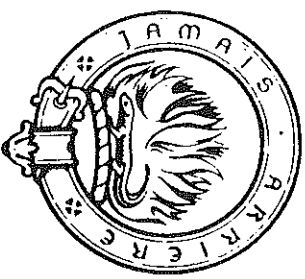


THE CLAN DOUGLAS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA NEWSLETTER



No. 5

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MAY 88

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Those eligible to join the Douglas Association of Australia, upon application, are -
Anyone descended from, connected by marriage, or adopted by a Douglas or a Sept of Douglas.
The Septs affiliated with Douglas are -

BELL, BLACKLOCK, BLACKSTOCK, BLACKWOOD, BROWN, BROWNLEE, CAVERS,
DRYSDALE, FOREST, FORRESTER, FOSTER, GILPATRICK, GLENDINNING, INGLIS,
KILGORE, KILPATRICK, KIRKLAND, KIRKPATRICK, LOCKERBY, MACGUFFEY,
MACGUFFOCK, MC KITTRICK, MORTON, SANDLANDS, SANDLIN, SOULE,
SYMINGTON, YOUNG.

On the list of sept families there are some who are recognised as belonging to other clans. It is therefore necessary to know your lineage in order to prove association. Clan Douglas Association of Australia cannot guarantee that your particular family is eligible to be a sept, but the Association would be happy to accept your membership until proven differently.

President's Message



Welcome Clan members to our Newsletter No. 5. We are now starting to experience that established feeling, with our organisation in a good consolidated position. Our last get together was at the Woolshed near Ferney Grove, a Northern suburb of Brisbane, which was promoted in our last Newsletter. The setting was ideal, as it was in a beautiful hilly area and could have been mistaken for a spot in the glens or Highlands of Scotland.

We had an enjoyable day and some of the following details outline the participation by various bodies. We erected a tent for our members to display Scottish memorabilia and Douglas history provided by our Genealogical Co-ordinator Mary Smith. This also provided us with a dry retreat if the weather had turned nasty. In front of our tent was displayed an ancient Green Douglas tartan flag, the St. Andrew's flag, the Douglas Banner with Clan Crest, and to cap it off we had a Douglas Pennant flying from the apex of the tent.

About 33 members and families turned up with picnic lunches and we had a good camaraderie amongst ourselves and other Clan members, representing about 15 Clan Societies, who also erected tents to create a tented village atmosphere. Three Scottish craft supply houses, one from as far away as Sydney, set up displays of Scottish goods for our selection. A Gaelic video display was set up by the Gaelic Speaking Association, which created much interest. The Brisbane Caledonian Society Pipe Band provided displays during the afternoon, interspersed with items of Highland Dancing demonstrations.

The function was organised by Jim Wallace-Young of the Centenary committee of the Brisbane Caledonian Society on behalf of the newly formed Clan Congress Association of Queensland, of which we are a member. This body was formed for the purpose of fostering new Clans to be established and helping existing ones to expand, by having regular meetings to discuss methods and techniques for promoting the above results. This function was the first outdoor one involving the Clan Congress of Queensland, with the next occasion being in conjunction with the Tartan Spectacular at Q.E.11 in Brisbane on the Queen's Birthday weekend, and all members are invited to attend and enjoy this annual Scottish Gathering.

Perhaps the time is drawing near when members in other States would like to hold functions of their own in their own particular districts. Please write to our Association expressing your views and opinions on this and it will be brought up at our committee meetings for discussion, to see how it can be brought about. Some States have organisations similar to the aforementioned Clan Congress in Queensland and they can be of assistance to host smaller groups who have not yet established themselves with the required numbers to put on a successful function. We have a listing of these associations and when we receive some response from interested members we will try to assist with introductions, so that an initial contact can be made in the various States.

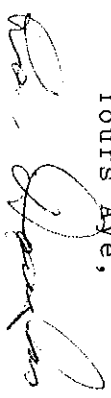
I would like to meet members from all over Australia at the week long World Gathering in Sydney, hosted by the Scottish Australian Heritage Council. This event will take place at the end of November and early bookings for accommodation will be essential. It will be a good

opportunity to meet you and hold a general meeting where you can express your views around the table, so we can get some essential feed-back to help us formulate requirement policies well in advance for the future.

Looking to your continued support,

Kind regards,

Yours Aye,



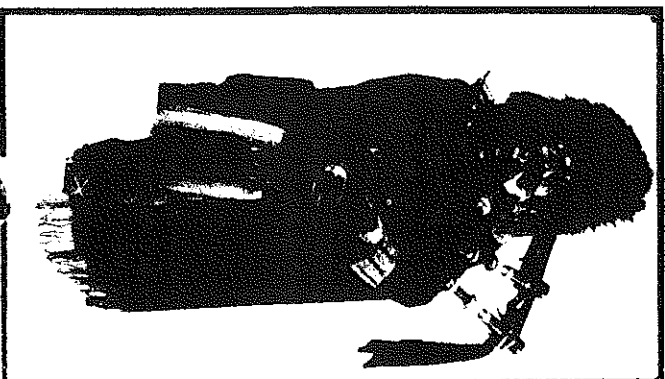
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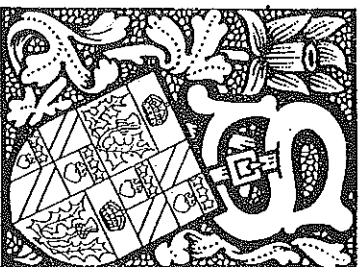
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SEPTS

SANDILANDS

The name is of territorial origin from the lands of Sandilands in the Upper Ward of Clydesdale. These lands were held by the Douglasses in the early part of the fourteenth century. The first of the surname of whom there is any notice is James Sandilands, armiger, a vassal of William, first Earl of Douglas, who obtained a grant of lands in Peeblesshire from David II in 1336, and in 1348 became possessor of the lands of Sandilands and Redmyre by charter from William, Lord of Douglas (SCM., v, p. 245). By his marriage in 1353 with Eleanor, sister of the earl, he received the barony of Calder, near Edinburgh, in free marriage with her (McCall, Mid-Calder, p. 52-53). James de Sandylandes appears as a witness in 1357 (Neubottle, p. 309), and in 1424 James Sandelond, lord of Calder, had a safe conduct into England (Bain, iv, 970). Sandeland 1477, Sandelandis 1510, Sandielandis 1608, Sandilandys 1399, Sandyland and Sandylandes 1347, Sandylandis 1374.

(Taken from "The Surnames of Scotland" by G.F. Black).

John of Douglas who became lord of Calder died overseas in 1342. He was succeeded by his brother William, who became the first Earl of Douglas. William's sister Eleanor de Brys, Countess of Carrick and widow of Alexander Bruce, Earl of Carrick, married James of Sandilands. On their marriage, William bestowed his whole barony of Westir Caldore upon James together with the whole town of Bengoure in the county of Edinburgh. Since then, the barony has descended in the Sandilands family. It is interesting to note, that when James, 2nd Earl of Douglas was slain at Otterburn in 1388, which caused the extinction of the legitimate male line of the Douglasses, the earldom went by virtue of special entail to Archibald, Lord of Galloway, natural son of the "Good Sir James". Eleanor Sandilands didn't have any issue by her first husband, and her niece Isabel, Countess of Mar died without issue, which left Sir James Sandilands Eleanor's son, the sole representative of the legitimate line of the House of Douglas. However, Sir James was prevailed upon to renounce his rights as regards any property, in favour of George, Earl of Angus, natural son of William, first Earl of Douglas, and Margaret Stewart, Countess of Angus. The latter is said by Sir Herbert Maxwell in his book A History of the House of Douglas, "to have been one of those privileged mortals who may steal a horse, while inferior or less fortunate individuals are hanged for looking over the hedge." Whatever influence the Countess of Angus exerted over Sir James Sandilands, history knows not; but he did take the advice of his relatives and friends and as Sir Herbert Maxwell says, "after weighing minutely his own advantage" yielded to the Countess's persuasions. She also obtained from Sir James, "possession of the castle of Calder as a residence for five years, coupled with Sandilands' undertaking to confirm any gift or bequest of lands which Isabel, Countess of Mar, should make to 'hir lufide brothir George', provided the said George should engage to make over to Sandilands land to the value of 200 marks out of any such gift or bequest."

The first Lord Torphichen was James Sandilands who was second son of Sir James Sandilands of Calder, by Margaret, only daughter of Archibald Forrester of Corstorphine. This Sir James was renowned for his close association with John Knox who often resided at Calder after his return to Scotland in 1555. The first lord became involved in politics of the time and died in 1579. Although he married, there wasn't any issue of the union and he was succeeded to the title by his grand nephew, James Sandilands of Calder. Many of the male members of the Sandilands family were educated for the church or army and faithfully served Scotland in their chosen profession.

CREATION. - Baron Torphichen, 24 January 1563-64

ARMS (recorded in Lyon Register). - Quarterly, 1st and 4th, argent, on a chief azure an imperial crown or, in base a thistle, vert flowered gules; 2nd and 3rd, counter-quartered; 1st and 4th, argent, a bend azure; 2nd and 3rd, argent, a human heart proper, imperially crowned gules, on a chief azure three mullets of the field.

CREST. - An eagle displayed proper.

SUPPORTERS. - Two savages wreathed round the loins and temples with oak leaves, holding in the exterior hands clubs, all proper.

MOTTO. - Specio meliora.

RESEARCH QUERIES

DOUGLAS - Anyone with information concerning the descendants of John Douglas and Agnes Brewster of Ayrshire, Scotland who emigrated to Australia in 1852. They lived at Wallerawang in New South Wales. Daughters married into Blackwood or Busby, Jackson, and Yeo families. Please contact Mr Dennis Douglas, 6 Aston St., Oxford, OX4 1EP, ENGLAND.

DOUGLAS - Information is sought by Mrs A. Verona Karutz, 24 Victoria Terrace, Mount Gambier, 5290, South Australia concerning family of Isabella (Frances) Douglas d. 7th June 1840, who married John Pennycuik of Glasgow, Scotland. Mrs Karutz is interested in any information about Isabella (Frances) Douglas' ancestors or descendants.

DOUGLAS - Mr Gregory Hooper-Browne, Upper Pitone Road, RD 4, New Plymouth, New Zealand, seeks information about the ancestry of Margaret Douglas, born in Leith, Scotland and married John Hodge in Melbourne, Australia on the 25th August 1854. Margaret was the daughter of Thomas Douglas and Margaret Shields of Leith.

BROWN - Can anyone assist with information about Mungo Brown who came from Falkirk, Stirlingshire, Scotland. He is said to have been the ferryman across the narrows of the Firth of Forth. At least two of his sons, Mungo Junior, and John migrated to Australia in the 1850's and went mining at Bendigo. Please contact Mrs Judith Talanoa, 103 Korumburra Road, Wonthaggi, 3995.

DOUGLAS - Robert Joseph, born 1836, West Bolden, co Durham (son of John & Isabella, nee Purdy) and Ann PURDY, born 1845, Felling, co Durham, who married 1862 at Newcastle-on-Tyne. They emigrated to Queensland on Flying Cloud 24/8/1866. Also on board were the families of Gregory and John Douglas who are believed to have been related. Robert Joseph Douglas built Melrose House at 365 Ipswich Road, Annerley, so named after family birthplace in Scotland. Appreciate any information about above families. Contact Mrs L.M. Robinson, Castleview Wollar Road, via Mudgee 2850.

KNOW YOUR ROOTS

Corrections:

Re O.P.R. for Ireland. Non Roman Catholic marriages were registered in Ireland from 1846.

If sending away for certificates from England, they are half the price if one sends direct to the relevant registration district. eg., a birth certificate from, say Oxford register, would cost you £5 as against £10 from St Catherin's House in London if you sent there for it.

Above information supplied by Mrs Marjorie Ethell who also states in her letter:

"Historic Haunts of Scotland by Maclehoose, facing p320 is a photograph of the interior of St Bride's Chapel, Douglas in Lanarkshire, which shows the tomb of the 7th Earl of Douglas - and below the tomb, effigies of his six sons and four daughters - with also quite a lot of description and information on the pages before and after, concerning other Douglases entombed there."

RECOMMENDED READING:

Nancy Gray, Compiling Your Family History. Australian Broadcasting Corporation, Sydney, 1986 last edition.
Errol Lea-Scarlett, Roots and Branches.

WILLIAM BURGESS DOUGLASS 1817 - 1896



It is difficult to span a man's life of seventy-eight years in a few words. A Fort Phillip Pioneer who lived and filled every moment to the full, William Burgess Douglass left an immense heritage to pass on to his family. He was born to James Douglas and Margaret Burgess on the 13th July 1817 at Brownshill, Scotland, and was baptised at Bellshill Meeting House, Parish of Bothwell. Two brothers, Daniel and James, were also baptised here, all being descendants of the Douglas family of Bothwell Castle. William was educated at St Peter's, Glasgow, and married Jane Richards of Edinburgh, in Glasgow in 1840. He set sail as Surgeon Superintendent on the George Luth, from Glasgow bound for Van Dieman's Land in 1840 leaving behind his new wife Jane to follow later. He arrived at his destination where he stayed for twelve months or so, before deciding to journey to Portland on the mainland of Australia on the Ellen Elizabeth. He landed in 1841 and took up residence. He travelled to Melbourne where he bought some land in the central area, but sold this later believing that Portland would become the capital of the state. He invested his money in land in and around Portland and befriended the Aborigines, learning their habits, lifestyle and language of which he wrote later.

An interesting story was inserted in the Portland Guardian of June 29th 1904.

"Shortly after his arrival Mr Douglass was having a friendly chat with an old black whom he questioned how long since he had first seen a white man on horseback, and was taken by surprise to find such must have been many years back. Following up his enquiries the following was what he found to be as correct as he could make out. Just as the sun was going down a number of blacks near the cliffs about where the town of Portland now stands, were surprised to see a strange looking object approaching through the timber from the direction of the North Bluff. The animal, as they called it, was so uncommon that some of the blacks ran away in fear, but others watched from a respectable distance. The awful looking object, to them, passed southward, keeping close to the cliffs, till arriving about where the Botanical Gardens now are. The visitor proceeded along what is now known as the creek, and after following towards where the bridge is, returned northwards to a spot between the marsh and the creek (near where the oak tree stands now in the Botanical Gardens). The man

dismounted - or, as the blacks

described it, took himself to pieces. A fire was lit. One half of the strange thing remained near the fire, while the other half (presumably the horse) moved away eating grass. The man, from description, rolled himself up in something and stayed there all night, the blacks keeping a close watch. At sunrise, the man caught his horse and mounted (put himself together again as the blacks said) and crossed the creek, disappearing over Observatory Hill. The blacks followed the visitor for some distance till they were content to know the strange animal had gone away. Such is an idea of what Mr Douglass found to be evidently a true statement of a visit of a man on horse-back. Of course he could glean nothing as to how many years ago this had taken place, but some of the blacks were positive when they again saw man and horse together that their strange beast was a mounted man. Nothing could ever be found of the man, who was generally supposed to have been an escaped convict from the Sydney side".

William Douglass' wife Jane, arrived in Portland in 1847 with one daughter Harriet, and over the following years, raised a family of ten children. William leased 8,000 acres, known as Ellangowan where he ran 1,600 sheep exporting his wool to England for sale. As well, he experimented with the growing of some sugar-beet on the property. He was appointed a master at Scots School in Portland, and used his medical knowledge to the full by being particularly helpful to people in all walks of life who were in need. He organised for a boat to go to the aid of the stricken ship Admella which had been wrecked in pounding seas at Cape Northumberland in 1859. There were only nineteen survivors from the ship which had a full complement of one hundred and thirteen passengers and crew. The ship also carried horses, some of which escaped from the wreck by swimming to the shore. It is of interest, that one of the surviving horses known as Barb, went on to win the 1866 Melbourne Cup.

William Douglass was a talented business man and had a finger in many 'pies'. He was a valuer and rate collector for the shire, which position he held for twenty-seven years. He was elected to the old Portland Road Board and was a shareholder in the Grand North West Canal Co. In 1855 he purchased the Bank of Australasia and London Inn adjoining buildings in Portland. The former, he turned into his private home and at the same time, he acquired another property for his fine horses. As a pastoral pioneer in the district, he added much to the country's knowledge. His medical degrees, considerable literary achievements and knowledge of geology and chemistry, claimed a large percentage of his working life. He was always ready and able to advise on these subjects as well as determining the nature of minerals in the locality if called upon. His poems were particularly poignant and he often wrote in Gaelic which he spoke fluently. Some of his poems were printed on silk.

William possessed a silver capped walking stick on which was inscribed the family crest of the imperially crowned winged heart and motto Forward, with the name of Douglas underneath all. William Burgess Douglass died very suddenly and was found in the garden by one of his daughters who had gone to summon her father for his tea. A man universally respected by all, his funeral was one of the largest seen in Portland for many years. He was survived by his wife Jane and eight of their children.

To me, his great-granddaughter, and most of all to his descendants, he left poems of great feeling showing a powerful knowledge of words and understanding of life.

Dorothea Black (nee Douglass).

The Last Leaf of Autumn.

AS chilly Autumn's withering breath
Spread through the forest annual death,
Robbing alike shrub and tree
Of foliage bare,
Till naught remained where used to be
A green leaf there.

One leaf remained to brave its turn;
O'er brooding fate it seemed to mourn.
Trembling on high, it breathed a tone
So forth strained
Between a murmur and a moan,
It thus complained:

"As leaf by leaf thou cruel wind,
Have snatched from me my brother kind;
Tumbling on thy relentless blast,
They meekly gave,
Then hurried to a home, that home their last,
Eternal grave."

Thus spoke the leaf. It struggled strong
Against a gust that howled along,
Its fibres weak, it yielded to the
Pressing wind,
Then from its height took last adieu
Of Nature kind.

These lines by the late Wm. DOUGLASS,
were found on his desk after his sudden death—
evidently his last writing.

Old Coshogle House is approximately seven miles north of Thornhill in Dumfriesshire, and the house is in the parish of Durisdeer. The present farming estate is most efficiently run by a Mr and Mrs Maxwell, and they stay in the farmhouse of Coshogle. About half a mile to the north-east into the hills, is Old Coshogle House, which is a stone built house about fifty feet long by about twenty feet wide. The roof has wood supports and is slated. The house has a door and four windows, and the interior has been divided into two living apartments, each with an old fireplace in the gable end wall. The old house is now used for storing farm equipment, but is known to have been inhabited until after the last war, and there are people in the district who have been born in the old house and lived in it. One of the old fireplaces still has the swinging iron bar used to hang cooking pots on. Built into the outside of the north gable wall is the marriage stone about five feet by three feet, showing the arms of Robert Douglas of Coshogle and his wife Nicolas Johnston, with their initials and also the date 1576. This stone is said to have been taken from the old castle of Coshogle when it was demolished many years ago and built into the cottage. Another cottage not far away has some of the decorative stones from the old castle built into it. It is said that the old castle and associated buildings occupied an acre of land. The site overlooks the ravine of the Enterkin burn with a beautiful view. The Douglases of Coshogle were started as a cadet family by Archibald Douglas, second son of William Douglas, 4th Lord Drumlanrig. Drumlanrig Castle can be seen quite easily from Coshogle and so the cadet family did not move far from their parents. The writer has proved descent from the Douglases of Coshogle.

NORRIE'S NOTES NO. 5

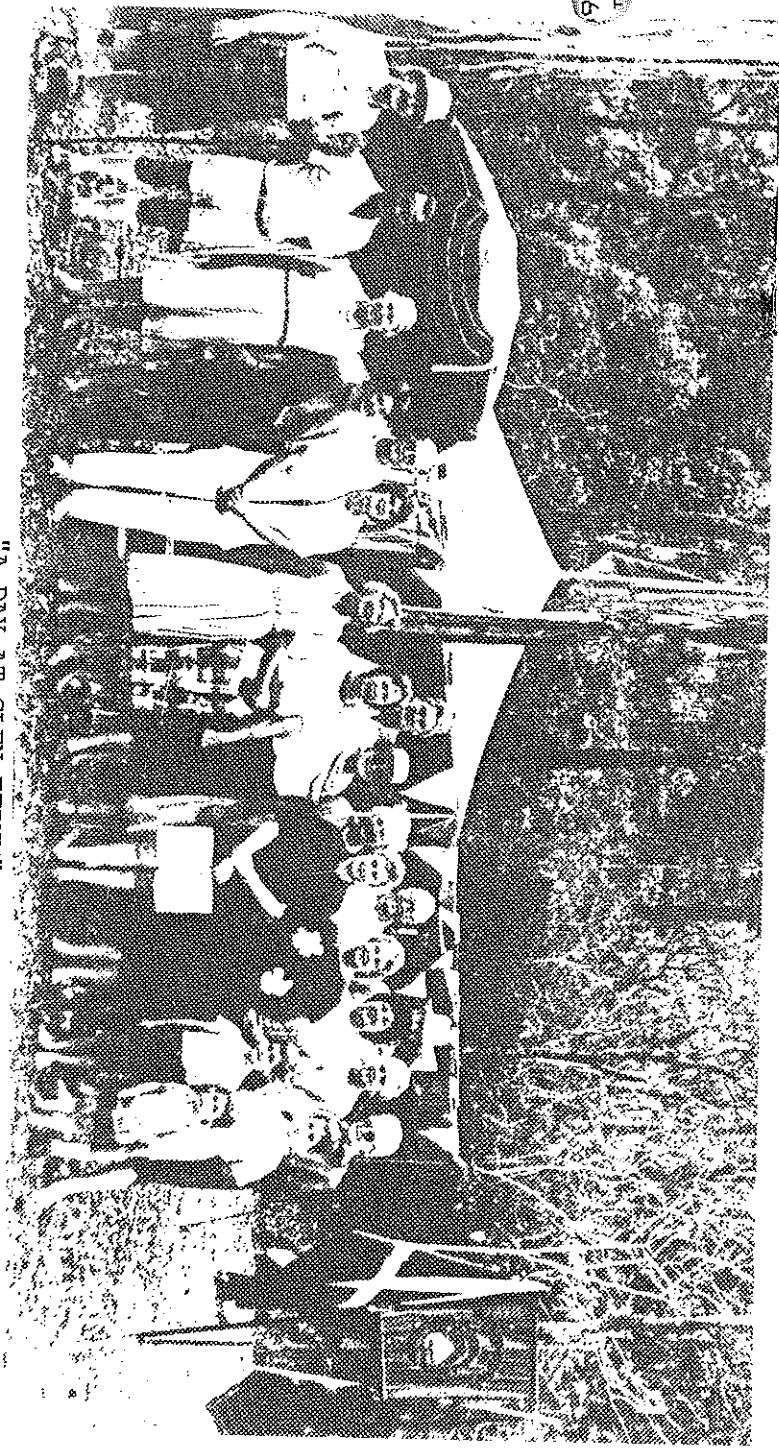


NORRIE'S NOTES NO. 6

OLD CASHOGLE HOUSE

The Dougl's Family of Coshogle, as stated earlier, was a cadet family of the Douglases of Drumlanrig, and as expected, there was for the most of time a strong cordial relationship between the two families, including intermarriage when William Douglas of Coshogle married Janet Douglas of Drumlanrig in 1536. In 1574, Sir James Douglas of Drumlanrig called Robert Douglas of Coshogle his special friend and cousin. However, as in the rest of families, feuds can very easily arise. One such feud was in 1620 when for some reason the Drumlanrig Douglases wanted rid of a Thomas Coupland. The Coshogle Douglases sheltered Coupland, but the Drumlanrig Douglases attacked Coshogle, gained entry, and killed Coupland. In their defence, Robert Douglas of Coshogle, gained entry, and killed Coupland. The Douglases had his right leg (cut) cut off. In the 12th. May 1621, the Drumlanrig Douglases came to defend their legal right to harvest peats, the Coshogle Douglases maintained that it was their right. The Drumlanrigs requested a friendly arrangement, but hot heads were there, a fight developed and several men were killed, and the Coshogles did not get any peats. Archibald Douglas of Ingleston, second son of William Douglas of Coshogle, died in 1565 and Archibald had as his wife Barbara Napier, and in 1591 Barbara was tried for being a witch. It appears that Barbara, if found guilty, was let off, as it is recorded that she died some years later. About 1630, due to misative debts and mismanagement, Sir William Douglas of Coshogle sold the lands. Sir William had one natural son called William from whom the writer is descended.

MEMBER'S INTEREST



"A DAY AT GLEN FERRY"

Members of C.D.A.A. at the clan gathering held at the Woolshed, Ferry Grove on 21st February, 1988.

In the President's message, Ron Douglas describes this enjoyable day.

MARRIAGE

On 26th September, 1987, Anthony Douglas Roseby, son of members Bryan and Jan Roseby (68), married Margaret Ina Grimshaw in Townsville, Q. They now both work with Westpac Bank and live in Mt. Isa, Q.

VALE - Clan Douglas members extend their deepest sympathy to Mr. Murray of Coff's Harbour, N.S.W., on the death of his wife Mrs. Ethel E. Murray, member 98.

WELCOME

NEW MEMBERS :

266. MR & MRS DW & SV DRYSDALE BEACON HILL NSW 267. MRS EILEEN SCHMIDT EAST BURWOOD VIC 268. MRS FLORENCE E. FARRELL UPPER HUTT NZ 269. MRS MARJORIE ETHELL BEVERLY HILLS NSW 270. MR & MRS DAVID J. MYERS BULLSBROOK WA 271. MRS MARIE R. TRENCHER HORSHAM VIC 274. MRS ANNETTE NEWSOME ST LUCIA QLD 275. MRS FRANCIS A. DOUGLAS ST. LUCIA QLD 328. MRS MARGARET E.G. MACPHERSON TOOWOOMBA QLD 330. MRS Y BLUETT & FAMILY NORTH BALGOWLAH NSW 335. MRS R. DRYSDALE ARDROSSAN SA.

CORRECTION

Apologies to Mrs. Margaret Schipke of Mackay, Q. (263) for spelling her name incorrectly in the new member's list last newsletter.

THE CHIEF OF THE HOUSE OF DOUGLAS

I want to draw our member's attention to the fact that the House of Douglas does not have a Chief. I welcome your correspondence and comments on this subject.

DO WE NEED A CHIEF?

WOULD WE LIKE TO SEE THE CHIEF OF THE
HOUSE OF DOUGLAS RE-INSTATED?

WHO DO WE THINK SHOULD BE THE CHIEF?

SHOULD WE, C.D.D.A. BE INVOLVED IN HAVING
A CHIEF APPOINTED?

Jan Shaw - Editor.

The following extracts come from a letter to the Editor from Norman Douglas of DUNDARRACH (112) -

It must be understood by any person reading the following notes that the opinions expressed are those of the author only. The author has not been legally trained in any way and to get a complete answer to the many questions raised, legal advice such as that of the Lord Lyon or other expert counsel would have to be sought.

One of my sources of information is the book The Clans, Septs, and Regiments of the Scottish Highlands by Frank Adam and Innes of Learney, which I will refer to as Adam.

Adam, on page 167, says "A chiefless clan, like an orphan family, is an imperfect group.", so is there any hope of a Chief being restored to the Douglas family?

Various authorities say that the Chief of a family is recognised as the person who is entitled to bear the undifferenced Arms of the Chief of that family. Going back to the early days of the Douglas family, it would appear that from William de Douglas, 1171, the lands of Douglas passed down through various family members to William Douglas, 1st Earl of Douglas and Mar, 1342, then to his son, James Douglas, 2nd Earl of Douglas and Mar, 1358. James had natural sons, William Douglas of Drumlanrig and Archibald Douglas of Cavers, but the lands did not come to either of them, the lands went to Archibald Douglas (the grim) 3rd Earl of Douglas, died 1400, and he was the natural sone of Sir James Douglas the Good. The Douglas lands then passed down the Earls of Douglas to the 9th Earl of Douglas who died in 1488, leaving no heirs. Due to the fact that the last Earls of Douglas did not submit completely to the King's wishes, in 1457, the King forfeited the Douglas lands from the Earl of Douglas and gave them to George Douglas, 4th Earl of Angus, who died 1463, and George was descended from a natural son of the 1st Earl of Douglas and Mar. The Douglas lands then passed down the Earls of Angus to the 11th Earl of Angus, who died in 1660, then to Archibald Douglas, 1st Duke of Douglas, who died 1761. The 1st Duke had no heirs and so the great legal Douglas Cause gave the Douglas lands to Archibald Stewart who became Archibald Douglas, Baron Douglas of Douglas, and he was the son of Jean, the 1st Dukes sister, supposed to be. The Douglas lands then passed through the female line, and into the hands of the Earls of Home, where they still are.

Looking back at the Arms that were borne by the above persons, it can be seen that there was no undifferenced Arms down to the 9th Earl of Douglas, and when the Douglas lands were forfeited by the King and given to the 4th Earl of Angus the Earls of Angus carried on their own Arms and did not take the Arms of the Earls of Douglas, so the author is of the opinion that the Arms passed down from the 4th Earl of Angus to the Earl of Home are not really the Arms of the Chief of Douglas.

Going back again to William Douglas, 1st Earl of Douglas and Mar, he had as his Arms the Douglas Arms quartered with the Arms of Mar. His natural son became George Douglas, 1st Earl of Angus, but William's legitimate son James became 2nd Earl of Douglas and Mar, and James took the Arms of his father. James had a natural son who became William Douglas of Drumlanrig, and the Douglasses of Drumlanrig carried on the Arms of Douglas and Mar, so it is the author's opinion that for this reason the Drumlanrig family should have been Chiefs of the Douglas family, as well as the fact that James Douglas, 2nd Earl of Douglas and Mar, was a later legitimate son than his father. Descendants of the Drumlanrig family are The Duke of Buccleuch, The Marquess of Queensberry, the author, and others.

The following is quoted from page 113 of The Tartans of the Clans and Families of Scotland by Innes of Learney, "Archibald Stewart Douglas of Douglas, to whom the armorial bearings and Douglas chiefship were awarded by Lyon Decree 1771 and he was created Lord Douglas of Douglas 1790." This would mean that The Lord Lyon awarded the Chiefship of the Douglas family to Archibald Douglas in 1771, and on that basis it might well be legally impossible to change who was Chief at that time.

From the same page is quoted "It is difficult to say who is now chief of the name and family of Douglas, as the arms and estate are at present merged in the Earldom of Home, and the Duke of Hamilton, although paternally a Douglas, became by marriage with the Hamilton heiress, on taking her name and arms, by the law and custom of Scotland, chief of the name and house of Hamilton. If Douglassdale were settled, with the name and Arms of Douglas, upon a younger son of Lord Home, he would thereupon as next of blood bearing the name be chief of the House of Douglas, failing which that position may pass to the next brother of the House of Hamilton resuming the name and arms of Douglas of Douglas." In 1985 the Lord Lyon told the author, "the situation has not really changed."

Adam on page 179, says, "when an election is competent, namely where the group has the misfortune to find itself with no ascertainable heir and its chiefship is de facto and de jure vacant, the selectors will in the case of a chief be the landed armigerous magnates of the whole clan, and in the case of a branch-chieftain, those of the branch." It is clear that an election of a Chief is a last resort and is contrary to normal practice but the author wonders if we have not reached that stage with our Douglas family. Perhaps the Clan Douglas Association of Australia, and the Clan Douglas Society of North America could be of vital importance in re-establishing the Douglas Chief.

What would all this cost? The family that won the Great Douglas Cause in 1769 paid over 23 thousand pounds in legal fees. The author was told recently by his solicitor that to tackle the restoring of the Chief of Douglas might need 10 thousand pounds as initial fees, perhaps rising to 50 thousand pounds. Is it worth it?

If a senior person does not wish to be Chief of a family, he, or she, can nominate another person, and that other person would petition for the Chiefship.

OVERSEAS NEWS

Going to the United Kingdom this year?

Why not visit Otterburn for the 600th Anniversary and re-enactment of the Battle of Otterburn? Fought in August 1388, James 2nd Earl of Douglas died in battle while leading the Scots against an English force led by Harry "Hotspur" Percy.

7th to 14th August 1988 are the dates of activities with Saturday 13th August being the battle re-enactment on the traditional site.

For further details, please contact the Editor - Jan Shaw.

THE 600th ANNIVERSARY OF THE 1388~1988 BATTLE OF OTTERBURN

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DOUBLE INTERMENT

There was a young fellow from Clyde
Who fell down a sewer and died.
The next day his brother
Fell into another
So now they're interred side by side.

A NOTE FROM YOUR EDITOR

We have a slightly smaller newsletter this quarter as our 16 pages were causing some concern in the Post Office. "Too fat", we were told - not to be out-done, our treasurer and band of willing helpers ironed all the newsletters flatter and they passed through the P.O. slot at the right price. We are hoping to come up with some ideas to solve this dilemma as I really have enough Douglas and Sept information to fill the 16 pages. Last Newsletter should have been No 4 - Feb '88; apologies for the misprint.

Address your newsletter contributions to Jan Shaw - Editor (18)

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