The first meeting of the Clan Douglas Association of Australia was held on December 3, 1986 in Brisbane. The current elected committee is:

**PATRON:** Mr Archibald Douglas  
**PRESIDENT:** Mrs Jan Shaw  
**VICE PRESIDENT:** Ms Jenny Smith  
**MINUTES SECRETARY:** Ms Jenny Smith  
**MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY:** Mrs Sue Taylor  
**TREASURER:** Ms Kate Godfrey  
**EDITOR:** Mrs Mary Smith  
**GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH OFFICER:** Mrs Mary Smith  
**WEB SITE ADMINISTRATOR:** Ms Penny Shaw  
**GENERAL COMMITTEE:** Mr Archie Douglas, Mr John & Mrs Robin Godfrey

**Aims and Objectives of the Association**

- To act as a representative body of Douglas's and Septs
- To encourage genealogical research and documentation of Douglas history
- To promote fellowship amongst members
- To establish and maintain contact with other Douglas associations throughout the world
- Provide members four Newsletters a year (members are invited to contribute articles of general interest)
- Provide social gatherings to enable Members to meet.

**Clan Douglas Website** - [www.clandouglas.org.au](http://www.clandouglas.org.au)

The website currently offers the following features for members and general public.

- General Information about the Clan Douglas (members and public)
- Events (members and public)
- Discussion board (forum for members and public)
- Newsletters (members only)
- Photo gallery (members only)
- Family tree software (members only)
- Application form (public and members)

Members can log in with a user name and password to view area that are not available for the general public, thus maintaining privacy and adding value to your membership. All members must first register on the site. Registration follows a confirmation and approved process so that only paid-up members can register. Just follow the instructions sent in the registration email. Once approved, you can use your username and password to log in at any time.

**Website Help** - please email the Web site Administrator at administrator@clandouglas.org.au for assistance.
The Scottish Gathering, ‘Scotland in the Park’ at Logan on Sunday, 21st July was well attended and Clan Douglas represented. It was the idea of Scottish Clans Congress of Queensland President, Ern Thompson, and credit goes to him for its success.

Scottish Clans Congress of Queensland is made up of representatives of fifteen Scottish Clans who meet quarterly. Our main function is organising the Kirkin’ of the Tartan so the ‘Gathering’ at Logan was another chance to acknowledge our Scottish heritage.

People came from far and wide to listen to the Bagpipe Bands and watch the Highland Dance Competitions, many wearing their own tartans. The Kirkin’ at St. Pauls Brisbane in June was well attended by CDAA members and the church was filled to commemorate its 150 Anniversary. Special guests of SCCQ were the Earl and Countess of Dunmore, of the Murray Clan, who had come up from Tasmania. They mingled with parishioners and visitors at morning tea afterwards.

A Brisbane Boys College Piper piped the official party and banner bearers into the church and a large contingent of band members gave a performance outside the church. It is wonderful to see these young students taking part with their bagpipes and drums and all proudly wearing their kilts.

The next event of importance on our yearly agenda is the AGM on Sunday 3rd November at 2 p.m. at 116 Strong Ave., Graceville Brisbane. CDAA Committee would welcome members to attend to support your clan.

As this is the 99th Newsletter I feel we should all contribute something for our 100th in December 2013. ----

Just a few words to say what CDAA means to you, or perhaps your own biography or family history?

While on the subject of family history, of which I am quite passionate, the press release for my little book, ‘Springfield’ 100 years will be in this newsletter. I’ve spent the past eighteen months researching and writing this history and realize how important it is to have our local history researched and documented. Already in our Australian short history I have found conflicting reports (usually hearsay) about events and dates and have attempted to set some of these right by research in the Queensland State Archives and John Oxley Library.

I do urge you all to record your own family and local history for the generations to follow. Many of our forebears were great diary writers and the diaries that have survived give us an insight as to how and where they lived.

What will our descendents know of us in our generation unless we keep a record? Think about it.

Jan Shaw (nee Douglas), President.
Note the Douglas tartan on the Wynnum band 3rd from left. Photos courtesy of Ern Thompson, President of the Clans Congress of Queensland, taken at Scotland in the Park.
Henry Sholto Douglas of Claybrook Hall, Lutterworth, Leicestershire, was born 29/Dec/1820, 2nd son of Sir William, 11th Laird of Bonjedward & Timpendean and Marianne Douglas nee Tattershall; died 11/Dec/1892; JP Leicestershire and JP Huntingdonshire; Captain 42nd Royal Highlanders; married 22/Jul/1846, Mary Mitchell, daughter of James Dyke Molesworth Mitchell of Hemingford Abbotts and Hemingford Grey of Huntingdonshire and of Foulmere, Cambridgeshire; and had issue:

a. Henry Mitchell Sholto Douglas (see under)
b. Frederick Molesworth Sholto Douglas, born 24/Aug/1851; died 1885;
c. Angus William Sholto Douglas (see under)
d. Archibald Bruce Douglas born 17/Jan/1854; died 1895;
e. James Douglas (see under)
f. Cameron Charles Douglas born 28/Apr/1857; died 1922, Major Scottish Rifles
g. Mary Douglas died 20/Feb/1920; married 19/Oct/1878 Sir Arthur Henry Grant, 9th Baronet of Monymusk, Aberdeenshire;
h. Annie Douglas died 1922
i. Constance Douglas died 1932; married 1893 Major WA Campbell, Dorsetshire regiment
j. Edith Douglas married 1883, WA Gillett of Fair Oak, Huntingdonshire
k. Florence Douglas
l. Ethel Louise Douglas died 1887

a. Henry Mitchell Sholto Douglas of Hemingford Abbotts and Hemingford Grey, St Ives, Huntingdonshire and Foulmere, Cambridgeshire born 16/May/1847; died 21/Feb/1931; educ. Harrow and Royal Military Colleges; Lieutenant-Colonel 52nd Oxfordshire formerly Highland Light Infantry; 1898 High Sheriff of Longfordshire; married 1899, Georgina Ethel Gilbard daughter of George James Gilbard of Plymouth, Devonshire, Lieutenant-Colonel; issue:

a.a. Henry James Sholto Douglas of Timpendean born 14/Jan/1903; Lord of the Manors of Hemingford Abbotts, Grey and Foulmere; resident of Mounsey, Dulverton, Somershire; educ. Harrows and Cambridge University; Brevet Major, late Scots Guards; High Sheriff of Longfordshire; married Cynthia Armorel Emily, daughter of Hubert Aleack Nepean Fyers of London, M.V.O. and had issue:


c. Angus William Sholto Douglas was born 31/Oct/1852, 3rd son of Henry Sholto & Mary Douglas nee Mitchell of Claybrook Hall; died 25/Jan/1925; Captain Royal Navy; had the charter of 1479 by which the lands of Timpendean were granted to his ancestor Andrew Douglas; married 1893, Charlotte Meyer of Little Laver Hall, Essex.

e. James Douglas born 090/Nov/1855, 5th son of HGenry Sholto & Mary Douglas nee Mitchell of Claybrook Hall; died 1933; married Alice Neeve and had issue:

a. Sholto Douglas born 15/Feb/1888
b. Bruce Douglas born 16/Jan/1889
c. Angus Douglas
d. Colin Douglas

William Archibald Douglas, 4th son of Sir William (11th Laird of Bonjedward & Timpendean) and Marianne Douglas nee Tattershall; died 19/Apr/1884; married Elizabeth Plomer of Sydney, NSW, Australia; family lived at Hemingford Abbotts, St Ives, Huntingdonshire, Clove Farm, Tiverton, Devonshire, England; and had issue:

a. William Sholto Douglas died 1891
b. A daughter
c. A daughter
d. A daughter

(Taken from The History of the family of Douglas, by Percy Douglas pp 244-245)
The Battle of Piperdean was fought on September 10, 1435 between the Kingdom of Scotland and the Kingdom of England and was part of the Anglo-Scottish Border Wars.

An English force led by George de Dunbar, 11th Earl of March and Henry Percy, 2nd Earl of Northumberland attempted to take the forfeited Dunbar’s Castle of Dunbar, back from William Douglas 2nd Earl of Angus who, as Warden of the Scottish Marches, had invested the castle the previous summer. Percy and Dunbar came north with some 4,000 men. Angus did not want to undergo a siege at Dunbar Castle so decided to pre-empt the English by attacking them en route. An army of roughly the same strength surprised the English. Angus accompanied by Sir Adam Hepburn of Hailes, Alexander Elphinstone of that Ilk and Sir Alexander Ramsay of Dalwolsey (Dalhousie), encountered the English force at Piperdean surprising the English and there won an easy victory in which the slain on both sides numbered only forty, but fifteen hundred English surrendered to the Scottish Warden. Although an overwhelming Scots victory, there is some confusion as to casualties and prisoners taken. After the battle Percy retreated to Alnwick Castle but it was not long before he returned to Scotland to successfully relieve Roxburgh Castle, under besiegement by King James.

It is of interest that the last action in which William 2nd Earl of Angus took part was the pursuit and capture of Walter, Earl of Athol, and his fellow conspirators. Angus died in October 1437 having married in 1425 (the wife chosen for him by his grandmother) — Margaret Hay of Yester who survived Angus for nearly fifty years. She bore Angus three sons (1) James who succeeded as third Earl; (2) George who succeeded as 4th Earl; and (3) William commonly called of Cluny in Fife.


Tradition tells us that Threave Island was the home of the ancient rulers of Galloway a thousand years ago. Today there is no trace of their fortress. The tall forbidding tower that dominates the island was built for Sir Archibald Douglas in 1369 when he became Lord of Galloway. He is better known to history as Archibald 'The Grim', being a natural son of 'the good Sir James' of Douglas. It was the English who named him “The Grim” because of his terrifying appearance when in battle. By the time he died at Threave in 1400, he had become the 3rd Earl of Douglas and held the most powerful office in Southern Scotland.

Archibald’s castle comprised a tall tower house almost 100 feet (30m) high surrounded by a large complex of other buildings. The latter have now all gone but substantial remains of them were found during excavations in the 1970s. They included an outer wall where Archibald held court, additional living quarters for retainers etc., and a harbour. It is interesting to note that the castle could only be reached via a boat.

The tower house, one of the first of its type to be built in Scotland, was five storeys high and housed storage and service accommodation in the lower floors, with Archibald’s private suite of rooms above. The walls were 10 feet (3m) thick, with only small windows facing the island. The battlements presented a formidable defence, with an overhanging timber hoarding enabling the garrison to keep attackers at bay.

By 1450, the Black Douglases were so powerful that Scotland’s hierarchy decided that something had to be done to remove them. The 8th Earl of Douglas took precautionary measures to defend himself by demolishing all the ancillary buildings to make way for a purpose-built artillery wall. This ‘state of the art’ defence still survives. However, it did succeed in keeping James II at bay during the two-month long siege of 1455, and the garrison surrendered only after being bribed by the King. The stronghold thereafter played only a relatively minor part in Scotland’s history.

This is a drawing of how the interior would have been at the time of the Douglases. The walls of the Great Hall and Private Apartments would have been plastered and hung with fabrics and tapestries. Large windows facing over the River Dee would have let in a good light.

Designed by Boyd-Brent, J. Retrieved from http://www.aboutscotland.co.uk/threave/castle.html


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MORTCLOTHS

Mortcloths are coverings of various qualities and materials used to wrap the dead body and/or coffin usually while it was being transported from the home of the deceased to the place of burial in the graveyard surrounding the parish church. Certain hygienic arrangements had to be made before the body could be transported. The time scale between death and disposal was kept as short as possible with the burial taking place the day following the death. The body was washed by the women of the family, which symbolized the purification of the soul. It was then dressed in ‘dead clothes’ more commonly known as winding sheets, or sewn up in a waxed linen cloth according to an Act of 1686. The Act made it imperative that home-made Scottish linen be used, but this was changed to a woolen shroud in the 1700s.

In many cases the body would be covered with the pall or mortcloth and then be placed on wooden boards with short carrying poles to be carried by the mourners. Some parishes provided a ‘mort coffin’ or Parish Coffin which sometimes had a hinged lid. At the graveside the coffin would be tipped on its side, the hinged lid tipped open and the body rolled out — the coffin to be taken away and sluiced out with vinegar — an early form of disinfectant — and stored away until hired out again. Or in some cases, the coffins could be lowered halfway down the graveside where the bolts were withdrawn allowing the floor of the coffin to swing open and the body fall into the grave. Later, individual coffins were used and made of rough deal boards (planks of softwood, either fir or pine board) to be covered as before with the mortcloth. A rough hearse or horse and cart was used if the distance to be travelled was far, but the hearse, as we know it, belongs to more modern times.

Certain rules were adhered to, such as on the 30th December 1563, it was ordered that the body be interred six feet under the earth and in 1598, the General Assembly ordered “that no pictures or images be carried about in burials, under the paine of the censures of the kirk.” It is of interest that it would be the 18th century before everybody was deemed eligible for a coffin, even the very poorest. In some cases, it was a custom to tie a piece of string to the big toe of the body so that in the eventuality of the person not being dead, he/she could pull the string and a bell would ring up top so the mourners would then know that the ‘body’ had woken up.

At the graveside, the Mortcloths were in common use in Scotland in the 1700s and early 1800s and each parish church had at least one, which was rented out on each occasion. Usually it was of velvet or black cloth fringed all around and the Kirk Session Minutes of St Ternan’s Church in Arbuthnot, Kincardine give us the following information about their new mortcloth 05/May/1752 in which costs were agreed to be paid for: seven yards of Genoa velvet, silk fringe, silver lace, silver cord and thread and six yards of a light weight woolen lining, plus workmanship — a total cost of 13 pounds.

In 1771 the West Kilbride parish in Ayrshire had three qualities of mortcloths available to be hired out. The best was charged at the rate of 8 shillings, and the second-best at 4 shillings and 3 shillings for the cheapest quality. Smaller mortcloths were also available for children at 1/8d, and 1/10d. These monies were then used to help the poor.

Some people did not use the parish mortcloth for burial. Prosperous and important families had their own family mortcloth, while some trades paid into the charitable funds for their mortcloth. In parishes where mortcloth dues are the only evidence of burial, some cases might have gone unrecorded if no monies changed hands. Sometimes there was no charge for use of the parish mortcloth either. However, there were other funeral fees which the parish could charge in connection with funerals — the gravedigger’s fee, payment for the services and coffin if used, charge for a candle or candles (these were expensive and the more one had was indicative of the family’s wealth), and another sum for proclaiming the burial to the parish — some families were able to pay these expenses, but the poorer folk who could not pay were helped from the Parish Funds. Benevolent, Humane and Brotherly Societies during this period also contributed financially to the poor and destitute to enable them to bury their dead with dignity.


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MORTCLOTHS
Clan Douglas Gathering, Scotland 30th June - 6th July 2014

Plans are now well advanced for the 2014 Clan Gathering, being held in Scotland next year. Unlike many parts of the world, there is no Douglas Association or Society in Scotland, but a small group has come together to deliver what should be a memorable and enjoyable week of activities with the aim of drawing together clansmen and clanswomen who have as a common bond their ancestry and history.

Those who wish to learn more about their ancestral background in Scotland will be able to visit sites where their ancestors lived, fought and died. It will be an opportunity to research family trees, and meet like minded people. Opportunities are being made to meet senior Douglas people - we have no clan chief - such as the Dukes of Buccleugh and Hamilton. The Earls of Home and Morton, or members of their family, are also likely to be involved.

Pipe bands both local and overseas are invited to mark the 700th Anniversary of the Battle of Bannockburn by taking part in a large massed pipe band parade through Stirling. The Pipefest event is scheduled to take place on Friday 27th June 2014.

Further information, tours and accommodation can be organised through the website. http://www.douglashistory.co.uk/gathering/?ct=t(Newsletter_16_22_2013)

Gathering Programme

We are now fairly firm on how the programme will look for daytime events.

Monday 30th June: Visit Aberdour and Lochleven Castles
Tuesday 1st July: Visit Bothwell and Douglas Castles, the Douglas Heritage Museum and St Bride’s Church
Wednesday 2nd July: Visit Dirleton and Tantallon Castles and Lennoxlove House
Thursday 3rd July: Visit Lincluden Abbey, Threave Castle and the Douglas Mausoleum
Friday 4th July: Tour Edinburgh, or a location of your choice
Saturday 5th July: Clan Muster at Drumlanrig Castle, with an opportunity to visit Morton Castle and the Queensberry Tomb.

On Sunday 6th July, we will be in Stirling, where a Kirkin o’ the Tartan church service is planned. We will march with banners flying from the Castle to the Kirk. You will then have the opportunity to visit Stirling Castle, The Wallace Monument and the site of the Battle of Bannockburn.

Aberdour

James Douglas, 4th Earl of Morton, held the castle in the 16th century. He was implicated in the murder of Rizzio, the Secretary of Mary, Queen of Scots.

Bothwell

Bothwell Castle is one of the outstanding monuments of medieval Scotland which came into Douglas hands in the 14th century.

Lochleven

Mary Queen of Scots first visited in 1561 as a guest of the owner, Sir William Douglas. But her last stay, in 1567–8, was as his prisoner.

Tantallon

Tantallon was the last truly great castle built in Scotland. In the 1380s it passed to the Douglas junior line, the ‘Red Douglastes’, Earls of Angus.
CDAA Honorary Members

Ern Thompson, President Scottish Clans Congress of Queensland is an honorary member of CDAA.

CLAN THOMPSON SOCIETY

We are quite proud to announce that Lord Lyon King of Arms has devised Ensigns Armorial for Clan Thompson International, Inc. (d.b.a. Clan Thompson Society), acting worldwide and, in particular, in America to promote, perpetuate and encourage the knowledge and understanding of Scottish, particularly Thompson, traditions and history. Although Thomson is the 6th most common surname in Scotland, the last official recognition it had as a clan/family was in an Act of the Scottish Parliament in 1394. Today, through our members in 5 continents, we work to restore Thomson history worldwide.

The stag’s head with black antlers continues the central theme of the 60 Thomson amigers, the stag is thought by some to relate to Henry Thomson, Lord Lyon 1498-1512. The crest of a mounted Border Reiver distinguishes the West Marche Thomsens from the only other recognized Thomson variant (MacThomas) contained in the 1587 Parliamentary Register “...roll of the clans that have captains, chieftains...”. Lord Lyon also confirmed the motto “Deny us Not” as appropriate to our history as a riding clan from the Borders. The Scottish Tartan Register site now lists the Thomson Dress Blue as our official society tartan under “note.”

The Border Reiver crest depicts the time, place, and attitude of the border families – not just Thomsons, but all border families - including these which no longer have a recognized clan or society of their own: Ainslie, Archbold, Beattie(sen), Blenkinsop, Brownfield, Buayan, Carlisle, Carnaby, Cassford, Charlton, Coulter, Crawford, Cresswell, Crozier, Curwen, Dacre, Dodds, Etherington, Fenwick, Goodfellow, Halliday, Harden, Henley, Heron, Hetherington, Hodgson, Kinmont, Lowther, Milburn, Musgrave, Orde, Percy, Reaveley, Redpath, Rowell, Routledge, Salkeld, Seiby, Shaftoe, Stamper, Stephenson (lowland), Veitch, Witherington, Waddington, and Yarrow.

HISTORY: The first historical references to Thomson as a distinct family were recorded by the English Lord Wharton in reports to the Earl of Shrewsbury in 1340: “The Batysons and Thomsons of Eskdale, have burnt a town called Grange...”. Later, “...the Batysons, Thomsons and Lytles of Eskdale, Ewesdale and Wacopdale, burnt a town on the water of Dryff called Blendallburn...” and, finally, he reported “...hundrethe of the Batysons of Eskdale and the Tomsons brocht town called Fastheugh...”.

Charles A. Hanna’s “The Scotch-Irish” locates the clan in Eskdale with Battson and Beattie in 1547 with them relocating to Annandale in 1597. B. Homer Dixon’s “Border or Riding Clans” lists the leaders of the Thomsons in Annadale as “...Young Archie Thomson, Sym Thomson in Polloden.” Sadly, following the “quieting of the Borders” in the early 1600s, references to a chief of the Thomson family disappear.

The search for our history is greatly aided by our clan genealogist, Maggie Jones who has authored numerous genealogy books. Currently, she offers all Thom(p)sons genealogy research assistance via our forum, with additional services to our society members.

Please visit our web page - http://clanthompson.org or http://clanthompson.org

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BIRTHS
It is with pleasure that we welcome into the Douglas Family:

Neve Beatrice Eather born 08/May/2013, daughter of Timothy and Rochell Eather of Jewells, NSW.

Maxwell Roger Eather and Lachlan John Eather born 03/Jun/2013, twin boys of Nathan & Kate Eather of Sikyla Park, Moree.

Neve, Maxwell and Lachlan are the gt.gt. grandchildren of Sophia Florence Roseby nee Douglas formerly of Mt Maria, Morven, Q'ld. — Great grandparents are Winifred Eather and the late Stewart Eather of Narrabri.

Charlotte Rose Potter born 10/Apr/2013, 2nd daughter of Jack & Jennifer Potter nee Taylor and sister of Isobelle Jean Potter.

Hamish Flynn Taylor born 23/May/2013, 2nd son of Christopher William & Catherine Jane Taylor nee Goldsmith, and brother of Oscar William Taylor.

Charlotte and Hamish are the gt.gt. grandchildren of Sophia Florence Roseby nee Douglas formerly of Mt Maria, Morven — Great grandchildren of Donald Douglas & Margaret Roseby nee Scott and grandchildren of David & Dawn Roseby.
It is fitting perhaps at this time to congratulate Jan Shaw, our President, on her very comprehensive book about the Deshon / Douglas families of Springfield, Mitchell and the immediate area. History has a way of repeating itself and I’m sure in the years to come, the book will be much sought after for its local and family history content. I know Jan has put an enormous amount of time and effort into its compilation and I feel sure it will be a good read even for those from outside the immediate family. Congratulations Jan on a job well done!
We invite you and your family to join this Association. We ask you especially to support the Committee and help us bring together people of Douglas Ancestry, Sept families and other connections, from all over Australia, New Zealand and the world. Any one descended from, connected by marriage, or adopted by a Douglas or Sept of Douglas is eligible to join.

The Sept families of the House of Douglas are:
Bell, Blacklock, Blackstock, Blackwood, Brown, Brownlee, Cavers, Dickey, Douglass, Drysdale, Forrest, Forrester, Foster, Gilpatrick, Glendinning, Inglis, Kilgore, Kilpatrick, Kirkland, Kirkpatrick, Lockerby, MacGuffey, MacGuffock, McKillrick, Morton, Sandilands, Sandlin, Simms, Soule, Sterritt, Symington, Syme, Young.

The Clan Douglas Association acknowledges that on the list of Sept families there are some who are recognised as belonging to other clans, but some families of these surnames were closely linked with branches of the Douglas' in the early years. We ask you to please notify anyone else you know to be eligible to join, especially those who may not be on our mailing list.

Clan Douglas of Australia - Membership Form

Surname: ..................................................................First Name: ............................................................
Address: ...........................................................................................................................................
..........................................................................................................................................................Post Code: ..............
Telephone number: (       ) ......................................Email address: .................................................................
Place of family origin overseas (if known): ....................................................................................
Place of family origin, Australia or N.Z.: ..........................................................................................
Would you like your Newsletter emailed or posted: (please circle)
Membership fee per year $20-00 per family. Please send me a Membership Certificate □ (please tick)
Fees can be paid by bank transfer: BSB 484799, Account 046671315 in the name "Clan Douglas Association". Place your name in the reference area of the bank transfer and post or email this form to CDAA. Cheques can be made payable in Australian currency to Clan Douglas Association of Australia and posted to the Membership Secretary.

Signature of applicant: ..................................................................................................................