



# CLAN DOUGLAS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

## NEWSLETTER

No 106

September 2015

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

<i>PATRON:</i>	<i>Mr Archibald Douglas</i>
<i>PRESIDENT:</i>	<i>Mrs Jan Shaw</i>
<i>VICE PRESIDENT:</i>	<i>Ms Jenny Smith</i>
<i>MINUTES SECRETARY:</i>	<i>Ms Jenny Smith</i>
<i>MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY:</i>	<i>Mrs Sue Taylor</i>
<i>TREASURER:</i>	<i>Ms Kate Godfrey</i>
<i>EDITOR:</i>	<i>Mrs Mary Smith</i>
<i>GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH OFFICER:</i>	<i>Mrs Mary Smith</i>
<i>WEB SITE ADMINISTRATOR:</i>	<i>Ms Penny Shaw</i>
<i>GENERAL COMMITTEE:</i>	<i>Mr John &amp; Mrs Robin Godfrey</i>

### 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](mailto:administrator@clandouglas.org.au) for assistance.

We now have a Clan Douglas Association of Australia (Organisation) Facebook page.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Welcome to the September issue of CDAA Newsletter. Winter's cold days are fading as Spring is just around the corner. This year's cold weather brought snow to Queensland with families rushing to witness this unusual event and having the chance to play and build snowmen.

"Scotland in the Park" was held again in July and we must congratulate Ern Thompson, the President of Scottish Clans Congress of Queensland, for his capable organization. Penny Shaw has put some photos taken there on to CDAA's official facebook. I thoroughly recommend a visit next year for anyone with even the tiniest drop of Scottish blood in their veins will have their senses stirred by the bagpipe bands and Scottish Highland Dancing. As member of our Douglas clan I know we all share a love of our History and Genealogy and our CDAA Newsletter is made up mostly of just that -

but we always welcome current news of our members and their families, especially photos, so if you have a story or event please share it with us.



*Alastair Henderson of Fordell, Chief of the Henderson Clan, Ern Thompson, President of Scottish Clans Congress of Queensland and Jan Shaw, President CDAA — at Scotland in the Park 2015, Greenbank.*

Recently a photo the 17<sup>th</sup> Century Glenbervie oak armchair was sent to me by William Douglas of Douglas Archives <http://www.douglashistory.co.uk>. He remembered my connection to Glenbervie and shared this photo. It was hand carved in 1665. It has a panel on the back with the names of Douglasses who lived about 1492 to 1675. The first, William Douglas born about 1470, the second son of the 5<sup>th</sup> Earl of Angus, married the Glenbervie heiress Elizabeth Auchinleck. He became known as William Douglas of Glenbervie and Braidwood. His son, Archibald Douglas born about 1502 was the father of William Douglas 1533 -1591 who succeeded his cousin to become the 9<sup>th</sup> Earl of Angus. He died at Glenbervie in 1591. Glenbervie was sold by the Douglas family in 1675 to Robert Burnett of Leys, but as the chair was carved in 1665 it would have surely have been sat upon by Douglasses of Glenbervie.

Jan Shaw (nee Douglas) President

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## GLENBERVIE formerly ARDIT

Kincardineshire later Fife

**1. Sir William Douglas of Glenbervie** was the second son of Archibald, 5th Earl of Angus and Elizabeth Boyd. He was knighted in 1511, and was killed at Flodden Field with his elder brother, the Master of Angus. William was married in 1501 to **Elizabeth Auchinleck** through whom he obtained the lands of *Glenbervie*. Elizabeth was the daughter of James Auchinleck, son of Sir John Auchinleck of that ilk. William and Elizabeth had one son Archibald. William Douglas received the lands of *Braidwood* in 1510.

**1a. Archibald Douglas of Glenbervie** was said to be rather delicate, but lived until September 29 1570. He had his lands erected into a Barony of Glenbervie in 1542. He married **(1) Agnes Keith**, daughter of William, 2nd Earl Marischal, who died before 1548 and had one son. He married **(2) Elizabeth (Bessie) Irvine**, daughter of Alexander Irvine of Drum, who survived him. Archibald Douglas had issue of four sons and eleven daughters:

**1a. i William Douglas 9th Earl of Angus**, only son of Archibald Douglas and Agnes Keith, succeeded his father in September 1570, and in 1588 he succeeded to the title.

**1a. ii / iii Agnes and Marion Douglas.** They were children of Agnes Keith.

**1a. iv James Douglas**, Parson of Glenbervie, was the eldest son of Elizabeth Irvine and Archibald Douglas. He was the ancestor of the Douglasses of *Whytrigs* and of Sylvester Douglas, Lord Glenbervie of Kincardine, Minister of Religion; ancestor of the Douglasses of *Brigton*, *Feichel* as well as *Whytriggs*.

**1a. v John Douglas**, The Douglasses of *Cruixton*, *Quarrelholes*, *Blackmill* in Cromar, and *Stobbs* are all descended from this son.

**1a. vi Archibald Douglas**

**1a. vii Elizabeth Douglas** married Alexander Falconer younger of *Halkerton*, ancestor of the Earl of Kintore, and had issue.

**1a. viii Marjory Douglas** married Andrew Keith of *Ravenscraig*.

**1a. ix Christian Douglas** married Alexander Irvine younger of *Beltie*. She died in 1568.

**1a. x Joan (or Jane) Douglas** married James Skene, apparent of that ilk, and had issue.

**1a. xi Margaret Douglas** married John Erskine of *Balhagartie* or *Pittodrie*.

**1a. xii Isobel Douglas** married James Melville younger of *Allegevin* of Dysart; died January 18 1582, leaving children.

**1a. xiii Alice Douglas** married Alexander Guthrie, younger of *Kincaldrum*.

**1a. xiv Katherine Douglas**

**1a. xv Sara Douglas** married John Carmichael, Captain of Crawford.

**1a. i William Douglas, 9th Earl of Angus** was a great grandson of the 5th Earl of Angus, and was the grandson of Sir William Douglas of *Glenbervie* and son of Archibald and his first wife Agnes Keith. He was born about 1532, and married **Egidia (or Giles) Graham**, daughter of Robert Graham of *Morphie*, in the Mearns. She survived him and was still alive in 1606. In 1549, he obtained the grant of the lands of *Drumlithie* in the parish of Glenbervie, and managed to hang onto them in spite of an appeal for them by the Bishop of Brechin in the year 1552. In this year, William was invested with the heritable property of *Kemnay* by his father. In 1570 on the death of his father, William became Laird of *Glenbervie*. In 1589, he went to Edinburgh to be served heir to the 8th Earl of Angus, but the King, James VI, opposed the right of entail, and wanted the title for himself. However, the Lords of Session recognised William's claims and assigned the Earldom to him, but he had to pay dearly for it. The King compelled the new Earl of Angus to pay him 35,000 merks for renouncing his claim, and also to resign the lands of *Braidwood* in favour of the Chancellor, Sir John Maitland of *Thirlstane*. William Douglas's eldest son had become a Roman Catholic and he was considering settling the Earldom on another son George, but George predeceased William. In the end, William the elder, although reconciled to Catholicism in his eldest son, requested of him that his brother Robert, succeed to the possession of *Glenbervie*. William Douglas, the 9th Earl became very ill in April 1591, and died on July 1 of that year. By his marriage with Egidia Graham, William Douglas had thirteen children.

**1a. i (a) William Douglas, 10th Earl of Angus** was born about 1554. He was educated partly at the University of St Andrew's, and then entered the service of Regent Morton in 1575. He went to France where he was converted to Catholicism, much to the grief of his father. In November 1591, William was served heir to his father in the Earldom of Angus and as his father wanted, transferred the lands of *Glenbervie* to his brother Robert. In 1594, Angus's estates were forfeited on account of his exploits

against the King and the Church of Scotland up in the north of the country. It wasn't until 1597, that William was reconciled with the Kirk, and in December was fully restored by Parliament to all his estates and honours. In June 1598, William was appointed lieutenant over the whole Scottish borders, and a goodly portion to the south of Scotland. To this commission, he acquitted himself so well, that he was asked to continue the next year. Because of his Catholicism, he was always under suspicion by the Church of Scotland who sent spies to watch him. In the end, he arranged his affairs, and took an affectionate farewell of his family, and retired to France. This was in 1609, and he was never able to return to Scotland, and died aged fifty-seven years on March 3 1611 in Paris and was buried in St Christopher's Aisle of the Abbey of Germain-des-Pres. The 10th Earl of Angus was married between April and June 1585 to **Elizabeth Oliphant**, eldest daughter of Laurence, 4th Lord Oliphant and has issue:

**1a. i (a) I William Douglas**, who became the **11th Earl of Angus**.

**1a. i (a) II James Douglas**, who held the dignity of Provost of the Collegiate Church of Abernethy in 1628. Before this time, he acquired the estate of *Mordington* in Berwickshire, and had been knighted. In 1641, he was raised to the peerage by King Charles I. James died February 11 1656, leaving a son **William**, and a daughter, by his first wife Anne, only child of Laurence, 5th Lord Oliphant. His direct line failed in the fifth generation, and the title of Lord Mordington is now dormant.

**1a. i (a) III Sir Francis Douglas** of *Sandilands* in Douglasdale, studied at Louvain in 1596, and in 1598, he went to Rome to complete his studies in Philosophy. He didn't have any children.

**1a. i (a) IV Mary Douglas**, who married as the second wife to Alexander Livingstone, 2nd Earl Linlithgow, and had issue.

**1a. i (a) V Catherine Douglas**, who died before 1608.

**1a. i (a) VI Elizabeth Douglas**, who married September 13 1627 to John Campbell, fiar of *Cawdor*. She died 1640.

**1a. i (b) Archibald Douglas**, son of William Douglas and Egidia Graham, was Parson of Glenbervie in 1581 and 1583. He died in 1584 without children.

**1a. i (c) George Douglas** who in 1570 received from his father the chaplainry of *Drumlithie*, and in 1576 the half of *Parlathie*. He died at Cockburn before 1590, and was buried at Douglas.

**1a. i (d) Robert Douglas** who obtained *Glenbervie*, was the ancestor of the Douglasses of *Glenbervie*, including Sir Robert Douglas, the author of the '*Peerage and Baronage of Scotland*'.

**1a. i (e) Duncan Douglas** succeeded his brother Archibald as Parson of Glenbervie in 1585, but died without issue before 1591, when his uncle, Mr James Douglas, half-brother to the 9th Earl of Angus, was Parson.

**1a. i (f) Gavin Douglas** named as co-portioner with his brother John in the lands of *Barras*. He had *Bridgeford* in the Mearns, and was ancestor of the family of Douglas of *Bridgeford*. He died before October 1 1616, when his brother was retoured tutor to his son. He married Elizabeth Keith and had issue.

**1a. i (g) John Douglas** of *Corsbatt* and also of *Wester Barras*, and heir to his brother Francis in the lands of *Wardropertoun* and *Pitskellie* in the parish of Glenbervie. He was named heir to his brother Henry in the lands of *Tannachy* in 1599. John died at *Barras* on March 15 1618. He married Jean Fraser and had issue.

**1a. i (h) Francis Douglas** was alive in 1600, but is said to have died in Rome without issue and was buried there in the Church of Santa Maria del Popolo.

**1a. i (i) Henry Douglas** of Tannachy.

**1a. i (j) Margaret Douglas** married William Forbes of *Monymusk*, and had issue.

**1a. i (k) Jean Douglas** married John Wishart of *Balisycht*, nephew and heir apparent of Sir John Wishart of *Pittarro*.

**1a. i (l) Elizabeth Douglas** married before 1581, Thomas Gordon, fiar of *Cluny*.

**1a. i (m) Sarah Douglas** married in 1586, Robert, eldest son of Alexander Strachan, fiar of *Thornton*; married (2) before 1597, George Auchinleck of *Balmanno*.

(Taken from A Douglas! A Douglas! by Mary Smith and Jan Shaw)





## WATERLOO 2000

The 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2015 was remembered by a Service of Commemoration at St. Pauls London. As was mentioned in the last newsletter of June, 2015, no. 105, it was a major battle in which the Duke of Wellington defeated Napoleon. Our CDAA member, Mrs Celia Pemberton and her son Kit were invited to the Service of Commemoration to honour three soldiers who fought in the campaign: two Gt. Gt. Grandfathers, Sir Neil Douglas KCB KCH and Lord Greenock (later Earl Cathcart) and the third was Lord Greenock's younger brother, the Honourable George Cathcart. (Lord Greenock survived three horses shot from under him and Sir Neil was wounded when his horse was shot from under him).



Sir Neil Douglas KCB, KCH



Sir Neil's Sword



Lord Greenock /Earl Cathcart

Celia has sent this wonderful photo of both Kit and herself in London on 18<sup>th</sup> June on their way to St. Pauls. Kit served as a Lieutenant in the Royal Navy for 9 years and here he is wearing the Fleet Arm Air tie and the medal he was awarded for service in Northern Ireland (when attached to the army).



Celia, who served in the WRNS in WW2 is wearing her own medal as well as her late husband's miniature medals, and her brother's Arctic Star when he served in the Navy.

Celia wrote that June 18<sup>th</sup> was 'a lovely sunny day and it was just the most wonderful experience. The Cathedral was packed with "the great and the good", we had to be there early, but worth it as we had very good seats and it was an absolutely wonderful service, very moving'.

Jan Shaw

*Celia as a Photographic Wren in WW2*



## THE STONE OF DESTINY / STONE OF SCONE

The Stone of Scone is also known as the Stone of Destiny, Scottish Gaelic Lia Fail and for centuries was used when Scottish Kings were crowned. In 1296, the stone was taken to England by King Edward I and eventually placed under the Coronation Chair in Westminster Abbey where it was said that English Kings would also be Scottish Kings because of the two symbols being placed one on top of the other.

The Stone weighing 336 pounds(152 kg), is a rectangular pale yellow sandstone block measuring 26 inches (66 cm) by 16 inches (41cm) by 11 inches (28cm) and has a Latin cross as its only decoration. Tradition has it that it was the Stone that arrived in Albania through a warrior known as Scotia. The Stone was moved many times in order to keep it safe. At one time, it was said to have been kept on the Isle of Iona, then Dunadd and later in the sixth century, it was moved to a fortress named Dunstaffnage. Three hundred years later, the Stone was moved again, this time to the Abbey at Scone to protect it from Viking raiders and was used at the coronation of the Scottish kings. At this point in history the Stone of Destiny became known as the Stone of Scone. John de Balliol was crowned on it in 1292.

After the English King Edward I invaded Scotland in 1296, the stone was moved to London and placed in Westminster Abbey in 1307. Edward had a special Coronation Chair made so that the stone fitted underneath. In ancient times a plaque was attached to it which when translated by Sir Walter Scott read

*Unless the fates be faulty grown*

*And prophet's voice be vain*

*Where'er is found this sacred stone*

*The Scottish race shall reign.*

Queen Elizabeth I died in 1603 without issue and she was succeeded by King James VI of Scotland who also became James I of England. He was crowned sitting on the Stone of Scone in Westminster Abbey much to the delight of Scotsmen who claimed that the prophecy was fulfilled.

On Christmas morning 1950, the stone was stolen from Westminster Abbey by Scottish nationalists who removed it to Scotland. Four months afterwards, it was recovered and was again installed in Westminster Abbey where it remained until the British government returned the Stone to Scotland in 1996. It is regarded as a National Treasure by the United Kingdom governments and today, it occupies a place of honor in the Throne Room of Edinburgh Castle. However, the Stone remains the property of the English Crown and will be returned to Westminster for any future coronations.

(Compiled from: *Historic Impressions Products: Scotland & Pictish Artifacts*. Russell, Gerri, *Scone Stone*)

[www.historicimpressions.com/Scottish.htm](http://www.historicimpressions.com/Scottish.htm)  
<http://gerrirussell.net/about/artifacts/>



The Stone of Destiny is featured in the book, *The Warrior Trainer*. In 1296, Edward I of England stole the Stone and placed it under the throne in Westminster Abbey where the English kings were crowned. Some say the Scots knew Edward was coming, and that the monks of Scone hid their precious stone, replacing it with a lump of common sandstone. The real Stone was said to be composed of black marble with intricate carvings in the shape of a seat. The current Stone is reputedly of sandstone with no markings. It has been theorized that the original stone remains hidden in Scotland and is kept safe by a secret society.

The Stone of Destiny was returned to Scotland in 1996 in preparation for the 1999 re-establishment of the Scottish Parliament.

Real or false, the Stone of Destiny is regarded as a national treasure by the United Kingdom governments. Today, it has a place of honor within the Throne Room of Edinburgh Castle. However, it still remains the property of the English Crown and will be returned to Westminster for any future coronations.

*Taken from Wikipaedia Scottish Artifacts.*

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## ABERDOUR CASTLE

**Aberdour Castle** is located in the village of Easter Aberdour, Fife, Scotland. Parts of the castle date from around 1200, making Aberdour one of the two oldest datable standing castles in Scotland. Aberdour means “mouth of the water”.

The barony of Aberdour was acquired in 1126, by Sir Alan de Mortimer, on his marriage to Anicea, daughter of Sir John de Vipont. Sir Alan built St Fillan's Church, which still stands, next to the castle, in around 1140, and his family probably built the original hall house in around 1200, or possibly even earlier. The earliest part of the castle comprised a modest hall house, on a site overlooking the Dour Burn. One of the first known references to the lords of Aberdour is from the charter of Inchcolm Abbey. It tells of a dispute between the Abbot of Inchcolm and William de Mortimer over the appointment of a priest without the abbot's permission. The abbot and his canons rowed across from Inchcolm island and protested outside the church doors. Mortimer had them dragged away and beaten, but later admitted he had been wrong and gave the church to the abbey. In 1216, another Alan de Mortimer is recorded granting land to the monks of Inchcolm Abbey.

There is no record of what happened to the de Mortimers, but in the early 14th century, King Robert the Bruce granted Aberdour to his kinsman, Thomas Randolph, Earl of Moray (d. 1332). Moray's grandson granted the barony in turn to Sir William Douglas (c. 1300-1353), in 1342 whose bravery in battle had earned him the epithet “The Flower of Chivalry”. It has remained in the Douglas family ever since. A charismatic man and a royal favourite, Sir William Douglas soon added the barony of Dalkeith, Midlothian and the lordship of Liddesdale on the English border to his extensive domains. He was regarded as a great soldier and played an important part in the second War of Independence. However his reputation was tarnished when he murdered Sir Alexander Ramsay at Hermitage Castle, which temporarily cost him the king's grace. Sir William was captured at the Battle of Neville's Cross in 1346 while fighting for the king. After six years of captivity he made a treasonous deal with the English king to secure his freedom, promising to help him invade Scotland. In 1352, just over a year after his release, he was killed by his godson, also William Douglas, following a territorial struggle. Shortly before his death, he had granted his lands at Aberdour to his nephew James, but kept the castle for himself. This transaction was confirmed by David II in 1361, the earliest known historical reference to the existence of Aberdour Castle.

The castle was passed down through James Douglas's descendants as part of the regality of Dalkeith, a barony created in 1386 from the united lordships of Aberdour and Dalkeith with the principal seat at Dalkeith, near Edinburgh, and Aberdour as a secondary residence. James, 3th Lord Dalkeith, succeeded to the joint barony in 1456, and was created Earl of Morton in 1458, prior to his marriage to Joanna, the deaf-mute daughter of James I. At the same time, the title of Lord Aberdour was created as a hereditary title for the Earl's eldest son which still occurs today.

Over the next 400 years, the castle was successively expanded according to contemporary architectural ideas. The newly created earl expanded the existing hall house, heightening and rebuilding the structure to suit his elevated status. The 2nd Earl carried out extensions to Aberdour Castle around 1500, building a new stair tower and south block. The hall house became a tower house in the 15th century, and was extended twice in the 16th century. The final addition was made around 1635, with refined Renaissance details, and the whole was complemented by a walled garden to the east and terraced gardens to the south. The terraces, dating from the mid-16th century, form one of the oldest gardens in Scotland, and offer extensive views across the Firth of Forth to Edinburgh.

The earls used Aberdour as a second home until 1642, when their primary residence, Dalkeith House, was sold. A fire in the late 17th century was followed by some repairs, but in 1725 the family purchased nearby Aberdour House, and the medieval castle was allowed to fall into decay. Today, only the 17th-century wing remains roofed, while the tower has mostly collapsed.

### 16th century

In 1538 James V summoned the 3rd Earl of Morton before the Privy Council, accusing him of non-payment of his feudal dues, and in 1540 he banished the Earl to Inverness. Morton reached Brechin, in Angus, where he signed a deed resigning his lands to his kinsman Robert Douglas of Lochleven. Lochleven was compelled to resign the lands in turn to James V, although he was permitted to keep Aberdour Castle. After James V's death in late 1542, George Douglas of Pittendreich and the Earl of Arran assisted Morton in reclaiming his lands, including Aberdour. In return their sons were to marry two of Morton's three daughters. Pittendreich's son James (1525-1581) married the heiress, Elizabeth, and succeeded, in 1553, as 4th Earl of Morton.



Aberdour Castle was reserved to his mother-in-law, Countess Katherine, until 1564, when Mary, Queen of Scots, confirmed Morton's right to the whole barony of Dalkeith and Aberdour. In 1566, Morton was involved in planning a rebellion against the Queen, which resulted in the murder of Queen Mary's secretary, David Riccio, but failed to gain further momentum, and Morton was forced to flee to England. However, by the end of the year he had returned, and by July the following year, Mary was imprisoned and had been forced to abdicate by the Scottish noblemen. Morton was appointed Regent of Scotland, for the child King James VI in 1572. He undertook extensions to the castle in the 1570s, rebuilding the south block of c. 1500, and extending it further south to form the present central range. He also drew inspiration from contemporary gardens in England, such as Hampton Court, in laying out the terraced gardens. The Privy Council met at Aberdour Castle in August 1576, but Morton's regency came to an end in 1578. He was later implicated in the 1567 murder of Queen Mary's husband, Lord Darnley, and executed in 1581 on the orders of the young King.



While Morton was in prison, his lands were given to his nephew, Archibald Douglas, 8th Earl of Angus, but were granted to the Earl of Lennox after Morton's execution. In 1587, Lennox returned the Morton lands to Angus, who was now acknowledged as the 5th Earl of Morton. On Angus' death, in 1588, the earldom of Morton passed to another kinsman, William Douglas of Lochleven (d. 1606). William's son predeceased his father, but his widow, Jean Lyon, continued to live at Aberdour with her third husband, Alexander Lindsay, 1st Lord Spynie (d. 1607).



*The 17th century wing of the castle.  
Photo courtesy of Jenny Smith*

### **The later Earls**

William Douglas, 7th Earl of Morton (1582-1648), sometimes numbered as the 6th Earl, inherited Aberdour from his grandfather in 1606. He was Treasurer of Scotland from 1630-36, and a strong supporter of the Stewart dynasty during the Wars of the Three Kingdoms (1639-1651). However, he was compelled to spend much of his fortune in the royal interest, leading him into financial difficulty, and forcing him to sell Dalkeith to the Earl of Buccleuch in 1642. Earl William built the Renaissance east wing at Aberdour, probably around 1635. It was certainly standing in 1647, when an inventory records luxurious furniture, carpets, and tapestries. The walled garden was also built in the 1630s, and improvements made to the terraces. Aberdour was therefore a suitable principal residence for the Earls after the sale of Dalkeith.



*Aberdour Castle ruins. Photo courtesy of Jenny Smith*

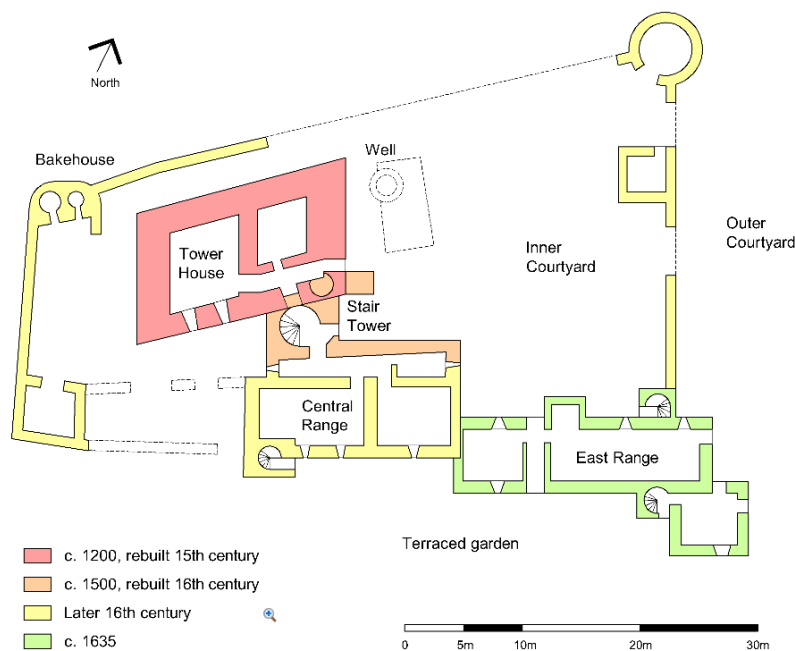
The Earls of Morton continued to live at Aberdour, although they never regained their earlier high status. In 1688 the castle was badly damaged by fire, and in 1690 the 11th Earl consulted the architect James Smith. Smith surveyed the damage and drew up proposals for repairing and extending the castle with another wing



north of the east range. The Earl also sought estimates for the demolition of the tower house and central range. Nothing ever came of these proposals, although repairs were carried out to the east range, being completed in 1703.

Government troops were stationed at Aberdour Castle during the Jacobite Rising of 1715. During their stay, a second fire again caused extensive damage. In 1725, the Mortons bought an adjacent property, Cuttlehill House, which they renamed Aberdour House, and the castle ceased to be a residence. The east range was again repaired, and was used for various purposes, including a school room, a barracks, and a masonic hall. In 1924 the castle and gardens were placed in state care, and continue to be managed by Historic Scotland as a visitor attraction. The south-east wing was initially restored as a home for the custodian, and now houses a cafe. The castle is protected as a Scheduled Ancient Monument, and the castle, dovecot and walled garden are Category A listed buildings, the highest level of protection for a historic building in Scotland. The grounds, and surrounding former parks, are listed on the Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes, the national register of significant gardens.

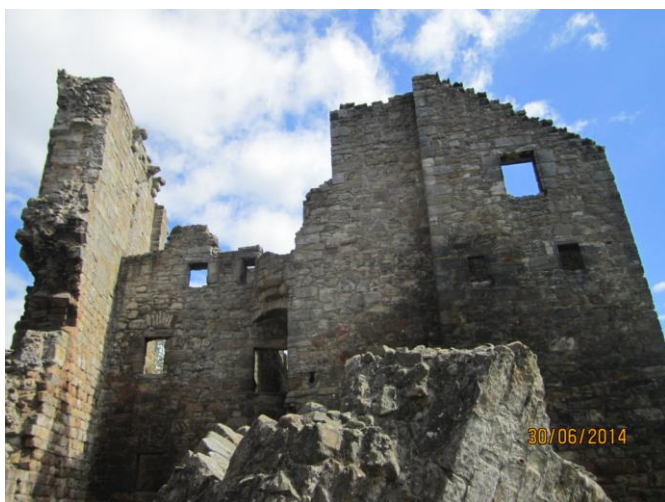
The castle originally comprised the 12th- or 13th-century hall house, which was extended in the 15th century. In the 16th century the central range was built to the south of the tower house, and new inner and outer courtyard walls were constructed. The east part of the inner courtyard wall is reduced to foundations, but the base of a round tower and a porter's lodge survive. To the west, the inner courtyard wall remains, enclosing the former service courtyard, which comprises a brewery and bakehouse, with ovens. The east range was added in the 17th century, along the south edge of the outer courtyard. The castle was originally approached from the north, with the entrance moved to the west, along with the 17th-century gate, when the Aberdour railway line was constructed in 1890.



*Ground-floor plan of the castle showing phases of construction. Created by Jonathon Oldenbuck June 2008. CC BY-SA 3.0. Retrieved from [http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Aberdour\\_Castle\\_plan.png](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Aberdour_Castle_plan.png)*

### The tower house

The tower house measures 16 metres by 11 metres on a skewed rectangular plan. The lower two storeys comprise the oldest part of the castle, which can be dated to around 1200, while the upper parts are of the 15th century. The date for the original building is based on several pieces of evidence. The cubical blocks of masonry, the flat buttress at the north-east, and the splaying, or widening, of the base of the walls, are all indicative of this date. The collapsed part of the south wall also formerly contained an early 13th-century style double-lancet window. The original structure, of a type known as a hall house, was probably of two or three storeys, comprising a first-floor hall over an unvaulted basement, and may have been surrounded by a defensive timber stockade or enclosure. The 15th-century rebuilding added two upper floors, and rearranged the interior. Vaulted basements, including a kitchen, and a spiral stair were inserted, and the heightened wall was topped by a parapet with machicolations; spaces through which objects could be dropped on attackers at the base of the wall. The tower suffered major collapses in 1844 and 1919, and today just the basement survives, with only a small section of the south-east wall standing to its full height.



*The ruins of the tower house on the left, showing fallen masonry, with the central range behind. Photo courtesy of Jenny Smith*

## The central range

The central range was begun around 1500, possibly as a two-storey building containing a great hall, although only fragments of this building remain. The south entrance to the tower house was blocked up, and replaced with a ground floor entrance from the east. A new stair tower, with a broad spiral stair, was built at the south-east corner. Originally topped by a conical roof, this stair gave access to the upper floors in the tower, and to the central range. Around 1570, the 4th Earl of Morton rebuilt the block, extending it further south to form new apartments. This block, forming the present three-storey central range, includes a vaulted kitchen and cellar in the basement, with suites of rooms above. The two bedrooms on the first floor each have their own closets and garderobes, or privies. The west apartment is accessed from the terraced garden, via another stair to the south-west, and has a private stair which led up to another chamber above, suggesting that these were the Earl and Countesses apartments. The upper storey, whose timber floor is now missing, comprised three more apartments, including one over the stair. The exterior of the block is decorated with a horizontal decorative strip of masonry known as a string course. One first-floor window is decorated with carved stone pilasters and strapwork, in a similar style to windows at Edinburgh Castle and Drochil Castle, in the Borders, both of which were built under Morton's Regency.

## The east range



*Painted ceiling in the east range*

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46 pictures and a harpsichord, among other furniture. In the south-east wing are three chambers, one on each floor, linked by a spiral stair. The first-floor room has a 17th-century painted ceiling, decorated with fruit, foliage, and heraldic emblems. The south-east wing has crow-step gables, and a sundial on one corner. The east window of the long gallery is decorated with pilasters and a pediment. The roof is of 18th-century date, and is lower than the original, resulting in the loss of the triangular pediments which once topped each of the side windows.

*The east range of Aberdour. Photo courtesy of Jenny Smith*

## The gardens

There were gardens at Aberdour Castle from at least 1540. The terraced garden dates from the time of the 4th Earl of Morton, who succeeded in 1553, and comprises four broad L-shaped terraces. At the bottom of the terraces was an orchard, laid out in 1690, and recently replanted. The extent of the terracing was only rediscovered following excavations in the 1970s, after parts of the garden had been in use as a market garden. Archaeological investigations were undertaken between 1977 and 1980, to determine whether the lower terraces, which were depicted on a map of 1740, had indeed existed. Although the foundations of the terraces were found, the remains could not be precisely dated, but are thought to have been constructed in the second half of the 16th century. The high retaining walls were rebuilt in 1981, and the terraces were laid with grass, since the excavations had not revealed any evidence of historic planting schemes.



*The terraced garden, with the doocot. Photo courtesy of Jenny Smith*



A 16th-century "beehive" shape doocot, or pigeon house, is located to the south, containing around 600 nesting boxes. The 9 metres the structure rises in four steps, divided by "rat courses"; projecting ribs which prevented rats from climbing inside.

The 17th-century walled garden covers around 5,000 square metres (1.2 acres), with walls up to 4 metres high. It lies to the west of the outer courtyard, and was originally entered from doors in the south-west and north-east corners. These doors have carved pediments, with strapwork and the Douglas heart emblem over the west door, which led to the terraces. The east door led to St. Fillan's Church, and is carved with the date 1632, together with a monogram of the initials of the Earl and Countess. A kitchen garden was located across the Kirk Lane, and bee boles are located in the walls. A summer house was built into the south-east garden wall in 1675, but was demolished in the 18th century. In 1691, botanist James Sutherland supplied exotic plants, including Persian jasmine, tamarisks and figs, to Aberdour from the Physic Garden in Edinburgh, the forerunner of the Royal Botanic Garden. The later entrance in the west wall dates from around 1740. During the Second World War, the garden was in use as a market garden and for pig rearing. In the centre of the garden, an early 17th-century polygonal sundial is mounted on a 19th-century base. The sundial was brought here in the 1970s, possibly from Castle Wigg in south-west Scotland.



*Walled garden with St Fillan's Church in the background. Photo courtesy of Jenny Smith*

### **Aberdour House**

Originally named Cuttlehill, the house was built in the 17th century, and is dated 1672. It was enlarged in 1715 by its then owner, the Earl of Moray. The Earl of Morton purchased it in 1725, finally moving out of the dilapidated castle. In 1731 the 12th Earl consulted James Gibbs on improvements. It is uncertain how much of Gibbs' proposals were executed, although the doorway has a surround in Gibbs' style. By the 20th century the house was disused, and was redeveloped as private flats in the 1990s. The house is Category A listed, and formerly had its own extensive gardens, which included the surviving 12-metre high obelisk of 1744–45, built by

the 13th Earl to be visible from his estate at Dalmahoy, across the Firth of Forth.

Collated by Jenny Smith



### **EDITORIAL**



It is nearing that time again for the Clan Douglas Association of Australia Annual General Meeting on 25 October 2015 at 1200hrs. The AGM is held at the Presidents home in Graceville (see address on back page). We have lunch first and then the AGM and General Meeting. If any of you can attend please do. You won't be given a job and it would be nice to see some new faces!



We have included as separate sheets with the Newsletter:

- A nomination form for the CDAA Committee
- A reminder to renew your CDAA membership fees for 2016
- An Order Form for Douglas Castle Stones as we have a few left. Once these are gone there will never be an opportunity to acquire a physical part of your heritage again. A stone would make a great Christmas present for one of your family!.

Mary Smith, Editor





# CLAN DOUGLAS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

Patron: Mr Archibald Douglas

**President:**

Mrs Jan Shaw  
116 Strong Ave.  
Graceville, 4075  
T. (07) 3379 6357  
Email: [janny31@ozemail.com.au](mailto:janny31@ozemail.com.au)

**Secretary:**

Ms Jenny Smith  
6 Weir Close  
Belmont 4153  
T. (07) 38908214  
Email: [jen2602@hotmail.com](mailto:jen2602@hotmail.com)

**Membership Secretary:**

Mrs Sue Taylor  
11 Hannam Street,  
Wynnum North, 4178  
T. (07) 3396 5101  
Email: [sue.taylor62@bigpond.com](mailto:sue.taylor62@bigpond.com)

**Treasurer:**

Ms Kate Godfrey,  
140 Latrobe Terrace  
Paddington  
T. 0417 004 446  
Email: [kate\\_godfrey@hotmail.com](mailto:kate_godfrey@hotmail.com)

**Newsletter Editor &  
Genealogical Co-ordinator:**

Mrs Mary Smith  
P.O. Box 29  
Bowenville, 4404  
T. (07) 4663 7146  
Email: [maryvsmith@dodo.com.au](mailto:maryvsmith@dodo.com.au)

**Web Site Administrator:**

Ms Penny Shaw  
12 Chanter Ave.  
Graceville, 4075  
T. (07) 3278 3397  
Email: [p.shaw@ozemail.com.au](mailto:p.shaw@ozemail.com.au)

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, Sandlilands, 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.

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## 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 tick)

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 CDAA Membership Secretary, Sue Taylor, 11 Hannam Street, Wynnum North 4178.

Signature of applicant: .....