

OCCUPANTS OF BOTHWELL CASTLE

The following is an attempt to show in chronological order, the occupants of Bothwell Castle. Sources of information for this are the brochures printed by the Scottish Development Department, Division of Historic Buildings and Monuments, and lineage charts from the office of the Lord Lyon of Scotland. There are considered to be authentic and reliable sources.

- 1) Sir William Douglas "Long Legs" (1225-1276)  
son of Sir Archibald (1198-1240) who was son of William Douglas (1174-1214)
- 2) Sir William Douglas "The Hardy" (ca. 1250-1300)
- 3) Sir James Douglas "The Good Sir James" (1288-1330)  
An associate of Robert the Bruce; served with him in Battle of Bannockburn; said to have been killed carrying the heart of Bruce to Melrose Abbey; his son, Lord William Douglas, was killed at Halidon Hill with his Uncle, the Regent.
- 4) Sir Archibald Douglas (1296-1333) brother of "The Good Sir James"  
became Regent of Scotland in 1333; killed at Halidon Hill.
- 5) William First Earl of Douglas and Mar (1330-1384)  
a hero in Battle of Pointers; son of Sir Archibald, the Regent.
- 6) James, Second Earl of Douglas (1358-1388)  
son of First Earl and a hero of Battle of Otterburn in which he was killed; great, great uncle of Henry Stewart, i.e. Lord Darnley, the second husband of Mary, Queen of Scots.
- 7) Archibald "The Grim", Lord of Galloway  
son of "The Good Sir James" builder of Threave Castle; died 1400; buried at Bothwell Church but tombstone no longer in evidence.
- 8) Archibald, Fourth Earl of Douglas, son of 3rd Earl; d. 1424
- 9) Archibald, Fifth Earl of Douglas and Earl of Wigton; son of 4th Earl; d. 1439
- 10) William Douglas, Sixth Earl of Douglas and Wigton; brother of the 5th Earl; d. 1440.
- 11) James Douglas, Seventh Earl of Douglas and Wigton; brother of 4th Earl.
- 12) William Douglas, Eighth Earl, son of 7th Earl;  
stabbed by King James and dispatched with a battle axe by Sir Patrick Gray in 1452 at Stirling Castle.
- 13) James, Ninth Earl; son of 7th Earl  
married Margaret Douglas, daughter of the 5th Earl and widow of the 8th Earl his brother; he and his wife were second cousins once removed; d. 1461.
- 14) 1455- Bothwell Castle reverted to the Crown under forfeiture by the

Black Douglasses (descendants of "The Good Sir James")

- 15) 1492. Bothwell Castle exchanged for Hornitage Castle and came into hands of Archibald Douglas (Bell-The-Cat) Fifth Earl of Angus of the Red Douglas line.
- 16) Archibald, 6th Earl of Angus (1489-1557), a grandson of 5th Earl. He was survived by his third wife, Dame Margaret Maxwell, who held a Catholic Mass at Bothwell Castle in 1584. As a result of this the castle was confiscated by the Government.
- 17) 1669 Bothwell acquired by Archibald Douglas, FIRST EARL OF FORFAR (1653-1712) of the RED DOUGLAS line. Prior to his death he began extensive reconstruction of the castle and in doing so tore down part of the curtain wall and used the stone to build a mansion house nearby. William, the 11th Earl of Angus, retreated here (and to Douglas Castle) after his own castle at Tantallon was seiged and made uninhabitable by Cromwell's forces in 1651.
- 18) 1712, Second Earl of Forfar, son of the First Earl, and also named Archibald Douglas (1692-1715) continued rebuilding until he was killed at the Battle of Sherriffmuir in 1715, at age of 23. He died unmarried and without issue.

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~~Bothwell~~ <sup>Douglas</sup> Castle was inherited by Archibald, the Duke of Douglas and the Third Marquis of Douglas. He was born here in 1691 and died without issue in 1761. His rather large holdings became the subject of a prolonged court battle over inheritance. It was not until 1771 that the court made a final ruling in favor of Archibald STEWART, alleged son of the sister of the Duke. → Jane

- ~~19)~~ 1771, Castle occupied by Archibald Stewart, son of Lady Jane Douglas Stewart. He was the first cousin of the Second Earl of Forfar.
- 21) The castle was in the hands of the Stewart family until the fourth and last Earl of Douglas died in 1857 at which time it went to Countess Home, the daughter of his half-sister.
- 22) Still owned by the Home family although placed in the hands of the state for perpetual care in 1935, as an ancient monument.

Prepared September, 1987 by Bonnie J. Everhart, Genealogist.