

Earl of Angus

The Red Douglases

The "Red Douglas" line of Angus Earls originated through an illegitimate child of William, 1st Earl of Douglas. George, 4th Earl of Angus, was a third cousin of James, 9th Earl of Douglas but was more closely aligned to his Stewart cousins.

As a result, the "Red Douglases" sided

with King James II at Arkinholm and contributed greatly to the fall of the "Black Douglases." The 5th Earl of Angus, Sir Archibald "Bell the Cat", was involved in the conspiracy by a clique of nobles to remove the king's favorite, Cochrane. When the tale of the mice tying a bell around the cat's neck was related to the nobles, Sir Archibald stepped forward proclaiming, "I will bell the cat!" The nobles then captured Cochrane and hung him from Lauder Bridge in front of King James III. The two elder sons of "Bell the Cat" fell at the Battle of Flodden Field in 1513.



Bell the Cat

Duke of Douglas



After the death in 1761 of the Duke of Douglas (last accepted Chief of the House of Douglas), a dispute arose – called **The Douglas Cause** - concerning his legal heir.

Some of his titles and estates passed to the Duke of Hamilton (& Marquess of Angus)...



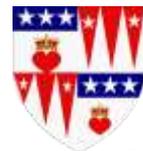
Duke of Hamilton

while other titles and estates passed to the Earl of Home.



Douglases of Morton

Andrew Douglas of Hermiston, younger son of Archibald I, Lord of Douglas and uncle of William "le Hardy" was the progenitor of the Douglases of Dalkeith, the Earls of Morton, and the Douglases of Mains. The 4th Lord Dalkeith succeeded to his estates upon the



resignation of his father and was raised to the peerage as Earl of Morton prior to his marriage to Joanna, the deaf and dumb daughter of King James I. Sir James Douglas, 4th

Earl of Morton, played an important role in the affairs of Mary, Queen of Scots. He became Regent of Scotland in 1572, for the infant James VI (and I.) However, once James VI reached the age of majority, Morton was implicated in the murder of James' father, Henry Stuart, Lord Darnley (in 1567), and was executed in 1581. Darnley was the second but eldest surviving son of Matthew Stewart, 4th Earl of Lennox, and his wife, Lady Margaret Douglas. Darnley's maternal grandparents were Archibald Douglas, sixth Earl of Angus, and Margaret Tudor, daughter of Henry VII of England and widow of James IV, king of Scots. Darnley was a first cousin of Mary, Queen of Scots.

Because the nature of Scottish law and how it pertains to titles and estates is convoluted and, because the House of Douglas has a number of individuals potentially deserving of the title Chief of the House of Douglas, it is unclear who the apparent Chief of Douglas might be today.

For more Douglas information, visit our friends @ **the Douglas Archives**

A collection of historical and genealogical resources

<http://www.douglashistory.co.uk/>

A Concise History of The House of Douglas



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A Concise History of the House of Douglas

Four principle stems of the Douglas family wrote their great and often noble deeds into more than seven hundred years of turbulent Scottish history. The branches of the House of Douglas were: the Douglas of Douglasdale (the Black Douglasses) who gained fame with Bruce; the Angus "Red Douglasses" who played a significant part in the Scottish/English conflict between the mid-15th and early 18th centuries; the line of Morton, closely aligned with the fortunes of Mary, Queen of Scots; and the Drumlanrig and Queensbury Douglasses who reached their zenith with the "Union of Crowns" in the early 18th century. Other, though no less important, branches of the Douglasses were those of Annandale, Moray, Ormond, Forfar, Dalkeith, Mains, the Dukes of Touraine, Buccleuch, and Hamilton, and the Earls of Home, and the Sandilands Lords Torphichen.

The Black Douglasses

Sir William "le Hardy" Douglas, was the first person of note to join William Wallace in his revolt against England. He was Constable of Berwick Castle in 1297 and a witness to the sacking of Berwick by Edward I "Longshanks" of England. Captured during Wallace's revolt, William Douglas was taken to the Tower of London, where he died in 1298.

Sir William's son ("the Good" Sir James or "the Black Douglas") was the foremost captain to Robert the Bruce during and after the Scottish "Wars for Independence." Sir James was given the task of taking King

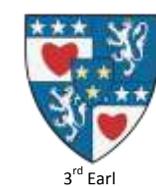


Robert's heart to the Crusades. He fell in battle against the Moors near Teba, Spain in 1330. His son, Sir William, inherited the family estates but

fell in battle against the English at Halidon Hill in 1333. Sir William's heir and uncle, Sir Archibald, was killed within an hour during the same battle.



Sir Archibald's son, Sir William, became the first Earl of Douglas and later succeeded to the Earldom of Mar. The 2nd Earl, Sir James Douglas, fell fighting against Percy at the Battle of Otterburn in 1388. Sir Archibald "the Grim", the 3rd Earl, was the natural son of "The Good" Sir James. He is known to have fought against the English at



3rd Earl

Poitiers in 1356 and is credited with the restoration of many church properties. Archibald "the Grim" subdued Galloway for the Scottish Crown and built Threave Castle soon after. The 4th Earl, another Archibald, fought against Henry IV of England at the Battle of Shrewsbury in 1403, where he was taken prisoner. He became a general in Joan of Arc's army, continuing to fight against the English. For his efforts, he was awarded the Duchy of Touraine. The 4th Earl was killed at the Battle of Verneuil. Sir Archibald Douglas, 5th Earl, died from a fever in Restalrig, Midlothian, and was buried at Douglas. Sir William, 6th Earl, and his brother David were



7th Earl

murdered, on trumped up charges, in the presence of the young King James II in the so-called *Black Dinner*. Sir James Douglas, 7th Earl of Douglas, called "the Gross", was also created Earl of Avondale in 1437. He was the great-uncle of the murdered Douglas lords and likely had something to do with it to obtain greater political power. William Douglas, 8th Earl of Douglas was the eldest son of James Douglas, 7th Earl.

In 1452 King James II sent one of Douglas's friends with an invitation to Douglas to come to Stirling Castle under a safe-conduct. There James demanded the dissolution of a league into which Douglas had entered with two other powerful lords. Upon Douglas's refusal, the king murdered him with his own hands, stabbing him 26 times, and had the earl's body thrown out of a window. James Douglas, 9th Earl of Douglas, was the last of

the 'Black' earls of Douglas. He succeeded to the earldom on the murder of his brother William Douglas, 8th Earl of Douglas by King James II and his entourage. He denounced his brother's murderers and took up arms against the king. This rebellion culminated in the Battle of Arkinholm in 1455 where the power and fortunes of the Black Douglasses was forever broken.

The Sandilands, the Lords Torphichen

The name Sandilands comes from lands by that name in Clydesdale. The Sandilands are considered heirs-general of the house of Douglas from the marriage of Sir James Sandilands to Eleanor Douglas, only daughter of Sir Archibald Douglas, younger brother of 'the Good Sir James' Douglas. Through this connection, the Sandilands are also considered a sept of Douglas even though they have their own clan chief, Lord Torphichen.



Douglasses of Drumlanrig/Queensberry & Kelhead

William Douglas, the illegitimate son of James Douglas, 2nd Earl of Douglas and Mar, was given the barony of Drumlanrig by his father. Sir William Douglas, 10th of Drumlanrig, was created Viscount of Drumlanrig and, a few years later in 1633, Earl of Queensberry. Another William Douglas, 3rd Earl of Queensberry, was created Marquess of Queensberry in 1682 and Duke of Queensberry in 1684. Yet another William Douglas, second son of the 1st Duke, was created Earl of March in 1697. His grandson, also William Douglas, 3rd Earl of March succeeded his cousin in 1778 as 4th Duke of Queensberry. The 4th Duke was known as "Old Q."

Duke of Buccleuch



Upon the death of "Old Q", the dukedom of Queensberry devolved on Henry Scott, 3rd Duke of Buccleuch ...

Marquess of Queensberry

and the marquessate of Queensberry devolved on Charles Douglas, 5th Baronet of Kelhead as 5th Marquess of Queensberry.

