

INSPIRATION FOR THE RESEARCH

How does one turn genealogy from just names and eras into a living document which draws you into reading about the life and lives created by common ancestors?

It perhaps starts with being given a family tree carefully prepared by a previous family member, by stories or finding a book which is passed to the next generation, by reading in an old bible which has been passed down through the centuries, or just from curiosity as one wishes to find out how and where we came from.

Our history includes all of the above with stories found and discoveries made. Suddenly our genealogy has come alive and what an exciting voyage it has become.

Don't imagine that this happened with a quick research over a short period of time but imagine yourself finding facts, then "hitting the proverbial brick wall" then moving on with a "wow" we did that.

This research commenced many years ago when I was searching with Eleanor Douglas in South Africa. But even before that it was saved by a previous ancestor who in the 1960s saved for next generations so much information that it has given our Douglas family of today the opportunity to find and enjoy history that would have been lost.

Time moves on and as the family has grown so it has become more difficult to include all in the family tree and yet various names and historical connections are added because a common ancestor is what binds us all together. This history will then include more about the previous, generations for we can add our own stories as we wish to our respective families.

And then one thinks that you have found all, no, with more and more becoming available on the internet so the living history grows. Even today information has just been found in an old Dublin newspaper in which the family is mentioned during the unrest of Ireland.

We wish to keep this manuscript interesting and uplifting to all because along with the sadness we have found with some family members, there also comes the success and future for others.

Enjoy this reading as we turn our history on ancestry.com into pages with pictures and stories for all to read.

The I and the We's are synonymous with this story for so many people have contributed. Our daughter Jennifer though is the one who has researched and preserved all the latest information and I still hear her telling her Mum and Dad to have more time in Ireland. Did we? So much to see and do – next time (which will hopefully be soon) and then we will accomplish all by just focusing on the remaining loose items which we hope can be found given the time.

So, let our journey begin-----

WHY A LIVING FAMILY TREE?

Jenni and I found that as we carried out our research in Ireland that names, places, and surroundings suddenly became a part of papers, documents and the computer. The Douglas Family is alive through its ancestry and its living members today. Finally, arriving in Irvinestown in 2001 (with Bill a few years later) and seeing the inscription on the grave of the Rev. William Douglas I think..., makes it self-explanatory.

**In memory
of the
Reverend William Douglas
Wesleyan Minister
Born 17 April 1771
Died in the Lord 2nd July 1860
in the 90th year of his age
and the 64th of his ministry
“And I heard a voice from
Heaven saying, write,
blessed are the dead which
die in the Lord from henceforth
yea, saith the Lord that they
may rest from their labours;
and their works do follow them”
REV XIV:X11**

And so our historical research continued leading to the editing of the original book/File.

We were probably the first family members to find and visit his resting place in over 100 yrs. A very emotional time as we looked at his grave, stood there quietly, read the scripture on his tomb stone, and left knowing that this was only the beginning of tracing the stories and history of his family.

Lord, the path you have marked that I should walk,
echoes with the praises of many before.

My Father's father and his father have loved you dearly
Sowing seeds that generations reap and sow again.

How awesome is your work intended for all
Handed faithfully on, your blessing is shared
so each generation can know of your love.

What a glorious chorus awaits at the end
Oh, what stories to share of victories won!
Purest of praises to you.

(Written by Jennifer Anne Douglas after we found William's grave in 2001)

