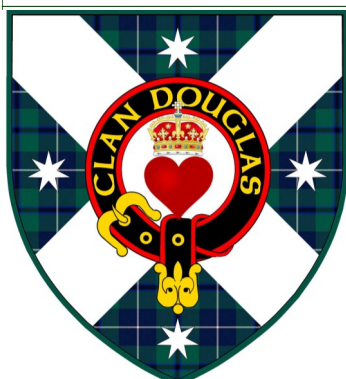


Is mise Douglas

(I am Douglas)

Issue 2

December 2018



Special points of interest:

Check out our new banner design displayed above.

With much thanks to our friends in the Clan Douglas Society of North America for their help.

Our banner design is now appearing on products for sale!

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Slàinte, sonas agus beartas!

The headline here translates as 'Health, Wealth and Happiness'. This is a traditional Gaelic greeting that I feel as the year winds down, is an appropriate thing to say to another as we face the new year ahead.

These are difficult times for everyone. The cost of living seems to be spiraling out of control and although the hardships we experience today are nothing compared to the hardships our ancestors faced. It is nonetheless a difficult time for many people.

And that's why I think it's important to acknowledge these difficult times and say something tangible that can bring a small blessing to others.

Our activities this year has been rather low-key from yours truly simply because of the competing priorities in my life. That's not to say that I'm taking a back seat, not at all. But in saying that the tireless efforts of our co-founder Mrs Anne Bruest has been invaluable. During the year Anne was very fortunate to travel to our ancient homeland—

Scotland, and she has provided us with a fascinating insight into her adventures along with a few pictures too!

Another story that features here is about my own personal journey of genealogy. It's not for the feint hearted!

On December 8th we will be hosting our second Clan Douglas Australia Gathering. A small, informal affair at the Burns Club in Canberra. If you haven't seen an invite yet, I'll post details here.

- Andrew

Anne's Scottish Travels

In August I flew Qatar (excellent airline) to London, and caught a midnight bus to Newcastle to pick up my pre-arranged hire-car to get me around Scotland and Skye.

I had always wanted to see where some of my great-great parents emigrated from, just about all of them from Scotland. I belong to both the Douglas and Clan Donald in Aus-

tralia.

After getting lost in Newcastle for about two hours I finally found the road to Carlisle that would take me to Castle Douglas,

Anne's Scottish Travels

my first port of call. The phone was not working (long story) so I had no phone contact or google maps, only a large Scottish map I had purchased in Canberra before I left and my sense of direction.

Arriving at Castle Douglas I had a look at Threave Castle (in ruins) which was a Douglas stronghold and then found my charming B&B for the night. Leaving there the next morning, I drove up through Midcalder outside Edinburgh

where my great grandfather James Sandilands Douglas left for New Zealand.

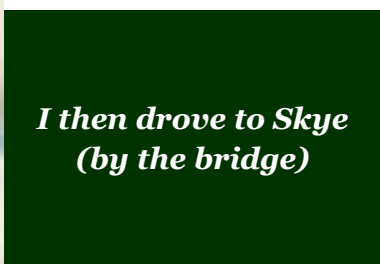
From there I drove to Edinburgh and my stay at the University, managing to secure a seat for that night's Edinburgh Tattoo. The NSW Police Pipe Band were in the massed bands and they looked splendid.

From Edinburgh, I drove by Stirling to my next booked B&B at Fort William passing through Glencoe along the way. My father told me that we were de-

scendents of MacDonald of Glencoe.

The next two days I spent exploring Glencoe and Ben Nevis (checking out their ski facilities as well) and it is a beautiful area. I then drove to Skye (by the bridge), went to MacDonald Castle and Library and left articles on the MacDonalds from Coll that were on the 'George Fyfe' to Australia.

My great-great Grandmother Sybella MacDonald was on that ship and she married my



*I then drove to Skye
(by the bridge)*

A delightful Scottish Kirk

Threave Castle



2018 Clan Douglas Australia Annual Gathering

Come join us on Saturday 8 December for our annual Clan Douglas Australia Gathering.

The event is an informal lunch at the Burns Club in Canberra between 11:30 am to 2 pm.

We will be presenting the Burns

Club with a Clan Douglas plaque to add to their collection of Clan plaques on display above the bar.

This is a wonderful opportunity to meet and greet members of our community.



Anne's Scottish Travels

great-great grandfather Robert Philip (from Rhyme outside Aberdeen Scotland) on the far north coast. I had managed to locate their grave up at Maclean when I was up there at the Easter Scottish Festival. I drove up to Uig Hotel overlooking the harbour, beautiful place and then spent the next day exploring Skye, from



the single track road over the top, passing Flora MacDonald's grave ("speed bonny boat"), down through Portree, through Broadwater to Elgol (stunning place with a view of the Cuil-lins) back up through Dunvegan Castle and back to Uig.

Fortunately the weather wasn't too bad, but their late sum-

mer is like our winter. The next day I drove back to Edinburgh and the university accommodation, spending the next day at the Castle and the Royal Mile. The day after I drove back to Newcastle and my dear friend Sally (she lives in Mansfield, Nottingham but was my flat-mate in Gladesville in the late sixties as well as my bridesmaid and matron -of honour) spent the night with me and we had fun reminiscing the crazy things we did back then.

Vale Janet and Mary

2018 has been a terribly sad year with the passing of two much loved and respected members of our community.

Mrs *Janet Shaw* passed away in June and Mrs *Mary Smith* passed away in October.

Both Janet and Mary are

founding members of the *Clan Douglas Association of Australia* and for many years have worked tirelessly for the benefit of Clan Douglas members.

On behalf of the *Clan Douglas Society of Australia* we wish to extend our sincere condolences to Janet and Mary's family.



A beginners journey in Genealogy

Like most people I loathe the fact that researching family history is often found to be held to ransom by companies like *ancestry.com* or *findmypast.com*.

But unfortunately in this digital age we're not left with much



 **ancestry.com.au**

of a choice.

Which, in hindsight, is probably not such a bad thing. Because without companies like *ancestry* you are going to need a lot and I mean a lot of time and money labouring over thousands upon

Clan Douglas Society of Australia

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The Clan Douglas Society of Australia was founded on 6 December 2016 in Canberra. We are one of only two Clan Douglas organisations in the world.

Our mission is to preserve our heritage, foster and promote the spirit of goodwill and kinship to all members of Clan Douglas throughout Australia and overseas..

Our membership is free for all eligible people under the Clan Douglas banner and our goal is to have Clan Douglas Society activities spread throughout Australia.

If you are interested in joining us. Please feel free to get in touch!

A beginners journey in Genealogy

thousands of records just to crack one clue in a missing past.

So, despite my reservations, I opened an account with ancestry.com and started my journey.

In what I assumed to be a research project fraught with difficulty I was quite surprised by the ease in which to piece together clues and hints that opened up a Pandora box of family history to research.

But word of the wise, you must have some computer skills in navigating an endless archive, you must possess an inquisitive

mind and you must know what you are looking for. It is very easy to be lost and confused in online research, especially when you don't really know *what* you're looking for and *how* to find it.

Be prepared for shocks.

For many years, probably even before I was born, it was a long held belief in my family that our paternal ancestor arrived here as a free man. That was not the case and I soon found myself joining the ranks of Australians with a Convict past!

Why was my family misled? Was it a mistake in research or

was it to cover up a dark family secret?

In any event, for some folks, like myself, you will likely uncover truths about your past that will leave you a little shocked.

If you're nervous about taking that plunge into the unknown, don't be. There is a wealth of experienced people available to help you on your journey.

You just need to take that first step.

