
Douglas, Christopher Home (*CHD*) (1827–82) (SAE 1854) (Brown 366; Stewart 76)

CHD was born in 1827 at Kelso in Roxburghshire. He was one of the youngest SAE founders. His ancestry is difficult to determine accurately because of a confusing inter-marrying between members of the Douglas, Home, and Pringle families of Berwickshire and Roxburghshire over several centuries. In particular, such marriages resulted in name combinations such as Home Douglas and Douglas Home that are confusing. What is reasonably certain is that *CHD* is a distant relation of Sir Alexander Frederick Douglas Home (1903–95), Lord Home of the Hirsel, and Prime Minister of the UK from 1963 to 1964.⁵⁸

CHD's known lineage starts in Lauder in Roxburghshire with a local landed gentleman, John Douglas. His son, and *CHD*'s great-grandfather was William Douglas born in 1712 and married to Isobel Spence. Grandfather Christopher Douglas was born in 1740 in Duns and became a medical practitioner in Kelso. He married Pringle Home in 1769. She was the daughter of George Home, a local landowner from Westruther in Berwickshire whose family had married into the Pringle family of Whytebank in Selkirkshire. The Pringles were landowners with connections to the legal profession. Christopher and Pringle Douglas had two sons – George and Pringle Home Douglas. The later was *CHD*'s father who married Elizabeth Bow Salisbury in 1817. She was the daughter of James Salisbury, a landed gentleman from Coldstream in Berwickshire. *CHD*'s father entered the Royal Navy in 1801 as a Lieutenant and was promoted to Commander in 1814. Captain Douglas retired in 1851 and died in 1859. He was a director of the Edinburgh Life Assurance Company. He and his wife had two daughters in addition to *CHD*.

CHD's near relations included an uncle who was a Writer to the Signet and landed gentleman, Alexander Douglas of Chesterhouse. The latter was Fiscal of the Signet from 1844 to 1851, and husband of Janet Hardie Bow, daughter of Robert Bow, an Edinburgh merchant. His eldest son was Christopher Douglas of Chesterhouse, also a Writer to the Signet, director of the Edinburgh Life Assurance Company, and classmate of SAE founder Archibald Borthwick. The younger son was Alexander Sholto Douglas of Gateshaw, a Writer to the Signet and husband of Helen McCaul Forrester, daughter of another Writer to the Signet.

CHD married Frances (Fanny) Wood, a daughter of Archibald Wood and Janet Neil of Tranent in Midlothian. The names and location of the Wood family suggest that this marriage connected *CHD* with SAE founder William Wood. *CHD* had two sons. George Pringle Home Douglas was a merchant and tea planter with offices in Leith, London, and India. Archibald Home Douglas graduated as a Bachelor of Medicine from the University of Edinburgh and was admitted to a Fellowship of the Royal College of Physicians in Edinburgh in 1892. He was an assistant medical officer at Wyes House Asylum before becoming a medical practitioner in France.

CHD was educated in Kelso and attended the University of Edinburgh to study arts subjects. He served an apprenticeship with SAE founder Archibald Borthwick from 1846 and then partnered SAE founder David Marshall until 1854 in North Saint Andrew's Street. *CHD* specialised in court-related work and wrote a pamphlet on the subject *Review of Recent Publications Regarding the Proposed Reform of the Bankruptcy Laws of Scotland* (1853). In 1854, he moved to London for five years. There is no evidence to provide a reason for this change. He played little part in the SAE foundation and resigned from it in 1854. He was readmitted, however, in 1860 following his return to Edinburgh from London.

The private residences of *CHD* varied over the years in a way consistent with his career. In 1851, he was a lodger in South Castle Street. Following his return from London, he resided in York Place for six years. His later addresses were Charlotte Street and Albany Street (with his son Archibald Home Douglas). In the 1881 *Census*, he was residing with his wife and son at an Edinburgh boarding house and stated not to be practicing as a Chartered Accountant. A director of the Edinburgh Life Assurance Company briefly in the early 1880s, *CHD* died of a paralysis in 1882 in Viewfield Place in Stirling. *The Scotsman* published an obituary in February 1882.

Society of Accountants in Edinburgh (SAE),