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TO: Mr. R. B. Freeman

FROM: Bonnie Jean Everhart

SUBJECT: New Clues in The Search for the Progenitors of Isobel Douglas

First, permit me to set down here the data given to me when I took up the search. All of it comes from secondary sources.

In the deposition of Emanuel Kirkendall, taken June 20, 1836, concerning his first-hand knowledge of the family of Benjamin and Isabel Fortner, he states "he heard Isobel say that she had two brothers in Scotland named Charles and Shalto and that she had one sister who drowned in Hazel Run, ~~Scotland~~."

Deposition taken at Mifflinville, August 26, 1821 from Frances Wood, granddaughter of Isabella Fortner. The document states: "I...understood that my grandmother, Isabella Douglas-that was her maiden name-was born in Scotland and her father's name was Archibald Douglas. He died and was buried in the city of Glasgow and his land property lays within nine miles of the city of Glasgow. I have been informed that four of his sons lay in the same graveyard-Charles, Shalto, George and Archibald. The four lived and died single men and his son James was a married man and he lived and died in Edinburg but left no heirs and his body is buried in the City of Edinburg. I have understood James her brother in his last will and testament willed to Isabella two thousand pounds in money. He owned her as his sister and that her father Archibald Douglas had property to be claimed by heirship. I have also understood that Charles was a seafaring man and likewise her father. Archibald Douglas was married twice and Isabella was a child by the first wife..I also understood that Isabella grandfather's name was James...It is supposed that Isabella Fortner was 18 yrs. old when Elizabeth, her daughter was born (1744). It is supposed that Isabella was born in 1726..."

Another record - source unknown- states: Archibald Douglas born 1691 d. 1781 married Jane Edmonds in 1719. Children: Edmonds Douglas b. 1720; Shalto b. 1721; Charles b. 1722; James b. 1724; Isabella b. 1726; Joseph b. 1728 and Jane b. 1728. Following that information it says "Clemuel Ricketts notes Lord Archibald Douglas died about 20 years since at 90 years old. (IN THE Brown book age 230 it says this information is from a document belonging to a J. S. Wood and was dated 1801 so that makes a death date of 1781.) He had five sons namely Archibald, Charles, James, Shalto and George. Shalto died about 15 years since at the age of 45 yrs. (this calculates to d. 1786 but does NOT agree with the birth date given above-if he was born in 1721 and died at age 45 his death would have occurred in 1766.) The record continues: None but one was ever married and he died without issue. All nobelmen 9 miles from Glascow, Executors to will: Sarah Ma Tally and Crace Spentus, single, Amtuess, John Cranured Hames Herafall, William Lults the will. (the mystery of the meaning of this last part has not been solved but needs to be included here for future reference.) Document dated 21 June 1836.

Prof. Bruce Black

A book known to me only as "Descendants of James Brown" (no author, publisher, date, etc.) on page 227-232 tells the story of "Isabel Douglas Leaves Home". The writer speaks in the first person. He states that he visited Scotland in 1911 and again in 1914 on the Douglas matter. His narration does NOT attempt to separate fact from oral tradition when he states: "Lord Archibald Douglas, father of Isabel, was born at Bothwell Castle in the town of Bothwell, Scotland, nine miles from Glasgow in the year 1691 and died at the age of 90 in 1781 and lies buried near the small town of Renfrew, eight miles from Glasgow. I was within a few feet of his tomb but did not get to see it on account of the church having been built back over it. There was an iron door leading to the tomb but it was locked and I was told that Lord Blythswood who lived nearby had the key. I tried to get in to see Lord Blythswood but the Forester would not leave me in although I had a letter from the Hon. Willliam Jennings Bryan as Secertary of State." He names the wife and children and dates given in previous paragraph then continues: "His first wife died when the children were quite young and he married the second time. Isabel quarreled with her stepmother and ran away from home in the year 1742...Her brother James Douglas was a wealthy merchant in Edinburgh and left her 22,000 pounds sterling (the Brown record says 42,000) upon his death in that city in 1799...In 1836 the heirs sent Clemuel G. Ricketts Attorney to Scotland to look up this estate. I believe he made a second trip in 1841 or 1842 but no money was ever collected...The father of Isabel wrote for her to come back home but refused to let her bring her husband with her, to this she would not consent and upon his death he disinherited her but left 140,000 pounds sterling on interest, principal to go to her heirs in the fifth generation. In a pamphlet on unclaimed moeny printed by Robert Gun in London in 1879 appears the name of Lord Archibald Douglas." The author continues by saying he could find no will for Archibald or any of the sons but that he did find in a cemetery in Edinburgh a tombstone for a James Douglas who died in 1799." The author goes on to tell his search took him to Glasgow and Renfrew where he found "in the old church that has been built back over the grave of Archibald Douglas, a memorial to him and four of his sons said to be buried in the cemetery there." He stated further that he saw the tomb of Archibald but could not get to it to read the inscription because the iron gate surrounding it that was locked. His attempt to obtain the key and gain admittance from Lord Blythswood was unsuccessful.

Using the information set out above, I undertook the search for the ancestry of Isobel Douglas in July, 1987.

One can not perceive a full picture of the Douglas genealogy without delving into the relationships of clan members in their several locations. It is also very important to understand the social, political and religious history of the time in order to comprehend why and how certain events transpired. A thorough knowledge and understanding of heritary rights, which I do not possess, would be most helpful.

With these thoughts in mind, visits were made and literature concerning their occupants, was collected at:

- 1) Threave Castle, near the town of Castle Douglas in Lanarkshire, was the principal seat of the Black Douglas line until 1455. Now a ruin, the castle is located on an island in the River Dee. Threave Gardens, now a National Trust Property on the mainland, was part of the original 1500 acre

estate. The Gardens are now used as a training site for gardeners who work throughout the country at Trust properties. They also train gardeners for and are strongly supported financially by Longwood Gardens in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA.

2) Douglas Castle and St. Bride's Church are located in the town of Douglas in Lanarkshire. Now a ruin, the castle can be traced to the 12th century but it became prominent in the 14th as the seat of the Clan Douglas, under Sir James the Good. He and Archibald, Duke of Douglas, and William, First Marquis of Douglas are all buried at St. Bride's Church.

3) The village of Mains is east of the town of Douglas by about 2 miles. It was the seat of that branch of the Douglas Clan known as "Douglas of Mains" to distinguish them from Douglas of Douglas Castle, as the families were cousins.

4) Bothwell Castle located near Uddingston off the B 7071 road, was built on the edge of a gorge on the River Clyde. Its circular tower dates from the late 1200's. During its "lifetime" it was possessed alternately by Black Douglasses and Red Douglasses and later by the Stewarts, then by the Home family. The Bothwell Church cemetery in the nearby town of Bothwell contains the remains of several of the Bothwell Douglasses.

5) Kildrummy Castle, which also dates from the late 1200's and is also now an ancient monument was the chief seat of the Earl of Mar and was occupied by members of the families of Douglas, Stewart, Elphinstone and Erskine. Its location at that early time was just north of the Earldom of Angus. William, 1st Earl of Douglas & Mar (d. 1384) was married to Margaret, Countess of Mar and resided here as did his son, James, 2nd Earl of Douglas (d. 1388) married to Isobel, Countess of Mar.

6) Stirling Castle, overlooking the town of the same name, is where William, the Eighth Earl of Douglas was stabbed by King James and beheaded by Sir Patrick Gray in 1452, having gone there from his residence at Bothwell Castle under safe conduct.

7) Tantallon Castle on the North Sea was the stronghold of the Earls of Angus of the Red Douglas line, in the 14th century. It was William the 11th Earl of Angus who retreated from Tantallon to Douglas Castle after Cromwell seized the castle and damaged it beyond repair.

8) The Blythswood Estate in the town of Renfrew and the old and new parish churches of Inchinnan and St. Conan's Kirk at Lock Awe which became associated with the Douglasses in 1705.

9) Research was conducted at the Scottish Record Office and in the General Register Office, both in Edinburgh. A search was made for the wills of Archibald and his son James - neither of which were located. Parish records containing births, deaths and marriages were examined. To succeed in finding what one seeks, the EXACT parish must be searched line by line. There are no alphabetical indexes, either overall or within a given parish. FURTHER WORK IS RECOMMENDED in these records because I could not read the old Scots script and Gallic, not to mention poor penmanship and faded ink. Some records are incomplete and leave gaps in the time period covered.

Referring once again to the report of Attorney Ricketts in 1914, he spoke of finding in London a pamphlet printed by Robert Gun in 1879 of unclaimed money from estates containing the name of a Lord Archibald Douglas. In this regard, it is interesting to note that Lord Archibald Douglas Campbell of Blythwood died in LONDON in 1838, according to the inscription on his tombstone. While this person IS NOT the father of Isobel Douglas Fortner, it is conceivable that this is the person referred to in the aforementioned pamphlet.

It is extremely unfortunate that Arthur Douglas provided erroneous data to the professional genealogist he engaged on your behalf. It is no wonder she was unable to arrive at a successful conclusion!

My recommendations for further research focus on JAMES DOUGLAS THE SECOND OF MAINS. We do not presently know who all of his children were. You will note that the name SHOLTO appears for several generations at Blythwood along with Archibald and James. A member of the staff at the General Register Office suggested that SHOLTO is not a common name. Perhaps it is a clue that we are getting closer to the correct branch of the family.

I would also recommend we take a look at the will of James Douglas, a merchant in GLASGOW, who died in 1769, in an attempt to determine whether he might be the brother of Isobel whom we are seeking. I did learn in Edinburgh that there is a James Douglas who died in 1799 buried in CARLTON HILL CEMETERY in Edinburgh. I did not visit the gravesite as I have no good evidence that he is the James Douglas you seek.

Isobel already dead so can't be right person

The early depositions indicate that Isobel's father and several of her brothers "made their living from the sea". It is interesting to note that the Blythwood Estate included "herrin houses" and was located in an area where many residents of that time period did indeed make their living from the fishing industry. The location of the Blythwood Estate is indeed approximately 9 miles from the center of Glasgow. While Bothwell is also roughly 9 miles from Glasgow, it is in a landlocked area. BLYTHSWOOD fits the description put forth in the earliest depositions, NONE OF WHICH STATE THAT YOUR ARCHIBALD DOUGLAS WAS BORN AT BOTHWELL. It is unclear to me at what point the Bothwell origin story came into existence. I see no supporting data for that statement.

Of further interest is the fact that the surname EDMUND/EDMOND(s) is found in the Glasgow area as shown by the Commissariat records for the 1600-1700's. A search for Jane Edmunds, wife of Archibald Douglas and mother of Isobel, apparently has never been undertaken. That should be done, beginning in the Glasgow area.

Attached hereto are: A) Chronological listing of occupants of Bothwell Castle, B) The Douglasses at Blythwood and Inchinnan, C) Partial genealogy of the Douglasses of Mains, D) List of parish registers and Indexes of wills recorded in Commissariat Records of Scotland that were searched (the actual wills were not read).