

Hugh Bell Douglass was born in Missouri, 1842, and the month of his birth was almost certainly August or September or October. In the U.S. federal census of 1850, he was enumerated as part of the 907th family of “District No. 42” living in Jefferson County, Missouri, in October 1850. The head of household number 907 was a Missouri-born laborer named William Douglass, aged 43, who was almost certainly Hugh’s father. The second household member listed is Mary J. Douglass, aged 27, almost certainly William’s wife, probably Hugh’s mother, and also apparently born in Missouri. If not Hugh’s mother, she was probably his stepmother. Next listed is 11-year-old Lucinda Douglass, also born in Missouri, almost certainly William’s daughter and either a daughter or stepdaughter to Mary. The next listed after 8-year-old Hugh B. Douglass is 1-year-old Josephine L. Douglass, born in Missouri, who almost certainly was the daughter of Mary & William Douglass. They also included in their household a young man named James Odle, a laborer, who was born in Tennessee. No other records have been found for William except one possible entry for him in the 1840 federal census: There was a head of household named William Duglas enumerated in nearby Washington County, Missouri, but there is no guarantee this is the same man. In the 1860 federal census, Hugh Douglas was listed in the Smith household, seemingly void of any of his relatives, living in Johnson Township (post office Rock Spring) in Washington County, Missouri, enumerated in July 1860. He was at that time 17 years old and a laborer. While no record can be found of Lucinda or William in 1860, or anywhere else aside from that which has already been mentioned, there has been a discovery of what appears to be the former Mary J. Douglass and her new husband living with their blended family in Washington County. The Harrington household was enumerated in June 1860, living in Concord Township (post office Irondale) in Washington County, Missouri, with the head of household listed as Mary J. Harrington, aged 36, and immediately underneath her Jeff Harrington, aged 45. Indiana is listed as Mary's state of birth, with no birth location

given for Jeff; I would guess that perhaps this was a mistake and the individual born in Indiana was actually Jeff. Both of them (Mary and Jeff) are listed as incapable of reading & writing. It is possible that they were listed in the wrong order and that the true head of household was Jeff Harrington, just as he may have been the one born in Indiana. After them is listed Ellen Harrington, aged 3, born (as were all the following listed household members) in Missouri, who was very likely the daughter of Mary & Jeff Harrington but could possibly have been Jeff's daughter & Mary's stepdaughter. Next is listed Josephine Douglas, aged 12, which makes me believe that not only is this the same Josephine as enumerated in Jefferson County in 1850, but also that Mary J.

Harrington is the same person enumerated in Jefferson County as Mary J. Douglass in 1850. The last two, listed after Josephine, were almost certainly daughters of Mary J. and William Douglass: Elizabeth Douglas, aged 8, and Eliza J. Douglas, aged 4. Lacking any further documentation, I can suppose that Mary J. (born circa 1823-1824) and William Douglass (born circa 1807) were married in the late 1830s when Mary was about 15-16 years old; that they had a daughter Lucinda A. circa 1839, son Hugh Bell in 1842, daughter Josephine L. circa 1848-1849, daughter Elizabeth circa 1852, and daughter Eliza J. circa 1856, all 7 of them (including Mary J. and William) having been born in Missouri; that Mary J. and Jeff Harrington (born circa 1815, possibly in Indiana) were married in the mid-to-late 1850s, following either Mary's separation from William Douglass or his untimely death; and that Mary J. and Jeff Harrington had a daughter (Hugh's half-sister) named Ellen Harrington circa 1857, born in Missouri. These are the best guesses I can make at present, with the limited information at my disposal. In the War Between the States, in the 1860s, Hugh Bell Douglass joined for duty & enrolled as a Private in Company "K" of Col. J.Q. Burbridge's 4th Regiment of Missouri Cavalry (Confederate) in Oregon County, Missouri, Oct. 24, 1862, and was mustered in near Batesville, Feb. 5, 1863. He served as a teamster. The Battle of Hartville, Missouri, was his

first battle, according to a document he filled out (or had filled out on his behalf) in his late forties. On this document his name was written as Hugh Bell Doughlass, or Hugh Bell Daughless. After Hartville, Hugh fought at the Battle of Cape Girardeau, then the Battle of Helena, Arkansas, then the Battle of Bayou Fourche, then the whole of Price's Missouri Expedition beginning with the Battle of Fort Davidson. Hugh surrendered with the rest of future Missouri Governor J.S. Marmaduke's forces in June 1865, Shreveport, Louisiana. The next we know is that Hugh was married to Elizabeth Francis (or Elisabeth Frances) a daughter of Catharine (Hill) and Joseph B. Mercer, in Washington County, Missouri, Aug. 18, 1867. Elizabeth (Mercer) was born in the summer of 1847, or 1848, in Missouri — specifically (according to tertiary sources) in Washington County, June 30, 1847. According to her grave marker, she died (tertiary sources would add that she died at her residence, in Washington County, where we know she lived in the 1880s and was buried) Nov. 27, 1888. The story is that her clothing caught fire as she was preparing food and she burned too quickly for anyone to intervene in time; she died from her injuries. Hugh & Elizabeth's first known child was Miss C. J. Douglas, whose first name was either Catherine (spelling unknown) or Caroline (or Carolina) and whose middle initial may have stood for Jessie; she was potentially known as "Kate" and was born in Missouri, circa 1867-1868. She was almost certainly born in Washington County, and there are stories that she became a mother but never married, dying in Crawford County or Washington County, Missouri, near the area of Brazil Creek, circa 1904. She is believed to have been the mother of Jessie M. Douglas (1892-1967) who was married to William Arthur Miller (188?-1969) in 1906. Jessie's father was, according to the Miller descendants, possibly an Osage (Ni-u-kon-ska) or Sioux man. I have only ever seen 2 actual documents pertaining to Hugh's daughter C. J. and they are the 1870 and 1880 federal census pages listing her living with her parents & siblings in Washington County. The second known child was Mary Emily, born in Washington

County, Missouri, Nov. 23, 1869, who was married (in that same county) April 12, 1886, to James John Turnbull (1865-1941) a.k.a. John James Turnbull, who was born in Washington County, Missouri, to Scottish-born immigrants “Kate” (Fea) and William G. Turnbull. Emily died near Potosi, in rural Washington County, Missouri, April 25, 1954. Hugh’s first known son was John B. Douglas (or Douglass) whose middle initial may have stood for Bell, after his father’s middle name. John was born in Missouri, probably Washington County, circa 1872, give or take a year, and was listed as a widower in the 1940 census, but no spouse has ever been identified or marriage record located for him. He moved to Texas, having lived in the Fort Worth area since at least as early as 1929-1931, and died there (in Tarrant County) at the Elmwood Sanitarium, September 5, 1942. His remains were sent back to Missouri, according to his death certificate, to be buried, but his burial location has not been located. He spent at least part of his life as a chewing gum salesman. Hugh’s next known child was Joseph William (or William Joseph) Douglas, who was born in Missouri, almost certainly in or near Potosi, Washington County, September 15, 1875 — or 1876 — though some records give 1872-1873. He was married to Sarah Caroline (Anderson) March 14, 1915, Pea Ridge, Washington County, Missouri. “Carrie” was born in Missouri, Feb. 5, 1896, and died at Barnes Hospital in the city of Saint Louis, Missouri, September 2, 1961. Joseph died at the “Max C. Starkloff” City Hospital in Saint Louis, Missouri, July 15, 1948. Hugh’s next known son was Clarence Henry Douglas, known as “Carrick” or just Henry. He was born in or near Potosi, Washington County, Missouri, Feb. 7, 1879. He died at State Hospital Number 4 in rural Saint Francois County, near Farmington, Missouri, January 21, 1967. He was married, divorced, and had children. Hugh’s next known child was Jessie Mae (or Jessie May) who was born in Washington County, Missouri, October 1881. She was married to Clyde Baugh (1883-1949) May 2, 1908, Clayton, Saint Louis County, Missouri. She died at Chronic Hospital in the city of Saint Louis, Missouri, Feb. 29,

1960. Hugh's next known child was Luther Alexander Douglas, born near Indian Creek (a tributary of the Meramec River) in Washington County, Missouri, Oct. 28, 1883, and the only record of this child ever discovered was his birth record at the county courthouse in Potosi. For all anyone knows, he died the very next day, or was adopted at birth. The last known child of Elizabeth & Hugh was "Frank" (Francis Elmer Douglas) who was born in Washington County, Missouri, August 7, 1885. He was married to Ellen Rachel (Boyer) in Washington County, Missouri, August 26, 1914. She was born in Missouri, April 13, 1896, and died at a rural hospital in Washington County, Missouri, Nov. 3, 1967. "Frank" died in Potosi, Washington County, Missouri, Dec. 10, 1963. There was supposedly a 9th child born to Elizabeth & Hugh, Eugene Douglas, who was born in March 1888, but he was determined to be not Hugh's son. Due to conflicting records, we know Eugene was born in one of these three Missouri counties: Crawford, Franklin, or Washington. Some records say he was born in the vicinity of Undine, in Washington County, and others say he was born in or near the city of Sullivan, Missouri. His date of birth was March 30, 1888. He was married to Pruda O. (Mercer) in Granite City, Madison County, Illinois, May 30, 1914. She was born in Missouri, Dec. 26, 1893, and died in southern Oakland County, Michigan, Feb. 27, 1978. Her father was Jesse B. Mercer (1853-1940) brother-in-law to Hugh Bell Douglass. Pruda O. and Eugene Douglas were divorced in Oakland County, Michigan, April 13, 1942, and she remarried; her surname when she died was Cash. Eugene's 2nd marriage was to Carolyn (Hall) Oct. 31, 1944, Detroit, Wayne County, Michigan. Carolyn was born in West Virginia, January 30, 1912, and died during the first week of January 1990, aged 77. Eugene Douglas died in rural Mingo County, West Virginia, April 2, 1967, and was buried in Mingo County. His marriage records both support that his father's name was John W. Douglas, but they say the maiden surname for Eugene's mother "Kate" was either Gregory or Mercer. The way she spelled Catharine/Katherine is also

unknown. There has been speculation that she was the same Catherine (Mercer) born in Missouri, probably Washington County, 1850, to Susan (Hill) and Isaac Mercer, aunt & uncle to Elizabeth Francis (Mercer) Daughlas. This has not been proven. Nothing is known about John W. Douglas, but we know that he cannot be Hugh's son John whose middle initial was different and was too young in early 1888. It is believed that Hugh and John W. Douglas did come from the same male line, but it is not known how close their connection might be. Y-DNA is currently being submitted for testing from great-grandsons of both these men. There has also been speculation that Eugene Douglas was a brother or half-brother to Jessie Mae (or Jessie May) Douglas, the aforementioned Mrs. W. A. Miller whose mother was thought to be Hugh's eldest daughter who vanished from the paper trail after the 1880 census. Jessie was adopted (at least unofficially) by Mr. Peter Wise, her guardian, in whose household she was living in the 1900 census. In that same census, 2 households up on the same page, Eugene Douglas was listed as an adopted son in the household of Mr. William T. Wise (184?-1936) which makes me think it's possible there was a closer relationship between Jessie M. and Eugene Douglas than just Jessie being Hugh's granddaughter and Eugene being a nephew or cousin to Hugh. It is possible that Jessie really was the daughter of Mrs. "Kate" Douglas (wife of John W. and mother of Eugene) instead of Miss "Kate" Douglas the elder daughter of Elizabeth & Hugh. It is the hope of researchers in this family that DNA analysis will eventually assist us in answering these difficult questions & in connecting the dots between Hugh's descendants, Eugene's descendants, & the Miller descendants. As for Hugh, he moved from eastern Missouri, mid-January 1892, to the Old Confederate Home (then brand new) in Higginsville, Lafayette County, where his application to move in had just been accepted. He was nearly or completely blind and suffering from chronic diarrhea. He died of pneumonia, Jan. 24, 1892, aged 49, less than 14 days after his arrival, & was only the third old soldier to die there. He was buried in grave D5.