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for more Douglas information,  
visit our friends @

**the Douglas Archives**

A collection of historical and genealogical resources

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



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CLAN SLOGAN / WAR CRY

***A Douglas! A Douglas!***



– CLAN CREST –

The *official* emblem of  
**Clan Douglas  
Society of North  
America**

is the belted *Heart of Bruce*,  
crowned and winged  
with the motto **FORWARD**.



**WELCOME to**

***Clan Douglas***  
***Society of North America, Ltd.***

*Founded in 1975*

Visit our CDSNA website:

[www.ClanDouglasSociety.org](http://www.ClanDouglasSociety.org)

CDSNA is a **charitable non-profit organization** of Scottish descendants of the name of Douglas or the septs and allied families of the House of Douglas whose purpose is to foster and promote understanding and good fellowship among other Scottish descendants, to study and learn about our Scottish heritage, and to promote and increase our friendships with those of similar mind now residing in Scotland and the world.

Clan Douglas Society of North America has representatives and affiliates in the United States, Canada, the BENELUX, Spain and Australia promoting Douglas history, heritage and fellowship at many Scottish Festivals, Highland Games and related events.

The primary unifying efforts of the Society are

- **Dabh Ghlase** newsletter; the Official newsletter of Clan Douglas Society of North America, available in a full-color, digital format via email
- **Clan Douglas Website** ([www.ClanDouglasSociety.org](http://www.ClanDouglasSociety.org))
- **Clan Douglas Society of North America on FaceBook** (<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Clan-Douglas-Society-of-North-America/178933414125>)
- **Sponsored Clan tents at selected Celtic/Scottish events coast to coast**
- **The CDSNA AGM**

## About CDSNA

Clan Douglas Society of North America, CDSNA, was organized in 1975 at the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games and Gathering of Scottish Clans in Linville, North Carolina and duly incorporated July 21, 1977. CDSNA is a tax-exempt organization recognized as a charitable historical organization by the IRS and all donations to CDSNA are tax deductible.

CDSNA is totally independent of any associations in Scotland, where the Chief of the Clan is said to be "dormant". CDSNA is neutral on any and all claims or movements to establish a claim for a Chief of the House of Douglas. If an active Chief of the House of Douglas should be named, it will become incumbent on active CDSNA members to make application to such Chief or chief's organization and establish personal claim of right to affiliation with them.

CDSNA works to maintain a cordial relationship with the office of The Lord Lyon, The Duke of Hamilton, The Duke of Buccleuch & Queensberry, The Marquess of Queensberry, The Earl of Home, The Earl of Morton, Lord Torphichen and others within the historical House of Douglas asking all such persons to advise us on any matter to assure cordial and diplomatic relationships and to maintain historical accuracy. CDSNA recognizes the ignorance of most Americans on these matters of peerage and apologizes to our cousins abroad for any trespasses in such matters. Society members are encouraged to preserve our Douglas and Scottish heritage and support the **Douglas Heritage Museum** in Douglas, Scotland by becoming a "friend of Douglas Heritage."

CDSNA is primarily an independent American and Canadian organization although we do extend the privilege of affiliation with our Society to persons worldwide having the surname of Douglas or one of the many surnames of families traditionally and/or historically allied to the House of Douglas or with spouses of such lineage. CDSNA currently has members in several foreign countries.

## Annual General Meeting, AGM

CDSNA has its Annual General Members' Business Meeting, AGM, concurrent in a location hosting a Scottish game or festival sponsored by a clan Regent. Announcements informing membership of any AGM arrangements will be publicized at least six months in advance of the AGM in **Dabh Ghlase**, the official newsletter of the Clan Douglas Society of North America, and also on the clan website. Any change of AGM time or place or any special meetings may be designated by the President, with approval of the Board. Any change requires 30 days written notice to all members.

## How much does it cost to join?

- **Annual (1 year) membership** dues are US \$20 per year.
- A **three-year (3 year) membership** is available for US \$55.
- A **LIFE MEMBERSHIP** is available for US \$300 for those under 60 years old and US \$200 for those over the age of 60 years.

## 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.



## Douglases of Drumlanrig/Queensberry & Kelhead

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



Duke of Buccleuch

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



Marquess of Queensberry

## Douglases of Morton

Andrew Douglas of Hermiston, younger son of Archibald I, Lord of Douglas and uncle of William "Ie 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, 4<sup>th</sup> 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.



Earl of Morton

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. The House of Douglas, therefore, is considered an 'armigerous clan' without a chief.

William Douglas, 8th Earl of Douglas was the eldest son of James Douglas, 7th Earl. In 1452 King James II sent one of Douglas' 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' 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. 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 Douglases were forever broken.



9<sup>th</sup>

### The Red Douglases

The "Red Douglas" line of Angus Earls originated through an illegitimate child of William, 1st Earl of Douglas. George, 4<sup>th</sup> Earl of Angus, was a third cousin of James, 9<sup>th</sup> 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." It is speculated that, had Angus sided with Douglas, a Douglas would have been seated as King of Scotland.



Earl of Angus



4<sup>th</sup> Earl of Angus

The 5<sup>th</sup> 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'  
5<sup>th</sup> Earl of Angus

The 11<sup>th</sup> Earl of Angus was created Marquess of Douglas and his grandson Archibald Douglas was created 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. With his death, the dukedom of Douglas became extinct.



Duke of Douglas

Some of the duke's titles and estates passed to the Duke of Hamilton, (Marquess of Douglas, Earl of Angus)...



Duke of Hamilton

while other titles and estates passed to the Earl of Home, (Baron Douglas of Douglas).



12<sup>th</sup> Earl of Home



Present/15<sup>th</sup> Earl of Home

## Where do our Membership dues go?

- CDSNA awards scholarships (up to four a year in the amount of \$250.00 each) to CDSNA members or their direct descendants dedicated to traditional Scottish arts or studies. See the Clan website for more information or to download a scholarship application.
- CDSNA publishes a quarterly Clan newsletter – **DUBH GHLASE** - with articles on Douglas and Douglas-related family history and CDSNA activities across North America.
- CDSNA supports Scotland's **Douglas Heritage Museum**.

**Membership** in **Clan Douglas Society of North America** is open to anyone descended from, connected by marriage to, or adopted by a Douglas or Sept/ *Allied Family* of Douglas.

### ~ Recognized Septs & Allied Families ~

|              |            |             |            |            |
|--------------|------------|-------------|------------|------------|
| Agnew        | Cavers     | Foster      | Lockerby   | Sandilands |
| Bell         | Cleland    | Galbraith   | Lockery    | Sandlin    |
| Blackadder   | Clendennon | Gilpatric   | Lockhart   | Simms      |
| Blackett     | Crockett   | Glendenning | MacGuffey  | Soule      |
| Blacklock    | Dalyell    | Glenn       | MacGuffock | Sterrett   |
| Blackstock   | Dalzell    | Hamilton    | Maxwell    | Syme       |
| Blackwood    | Deal       | Harkness    | McKittrick | Symington  |
| Blaylock     | Dick       | Home        | Moffat     | Troup      |
| Breckinridge | Dickey     | Hume        | Morton     | Turnbull   |
| Brown        | Dickson    | Inglis      | Pringle    | Weir       |
| Brownlee     | Dixon      | Kilgore     | Rowell     | Young      |
| Carmichael   | Drysdale   | Kilpatrick  | Rowle      | Younger    |
| Carruthers   | Forest     | Kirkpatrick | Rule       |            |
| Cavan        | Forrester  | Kirkland    | Rutherford |            |

With a family as powerful as the Douglas family, several non-related families would have been supportive in exchange for favor and/or protection. These allied families may have intermarried into the House of Douglas several times but they truly could not be called septs. It makes much more sense, under these circumstances, to consider the list of names associated with the House of Douglas as a list of septs and allied families to acknowledge the historical and familial connections between these names and Douglas without ascribing any particular subordinate classification or attenuation to any name in the list. Various spellings of the above are also recognized. These recognitions and relationships make no pretense to establish a line of peerage or confirm any genealogical relationship.

Learn more about these surnames in the **Septs and Allied Families** section of the CDSNA website.

[<http://clandouglassociety.org/septs/>]

# A Concise History of The House of Douglas

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**Clan Douglas Society
of North America, Ltd.**

Founded in 1975



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 of Robert 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 Poitiers in 1356 and is credited with the restoration of many church properties. Archibald 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 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.

