 'bundle of branches') was held on the Green the night afore until about 1840. The fair would be opened by the Laird of Cavers riding up to the Cross ('riding the fair') and making a proclamation; he also had the right to collect dues on all transactions..."(Project Hawick online).

Tack by Helen, Countess of Tarras, Edinburgh, to Archibald Douglass, brother of Sir William Douglass of Cavers, of the Parks of Minto, the rowme in the barony of Minto called the Hills of Minto and the rowme there called the Hill houses of Minto for 3 years. (4 Mar 1696 NRS).

Rowme is an old word and could mean rooms or living spaces.

Sir Archibald Douglas, 13th of Cavers, MP - c1668 - he died on 6th July 1741 at Teviotdale/Roxburghshire. Archibald followed his brother by becoming the next Lord or Laird of Cavers. Sir Archibald Douglas was the Heritable Sheriff of Teviotdale/Roxburghshire. Archibald Douglas was Receiver General and Post Master for Scotland. He married Anna Scott daughter of Francis Scott of Gorrenby/Gorrenberry. His sons were William, Archibald, James, John, Thomas, Franciss (Francis), Walter and Alexander. Thomas birth or baptism - is 4th September 1704. Franciss is 10th February 1706. Walter is 12th October 1707. Alexander was baptised on 5th September 1710 in Edinburgh.

There was also Richard Douglas 13 May, 1709 Edinburgh Parish - he died 10th July 1710 Edinburgh Parish and David Douglas 17th June, 1712 Edinburgh Parish.

All the sons of Archibald the 13th died without issue.

More on Alexander 1710 - He is mentioned in his brother James' Will, being referred to as "my brother Alexander"...

His death notice on 1st April 1780 is recorded in the Scots magazine Volume 42. "At Cavers, Alexander Douglas Esq, youngest brother of the Rev Dr James Douglas of Cavers."

William Douglas who follows became 14th of Cavers, next was Archibald Douglas 15th of Cavers, next was the Rev James Douglas who became 16th of Cavers. Captain John Douglas became 17th of Cavers.

Sir Archibald Douglas is listed as attending sessions in the Parliament of Scotland in 1700, 1702, 1703, 1704, 1705 and 1706.

In 1700 the Scottish Ruler was William of Orange and in the years 1702 to 1706 inclusive it was Queen Anne who ruled. (A Topographical and Historical Account of the Town of Kelso - James Haig - Edinburgh).

William of Orange was Dutch and in 1689 he became William II of Scotland and William III of England and Ireland. Initially he ruled with his wife Queen Mary until her death in 1694 when he then became the sole Monarch.

In 1710, there was a Petition to the Right Honourable the Lord Chief Barron...of the Exchequer by Archibald Douglas of Cavers, Sir William Bennet of Grupit, Sir John Rutherford and Gideon Scott of Falnash, praying for allocation to Roxburghshire of some part of the equivalent money for the encouragement of coarse woollen manufactures. (Transactions of the Hawick Archaeological Society - 1863).

The processing of the wool such as cleaning and combing was envisaged for Hawick and Jedburgh, equally.

Calendar of Treasury Papers of Scotland - 1714 - 1719. Regarding 31 December, 1715 to 22 December, 1716. Weekly Certificates by Archibald Douglas of Cavers Esq. General Receiver of Land Tax, Crown Rates, Rents and new Duties upon houses in Scotland; and Paymaster of salaries, pensions and allowances there ...

Sir Archibald Douglas was an Officer of the Crown in 1728. (Members of Parliament of Scotland).

Disposition by Archibald Douglas of Cavers to John, Duke of Roxburghe, of three acres of land called the Ladylands of Hassendeanbank, 12 June 1739. (Minto Inventory Acc.10912 - Minto Charters (Additional) and Other Estate Papers).

Archibald Douglas of Cavers presented the Rev Charles Douglas as the Minister of Cavers on 1st May, 1738 at Jedburgh, Roxburghshire. The Rev Charles Douglas was Ordained in Jedburgh on 16th August, 1738. He had been Licensed in Jedburgh on 1st March, 1738. He died on 1st December, 1745 in Cavers, Roxburghshire.

Archibald Douglas' daughters were Ann, Catharine and Euphane/Euphan. Euphan's b. date is 30 November 1700.

Ann/Anna Douglas married William Campbell in about 1721 in Fife. Ann/Anna was disinherited by her father Archibald who was displeased as she and William had eloped to Gretna Green and were married there.

Catharine Douglas and Euphane/Euphan Douglas were mentioned in the Will of their brother the Rev Dr James Douglas. They had been living at his home in Cavers at the time when his Will was made and they were to receive a small private stipend. It was to be £40 sterling each year for board and for paying for a man and maid to attend to them. (Annals of a Border Club ...1899 - George Tancred).

In his Will too, the Rev Dr James Douglas leaves the sisters £100 per annum for the remainder of their lives, and seems to require his successive options for male heirs to pay £40 per annum for rent of property and hired help...

Also, he refers to them as his 'unmarried sisters'.

From the Will of Rev Dr Sir James Douglas 16th of Cavers, he had 1st Cousins - Andrew Douglas Merchant of Suffolk Street, London, Captain Archibald Douglas, Inspector of Works at Berwick and Robert Douglas, Planter of Jamaica. (Annals of a Border Club - George Tancred. George Tancred refers to the Will and makes some finer points about it).

It has been said that all the sons of Sir Archibald Douglas the 13th of Cavers died without issue. So where do the 1st cousins fit into the picture?

An extract from the Will of the Rev Dr James Douglas - " I leave to Captain John Douglas and the heirs male of his body; whom failing, to Andrew Douglass of Suffolk Street, London, Merchant, my 1st cousin, and the heirs male of his body; whom failing, to Captain Archibald Douglas,

Inspector of Works at Berwick, also my 1st cousin; whom failing, to Robert Douglas, also my 1st cousin, Planter, Jamaica, and the heirs male of their bodies; whom all failing, to my lawful heirs whatsoever... To my sister Catharine Douglas and to my sister Euphane". He expressed a wish that these two ladies should remain, during their joint lives, at Cavers, where they had lived while he was laird, and bequeathed the annual sum of £40 sterling to each for board and maintaining a man and maid to attend to them. (Annals of a Border Club ... 1899 - George Tancred).

The Will of Rev Dr Sir James Douglas can be downloaded from the National Archives at the Public Record Office, UK. It was signed by him on 27th September, 1777. Sir James died in July, 1780.

#### Captain Archibald Douglas in Berwick -

Northumberland Archives

[NRO 00452/C/3/2/8/71](#)

Letter to the Rev. Dr Sharp, Bamburgh Castle, Northumberland from Captain Archd. [Archibald] Douglas, Berwick upon Tweed. It sets out arrangements for watches and signals on the coast.

19 Aug. 1779

Northumberland Archives

[NRO 00452/C/3/2/8/85](#)

Letter apparently to Rev. Dr Sharp from Captain Archd. [Archibald] Douglas, Berwick upon Tweed. It relates to news of privateers and other matters relating to the defence of the coast.

16 Sept. 1779

The above appears to be about the relevant Captain Archibald Douglas.

**Robert Douglas in Jamaica** - A Robert Douglas served as an executor and was listed as a planter in Jamaica in the mid-18th century, managing the Spring Garden Estate in Westmoreland in the 1760s and 1770s as part of his duties to the estate of the deceased Mrs Elizabeth Rutherford. He was involved with the estate's crop accounts, which included sugar, rum, and molasses production, highlighting his role in the Jamaican plantation economy (AI)

Robert Douglas filed Crop Accounts for Spring Garden estate (Westmoreland, Jamaica) in 1762, 1763, 1765 in his role as Executor to Mrs Elizabeth Rutherford (q.v.). In 1765 Douglas was listed as 'planter and one of the executors'. In 1766 the estate was listed in the Crop Accounts as being under Douglas' 'care and direction' as one of Elizabeth Rutherford's executors. He is listed in this role again in 1771 and 1772. (1B/11/4/4 Crop Account 1763-1766 Jamaica Archive p. 39, 91, 163; IB/11/4/6 Crop Account 1772-81 Jamaica Archive p. 36; IB/11/4/6 Crop Account 1772-81 Jamaica Archive p. 160, 219. ucl.ac.uk).

The labour for running of the Spring Garden Estate was by numerous enslaved people.

Is the above about the relevant Robert Douglas?

The mention of Andrew Douglas, Captain Archibald Douglas and Robert Douglas makes it likely that those three were brothers.

From the Will of Andrew Douglas we now know that he and Robert Douglas were brothers. Also, from the Will of Robert Douglas we know that the three of them were brothers.

We are told on good authority (Will of Robert Douglas just mentioned) that he had sisters Mary, Jean, Euphan and Barbara.

From 'Find a Grave', Robert Douglas was born in about 1728 and died on 20th November, 1783 at the age of 55. So that makes his birth date about 1728. He is buried at the St Mary Magdalene Church at Taunton, Taunton Deane, Somerset. He was of Bishop's Hull.

In the about 1782 Will of Robert Douglas he refers to his "dwelling house and garden and all other my Lands at Taunton Dean in the parish of Bishop's Hull ". A bit further on the Will refers to 'Taunton Dean in Somerset'. From brother Andrew's Will we know that Robert had an interest in lands at Taunton Deane, Somerset.

Robert Douglas also refers to his brother Andrew and Mary his wife, nephew George, nephew Archibald and nieces Jean and Mary.

He mentions no wife or children.

The biggest interest was that he also leaves money to his sisters Mary (possibly) Waterman, Jean, Euphan and Barbara.

He leaves his gold watch by Lindsay and seals with the family coat of arms and silver plate to his brother Archibald. Unfortunately, he doesn't mention where his brother Archibald is resident.

He also leaves benefits to sister Mary's children, John, Thomas, Willam and Jean and also Margaret whom he refers to as his sister Mary's late husband's daughter.

He also refers to a nephew William Oliver.

Executors of his Will are his brothers Andrew and Archibald, William Oliver and Samuel Nicholson.

His body is to be buried "wherever he dies without funeral pomp and with as little expense..."

There is no date.

The Appearance which follows has the date 8 June 1784. William Oliver is mentioned as deceased in that. The Will was proved on 14 June 1784 in relation to the life grant to Archibald, and again on 15 March 1784 relating to the life grant to Samuel Nicholson and William Oliver, both at London.

The father of Andrew, Archibald, Robert, Mary, Jean, Euphan and Barbara Douglas was Thomas Douglas born in May 1677. He was the father of the above and three other children - William, Vilot/Violet and Kathren Douglas. The last mentioned three children, and Andrew Douglas were from Earlside, Cavers. So, in total ten children.

Violet/Vilot Douglas was said to be the eldest daughter of Thomas Douglas May 1677. She married John Oliver of Dinlabrye, Roxburghshire at Linthaughlee (Lintalee near Jedburgh) on 17th December, 1734. The witnesses were Archibald Douglas and his son William, Robert Pringle of Clifton, John Chisholm &c.

They later had a son William Oliver.

John Oliver's parents were William Oliver and Mary Chisholm.

Sir Archibald Douglas the 13th of Cavers "was a gentleman of the strictest honour and integrity and steadily attached to the interest of his country which he served in various capacities and always with applause..." (London, July 18th 1741).

Letter from Archibald Douglas of Cavers, London, to John Clerk stating that the writer's commission for the land tax had been renewed, and adding 'as yet they have not leasure to adjust what relates to the management of the Scots revenue' (19 Oct 1714 NRS).

Archibald Douglas of Cavers, receiver general: account of money arising from forfeited estates (sale of personal effects of Earls of Linlithgow and Winton), 1717-1732, declared 14 Jul 1732. (1717-1732 NRS).

Letters to Sir John Clerk from Archibald Douglas of Cavers, MP for Roxburgh, mainly on Queensberry estate affairs but with references to events in Parliament, local politics and elections, and with comments on Sir John's plan for a national bank. (1726-1739 NRS).

On 25 January 1726. Alexander Burn, London to Archibald Douglas of Cavers, Edinburgh concerning the Duke of Douglas's settlements 'with views to your own or your family's succession'. Adds that the reduction of his Grace's debts by his late father saved him from ruination 'without which, His Grace has often told me, he should not have had land enough left in Scotland for a Burial place'. (1726 NRS).

**Sir William Douglas 14th of Cavers, MP - c1695 - died 1748.** Unmarried. No issue. In 1728 he was appointed Keeper of the Register of Hornings. A Horning was a document that publicly announced a person as an outlaw.

Accounts, 1714, from fruit tree suppliers and undated lists of orchard trees and vegetables from the papers of the Douglas of Cavers family. (Acc.13172 Dates: 1714...Archives and Manuscripts - National Library of Scotland).

Sir William Douglas resigned as Sheriff of Roxburghshire in favour of his brother Archibald Douglas so that he could concentrate on his Parliamentary career.

Sir William Douglas was the Member of Parliament for Roxburghshire from 1715 to 1722, for Dumfries Burghs from 1722 to 1727, and for Roxburghshire again from 1727 to 1734 and February 1742 to 1747.

Sir William Douglas was also Storekeeper of Customs House, Ireland (Members of Parliament of Scotland).

Sir Archibald Douglas was the last Heritable Sheriff of Teviotdale/Roxburghshire, on the resignation of his brother Sir William Douglas MP.

Heritable jurisdictions were abolished by act of Parliament shortly after 1745. The finish date appears to be 1747.

Archibald Douglas succeeded his father as Postmaster General for Scotland. Unmarried. No issue.

A Jean Douglas of the Cavers family was born in about 1763 to Archibald Douglas of Cavers a Farmer in Minto. Archibald Douglas had died by 1787 when Jean married Thomas Pringle a Builder based in Edinburgh. Who were Jean and Archibald Douglas? It is estimated that Archibald was born between 1717 and 1740. There is a baptism for a Janet Douglas to an Archibald Douglas of Newmiln (sic) at Kirkton Parish 30/3/1763. Who is this Janet Douglas and who is that Archibald?

It is interesting to read that the old village of Minto in Minto Parish was demolished in the early to mid 1800's and replaced with a new planned town. The village was removed entirely so that the 2nd Earl of Minto would not be able to see it from his mansion!

Minto appeared in 1383 as a Barony in a list of rentals paid to Roxburgh Castle. The village was raided and burnt in about 1490, and again in 1545. It was then in the possession of the Turnbull family. That original Turnbull family had strong connections to the early Douglas Lords or Lairds of Bonjedward and Timpendean. Minto village was eventually sold to Sir Gilbert Elliot c1650, the ancestor of the Earls of Minto.



**Sir Archibald Douglas 15th of Cavers - c1698 - he died in January, 1744.**

Sir Archibald Douglas married Elizabeth Scott daughter of Hugh Scott 5th of Gala. No issue.

Before he was the 15th Lord or Laird of Cavers, Sir Archibald Douglas was of Deanbrae.

"Deanbrae" in Roxburghshire refers to a place name found in several different properties, including Deanbrae House and Deanbrae Cottage in Hawick, as well as Dean Brae in Sprouston near Kelso, all located in the Scottish Borders council area which is the modern administrative region for the historic county of Roxburghshire. There is also a historic 17th or 18th century tavern in the Dean village of Roxburghshire, which was later incorporated into a Scottish baronial house. (AI).

Sir Archibald Douglas, Petitioned claiming the heritable jurisdiction of the Sheriffship of Roxburgh. This likely happened once he became the 15th of Cavers.

Extract disposition by Walter Scott of Harden to Archibald Douglas of Cavers of parts of barony of Aikwood (Huttlerburn) and parts of estate of Harden etc. (3 Apr 1755 NRS).

Disposition by Archibald Douglas of Cavers to Walter Scott of Harden of part of lands and barony of Oakwood called lands and steading of Eastfield and Wormwood alias Huttlerburn, and others. (10 May 1755 NRS).

**The Reverend Dr Sir James Douglas 16th of Cavers - c1700 - he died in July 1780, at Durham, England.** Sir James Douglas was Prebendary of Durham Cathedral.

A prebend was initially income from Church lands. Later in history the title was used purely as 'esteem'.

Cropbooks of the Cavers estate. (Acc.6442. Dates: 1761-1763. Archives and Manuscripts - National Library of Scotland).

In the reign of George III (1760 onwards) there was a 'Reverend James Douglas of Cunzieron'. It has been found that he was the Reverend Dr James Douglas, son of Archibald Douglas of Cavers.

The Rev Dr Sir James Douglas married Jean Halyburton daughter of Sir George Halyburton of Pitcur, in Edinburgh. Her nickname may have been 'Peggy'. No issue.

Affairs of Scotland – June, 1771.

At Jedburgh...James Nutter, sometime a bricklayer at Hawick, accused of breaking (into) the house of Mr Douglas of Cavers, and stealing fundry articles of silver plate...

Captain Sir John Douglas 17th of Cavers and of Edderton or Adderstone (North West of Hawick) - 4 June 1703 - 30 May, 1786. John Douglas married Ann Scott, daughter of Hugh Scott 5th of Gala. No issue.

Captain Sir John Douglas was in Wilton in 1783.

Captain Sir John Douglas was the 4th son of Archibald Douglas to succeed to the Lairdship. He served with the Royal Navy, commanding H.M.S. 'Greyhound' in 1745, when he captured 2 heavily armed privateers, and later commanded H.M.S. 'Unicorn', which helped take the privateer 'Marshal Broglie', belonging to Brest.

He retired from the Navy in about 1750 and then purchased Adderstonelee and Adderstoneshiel from Francis Scott of Gorrenberry (likely his uncle).

About the same time he also bought Midshiels from Scott of Crumhaugh, and was therefore sometimes known as 'of Midshiels'. He was also known as 'of Ederton' (presumably meaning 'Adderstone').

He is recorded in 1762 as one of the men raising an action against Henry, Duke of Buccleuch over the division of Hassendean Common.

Hassendean was in the Parish of Minto. In fact, the Parish of Minto mostly covered Hassendean and Minto.

In 1775 he was involved with Turnbull of Knowe in arranging the repair of the road leading to Hawick 'by the back of Meadshiells' and the road

leading by Clarilaw and Newton to the main turnpike road. He succeeded on the death of his brother Rev Dr James Douglas in 1780, but was already an old man by then.

He was taxed for having 3 male servants in Wilton Parish in 1778 and 1779 and 4 in 1785. He was also taxed for having 5 female servants and 7 carriage horses in 1785, as well as for a carriage in 1786.

As stated Captain John Douglas had married Ann Scott, younger daughter of Hugh Scott 5th of Gala, who seems to have been the sister of his brother Archibald's wife Elizabeth Scott. Having no male issue, he was succeeded by George Douglas, son of his cousin Andrew Douglas.

In the 'Gladstone papers' it says that the Douglasses of Cavers held the lands of Ormiston and Porterlands from 1530 until the 1700's.

Sir George Douglas 18th of Cavers - was born on 21st January, 1754 and baptised on 1st March, 1754 at St Martin in the Fields, Westminster, London - he died in 1815. He attended the Westminster School, commencing there in June, 1764 at the age of 13. He Matriculated on 17th June 1772. He was still a Westminster School student on 24th December, 1772. In 1776 he obtained a BA and in 1779 an MA, both from Oxford. (Westminster School records).

He was 'adm. to the Middle Temple 26 Jun 1770" (Westminster School records).

The phrase "adm. Middle Temple 26 Jun 1770" is a historical record indicating that this student was admitted to the Middle Temple then a legal institution in London. This record signifies the admission of a new member to the barristers' society, a common event for legal professionals and students in the 18th century. (Web).

Westminster School is a public school in Westminster, London, England, in the precincts of Westminster Abbey. It descends from a charity school founded by Westminster Benedictines before the Norman Conquest, as documented by the Croyland Chronicle and a charter of King Offa. (Web).

The earliest records of a school at Westminster date back to the 1340s and are held in Westminster Abbey's Muniment Room. (Web).

On 9 July 1789 Sir George Douglas married Lady Jane Stuart, daughter of Francis Stuart, 9th Earl of Moray. (Cavers Inventory - additional - Acc 11228 at the National Library of Scotland).

Cavers papers refer to her as Jane Stuart and also Grace Stuart. Anyway she was a miniature artist, she was also musical, a highly intelligent and knowledgeable lady.

Contract of marriage between George Douglas of Cavers and Lady Jane Stuart. (Acc.11228/21 Date: 9 July 1789. Archives and Manuscripts - National Library of Scotland).

However, Ancestry records show her as Lady Grace Stuart.

Reading between the lines it appears that she was initially Jane but decided to call herself Grace.

Anyway, the Lady died on 23 March, 1846 at 33 Queen Street, Edinburgh.

George Douglas was a first cousin once removed of Captain John Douglas, 17th of Cavers.

Children of George Douglas 18th and Jane/Grace Stuart were – James Douglas who follows, he died on 17<sup>th</sup> August, 1861. Moreover, there was an elder son Francis 'Frank' James Douglas who was in the Coldstream Guards at the time of Waterloo in 1815. He died from a horse riding accident in about 1821. Also, there were two other sons, Archibald and William. Plus, there were two daughters – Jane who died at 16 and Anne.

Photocopy of plan of excambion between Duke of Roxburghe on his lands of Hassendeanbank and George Douglas of Cavers on his lands of Denholm Haugh. (1797 NRS).

Act and warrant and decret in favour of George Douglas, Esq, of Cavers authorising him to sell the farm of Cunzerton for redeeming the land tax of the entailed estate of Cavers. (29 Mar 1811 NRS).

Petition by George Douglas of Cavers and Archibald Tod of Drygrange, his trustee, for effecting redemption of land-tax of estate of Cavers, sheriffdom of Roxburgh. (27 Feb 1812 NRS).

Act and decret of approbation in favour of George Douglas, Esq, of Cavers respecting the application of the reversion of the price of the lands of Cunzerton and Harkers, sold for redemption of the land tax of the entailed estate of Cavers. (17 Nov 1813 NRS).

Decreet of exoneration in favour of Archibald Tod, Esq, of Drygrange, trustee for George Douglas, Esq, of Cavers in his application for the redemption of Cavers land tax. (15 Aug 1814 NRS).

George Douglas was a flamboyant and flashy dresser. He flaunted his role of Lord, even riding in an ornamented horse drawn carriage when he visited England.

Sir James Douglas 19th of Cavers – 10 Oct 1790 - he had a stroke and died soon afterwards on 17th August, 1861, at Cavers House, Roxburghshire. He was said to be critically ill sometime before this happened. Sir James was in his 71st year (Trove Australia - newspapers).

Sir James Douglas inherited the lands and Barony of Cavers from his father. He had great religious zeal and was a Writer and Speaker on religious topics. He married Emma Carnegie, daughter of David Carnegie 4th Bart of Pittarron and the Earl of Southesk.

His son was James Douglas 20th of Cavers who follows. He also had another son. His daughters were Mary, Emma, Lucy, Ellen and Agnes. Newspapers say he had two sons and five daughters.

Was there also a daughter Madeline?

Sir James Douglas 20th of Cavers - 1822 - to 29 July, 1878 at Midgard, Hawick. It is said that he died suddenly. In June, 1858 he had married Mary Graham Agnew youngest daughter of the late Sir Andrew Agnew, 7th Baron of Lochnaw. Sir James Douglas and Mary Graham Agnew married on 23rd June, 1858. No issue.

Their marriage was estranged right from the start. James had married her according to his parent's wishes rather than a Swiss lady who his parents disapproved of and threatened to disinherit him if he did so.

Sir James Douglas was the last (male) to inherit the Barony of Cavers title. So he was the last Laird or Lord of Cavers.

In the end Sir James Douglas 19th of Cavers only remaining descendant was a female child Mary, the daughter of his only child Mary Douglas who married William Elphinstone Malcolm of Burnfoot, Dumfries on 15th April 1847 at 34 Moray Place, Edinburgh 1878. Mary (Douglas) Malcolm had died in 1859. Mary Malcolm, his granddaughter married Edward Palmer in 1879. He was a son of the Rev George Palmer of Sullington, Sussex. Mary Malcolm inherited the remainder of the Estates of Cavers and Burnfoot. (Acc.6684/49 - Archives and Manuscripts - National Library of Scotland).

Mary Malcolm and Edward Palmer took on the surname of Palmer - Douglas. They had two sons Archibald and Malcolm Palmer-Douglas.

Over these centuries in Scotland when the Douglasses of Cavers were involved with the Barony and Title of Cavers there was a lot of buying and selling lands and other property; also the gifting and taking back of lands by the Kings and Royal Commissioners of those days. There were also private gifts and land swaps. So, it is not clear at all as to who owned which lands and property at certain times and for how long. Even titles such as the Heritable Sheriff and the Warden of the Border Marches were subject to the whims of the Scottish Royalty, Royal Commissioners and notable Scots.

Gradually the hereditary estates of the Cavers whittled away, after the Barony of Cavers and the Lairds or Lords produced no male heir.

The Cavers estate remained in Douglas hands until 1975 when James Palmer-Douglas moved away and the remaining lands were put on the market.

However, the family still retains small portions, including a burial plot in the corner of the Auld Kirk graveyard and a parcel of land surrounding the Hornshole monument. (Alastair M Redpath on Cavers History).

Writs relating to lands mainly in Roxburgh and Berwickshire, 1353-1812. Miscellaneous legal and estate papers, 1506-1947, including rentals of parish of Smailholm, 1643, Kirktoun, 1739, Weensland, 1773, and Cavers, 1781-6. Legal and financial papers relating to Roxburgh, 1598-1734, including eques of county, 1598, 1630, 1636. Papers connected with the office of receiver general for Scotland, late 17 cent.-1755, including correspondence, 1708-18, and official accounts, 1707-39. Papers concerning the African Company, c.1700. Miscellaneous antiquarian papers, 1714-1950, including account of family of Douglas of Cavers, c.1750. Plans, 1794-1859, including Cavers estate farms (with valuations), 1826, 1847-54. (NRS).

Of course there are other interesting aspects to this story -

\*Sir James, 2nd Earl of Douglas, his death on the field of Otterburn in August, 1388.

\*The 'Legend of the Flag' which was carried into the battle of Otterburn by the son of Sir James, Sir Archibald Douglas of Cavers. It is reported that the Standard can be seen at the Museum of Antiquities in Edinburgh. (Sir Archibald was the second illegitimate son of Sir James). In 1404 his aunt Lady Isobel/Isabella Douglas, Countess of Mar and Garioch, granted Sir Archibald Douglas the estates of the Barony of Cavers, 2 miles North West of Hawick, and the Heritable Sheriffship of Teviotdale (later renamed as Roxburghshire). Isobel/Isabella was the sister of Sir James Douglas who was killed at Otterburn.

\*The history of Cavers Castle which morphed into becoming Cavers House. It is currently a ruined historic relic. But moves are afoot to privately restore and conserve this neglected outpost of history. From the 13th Century ie 1268 Cavers was the stronghold of the Balliol family. In the 15th Century Cavers was a Tower House, and in the 17th to 18th Centuries it is described as a 'Baronial or Mansion' type residence.

\*Prior to the Balliols in the reign of King William the Lion, the lands were held by a succession of the Abbots of Jedburgh Abbey. The Abbey also held significant lands in Northumberland.

There is a Douglas Vault at Cavers. I am certain that Vault contains much more of the intriguing story of the Barony and Title of Cavers.

Many thanks to Sally Baber of New Zealand for her clear insight and valuable contributions.

These are all finds which concentrated on the Douglasses of Cavers

Sally E Douglas

24th October, 2025