



A BRANCH OF

THE DOUGLAS FAMILY

MAY 13 '89

WITH ITS

MARYLAND & VIRGINIA

CONNECTIONS

By

HARRY WRIGHT NEWMAN

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FOREWORD

IT WAS with considerable enthusiasm that I undertook the research and the writing of the story of Anne Douglass Dillon's ancestors. The role they played in the historical development of Maryland and Virginia from the earliest settlements of those colonies, and, after the Revolution, in the development of Ohio cannot be overestimated. Those of her Scottish ancestors who arrived after the Independence of the colonies contributed significantly to the growth of the young Republic.

My great interest in Maryland and Virginia families and in the history of those states was an incentive to go deeper into the history of Old Virginia, especially the part which the Walke family contributed to Virginia's growth and culture. In Maryland the economic and cultural contributions of the Douglass and Brooke families which were granted manorial privileges by Lord Baltimore have left their mark upon succeeding generations.

While on a holiday in Scotland during the summer of 1964 I was able to delve into the records of the Registration House in Edinburgh and into the great libraries of Glasgow and Edinburgh. The courtesy and help received at those institutions from the assistants will ever be remembered and appreciated.

I hope my research may be of value to many Americans who are descended from the families in this book.

HARRY WRIGHT NEWMAN

November 11, 1966
Washington, D. C.

THE DOUGLAS FAMILY OF SCOTLAND

BACK in the almost unrecorded days of history when the Northern and Southern Picts and the various invaders of North Britain, the Saxons and Angles from Denmark, the Norsemen from Norway, the Romans from Italy and Celts from Ireland, were molding themselves into a more or less heterogeneous nation to be called Scotland, there sprang up in the Lowlands, around the upper waters of the Firth of Clyde, a leader who bore the name of Douglas. The earliest record of possessions in the family occurred in a charter granted in 1160 to *Agua de Douglas* and *territorium de Douglas* in what is now Lanarkshire. The name comes from the Gaelic *dubh glas* which means dark water, and which suggests substantial Celtic ancestry from the Irish invaders. Gaelic was spoken in the surrounding districts of Lanarkshire as late as the reign of Queen Mary (1553-1558).

It was about this time that the earliest heraldic evidence of the House of Douglas can be traced. It consisted of "Argent, on a chief azure three stars of the field." Its similarity to the Moray [Murray] arms "Azure, three stars argent, two and one," which came into use about the same time as the Douglas arms has led some antiquarians to assume that a close relationship existed between the two clans or that they were of the same root springing from an early Flemish emigrant to the Lowlands. In 1147 and 1164 Theobaldus Flamaticus [the Fleming] received a grant of land opposite the domain of Douglas which supports greater belief that the two families intermarried. The well-known heart, which now figures in the arms of Douglas, was first borne by William, Lord of Douglas (1348-1384) in commemoration of his father's expedition in charge of the heart of Bruce. The imperial crown first appeared upon the heart in the arms of William Douglas, Lord of Nithsdale, about 1392.

Tartans and their accoutrements were essentially the adornments of the fierce clans of the Western Isles and then spread to the Highlands inhabited originally by the Picts. Eventually the clans of the Lowlands followed the pattern of their countrymen to the North and adopted their

varied tartans, badges, and slogans. The basic color of the Douglas plaid is green ranging from a medium to a darker hue to portray dark green waters, with a thin single white stripe running horizontally and vertically. The ancient motto was "*Jamais arrière*".

From the Laird who dwelt along the Firth of Clyde in the eleven hundreds developed one of the most powerful families in all Scotland equalling in every way the importance of the Hamiltons and the Stewarts into which its scions intermarried. The entire history of Scotland involved the Douglas Clan and its family history is inseparable from that of the country. Many legends, and historical chronicles are highlighted by the exploits of the Douglasses.

There was Sir James Douglas, Knight, whom Robert the Bruce requested, before his death, to carry his heart to the Holy Land and fight against the Saracens. The Bruce had vowed that he would go to the East and end his days fighting the infidels, but he was so occupied at home conquering the English that he was unable to carry out his vow. Then the devastating malady of leprosy ended his days too soon.

William, the 8th Earl of Douglas, met his death at Stirling Castle at the hands of his King, James II. William was in league with the Earl of Crawford who opposed the King. James II invited Douglas to Stirling Castle and dispatched by courier a letter of safe conduct. Dinner passed pleasantly and was completed. Then the King summoned his noble guest to a small chamber and requested him to dissolve the league with Crawford. William declared that he could not and would not. James II seized his dagger and struck Douglas. The attendant couriers finished the act. The murdered Earl of Douglas was thrown out of the window into the court below. The inner chamber and the window are shown to visitors today.

Extant public records, however, prove that William de Douglas, the earliest known progenitor of the family, who lived between 1174 and 1213, possessed "Douglasdale," and that his son and heir, Archibald, died seized of it in 1240. A scion of the family was Bryce de Douglas, Bishop of Moray, who died in 1222.

About this time the family founded their parish church in the village of Douglas which also became the church of the parish of that name in southern Lanarkshire on the Douglas River about eight miles south of Lanark Town. The family named the church St. Bride, in honor of their patron saint. Records of 1292 show that the church was then without an officiating priest, so its construction antedated that year. It contained many memorials and effigies of the Douglas family. It escaped total

destruction until 1781, although the canopied tombs and recumbent effigies suffered sad mutilations during the plundering days of Oliver Cromwell and his crusaders for power. The turret and the aisle which covered the vault where many of the Lords of Douglas had been buried are still preserved. In 1902 the Earl of Home, who was of Douglas descent through a female line, restored what was possible. In the altar steps, covered with glass, are two heart-shaped leaden caskets which are supposed to contain the heart of the Black Douglas. There is reason to believe that they also contain the hearts of the 5th and 8th Earls of Angus.

At the latter part of the twelve hundreds the Douglas clan was very substantially placed in politics of the Lowlands and a number of them had been knighted into the Scottish orders of chivalry. Archibald de Douglas died in 1240 and left two sons — William, his son and heir, and Andrew, who became the progenitor of the Earls of Morton of later generations.

SIR ANDREW DE DUGLAS OF HERMISTON

12-- 127-

It is Sir Andrew, the second son of Archibald, Lord Douglas of Douglasdale, in whom the Douglas family of the Province of Maryland is rightfully interested. Sometime before 1226 he possessed the land of Hermiston in Midlothian and Livingston in West Lothian. These estates had been given to Archibald, Lord Douglas, by Malcolm, Earl of Fife, and his seizin is strong presumption of this parentage. In a charter of 1245 by Ralph Noble granting to David of Graham the lands of Kilpont and Illiestoun, County Linlithgow, Sir Andrew is styled brother to William de Douglas son of Archibald, but the writ is so defaced that the facts within cannot be positively asserted. Andrew and his brother William both attained knighthood. They both appear together as witnesses in a charter of 1258, granted to the monks of Dunfermline. Sir Andrew was present in 1259 at the marriage contract of his nephew, Hugh de Douglas, to Marjorie de Abernathy.

Sir Andrew's other nephew, Sir William of Douglasdale, was among the flower of Scottish chivalry. Having learned that Dame Eleanor, the relict of William de Ferrers, Earl of Derby, had come North from her English castle to collect rents from her Scottish tenants, Sir William abducted her from her lodgings one dark night and carried her off to his castle. The lady presumably considered it the highest compliment to her charms and

married her abductor, and they lived happily ever after, except for the interference of her King, Edward I of England. Edward was not so appeased as Dame Eleanor, for he ordered the arrest of Sir William and kept him a prisoner in Leeds Castle for two years. Ultimately, he was released, but Dame Eleanor was fined £100 for marrying without her sovereign's consent.

WILLIAM DE DUGLAS OF LINLITHGOW

12-- 13--

William de Douglas succeeded his father Sir Andrew before the year 1277, when Hermiston was confirmed to him by Alexander III. It was during the days when Alexander III was attempting to wrest the Western Isles from the grip of Norway. King Haakon of Norway became suspicious and sailed from Norway in 1263 with more than a hundred vessels. He got as far as the Island of Arran opposite the Lowlands where in his attempt to invade Ayrshire, his expedition was defeated. As all knights and sons of knights were called to suppress the invaders, it is possible that William de Douglas rode behind his king.

He was among those subjects who attached their seals to the homage roll at Berwick on August 28, 1296, as "William fiz Andrew de Douglas," of the County of Linlithgow. His seal shows the traditional mullets of the family. The name of his consort is not known, nor the time of his death.

SIR JAMES DE DUGLAS OF LOTHIAN

12-- 13--

Sir James de Douglas of Lothian succeeded his father William, but does not appear in public records until April 2, 1315, when he received a grant of Kincail and Caldor-clerc in Linlithgowshire from King Robert the Bruce. He therefore lived during those glorious days of Robert the Bruce who outwitted the English invaders and became King of Scotland. Robert married Marjorie, daughter of Walter the High Steward, and founded the mighty Stewart dynasty. Sir James de Douglas died before April 20, 1323, when his son and heir, William, had a release from the balance of rent which had been paid as an annual fee. William became the Lord of Liddesdale. Andrew, who is believed to have been

the first son, died young. The third son, John, became the ancestor of the cadet branch of Mains with which these chronicles are principally concerned. Joan, the wife of Sir James, was alive in 1337 when she was drawing her fees from the lands of Blackness.

SIR JOHN DE DUGLAS OF LOTHIAN

13- 1350

Sir John de Douglas, third, but second surviving, son of Sir James de Douglas and Joan, his wife, distinguished himself and became the proprietor of lands through varied charters. Walter MacFarlane, who in 1750 collected much original material from source documents stated "This Sir John was a brave man and gave many signal proofs of his loyalty to King David II by whom he was made Captain of the Castle Lochleven." His early military exploits and acts of chivalry took place during the eventful days of Robert the Bruce.

During the mature life of Sir John, Scotland was torn by civil wars. A regency ruled in behalf of the Bruce's young son, David, and Edward III of England sent armies to Scotland to win the crown for Edward Balliol, son of King John. Both Balliol and David were of the same relative descent in the female line from David I, who ruled Scotland from 1124 to 1153.

Sir John is given credit for defending the island fortress of Lochleven against the forces of Edward III in 1334. Here, more than two hundred years later, under the charge of Sir William Douglas, who owned the castle at that time, Mary Queen of Scots was imprisoned after the murder of Darnley.

Sir John was a witness to a charter granted by Willielmus de Douglas, who afterwards was created the 1st Earl of Douglas (to use the modern spelling). He married Agnes, who is identified as Agnes de Munfode, widow of John de Munfode. In 1350, he was slain at Haywood, in a private quarrel, by Sir David Barclay, who also was slain the same day. He left several sons. Among his descendants were the founders of the earldoms of Dalkeith, Arran, and other distinguished houses. His youngest son, Nicholas, became the ancestor of the cadet branch of Mains.

NICHOLAS DE DUGLAS, LAIRD OF MAINS

134-140-

Nicholas de Douglas, youngest son of Sir John of Lothian and Agnes his wife, was born before 1348. He was not named in the entail of 1351 following his father's death, perhaps because he was very young at the time. It has been suggested that he was an *enfant d'amour*, but Sir James de Douglas of Dalkeith named Nicholas in his will and entails as brother, offsetting any suspicions of illegitimacy.

Nicholas made a brilliant marriage, if wealth in land can be considered advantageous, with Janet, one of the daughters and coheiresses of William Galbraith of the barony of Gartconnell and the lordship of Galbraith. The marriage contract was signed in September 1373. As her patrimony the bride brought her husband several lands in the barony of Dalkeith and the lands of Manys [Mains] and Lydcamrock in the Shire of Dumbarton.

Nicholas was a contemporary of his kinsman George Douglas. Although George carried a definite bar sinister on his escutcheon, he founded the branch which received the Earldom of Angus. Nicholas died sometime between December 19, 1392 and June 1, 1406, and was succeeded by his son and heir, James de Douglas, the Laird of Dounteray and Mayns, later spelled Mains.

An extant document of Nicholas, dated 1392, contains a seal displaying a "saltire on a chief between two stars," with lions for supporters. This is the ancient arms of the Maxwells of the border in Kirkcudbright and Dumfries, so it in all likelihood denotes a blood connection with that clan.

A contemporary Douglas seal of James de Douglas, or possibly that of his son, is on a document extant in the Public Record Office in Edinburgh. The escutcheon is impressed in green wax with neither heart nor crown, but on the chief only two mullets. For supporters there are two savages, and the crest is a tree issuing out of a helmet. It is circumscribed with "Sigillum Domini Jacobi de Douglass." The document dated 1371 contains the signature of a number of barons and knights who recognized John, Earl of Carrick, the eldest son of Robert II, as successor to the Crown.

The early generations of the Douglasses of Mains used a simple arms, but later it developed into an arms with additional charges distinctive with this branch of the family. The authentic arms are "Argent, a fesse chequy gules and of the first between three mullets in chief azure and a

man's heart in base proper." The crest: "An oak tree proper." This arms was not registered in the Office of the Lord Lyon King of Arms until 1672, but is known to have been used many years before the registration.

JAMES DOUGLAS, 2^D LAIRD OF MAINS

13-- 14--

James Douglas gained seizin of his father's estate at his death, including the barony of Mains, but very little is known about his activities and the part he played in the warfare of his times. Not even the name of the maiden or widow whom he took to wife is known. He lived during the reign of Robert II and his son, Robert III, and possibly during the early days of James I. James I was kept a prisoner in the Tower of London by the English for the greater part of his life, and when released brought back, as his wife, an English lady, Joan de Beaufort, daughter of the Earl of Somerset. During James' captivity his uncle, the Duke of Albany, held the regency, but the most powerful man in Scotland of that day was Archibald, Earl of Douglas. In all likelihood James of Mains shone in the reflected glory of his kinsman.

JAMES DOUGLAS, 3^D LAIRD OF MAINS

14-- 15--

James Douglas, heir and namesake of his father, became the 3^d Laird of Mains. In 1489, and perhaps in other years, he was the Commissary for Dumbartonshire. He contracted marriage with Catherine Maxwell, whose father held the barony of Newark and became the progenitor of the later powerful Lords of Maxwell and the Earls of Nithsdale. James and his wife Catherine left four sons — David, Patrick, Humphrey, and William.

WILLIAM DOUGLAS, 4TH LAIRD OF MAINS

14-- 15--

William Douglas succeeded his father, James, at his death and married Elizabeth Houston. In 1491 he sold Finnart and Fortinreck on Loch Long to Sir John Colquhoun of Luss. He lived during the reign of the unfortunate James III (1460-1488) who was stabbed to death while con-

fessing his sins to a man who presented himself as a priest. William of Mains no doubt remembered when Margaret Tudor, the daughter of Henry VII of England, whose clandestine love affairs later matched those of her august brother, Henry VIII, arrived in 1503 to marry the young King James IV. James IV fell at Flodden in 1513 and the next year Queen Margaret, regent to her young son, James V, married Archibald Douglas, Earl of Angus. For a time the Douglasses were the most powerful family in all Scotland, but the strong-passioned Margaret quarreled with her husband, which was fatal to the Douglas influence at that time. In March 1528, she divorced the Earl with the approval of the Sacred College at Rome, which received a liberal reward of 350 ducats for services.

William Douglas of Mains left three sons by his wife, Elizabeth. John, the son and heir, predeceased his father, but had married and left issue. Robert, who was known as Robert of Ferguston and whose descendants later acquired the barony of Mains*, and Walter, the third son. At the death of William Douglas, 4th Laird of Mains, he was succeeded by his grandson, Alexander.

* Robert signed papers in 1502 and 1522 for the lands of Ferguston. His great-great-grandson, John Douglas, married Elizabeth Hamilton, whose mother, Mary Douglas, eventually became the sole heiress to Mains. Their daughter, Mary Hamilton, married John Campbell of Woodside, who assumed the name of Douglas. They were the ancestors of Archibald Douglas of Mains, born 1809, died at Florence, Italy, on July 11, 1868. Their son, Archibald, born 1835 at Florence, was created a Baronet in 1880, and when raised to a Baron in 1892, he assumed the title of Baron Blythswood, taking the title from his ancestral seat. His residence became Blythswood House, Renfrewshire. He placed the Douglas heart on his shield along with the charges of the Hamilton and Campbell to which he was entitled. It should not be forgotten that John Douglas, the emigrant to Maryland, named his plantation "Blythswood" when he arrived in America.

JOHN DOUGLAS

14-- 15--

John Douglas, the first son of William of Mains, predeceased his father, but left issue by his wife, Margaret Kincaid of Kincaid. He may have fallen in 1513 at the battle of Flodden where so much of the best blood of Scotland was shed by the English, including that of King James IV.

ALEXANDER DOUGLAS, 5TH LAIRD OF MAINS

15- 155-

As the eldest son of his father John Douglas, and Margaret Kincaid, his wife, Alexander Douglas inherited the barony of Mains upon the death of his grandfather, William, the 4th Laird.

He married a lady of royal blood. She was Margaret, eldest daughter of Matthew Stewart, 2d Earl of Lennox and Lord Darnley, who was the grandson of James II of Scotland. Her mother was the Hon. Elizabeth Hamilton, daughter of the 2d Lord Hamilton. Lady Margaret had been previously married to John, 2d Lord Fleming, as his second wife. A Royal Charter was granted to her and the heirs to be procreated between her and John, Lord Fleming of Biggar and Thankerton, on March 12, 1508/9. From all accounts the Lord Fleming became disillusioned with Lady Margaret, and instituted legal action. A reunion occurred, and they were remarried, but were divorced a second time sometime before October 26, 1515/6. On the aforementioned date a charter was granted to John, Lord Fleming, to the lands which Lady Margaret had brought him on the resignation of "*Margaret Stewart olim reputatae sponsae dicti Joannis.*" The marriage to Sir Alexander, therefore, occurred after October 26, 1515, and they were still united as late as May 1, 1528.

Sir Alexander was listed in the Great Seal Register of 1547 and 1549, and so was living as late as those years.

MATTHEW DOUGLAS, 6TH LAIRD OF MAINS

151- 15-

Matthew Douglas, son and heir of Sir Alexander and Lady Margaret, carried the name of his noble maternal grandfather. Through his mother he was descended from the ancient kings of Scotland, the noble de Beauforts of England, and the Dukes of Gueldres of Holland as well as the Hamiltons of Scotland, whose family, politically and socially, was equal in importance to the Douglasses. Among his cousins was Lord Darnley, the murdered consort of Mary Queen of Scots.

The following chart shows his descent from James I of Scotland:

James I — Joan de Beaufort

King of Scotland 1394-1437; assassinated at Perth thru agency of his uncle, Walter Stewart, Earl of Atholl.

dau. of John de Beaufort, KG, legitimated son of John of Gaunt KG and Catharine Swinford LG, by his wife Margaret, dau. of Thomas, Earl of Kent; said John de Beaufort was created 1st Earl of Somerset and then Marquess of Somerset.

James II — Mary of Gueldres

King of Scotland 1430-1460; killed by bursting cannon while besieging Roxburgh Castle.

mar. 1449, dau. of Arnold, Duke of Gueldres, Holland.

Mary Stewart — James Hamilton

Princess of the Realm; married 1st Thomas Boyd, Earl of Arran; died c. 1488.

2d ux mar. before 1474, with dispensation from the Pope; 1st Lord Hamilton.

Elizabeth Hamilton — Matthew Stewart

2d ux; marriage contract Apr. 9, 1494; living Apr. 1531.

Custodian of Dunbarton Castle; 2d Earl of Lennox & Lord Darnley; slain at Flodden Sept. 9, 1513; commanding right wing; ancestor of Henry, Lord Darnley, who mar. Mary Queen of Scots.

Margaret Stewart — Alexander Douglas

divorced wife of John, 2d Earl Fleming.

Laird of Mains, Dumbartonshire.

Matthew Douglas

Laird of Mains.

Matthew married Margaret of the Buchanan Clan from the Lowlands around the shores of Loch Lomond.

MALCOLM DOUGLAS, 7TH LAIRD OF MAINS
1548-1584

Malcolm Douglas succeeded his father Matthew, as the 7th Laird of Mains. His birth is believed to have occurred in or about the year 1548. He married Janet, a daughter of John Cunningham of Drumquhossil in 1562.

On November 20-21, 1576, at Boun Jedward he was one of the witnesses to the bond of Manrent by certain gentlemen of the Border to Archibald Douglas, 8th Earl of Angus. Mary Queen of Scots was in prison in England and her young son, James, was King of Scotland under the regency of the Earl of Morton. Intrigues to restore Mary to the throne were rife, and the Laird of Mains was accused of holding and fortifying the Castle of Tantallon with the Earls of Angus and participating in the raid of Ruthven, led by the Earl of Gowrie, in August 1582, when they captured King James and virtually held him a prisoner for two years.

When James was able to free himself from the Ruthven raiders, many of those who participated were banished from Scotland or beheaded. Malcolm Douglas of Mains and Cunningham of Drumquhassil were accused of having conspired with the exiled nobles to seize the King's person. The one witness against them later admitted that he had been suborned by the Earl of Arran; nevertheless, the two lords were declared guilty notwithstanding and were decapitated as traitors on February 9, 1584/5.

At his death Malcolm left several sons — Alexander, his heir; Robert, later created Viscount Belhaven; and William, James, and George.

ALEXANDER DOUGLAS, 8TH LAIRD OF MAINS
15-- 16--

Alexander Douglas, son and heir of Malcolm and his wife, Janet Cunningham, married Grizel, daughter of James Henderson of Fordel in Fifeshire. They became the parents of Sir Archibald Douglas of Mains, 9th Laird,* and Sir Robert Douglas of Blackerstoun, who married his first cousin, Lady Susan Douglas, and had a son, Colonel John Douglas Esq. of Maryland.

* Archibald, the son and heir, was knighted and upon the death of his father became vested in the barony of Mains. He married by contract of July 22, 1633, Isobel, the daughter of Sir George Elphinstone of Blythswood, who was forced through unfortunate

circumstances to convey his estate to his uncle, Robert Douglas, Viscount Belhaven. The Viscount had received a number of honors and in his lifetime conveyed his lands of Spott to his nephew, Sir Archibald. The latter and his brother, Sir Robert of Blackerston, were responsible for the elaborate memorial to their uncle in the Chapel at Holyrood. Sir Archibald dated his last will and testament as of July 1, 1647, and left his entire estate to his wife Isobel, then to their son, and, if he died without lawful issue, then to their daughter Isobel. Ultimately, there was no succession in the lands of Mains for the son to inherit, as, burdened by many debts, Sir Archibald had made over his landed estate to his distant relative John Douglas.

ROBERT, 1ST VISCOUNT BELHAVEN

1572-1639

Robert Douglas, younger son of Malcolm, 7th Laird of Mains, was born in or about the year 1572. He possessed much personal charm and as a youth was a page of honor and Master of the Horse to Henry, Prince of Wales, son of James I of England. He was among the group of courtiers who followed James down to London when he ascended the throne in 1603 at the death of Elizabeth. On February 7, 1608/9, at Whitehall, James I created him a Knight Bachelor of the Realm and a Gentleman of the Bedchamber. In 1622 he was a member of the Privy Council.

In the interest of James I he constructed one half of the Royal Lodge at Richmond Park and the Keeper's Lodge at a personal cost of £763. As payment for his services, James created him a Baronet.

James died in 1625, and Robert maintained his position at court during the reign of Charles I. He continued as a Gentleman of the Bedchamber and was also Master of the Household. In 1631 Charles granted him a charter of Forthorwald and of Spott. On June 24, 1633, he was raised to the peerage and created Viscount Belhaven of County Haddington and took his seat in the House of Lords with the traditional fanfare.

For his arms he used the basic Douglas arms of "Argent, on a fess gules two mullets of the field in base a heart of the second crowned or." But as a matter of differentiation he included all within "a double tressure flory-counter-flory of the second" and a martlet for difference. His crest was merely "Ermine proper," and two gamecocks proper for the supporters. His motto was "*Sans tache.*"

In 1634 Viscount Belhaven purchased the lands of Gorbals and Brigend from Sir George Elphinston, Knt., of Lanarkshire, whose daughter married Sir Archibald Douglas, nephew to the Viscount. Sir George at that time was on the verge of bankruptcy. In 1595, by Royal approval, Sir George had his lands of Gorbals and Brigend on the south

side of the River Clyde and other property in the Parish of Blythswood on the east side of Glasgow included in the Barony of Blythswood. About the time Gorbals and Brigend were sold, Sir George was mortgaging his property right and left to various persons, culminating in the purchase of Blythswood by Robert Douglas of Blackerstoun on May 18, 1649. Sir Robert conveyed it to Colin Campbell* almost immediately.

* Colin Campbell, a wealthy merchant of Glasgow, was of the Campbells of Ardkinlas and was onetime Lord Provost of the town. He died in 1671, and it was his descendants who eventually acquired the lands of Mains and changed their name to Douglas. In 1892 one of them was created the Baron Blythswood.

On May 20, 1637, Robert, Viscount Belhaven, petitioned Charles I and prayed that he might perfect an agreement made with him and His Majesty, the Duke of Buckingham and the late Marquis of Hamilton for the payment of £5,000 in lieu of a pension of 1,000 marks per year which the King had promised.

At this time he had some pressing debts and he petitioned the King for the consideration of his obligation to him. Charles I thereupon gave orders for the grant of £800 per year for twenty-one years, "for his better maintenance," but the grant was never carried out.

On February 22, 1637/8, the Attorney General bestowed upon him the former monastery of Sheen and a life pension of £1,000 as a reward for the keeping of Richmond Lodge and Park and also the stewardship for life of the Court Leet and Court Baron of Richmond.

On May 4, 1638, a warrant was issued by the Lord Treasurer to permit the Viscount Belhaven to transport from the port of London to Scotland a number of miscellaneous articles of silver plate. About this time it is assumed that the Viscount was retiring and was returning to his native Scotland.

On January 12, 1610/11, he had married Nicola, the first daughter of Robert Moray of Abercairney at St. Mary Woolnoth, London. She died in November 1612, at the birth of her only child who also died. He did not remarry, but was beloved by a Miss Whalley, an attractive English maiden of Nottinghamshire, who became the mother of his two children — John and Susan. On July 30, 1631, under the Great Seal of the Kingdom, he was granted letters of legitimation for his *enfants d'amour*, Susan at that time being aged thirteen or thereabouts.

In later life he became blind, and died in retirement at Edinburgh on January 14, 1638/9, aged sixty-six years. His nephew, Sir Archibald Douglas of Spott, and his son-in-law-nephew, Sir Robert Douglas of

Blackerstoun, were his principal legatees.

One would expect John, his son, to have succeeded to the peerage, as he was legitimated before the creation of the viscounty. As it was granted to Belhaven and the heirs of his body, it is apparent that John was either deceased or that some restrictive clause prevented his inheriting the title. Accepting that there was no bar to the succession of John to the title, it would have been very difficult for the Viscount to exclude his son from all inheritance under Scottish law. There is no record of recognition of John as his father's heir in any property. Therefore, it is self-evident that John predeceased his father and died without issue. The viscounty therefore became extinct.

After his death his two nephews erected an imposing altar tomb to his memory in the Northwest corner of the Royal Chapel at Holyrood, now in ruins, at Edinburgh. It was an Italian tomb of marble with a recumbent figure of his lordship in his robes of state and wearing a coronet.

The epitaph was in Latin, but translated as follows:

Here are interred the remains of Robert Lord Viscount Belhaven Baron of Spot & c., Counsellor to King Charles, and most intimately in favour with him, because formerly he had been most dear to Henry Prince of Wales and Master of his horse. Be he being dead and Charles his Brother now reigning he was made chamberlain to the King's household and entertained with a singular degree of favour and advanced to great honours and wealth. In his youth he enjoyed the sweet society of Nicola Murray daughter to the Baron of Abercairney his only wife who lived with him not above eighteen months and died in childbed with her child. When grievous old age came upon him (as weary of bad times and customs) withdrawing himself from the noise of the court he returned to this country. He nominated Sir Archibald and Sir Robert Douglasses, baronets, sons to his elder brother to be his heirs dividing equally amongst them all his lands and goods except some legacies and they erected this monument to his memory as a token of their gratitude. Nature supplied in him by sagacity what his mind wanted of education. He was inferior to none in a good capacity and candour. He would soon be angry, but was as soon calmed. This is one thing he had in his life which scarcely could be alike acceptable to all for loyalty towards his Prince, love to his country, kindness to his relations and charity to the poor he was singular. In prosperity he was meek and moderate, in adversity his constancy and magnanimity prevailed to his very end. He died at Edinburgh on the 14th day of January and from the incarnation of the Messiah 1639 and of his age 66, being the third year above his great climacteric.

1637, pp. 129-130; vol. 1636-1637, pp. 274; 409; Monuments & Monumental Inscriptions in Scotland, by Chas. Roger, pub. 1871; Calendar of State Papers, v. 1637; pp. 129, 130, 274, 409.

SIR ROBERT DOUGLAS OF BLACKERSTOUN 1593-166-

Sir Robert Douglas of Blackerstoun, Knt., was born in or about the year 1593, being aged forty-three at the time of his second marriage. He was the younger son of Alexander Douglas of Mains by his wife, Grizel Henderson, and co-heir to his uncle, Robert, Viscount Belhaven.

According to contract dated March 6, 1624, he married his kinswoman, Elizabeth, the daughter and sole heiress of William Douglas of Ivelie and Blackerstoun by his wife Elizabeth Home.¹ She brought him the lands of Blackerstoun, which he affixed to his name in right of his wife. Of this union, two daughters were born — Elizabeth and Grizel. In 1632 these two daughters succeeded to Blackerstoun as heiresses to their mother and maternal grandfather.²

Blackerstoun is in Longformacus Parish, Berwickshire, which lies south of Edinburgh, which was not particularly Douglas country in the ancient days of the clan. On January 29, 1629, a will was probated before the Commissariat of Lander, Lanarkshire, which was connected with this cadet branch of the Douglas Family. The will is still extant and although it has been badly mutilated by vandals, "Douglas of Blackerstoun" is legible as the signature of the testator.³

No record has been found to show the year of Sir Robert's knighthood. He was not among those Scotsmen whom James I of England knighted after he ascended the throne of England. No reasons other than distinguished birth and the fact that he represented Glasgow in Parliament in 1632 can be advanced. All noble Scotsmen were trained in warfare. In 1640 a Covenanters' army crossed the border and remained a whole year at Newcastle. Charles I sent an army to halt them, but it turned out to be only a feeble one, as he was having trouble with the Puritans around London. Sir Robert may have had a chance to display his military valor in this conflict, and was almost certainly on the side of the King.

Sir Robert spent much time in London especially during his courting of Susan, his first cousin, daughter of his uncle Robert, the Viscount Belhaven, who held high posts under James and later Charles I. The Viscount gave his blessings to the match, and according to license issued

by the Bishop of London on February 2, 1635, Lady Susan Douglas, aged about seventeen, and Sir Robert, more than twenty years her senior, were married at the parish Church of St. Andrew's Holborn.⁴

In 1636 the Viscount bestowed upon his son-in-law the lands of Gorbals, but reserved them for his own use during his lifetime.⁵ According to the History of Glasgow by Renwick and Lindsay, Sir Robert acquired through his father-in-law Gorbals and Brigend on the south banks of the Firth of Clyde which were portions of the free barony of Blythswood erected by a precept of chancery for Sir George Elphinstone. The lands of Blythswood were on the west side, now in Glasgow proper.

Prior to the conveyance of Gorbals and Brigend to Sir Robert, the Magistrate and Town Council of Glasgow had offered to purchase the estates from the Viscount for 100,000 marks, but the negotiations had failed.

Later, rumors circulated that Sir Robert of Blackerstoun was anxious to sell the land, and in 1648 negotiations were renewed by the Town Council. After a year of bargaining the town agreed to pay Sir Robert 120,000 marks with 2,000 marks to Lady Douglas, whose father had invested the land in her and her consort — in all the sum of £6,777/15/6.⁶

Quoting from the aforementioned history of Glasgow, “. . . the glories of baronial possession and knighthood appear to have been as fatal to the fortunes of Sir Robert Douglas as they had been to his predecessor, Sir George Elphinston.” In June 1648, Glasgow paid Sir Robert 50,000 marks, but political conditions were far from normal, the Civil wars keeping the country in a constant state of uncertainty.

Meanwhile, in 1644, James Graham, Marquis of Montrose, was raising an army for Charles I to fight the Scottish Covenanters who were allied or were in sympathy with the English Puritans. Montrose entered Scotland at night disguised as a groom with two companions. He was joined by a wild and savage army of soldiers from Ireland and the loyal Highlanders, and travelled around the Lowlands rallying the clansmen to join the cause of the King. Montrose gained victory after victory and promised his soldiers that if they captured Glasgow, which was strongly Covenantish, they could plunder the town as they had done at Perth, Fort William, Aberdeen and Kilsyth. Knowing what the army had done to those towns and with a view to conciliating Montrose, Sir Robert of Blackerstoun and Archibald Fleming, Esq., were sent to congratulate him on his victories and to invite him and his army to spend some days in Glasgow. They were successful in their approach and the town was spared. Montrose refused to permit his men to sack and plunder, with the result that most

of them deserted and returned to their homes in the mountains of the Highlands.⁷

After his successes in England, Cromwell entered Scotland. He met the Marquis of Montrose at Dunbar in September 1650. This resulted in a disastrous defeat of the Scottish army and caused pandemonium throughout Scotland. Cromwell stated "The Lord hath delivered them into our hands." The Scots called the battle "Dunbar Drove," as they were driven from the field like a drove of cattle. It was the year after the beheading of Charles, with Oliver Cromwell as the Dictator of the two kingdoms. More levies were demanded against the Scots, causing great calamity and financial strain. In September Glasgow still owed Sir Robert 70,000 marks, with 2,100 marks of interest.

It was apparently the default of Glasgow that brought Sir Robert to financial ruin. In November 1654, pressed by his creditors, he urged the city to pay its debt. The town clerk was instructed to write a tart letter in reply stating that "the bargain had not been so profitable to the town as to justify his making so much din over the balance still owing, but that he would be provided for at the magistrate's best convenience."⁸

On June 20, 1649, Sir Robert Douglas of Blakcaster (sic) Knight, apprenticed his son, John Douglas, to John Hamilton, Merchant, to learn the art and science of merchandising.*⁹

* A Sir Robert Douglas of Blakcaster has not been identified, nor can Blakcaster or Blackcaster be found in the gazetteers. The original script undoubtedly was so poorly written that the compiler transcribed Blakerston as Blakcaster which is not impossible, owing to the then difficult and different letters used in the Scottish alphabet as well as proverbial poor script. Various spellings of Blackerstoun were found in the ancient records.

From the frequent conveyances of Sir Robert Douglas of Blackerstoun recorded in the land books for Lanarkshire and the several petitions for his relief there is no doubt of his serious financial stress and impoverishment. Yet he was not the only nobleman who sustained economic losses.

On August 15, 1655, Sir Robert Douglas of Blackerstoun, James, Earl of Home and James, Earl of Hartfell and others petitioned the Council for relief. The petition of James, Earl of Home, James, Earl of Hartfell and Sir Robert Douglas for themselves and other nobles and gentlemen of Scotland praying for relief of their debtors in Scotland was represented at Parliament on September 5, 1655. It stated that if their debtors were left to the full vigor of the law "which will be destructive to them, for General Monck reports that its severity has driven more people to quit their homes and join the enemy among the hills for protection than has

disaffection to the Government . . . to advise His Highness to allow some mitigation and that the Council in Scotland be written to, to carry on justice and officers in the Court of Judicaterre are instructed . . . and meanwhile if debtors shall apply to endeavour for their relief by bringing the creditors to accept satisfaction according to the Ordinance for relief of debtors." It was approved by His Highness on September 25, following.

On October 2, 1655, the Council reported that the Petition of the Earls of Home and Hartfell and Sir Robert of Blackerstoun with "all executors against them be suspended for 14 days after their arrival at Edinburgh or longer if necessary to enable them to prosecute the business referred in their behalf to the Council of Scotland." It was approved as of October 5, 1655.¹⁰

It is not known whether Sir Robert removed to Edinburgh after conveying his barony to the City of Glasgow or not, or that he had resided in the Royal City for sometime prior to the alienation of his property. Anyhow, the baptism of his daughter Susan was registered in the parish church — "7 Feb. 1647 Sir Robert Douglas Blaikerstoun — Dame Susan Douglas a daughter Susan. Witnesses: Mr. Hay, Archibald Lord Angus and Mr. William Douglas."

Presumably during his economic stress, his kinsman, Archibald, Lord Angus and heir apparent to the earldom of his father, made Sir Robert a tutor to his children. Archibald, Lord Angus, was present at the baptism of Sir Robert's daughter in 1647. It can be assumed at this time that Sir Robert and his family were living in the palace of Lord Angus. He was a witness to the will of Archibald, Earl of Angus, on January 13, 1655, together with Joseph Douglas and "William Douglas a serv^t of the sd Earl of Angus."¹¹

The last record found which can be identified as Sir Robert of Blackerstoun through the recorded deeds was on March 12, 1669, when he was the grantor in a bond of relief.¹²

Through varied sources the names of some of his children have been proved. The baptism of Susan is proved by the parish register, and John, who was apprenticed to the Hamiltons, was certainly the first son of the second marriage. Then there were: Robert who died in Scotland during 1664; Alexander who died in 1679; James; Mary who married Joseph Johnston in 1673; and Elizabeth the Younger who married Robert Sinclair of Longformacus.

Lady Douglas died in 1692.

Edinburgh; 4. Complete Peerage, by Cockayne, 2d; 5. Paul's Peerage, vol. 2, pp. 36-37; Documents vol. 1, p. 495, Public Record Office; 6. History of Glasgow, by Robert Renwick and Sir John Lindsay, vol. 2, pp. 293-95; 7. *Ibid.* vol. 2, p. 271; 8. *Ibid.* vol. 2, pp. 293-95; 9. Register of Apprentices of the City of Edinburgh 1583-1666, pub. Edinburgh 1906, p. 54; 10. Calendar of State Papers, vol. 1655, pp. 284, 319, 364; 11. The Douglas Book, by Fraser, vol. 3, pp. 339-440; 12. Dur. vol. 22, p. 430, Public Record Office, Edinburgh.

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DESCENT OF COLONEL JOHN DOUGLAS OF MARYLAND
FROM THE EARLIEST PROVED ANCESTOR IN SCOTLAND

WILLIAM DE DUGLAS —

of Duglasdale, temp. 1100s.

ARCHIBALD DE DUGLAS —

Lord Douglas of Duglasdale, died
1240.

SIR ANDREW DE DUGLAS —

2d son, of Hermiston.

WILLIAM DE DUGLAS —

of Linlithgow; temp. of Alexander
III.

SIR JAMES DE DUGLAS — JOAN ———.

of Lothian; temp. Robert the
Bruce; died before 1323.

extant 1337.

JOHN DE DUGLAS — AGNES ———.

3d son, of Lothian; slain 1350.

widow of John de Munfode.

NICHOLAS DE DUGLAS — JANET GALBRAITH

of Dounteray and Wakefield, died
circa 1400.coheirss of William Gailbraith of
Gartconnell who brought her hus-
band Mains in Dumbartonshire,
by marriage of Sept. 1373.

JAMES DOUGLAS —

2d Laird of Mains, died 1420.

JAMES DOUGLAS — CATHERINE MAXWELL

3d Laird of Mains, extant 1489.

of Newark.

WILLIAM DOUGLAS — ELIZABETH HOUSTON

4th Laird of Mains.

JOHN DOUGLAS — MARGARET KINCAID

predeceased his father; died circa
1513.

of Kincaid.

SIR ALEXANDER DOUGLAS — DAME MARGARET STEWART

5th Laird of Mains; extant 1549.

dau. of Mathew Stewart, 2d Earl of
Lennox & Lord Darnley.

MATTHEW DOUGLAS — MARGARET BUCHANAN

6th Laird of Mains.

MALCOLM DOUGLAS — JANET CUNNINGHAM

7th Laird of Mains, beheaded 1584.

dau. of John Cunningham of Drumquhassil.

ALEXANDER DOUGLAS — GRIZEL HENDERSON

8th Laird of Mains.

dau. of James Henderson of Fordel, Fifeshire.

SIR ROBERT DOUGLAS — — — WHALLEY

1572-1639, created Viscount Belhaven.

of Nottinghamshire, England.

ELIZABETH DOUGLAS — SIR ROBERT DOUGLAS — LADY SUSAN DOUGLAS

dau. of Wm. Douglas of Ivelie & Blackerstoun; mar. 1624.

of Blackerstoun by right of his first wife; acquired Blythwood by purchase.

1617-1692, mar. 1635.

COLONEL JOHN DOUGLAS

born 1636 in Scotland, emigrated 1654 to Maryland, held "Blythwood" and "Bowles" in Charles Co., Md., and lordship of "Cold Spring Manor," died testate 1678.

ALEXANDER DOUGLAS — GRIZEL HENDERSON

8th Laird of
Mains.

dau. of James Hen-
derson of Fordel,
Fifeshire.

SIR ROBERT DOUGLAS — — — — WHALLEY

1572-1639, created
Viscount Belhaven.

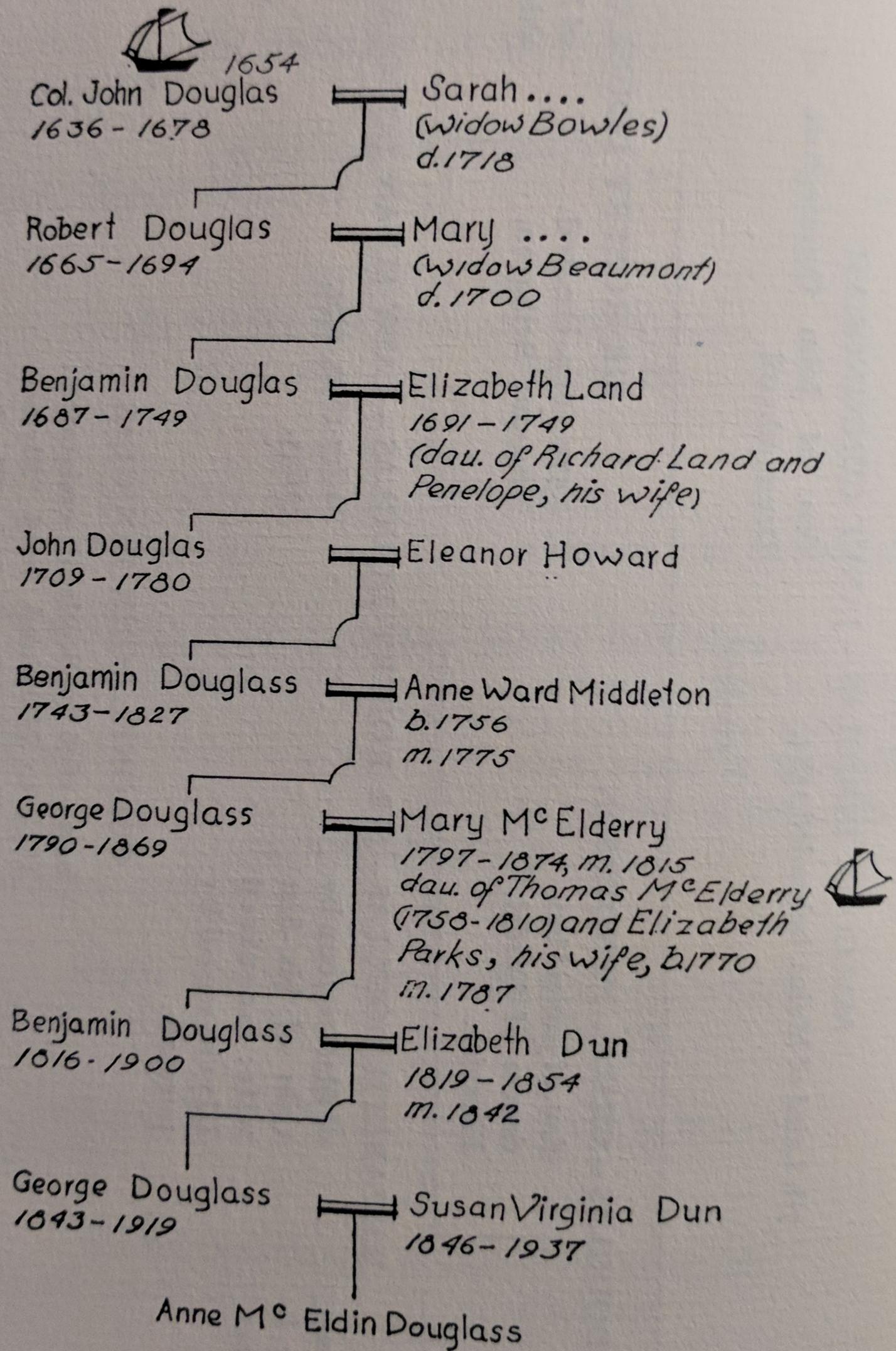
of Nottingham-
shire, England.

ELIZABETH DOUGLAS

SIR ROBERT DOUGLAS

LADY SUSAN DOUGLAS

MARYLAND ANN

DOUGLASS

A BRANCH OF THE DOUGLAS FAMILY

DOUGLASS



1654
Col. John Douglas
1636 - 1678

Sarah
(Widow Bowles)
d. 1718

Robert Douglas
1665 - 1694

Mary
(Widow Beaumont)
d. 1700

Benjamin Douglas
1687 - 1749

Elizabeth Land
1691 - 1749
(dau. of Richard Land and
Penelope, his wife)

John Douglas
1709 - 1780

Eleanor Howard

Benjamin Douglass
1743 - 1827

Anne Ward Middleton
b. 1756
m. 1775

George Douglass
1790 - 1869

Mary M^cElderry
1797 - 1874, m. 1815
dau. of Thomas M^cElderry
(1758 - 1810) and Elizabeth
Parks, his wife, b. 1770
m. 1787

Benjamin Douglass
1816 - 1900

Elizabeth Dun
1819 - 1854
m. 1842

George Douglass
1843 - 1919

Susan Virginia Dun
1846 - 1937

Anne M^cEldin Douglass

COLONEL JOHN DOUGLAS, ESQ.
1636-1678

John Douglas, Esq., of Glasgow and Edinburgh, Scotland, and Blythwood and Cold Spring Manor, Province of Maryland, was born in or about the year 1636. He was the first-born of Sir Robert Douglas of Blackerstoun and his second wife, Lady Susan, whose marriage took place in September 1635.

In 1649, a time when his father had a large, growing family to support and was feeling great economic discomfort caused by the City of Glasgow not meeting its payments, John was apprenticed to John Hamilton, of Glasgow, to learn the art and science of merchandising. It can be assumed that he pursued and completed his apprenticeship with diligence. At the age of seventeen, with his father on the verge of financial ruin, and realizing that he had to create a place for himself in the economic world, the prospects of fresh opportunities in America appealed to him.

He financed his own passage. It was either paid for by his father, as the parental patrimony, or it was the bonus he received at the termination of his apprenticeship. The master, by law, was responsible for furnishing the apprentices with lodgings, food and raiment, but little or no money. At the conclusion of the period of service, certain provisions established by law were made either in currency or kind.

Scotsmen have always possessed keen business ability in the mercantile trade, and John Douglas, after his settlement in Maryland, pursued the art which was partly responsible for his affluence in America.

The ship on which he sailed is not known. It is extremely difficult to name the ships which brought the adventurers to Maryland or to any of the American colonies, owing to a fire in London early in the nineteenth century which destroyed nearly all of the early ships' lists.

After his settlement in Maryland, the great distance between "Blythwood," his plantation, and Edinburgh precluded frequent correspondence with his parents. If any occurred, it has not come down to posterity. It is evident that his father had no landed estate to leave him at his death, and perhaps very little personalty. His father predeceased his mother back in Scotland, who apparently had very little at her death. Furthermore, the fact that she died intestate prevented additional knowledge of any possible legacies or heirs. It often happened in those times, that an emigrating son would receive his patrimony when he sailed to distant America, and therefore be omitted from his parent's will.

Upon his arrival in Maryland, a new life began for young John

Douglas, and his early days in Old Scotland became only a cherished memory. He honored his father by naming his second son Robert.

The foregoing chronicles of several branches of the Douglas family in Blythswood Parish, Lanarkshire, and the early days of John Douglas, the Maryland emigrant, show that economic conditions rather than religious or political issues were his incentive for leaving his native Scotland and seeking a new life in the Province of Maryland, where heretofore very few of his compatriots had settled. It is probable that he heard tales about the advantages and opportunities of Lord Baltimore's Province or he read the several pieces of literature which had been written under the direction of Lord Baltimore to attract worthy settlers to his colonial domain. There is certainly no evidence that he was exiled to the Colonies for political activities.

According to his own deposition, he was born about 1636 and arrived in America before June 3, 1654, at which time he was not more than eighteen years of age. Young men in that period assumed and were capable of more responsibilities than the average youths of later centuries, and in certain colonies eighteen was often considered majority.

He arrived in Maryland during those hectic days of the Puritan supremacy when the Proprietary Party was suppressed but always awaiting the opportunity to regain its power and the franchise. Cecilus, Lord Baltimore, by the Act of Toleration, had offered freedom of worship to all Christians, but when the non-Conformists took over by force of arms in 1652, they denied all Anglicans and Roman Catholics the privilege of the vote and the right to hold civil or military offices.

John Douglas, in signing his name, sometimes wrote it with a double s and sometimes with only s, and there are instances of his signing as John Douglass. Furthermore, he was always styled "Gent." which, in that day, was a title of birth rather than achievement or wealth. It is assumed that he had been raised in the tenets of the Church of Scotland, though he had an English grandmother and his parents were married in the English Church, but in the absence of the Presbyterian Church in Charles and St. Mary's Counties, he worshipped with the Anglicans, a religion which became traditional with his descendants during the colonial period.

Upon his arrival he settled at Pasquascutt, named after an Indian Tribe which formerly dwelt around the headwaters of the Wicomico River. The latter for a considerable distance now separates Charles from St. Mary's County. As it empties into the Potomac it forms a low promontory which was known as Pickawaxon, with varied spellings, and

here John Douglas ultimately settled. His mansion house faced the broad waters of the Potomac, looking out to the distant Virginia shores. Like other prominent and affluent planters, he maintained a private landing place on his plantation and possessed several watercrafts. In 1671 the court of Charles County ordered the payment of 600 lbs. tob. for the hire of his sloop to "accommodate the burgesses of the County." Apparently, it was used for transporting the burgesses to a session of the General Assembly at St. Mary's City.¹

Around the Wicomico he found such early planters as Richard Morris, whose daughters later married into the Douglas family, William Marshall, the progenitor of the well-known Marshall family of Maryland, Humphrey Warren of the noble English family, William Heard, Walter Story, and William Bowles. Later on John Douglas found the Widow Bowles peculiarly attractive.

John Douglas may have lived for a while with William Marshall, afterwards Judge, perhaps until his marriage. The young or freshly arrived settlers usually brought their credentials with them and dwelt in the homes of the older planters until they became established, as hospitality was the custom of the country among compatriots.

On June 3, 1654, John Douglas witnessed and signed his name to a deed of gift made by William Marshall, of Pasquascutt, St. Mary's County, of three heifers with their milk and one half of the male increase for the maintenance of a minister for the "neck of Wicomico," which became the nucleus for William and Mary Parish.² On July 16, 1658, he witnessed a bill of sale for William Marshall. Inasmuch as Marshall was an early merchant of the area, and John Douglas in his youth had been apprenticed to the Hamiltons in Scotland to "learn the art and science" of merchandising, it is not beyond the realm of possibility that for a few years he assisted William Marshall in his import and export trade.

On April 13, 1655, he witnessed an assignment of 200 acres of land from Christopher Carnell, of the Wicomico, to Richard Morris. At the expulsion of Richard Cromwell, the son and successor of mighty Oliver, from English political scenes and the return of Charles II from his exile in France, Maryland cast off the domination of the non-Conformists. In 1656 Cecilius, Lord Baltimore, was able to regain the political control of his Province and appointed Captain Josias Fendall the Fourth Proprietary Governor of Maryland, who later intrigued against him and was tried for High Treason and Misdemeanor. It was when Lord Baltimore returned to power that the ability and interest of John Douglas were recognized, and he was almost immediately made a Lieutenant of the

Provincial Militia in Charles County.

On January 22, 1657/8, he made the following statement at court:³ John Douglas aged one and twenty-years or thereabouts Sworne and Examined upon Oath the 13th of this present January, stated that John Slingsley conveyed all his belongings to his master William Marshall and said Marshall replied that if he should die his estate would take care of him.

By right of his settlement in Maryland, he was entitled by the Acts of Plantation to fifty acres of land, but on January 21, 1659/60, he assigned his land-rights to Daniel Johnson for a valuable consideration not disclosed, as the following excerpt from the public records will prove:⁴

Horsage Nale, Thomas Gravis, William Codwell, Margaret Codwell, William Cratdort, *John Douglass*, Peter Care, Richard Morris, Robert Wilson, Be it known unto all men that we abovementioned do assign over our Selves our heirs or Assignes, all our Right Title and Interest of our rights of Land unto Daniel Johnson or his heirs for ever, as wittness our hands abovementioned this

Wittness in the presence of us:

Christopher Russell

William WB Bowles (his mark)

Henry ffranckom

These men here specified have well Desired of his Lordship and therefore I do allow them the fifty Acres per head given by his Lordship to such. Josias ffindall Janry ye 21, 1659.

24 January 1659

William Bowles, Edward Bowles, Elizabeth Bowles, Jno Normand, Joana Bowles, Philip Throsirde, John Levette, Mary Imbry, the first five came in Nine Years agoe, and there is two hundred acres taken up of their rights, Be it known unto all men that I William Bowles, do assign over from my self my heirs or Assigns all my right, title and Interest of the Eight Rights above mentioned of Land unto Daniel Johnson his heirs or Assigns forever, as Witness this 21 of January 1659.

His

William W B Bowles
Mark

The enter was before the
assignment

Christopher Russell

John Douglas

Henry ffranchom

for the above sd Eight Rights and the nine Rights entred before on the other side of this leaf, the said Daniel Johnson demands a Warrant. Warrant inde for 900 Acres of Land for the said Daniel Johnson return the last of August next ensuing. C. Baltamore.

The first land grant of John Douglas was surveyed on May 10, 1667, by Benjamin Rozer for 100 acres, on the north side of the Potomac River "nigh Pickawaxon" which borders on one side of the land of John Jenkins. He named the plantation "Blythswood," after his early association in Scotland, and he was to remit two shillings sterling in gold or silver as quit-rent to the Lord Proprietary at the Feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Feast of St. Michael's Archangel.⁵

"Blythswood" was followed by a grant of 100 acres which he called "Douglas' Adventure," and in 1661 he received letters patent for "Douglas' Delight," of 100 acres, all within the jurisdiction of Charles County.

In those early days wild wolves roamed the Maryland countryside and caused much damage to livestock and other depredations. The Assembly passed a law by which any one who killed a wolf and brought his head into court as evidence would receive a premium of 100 lbs. tob. John Douglas, most notably in 1665, was among those who received rewards.

On March 13, 1665/6, "Lieutenant John Douglas," as the executor of the estate of Bridget Heard, was sued by Marmaduke Snowe, of Lord of Snow Hill Manor, and Edward Richardson for the sum of 647 lbs. tob.⁶

On September 16, 1672, he purchased from Edmund Lyndsey, of Charles County, Planter, for a consideration of 11,000 lbs. tob. a portion of "St. Edmonds," lying in Charles County as granted to the said Edmond Lyndsey by patent of March 10, 1670/1, adjoining the land of William Heard and lying on the east side of the main branch which ran into Portobacco Creek — in all 100 acres. It was signed by the grantor in the presence of Jonathan Marler and Richard Edelen. The plantation was adjacent to Portobacco Towne, the county seat of Charles County and the first important commercial center of the county. Later generations of the Douglas family settled there.

In April 1673, at a court held in Charles County he "entered this ensueing Marke of one mare for his Daughter Sarah (viz^t) branded wth th^e letter D on the neare Shoulder & th^e neare eare holed." At the same time he entered the birth of his "Daughter Elizabeth (viz^t) borne Aprill the Six & twentieth Annoq Dni 1673."⁷

It is quite possible that John Douglas returned to England either for business or to visit his kinsmen. In 1674 he witnessed the power of attorney of Peter Small, of London, Chyrurgon, and John Harrison, of Hull, Merchant, to Henry Bonner, of the Province of Maryland, Gent. If he were not in England at the time that the powers of attorney were granted, then the two grantors were in Maryland at the time.⁸

On May 10, 1677, Major John Douglas, Gent., bought of Captain

Josias Fendall, Gent., for a consideration of 20,000 lbs. tob "Cold Spring Manor," sometimes called "Cool Spring Manor," of 1,050 acres on the west side of the Patuxent River in Calvert County, beginning at Bowene Brook on the east side, but in 1695 it fell into Prince George's at the creation of that county. Inasmuch as Captain Fendall had been granted the manor with full baronial rights, that is, "all such Royalties, Courts, perquisites and Profits of Courts . . . to have and to hold the same . . . his heires and assignes for Ever . . . as of the Honour of West Maries," when the manor was conveyed to Major Douglas, the latter became invested with all manorial rights according to the law and customs of England. That he was conscious of his manorial privileges was evident when he willed the prerogatives in 1678 to his son and heir who was to be the "Lord of the Manor."⁹

On February 8, 1677/8, he bought of Joseph Bullock, of Charles County, the tract known by the name of "Wolrome," lying in Charles County on the east side of Portobacco Fresh beginning at a line formerly belonging to Job Chandler and which Joseph Bullock had purchased on November 6, 1673, from Edmond Lindsey, late of Charles County, with Samuel Clarke as a co-purchaser.¹⁰ On March 5, 1677/8, he conveyed the above-named tract for a valuable consideration to James Smallwood. He signed the deed in the presence of Benjamin Rozer and Samuel Dobson.

True to the Scottish tradition, John Douglas was a fighter. He interested himself early in military affairs in the Province, particularly in the protection of the frontier and the early Indian wars. It has already been cited that in 1666 he was addressed as "Lieutenant" John Douglas.

In 1675 as "Captain John Douglas" he was ordered to patrol the frontier:¹¹

Council ordered that there be a party of Thirty men raised, fifteen out of St. Maryes County & fifteen out of Charles County to march under the command of Cap^t John Doulas and Cap^t Gerard Sly to Range the woods about Pascattaway & the Susquahanough ffort, to take up all such horses as they shall finde that was lost by the souldiers in the late Expedicon ag^t the Susquahanough Indians, whereof Joⁿ Burrows, Joseph Horton, Vincent Mansfield, Richard Brightwell, Mannah Hawton the Indian & James Smallwood are to be part.

At a meeting of the Council of Maryland on November 29, 1675, it was ordered that Captain John Douglas, of Charles County, with the various Sheriffs and military officers of the Counties settle accounts with the inhabitants who had been supplying provisions in the recent war with the Indians.¹² On May 30, 1676, he was addressed as Major.¹³

At a meeting of His Lordship's Council at Mattapanye on July 13, 1676, Major John Douglas and others were ordered to attend a council of war to be held at St. Maries on the twentieth next.¹⁴

On July 21, 1676, Major John Douglas was ordered by His Lordship's Council to "take unto his Custody all the unfixt Armes now in the possession of Philip Lynes of Portobacco or others in the County."¹⁵

On August 6, 1676, Major Douglas and the other military officers of Charles and St. Mary's Counties were ordered by the Council "to have their soldiers under their command in readiness with their armes ammunition & provisions to be upon an heures warneing to march agst the Indians."¹⁶

Before his death he had been raised to a colonelcy.¹⁷

At a court held in Charles County for the Lord Proprietary on September 10, 1672, John Douglas sat as one of His Lordship's Magistrates.¹⁸ Records show that he likewise sat in that capacity through November 11, 1674.¹⁹ On January 14, 1673/4, he was fined for not attending "this Court accordinge to (his) Commissions."²⁰ On March 2, 1676/7, he was again appointed a Justice of the Peace and was one of the "Gentlemen of the Quorum."²¹

Before May 30, 1676, he entered the Lower House of the General Assembly as a delegate from Charles County, for on that date "Major Jn^o Douglas" with five other members of the house was "appointed to joyne with such memb^{rs} of the upper house as they please to appoint to be a Committee to Regulate publick acco^{ts}."²²

At the General Assembly of October to November 1678, as Colonel John Dowglasse he again represented Charles County.²³ In 1678 he was commissioned to assess the public levy. On August 26, 1681, the Lower House in session "humbly desired Your Lordship . . . to hold an election in Charles County to fill the vacancy of Col John Douglas deceased."²⁴

Down at Pickawaxon dwelt William Bowles, son of Edward, a planter of some substance, who married a charming maiden of the countryside by the name of Sarah. She is generally supposed to be the sister of Henry Bonner, Gent., a prominent attorney of Southern Maryland who held many offices, but he called so many planters "brother" and so many matrons "sister" that it is difficult to unravel the relationships. Madam Sarah Bowles, who went to the altar four times, was a lady of some breeding and intellect, not to mention personal charm. She was schooled in letters and was able to write her name, paradoxical as it may seem, her husband, William Bowles, always made his mark or the initials "W B" on documents.

Their married life was undoubtedly of a brief duration, as no issue resulted from the union. William Bowles drew up his last will and testament on April 15, 1662, and it was probated on February 27, 1662/3, by James Smith, William Ayliffe and William Lewis. He appointed his wife the executrix and after a minor legacy to Robert Robins, one half of his estate went to his widow and the other half was divided between his uncle John Bowles and kinsman James Tyre.²⁵

The original administration document of the widow, on file at the Hall of Records, Annapolis, shows a bond in the value of 40,000 lbs. tob. Robert Robins, who, as noted above, received a small legacy, was the surety. Madam Sarah Bowles signed her name, while Robert Robins made his mark.

The inventory of the estate was returned at court on June 6, 1663, listing a plantation of "200 acres of land with howsing," appraised at 10,000 lbs. tob. Other listings were one white servant-man appraised at 1,600 lbs. tob., and much livestock. The entire estate was valued at 17,850 lbs. tob.²⁶

The plantation was "Bowles" sometimes written "Bowlesley" which had been patented by Edward Bowles and devised to his son William in 1659. It lay on the Potomac River near Pickawaxon Creek and began at a bound red oak at "ye head of hungerford branch."

On July 28, 1663, at a court held in Charles County, Hewgh Oneale demanded a warrant against Zarah Bouls (sic), the administratrix of the estate of William Bouls in an action of debt and requested that subpenas be issued to Robert Henley and John Douglas. The widow in turn requested that a subpoena be issued to Mary Warren.

At that time Lieutenant John Douglas was certainly courting the widow. By August 17, 1663, after a period of less than seven months of deep mourning, the Widow Bowles became Madam John Douglas. The bridegroom thereupon established his seat on his wife's inheritance at Pickawaxon.

On August 17, 1663, a lengthy lawsuit was instituted at the local court in Charles County by which Robert Robins, who had been bequeathed a legacy in the will of William Bowles, was sued by Richard Dod over the delivery of a mare. The High Sheriff summoned Madam Sarah Douglas to court for testimony. It was alleged that Richard Dod had lost a mare belonging to Robert Robins and considerable discussion about the loss had occurred in the home of William Bowles which was then possessed by John Douglas. Therefore, it is evident that he acquired the plantation by his marriage with the widow. On February

10, 1663/4, Thomas Hussey, aged twenty-nine, stated that last April [1662] he "went into the howse where now John Douglass lives," when a discussion over the mare took place. Sarah Douglas likewise declared that there was a "discourse att this depon^t howse." On April 6, 1664, "Zara Bouls alias Douglas" was paid 180 lbs. tob. by the court for her services relative to the law suit.²⁷

The legacy of the widow from her deceased husband was one half of "Bowles" or 100 acres, but later John Douglas acquired the entire portion. On August 8, 1676, James Tyre, Gent., conveyed to "Major John Douglas," for a consideration of 10,000 lbs. tob., a "moiety on the East side of Pickawaxon Brooke" which had been given to him and his uncle John Bowles by his deceased uncle William Bowles by will of 1662, then in the possession of William Bowles and "now in the possession of the said John Douglas." The mother of James Tyre was Rebecca Bowles, a sister to William and John Bowles.²⁸

The parentage of Sarah Bowles-Douglas offers a challenging genealogical puzzle. In the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries relationships were loosely stated, and often "sister" and "brother" actually meant sister-in-law and brother-in-law. Henry Bonner was present at the time that Colonel John Douglas drew up his last will and testament and probably wrote it. Shortly after the probation, Henry Bonner dispatched a note, dated January 1678/9, at Newton [Newtowne] to the Judge of the Prerogative Court as follows:²⁹

On ye behalfe of my Sister Douglass these are humbly to Request your Honour to Send a Commission to Major Benjamin Rozer to prove her Deceased husband Will. She is left sole Executrix.

It is generally concluded that she was born Sarah Bonner. However, two years previously Henry Bonner, of Charles County, Gent., that is, on March 13, 1670/1, appointed his "Loving Brother Thomas Lomax, Merchant," his legal attorney. John Taylor and Thomas Taylor were the witnesses. The latter two are identified as stepsons of Henry Bonner.³⁰

One record shows the wife of Henry Bonner as Elizabeth, widow of John Taylor, another record states that his wife, Elizabeth, was the widow of Walter Story. It is therefore difficult to know whether Henry Bonner had two wives with the Christian name of Elizabeth or whether the Widow Taylor and the Widow Story were one and the same. On February 8, 1669/70, Provincial Court records mentioned Elizabeth Story as "being long since married to one Henry Bonner." Then at court on September 1, 1674, it was recorded that Henry Bonner, Gent., had mar-

ried Elizabeth, the relict of John Taylor, with two children, John and Thomas Taylor.³¹

In 1672 Henry Bonner promised to deliver goods to Thomas Notley for the account of John Long, of London, Merchant, which had been appraised by John Bolds and Robert Henley under the seal of John Douglas, then acting as attorney for Henry Bonner and Elizabeth his wife, and also a lease of fourteen years on a plantation of 170 acres, whereon Henry Bonner and Elizabeth his wife then lived "which they the said Henry Elizabeth holdeth useth Occupyeth and enjoyeth to the use of Walter Story, Son and Heire of Walter Story, deceased." Henry Bonner lost his suit and the court awarded Thomas Notley 14,906 lbs. tob. plus 568 lbs. tob., the cost of the suit.³²

Henry Bonner later settled in Prince George's County, where he died testate in 1702, presumably without issue as he left his entire estate to his wife, Elizabeth.

One of the neighbors of Colonel John Douglas at Pickawaxon was William Heard, who died testate in 1664/5, and made his wife Bridget the sole legatee. There may have been some relationship between the Douglas and Heard families; anyhow, John Douglas, Jr., eventually became the sole heir to the estate of the widow. Colonel John Douglas, Sr., was made the executor, and while his son gained in the landed estate, the personal estate of the Widow Heard was greatly involved in debt, much to the embarrassment of Colonel Douglas.

Bridget Heard, who styled herself in the will, of the Potomac River, executed her last will and testament on March 4, 1664/5, only a few weeks after the probate of her husband's will. Her will was probated at court on April 11, 1665. She bequeathed her son one half of the estate real and personal, and the other half was to be divided equally between "John Douglass Jr. son of John Douglass of Pickawaxen" and her sister, Mary Yowkins. Her mother, Katherine Yowkins, was bequeathed a minor legacy. Humphrey Warren, of the Wicomico, was appointed joint-executor with Colonel John Douglas, but Warren died shortly thereafter, and Colonel Douglas had the burden of all the law suits, some of which were with English agents.³³

Colonel John Douglas probably died during the latter part of 1678, or early in 1679, inasmuch as his last will and testament was admitted to probate in Charles County, on January 27, 1678/9, having been written on December 3, 1676 in the presence of Henry Bonner, Francis Pollard and John Robynson.* All of his children were under age.

* The official copy of the will of Colonel John Douglas recorded in Maryland shows that

he signed his name as "John Douglas," placing a wax seal to the right, but a description of the seal is not noted. Wills, Liber 9, folio 97, Hall of Records. The only extant will for a member of the family is "John Douglass Junr." who wrote his own will in 1761 and placed a seal besides his name, but the impression has been removed. Box D, folder 59, Hall of Records.

He did not overlook the fact that his wife had brought him an improved plantation, so therefore he willed her "all that foure hundred Acres of land w^{ch} I now live att Pickiawaxen in Charles County to her and her heirs forever." It certainly included the 200 acres of "Bowles" and an adjoining 200 acres which he had either purchased or patented.

The plantation "Blythswood" with its Scottish tradition was willed to his second son, Robert, when he should reach the age of twenty-one years. The large manorial domain of "Cold Spring" on the Upper Patuxent now in Prince George's County was broken up, and John, the son and heir, was devised 550 acres and was to be recognized as the "Lord of the Manor." Five hundred acres of the remaining portion of the manor were given to the younger sons, Charles and Joseph.

In the event that his son and heir John died without issue, then his son Robert was to receive one half of John's portion of "Cole Spring Manor," and Charles and Joseph were to inherit the other half.³⁴

The inventory and the administration of the estate are not on file in Maryland, presumably lost during the intervals of time, so the extent of John Douglas's personal estate, conceivably large, cannot be stated. An alleged incendiary fire at the courthouse at Port Tobacco to prevent an investigation of embezzlement of fees destroyed all the original wills of the early planters, so if Colonel John Douglas impressed his family arms in wax beside his signature, as many Marylanders who were entitled to arms did, it is lost to posterity.

Colonel John Douglas failed to mention his two daughters, Sarah and Elizabeth, in his will, but we have evidence of their existence in the registration of the birth of one and the mare mark for the other. That they were living at the time of his death is evident from the last will and testament of one Peter Carr, who died without issue in 1680. He, as "Peter Care" was one of those who, with John Douglas, assigned land-rights to Daniel Johnson in 1659; it is possible that they came over on the same ship. Peter Carr left to Robert, Charles, Joseph, Elizabeth and Sarah Douglas, the children of Colonel John Douglas, deceased, 10,760 lbs. tob. to be divided equally at their attainment of sixteen years. It was the amount "due him from Sarah Douglas now wife of Ralph Smith and mother of ye said legatees as appears by bill and her hand and seal bearing date of 9 May 1679." Other bequests were made to the

children of George Newman who lived at Pickawaxon and James, the son of James Tyre.³⁵

Shortly after the death of Colonel Douglas an inquisition was taken at Pickawaxon on July 16, 1679, relative to the estate of William Heard who died on January 4, 1664/5, leaving 1000 acres of land at the head of Portobacco Creek which had an annual rental of 500 lbs. tob. It had been assigned by Humphrey Warren late of the county, deceased, to William Heard in his lifetime. It became the property of the widow of William Heard, and at her death it was possessed by John Douglas as executor of the widow, Bridget Heard. Colonel Douglas had remitted quit-rents on the plantation until November last, when it came into the possession of Colonel Benjamin Rozer. The court declared that "John Douglas Jun^r the son of the afs^d John Douglas deceased" was the sole surviving legatee of the said Bridgett Heard "and was the true and lawful heir of Bridget Heard . . . John Douglas is fifteen years of age."³⁶

From the will of Peter Carr it is proved that Sarah, the Widow Douglas, married as her third husband Ralph Smith sometime after January 27, 1678/9, but before September 21, 1680. He was one of the planters who engaged in trading with the home country and apparently had excellent connections, as he was a friend and an heir of Thomas Notley, Esq., onetime Governor of Maryland.

The once Widow Douglas and her consort, Ralph Smith, apparently lived a peaceful and happy life, but no children blessed the conjugal days, which lasted about nineteen years. After he established himself at "Bowles," he discovered eight acres of contiguous unclaimed land, presumably owing to faulty surveys, which he patented and brought the plantation up to 208 acres. On December 26, 1698, he made his last will and testament in the presence of John Compton and Walter Story, two planters whose names figure in the lives of certain members of the Douglas family. He made his wife Sarah the sole heiress to his estate real and personal.³⁷

His personal estate was not negligible and was appraised at £334/6/9. It included two white servant boys, four white servant men, four Negro slaves, and one Indian servant. An estate which maintained a servant staff of eleven could not be too small and indicated the colonial splendor and way of life which the Douglas family enjoyed and maintained in that epoch. When the widow and executrix filed an account with the court, a disbursement was made to "John Douglas Gent," who was certainly her eldest son.

Attractive widows with estates did not remain lonely very long in

Maryland of that day. As a saying goes "Destiny is fatal to the longevity of husbands but well-dowered widows needed never to remain disconsolate for long." But it cannot be denied that the Widow Bowles-Douglas-Smith possessed a certain amount of subtle charm and allure. In 1699 she was certainly in her fifties, and her children were all grown and married. Nearby on Pickawaxon dwelt Captain William Harbert, Gent., sometime judge of the county court, a widower and presumably desirous of a wife to preside over his plantation. Soon the Widow Smith changed her name to Madam Sarah Harbert.

Captain Harbert, later spelled Herbert, executed his last will and testament on May 9, 1715, and provided for his only daughter and heiress, Anne, who had married Judge George Dent, Esq., of Pope's Creek, and her children, with a large plantation around the Mattawoman known as "Clarke's Purchase." Captain Harbert regarded his stepchildren with esteem and affection, especially his orphaned grandson, John Douglas, son of John, whom he willed "Harbert's Chance," of 150 acres and personalty. The residuary estate was to be divided equally between his wife and his son-in-law George Dent, both of whom were appointed executors.³⁸

He lived for an additional three years. He and his wife succumbed within a few days of each other. She dated her will on May 8, 1718, and both instruments were admitted for probate in Charles County on July 26, 1718.³⁹

She appointed her only surviving son, Joseph Douglas, the executor and left him her dwelling-plantation and 200 acres of "The Hills." Although she did not name the home plantation, it was undoubtedly "Bowles" at Pickawaxon which she acquired from the first of her four husbands. She remembered the following grandchildren — Thomas Douglas, Benjamin Douglas, Joseph Douglas, Douglas Giffard, Elizabeth Howard and Mary Douglas.

George Dent rendered an account upon the estate of his father-in-law, Captain Harbert, on April 16, 1720, and reported a balance of £1,052/10/1, and after all debts and court fees were paid, a balance of £1,009/1/1 remained, one half of which was due to the heirs of the deceased widow, Sarah Harbert. The balance was certainly not negligible, and the Douglas heirs benefited materially.

The personal estate of Madam Harbert was valued at £188/15/3 which had been appraised by Raphael Neale and William Penn. It included six Negro slaves and one white indentured manservant. George Dent and Douglas Gifford, as the kinsmen, approved the valuation. On

July 19, 1719, an additional inventory was filed showing a value of £78/10/11, which was apparently her portion of the personal estate of her deceased husband which was to be distributed to her heirs according to law.

The children of Colonel John Douglas and his wife Sarah married into families of social position and left distinguished issue. John Douglas, the son and heir, died in 1705, and so far as it is known had two sons, John and Benjamin. Robert, the second son, predeceased his mother, but she remembered his two orphaned sons in her will. So far as it is known, Charles died unmarried. Joseph was the only son who outlived his mother. He acquired two wives — first Penelope Morris and, secondly, Catherine Musgrove, who was the widow, with children, of John Harris. Distinguished issue resulted from both his marriages, some of whom settled on the Eastern Shore of Maryland.

Elizabeth married first Charles Brandt, Esq., whose father had dwelt in the Barbadoes before settling in Maryland, a scion of an armorial family appearing in the English visitations, originally from Hamburg, Germany; secondly Thomas Howard, Esq., of an old English armorial family; and thirdly Thomas Thompson. Sarah married Henry Gifford and left issue, and it seems to have been her only marriage.

John Douglas, the son and heir, with manorial rights on "Cold Spring Manor," died intestate in 1705, when his son and heir, Benjamin, was granted letters of administration. In 1714 Benjamin alienated his desmense land on "Cold Spring Manor" to Francis Collier, of Prince George's County. In the deed of conveyance it was cited that the manor had been devised to Benjamin's father, John Douglas, "when he should arrive at one and twenty years with all the Privileges belonging to the Lord of the Manour and to the Heirs lawfully to be begotten of his body which Parcel of Land containing 550 acres portion of the said tract of 1,050 acres."

SOURCES: 1. Archives, vol. 60, p. 348; 2. *Ibid.* vol. 10, pp. 392-393; 3. *Ibid.* vol. 41, p. 28; 4. Patents, Liber 4, folio 214; 5. *Ibid.* Libers 10, folio 529; 11, folio 269; 6. Archives, vol. 51, p. 621; 7. *Ibid.* vol. 60, pp. 401, 483; 8. *Ibid.* vol. 60, p. 565; 9. Provincial Court, Liber. WRC no. 1, folio 25; 10. Chas. Co. Deeds, Liber F no. 1, folio 216; 11. Archives, vol. 15, p. 56; 12. *Ibid.* p. 56; 13. Archives, vol. 2, p. 496; 14. *Ibid.* vol. 15, p. 99; 15. *Ibid.* p. 101; 16. *Ibid.* p. 124; 17. Archives, vol. 7, pp. 4, 6, 19, 46, 134; 18. *Ibid.* vol. 60, p. 401; 19. *Ibid.* pp. 419, 503, 506, 509, 526, 564, 575, 586, 590, 602; 20. *Ibid.* p. 515; 21. Archives, vol. 15, pp. 71, 72; 22. *Ibid.* vol. 2, p. 496; vol. 51, p. 184; 23. *Ibid.* vol. 7, pp. 4, 6, 19, 46; 24. *Ibid.* p. 134; 25. Wills, Liber 1, folio 171; 26. Testamentary Proceedings, Liber IE, folio 9; 27. Archives, vol. 49, pp. 88, 198; vol. 53, p. 479; 28. Chas. Co. Deeds, Liber F, no. 1, folio 216; 29. Testamentary Proceedings, Liber 10, folio 334; 30. Chas. Co. Deeds, Liber E, no. 1, folio 39; 31. Archives, vol. 65, pp. 166, 223; vol. 50, p. 579; 32. *Ibid.* vol.

66, p. 231; 33. Wills, Liber 1, folio 224; 34. *Ibid.* Liber 9, folio 97; 35. *Ibid.* Liber 4, folio 12; 36. Archives, vol. 51, pp. 297-298; 37. Wills, Liber 6, folio 217; 38. *Ibid.* Liber 14, folio 661; 39. *Ibid.* Liber 14, folio 662.

ROBERT DOUGLAS, GENT.²
1665-1694

Robert Douglas, the second son of Colonel John Douglas and his wife, was born about the year 1665 in Pickawaxon, Charles County, and was presumably named after his noble ancestor Robert, Viscount of Belhaven.* He was under age at the time of his father's death in 1679, so he probably matured in the home of his stepfather, Ralph Smith. His share of the parental estate was 100 acres of "Blythswood". There he established his dwelling-plantation. He died in his late twenties, before he had time to distinguish himself in public service as his honored father had done before him. He witnessed the Revolution of 1689, when the liberal Protestants and the former Puritans assumed the control of the government and made Maryland a Crown Colony, but extant records fail to show what part he played or his politics.

Like his father, Robert Douglas married a widow with estates. She was Mary, the Relict of Richard Beaumont who came to Maryland prior to November 26, 1680. On that date James Beaumont proved his rights to 150 acres of land for transporting himself, Richard Beaumont and Mary his wife. The relationship to James Beaumont is not known, but the name was one of the oldest in England. Probably there was no male

* It has been stated that Benjamin Douglass who married Anne Middleton was the grandson of Captain Joseph Douglas of John and son of William Douglas who married Sarah Berryman, of Virginia, and not the great-grandson of Robert Douglas of John, as above. No documentation or reasons have been given for this statement or the death date and domicile for the aforesaid William Douglas.

The Benjamin Douglas proved as the grandson of Captain Joseph Douglas left Maryland before Mar. 10, 1777 (see Culpeper Co. Va., Deeds, Liber 1, folio 389) and as a domicile of Culpeper Co. on April 27, 1789, he sold to George James, of Somerset Co., Md., all his rights in sundry tracts of land in Charles Co. which had been conveyed by Captain Joseph Douglas to his son John. The said son, John Douglas, died without issue, therefore, Benjamin Douglas, of Culpeper Co., heir of his uncle, assigned all his rights and interests in the said sundry tracts which were referred to as Bowles Land. (see Chas. Co. Deeds, Liber D no. 4, folio 455).

Benjamin Douglass who married Anne Middleton was domiciled in Charles Co. in 1789 and some years thereafter and did not remove to Prince William Co., Va. until about 1812 which is amply proved when he stated in court that he brought his slave Mariah from Maryland "for his own use without any intentions of making sale of the said slave." (see Pr. Wm Co. Deeds, Liber 4, folio 529).

issue as the name is not associated with colonial Maryland.

Richard Beaumont died intestate in Charles County. The appraisal of his personal estate by Anthony Neale and Gilbert Clark occurred on July 15, 1689, and was valued at 156,151 lbs. tob., with debts owing of 4,124 lbs. tob., making an aggregate personal estate of 160,275 lbs. tob. — a sizable estate for that day.¹ Among the debtors were Walter Story and Cleborne Lomax.

The marriage of Robert Douglas and the Widow Beaumont presumably occurred after July 1689. In 1691 Robert Douglas and Mary his wife, the administrators of the estate of Richard Beaumont, sued John Winroll for a debt of 1,298 lbs. tob. contracted on March 8, 1689 for "liquors and other ordinary accommodation."²

The death of Robert Douglas occurred suddenly and unexpectedly, as no last will and testament was made. His widow was granted letters of administration on September 29, 1694. The value of his personal estate was modest, but commensurate with a young planter of the times.³

At the death of Robert Douglas the estate of Richard Beaumont had not been completely settled. On July 11, 1695, Mary Douglas, the Relict and Administratrix of Richard Beaumont, filed an account with the court and after all disbursements were made, a balance of £43/14/ — remained for the heirs.⁴

Within six years his widow died, leaving her two young orphans, Benjamin, born 1687, and Thomas, born 1692, under the care of John Compton. Letters of administration were issued to John Compton, who approved the inventory of her personal estate on April 1, 1700. It was stated at court that her estate was "Now in the possession of John Compton."⁵ He, as John Compton, Jr., at an accountancy, rendered a statement of 126 lbs. tob. paid to Dr. Briscoe who attended the deceased in her last illness, and also for "2 galls of Rum" which was served at the interment. Presumably her burial was attended by a large number of family and friends. Another disbursement was 4,254 lbs. tob. paid to Sarah Smith, the executrix of Ralph Smith, deceased, who was the paternal grandmother of the two orphans, Benjamin and Thomas. There was also a payment of 252 lbs. tob. for an obligation still due on the estate of their father Robert Douglass.⁶

John Compton did not prove to be a very dutiful guardian, which caused his ward, Thomas Douglas, to appear in court one day and state that from infancy he had been under the care of John Compton who kept him in an unchristian manner and that he, John Compton, dwelt on his plantation and that his houses were "fast going to ruin." He

"prayed" that his near kinsman, Benjamin Douglas, be made his guardian until he attained majority.⁷

SOURCES: 1. Charles Co. Inventories, Liber 1677-1717, folio 38; 2. Charles Co. Deeds, Liber S no. 1, folio 93; 3. Inventories & Accounts, Liber 13a, folios 155, 351; 4. *Ibid.* Liber 16, folio 96; 5. *Ibid.* Liber 20, folio 27; 6. *Ibid.* Liber 20, folio 197; 7. Charles Co. Deeds, Liber B no. 2, folio 432.

BENJAMIN DOUGLAS, GENT.³

1687-1749

Benjamin Douglas, the son and heir of Robert Douglas and Mary his wife, was born about 1687 at "Blythswood," the ancestral estate in Pickawaxon Hundred, Charles County. He was about seven years of age at his father's death and nearly fourteen at the death of his mother. In 1718, Benjamin and his brother, Thomas, were made legatees in the last will and testament of their paternal grandmother, Madam Sarah Herbert, whose estate at that time was by no means negligible. At his majority Benjamin gained possession of his inheritance "Blythswood" on which he later placed his son, John Douglas, when he established his seat on a portion of "Causine Manor" in Portobacco Hundred.

About 1708 Benjamin married Elizabeth, the daughter of Richard Land, Gent., and Penelope his wife, of Pickawaxon. Elizabeth was born April 4, 1691, according to court record,¹ and was left an orphan by the death of her father about 1695 and her mother in 1702.

Her mother styled John Theobald as her brother, and his wife, who was Mary Fendall, as her sister, which presents a relationship not too well defined. If she were a blood sister to John Theobald, then she was a daughter of Clement Theobald, an early planter of Portobacco Hundred, who came of a Norman-French armorial family seated for many years in County Kent. Penelope, the mother of Elizabeth Land, married first Richard Morris by whom she had issue, among whom was Penelope Morris who was the first wife of Joseph Douglas, an uncle of Benjamin Douglas. Richard Morris died testate in 1686 and before the close of the year, his widow married Richard Land. Richard Land died intestate in 1692, leaving a comfortable estate for his widow and children.²

The Widow Land died testate in Charles County. Her last will and testament was dated May 10, 1702, and probated on October 29, following. She bequeathed her Negro wench Megg to her son John and her daughter Elizabeth "for the use and benefit of them both" and placed

her two children under the guardianship of her brother, John Theobald, and her son-in-law Walter Story, who had married her eldest daughter, Mary Morris. In addition her daughter Elizabeth Land was bequeathed "one feather bed and furniture" and one cow and calf.³

Although very little is known about Richard Land, he and his wife Penelope were staunch friends of Philip Lynes, Gent., who married Anne, the sister of Governor Seymour, onetime Royal Governor of Maryland. Madam Anne Lynes died testate in Charles County during 1711 and left a substantial legacy to "Elizabeth the wife of Benjamin Douglas."

Elizabeth presented her husband with a large issue, eight of whom survived and most of whom married and left issue, namely: John, born in 1709, the son and heir; Benjamin; Charles; Mary; Sarah; Penelope; Joseph; Thomas; and Jesse.

Benjamin Douglas lived the life of a country gentleman on a portion of "Causine Manor" which commanded a spectacular view on the east bank of Portobacco Creek as it emptied into the Potomac. It was a portion of a baronial grant, with all the prerogatives of an English manor, given in 1659 to Ignatius Causine, a French Catholic. No colonial service has been found for him. At his seat on "Causine Manor" he died testate in 1749, leaving a large estate. His last will and testament had been written some six years previously in the presence of Thomas Thompson Sr., John Causine and Aaron Goodrich.⁴

Benjamin Douglas devised John Douglas, his son and heir, the ancestral estate of "Blythswood," whereas Benjamin, his second son, received the dwelling-plantation on "Causine Manor," but subject to the life interest of the widow. After the deduction of his wife's thirds, the residuary estate was to be divided equally among the following children: Benjamin Douglas, Charles Douglas, Mary Wilson, Sarah Douglas, Joseph Douglas, Penelope Douglas, Thomas Douglas and Jesse Douglas.

The personal estate was appraised on February 13, 1749, with Gustavus Brown and Walter Hanson as the greatest creditors approving the valuation. Sarah Douglas and Thomas Douglas signed as the next of kin, while Charles Douglas and Thomas Douglas, filed the testamentary papers as the executors. Among the personalty were a servant boy, Alexander Wilky, and nine Negro slaves.⁵ By an account filed on March 9, 1750/1, the executors accounted for an inventory appraised at £339/9/8 and after various disbursements, a balance of £195/7/9 remained to be distributed "according to the will of the deceased." John Chandler and John Douglas were the sureties.⁶

The noncupative will of his widow, Elizabeth Douglas, was proved at court on January 23, 1749, by Susanna Clements, Charity Chandler and Madam Ann Causeen [Causine]. They stated that Elizabeth Douglas on her deathbed on January 8, last, requested that her personal estate be divided equally among her four children then at home, namely, Sarah, Penelope, Thomas and Jesse. Furthermore, that Thomas was to be of age at eighteen.⁸

SOURCES: 1. Charles Co. Deeds, Liber P no. 1, folio 212; 2. Inventories & Accounts, Liber 10, folio 369; 3. Wills, Liber 11, folio 299; 4. Wills, Liber 27, folio 100; 5. Inventories, Liber 42, folio 186; 6. Administration Accounts, Liber 30, folio 22; 7. Wills, Liber 30, folio 593; 8. Chas. Co. Wills, Liber A C no. 4, folio 288.

JOHN DOUGLAS, GENT.⁴

1709-1780

John Douglas, the son and heir of Benjamin Douglas and his wife, Elizabeth Land, was born about the year 1709 presumably at the ancestral plantation "Blythswood" in William and Mary Parish before his father removed to a portion of "Causine Manor" on Portobacco Creek.

At his marriage to Eleanor Howard, the daughter of Captain John Howard, a wealthy and prominent planter of the parish, his father settled "Blythswood" upon him. He was seated there at the time of his father's death in 1749 and his father confirmed it to him by his last will and testament. The rent rolls show that John Douglas remitted quit-rents at one time or another on 100 acres of "Blythswood."

The Douglasses, of "Blythswood," maintained a pew in the Parish Church of William and Mary, and at a vestry meeting in 1752, John Douglas was occupying pew No. 16 which he shared with Thomas Bates, John Hamil and Jane Penn.

On July 26, 1769, John Douglas sold "Blythswood" to Theophilus Yates, of Charles County, for £205. It had been in the Douglas family for four generations or about 110 years and carried the ancient name of the Douglas estate in Glasgow, Scotland. It was described in the deed as "lyeing on the north side of the Potomack River nigh Pickawaxion."¹ No wife waived dower interest, and inasmuch as it is known that his wife predeceased him, it is quite evident that she was deceased by this date.

She was extant, however, at the writing of her father's will on February 2, 1742/3, when he, Captain John Howard, bequeathed personalty

to his "daughter Eleanor wife of John Dowglass and to his grandson John Dowglass." Most of the legacies and wishes of her father were upset when her mother, Rebecca Howard, denounced the instrument and demanded her legal thirds of both realty and personalty.²

The children of John Douglas and Eleanor Howard were: Richard Land Douglas, who carried the name of his paternal grandmother's father; Benjamin Douglas, who married Anne Middleton and spent his later life in Virginia; Elizabeth, who died a spinster; Eleanor, who married Thomas Hussey Lockett and settled in Virginia; Joana Douglas, who married Robert Marshall; John Douglas, who predeceased his father, leaving issue; and a daughter who married Nathaniel Freeman.

After disposing of "Blythswood," John Douglas removed to a plantation on "Causine Manor," but whether it was the former seat of his father which had been left to his brother or he purchased another portion from the Causine heirs is not known. The rent rolls show that his portion consisted of 169 acres on which he paid the required quit-rent.

About this time the French and Indian Wars on the frontier in which Maryland furnished her share of the troops had subsided, but a greater conflict was appearing on the horizon, caused principally by propaganda of the liberal writings of the descendants of the Puritans of New England and the unrest in the Southern Colonies caused by heavy taxation by the mother country. England had incurred great indebtedness during her Continental wars and also in America in protecting the American frontier against the encroachments of the French in Canada. So far as it can be analyzed objectively from existing records, the Douglas family was not too enthusiastic about the Revolution. They were certainly not Tories in the true sense, but it is noted that none entered or sought commissions in the Continental Army or the Maryland Line. Furthermore, none held commissions in the local militia. They subscribed to the Oath of Allegiance in 1778 which prevented their land from being triple-taxed by the government and those of military age served in the local militia in minor capacities.

At the census taken in Charles County during 1778 to ascertain the number of males available for military service, John Douglas was listed as a landed proprietor in Portobacco East Hundred, with several of his sons above the age of eighteen years and capable of bearing arms.³

At the age of seventy or thereabout he drew up his last will and testament on March 29, 1779. He had seen his native Maryland pass from a sovereign state under an Irish Peer of Great Britain into a declared independent state to be ruled by its own citizens. It was a drastic change

for the older loyal subjects of the Lords Baltimore, but it was inevitable. He did not survive to see complete independence and the termination of armed conflict, but died in the summer of 1780.

His will was probated at court on July 18, 1780.⁴ He devised his son Richard Land Douglas the dwelling-plantation which "I now live on being part of Causin's Manor," together with a tract of land which had been purchased from Leonard Wathen known as "Wathen's Adventure," and in the event of Richard's death then the two plantations were to revert to his son Benjamin Douglas.

Various Negroes and the residuary estate were bequeathed to his children Richard Land, Elizabeth, Eleanor and Joana. He failed to name a daughter, who had married Nathaniel Freeman, or her children.

The tax list of 1783 shows that his son Richard Land Douglas was taxed for 157 acres of "Causine's Manor" in Port Tobacco Lower Hundred, five miles from town [Portobacco]. Richard Land Douglas died without issue in the spring of 1783 and honored his father's bequest by devising the home plantation as well as one half of his library to his brother Benjamin.⁵

Elizabeth Douglas, the spinster daughter, died in 1789 intestate, and her brother Benjamin Douglas was granted letters of administration on her estate. He rendered an account with the court on July 5, 1790, when the balance was divided among the following heirs — Benjamin Douglas, the accountant; Nathaniel Freeman in right of his wife; Robert Marshall in right of his wife; the children of Thomas Hussey Lockett; and the children of John Douglas.⁶

SOURCES: 1. Chas. Co. Deeds, Liber O no. 3, folio 589; 2. Wills, Liber 23, folio 51; 3. Original schedule, Hall of Records, Annapolis; 4. Chas. Co. Wills, Liber A F no. 7, folio 506; 5. *Ibid.* Liber B no. 1, folio 155; 6. *Ibid.* Liber A I no. 10, folio 310.

BENJAMIN DOUGLASS OF MARYLAND AND VIRGINIA⁵ 1743-1827

Benjamin Douglass, son of John Douglas and Eleanor Howard, his wife, was born on December 6, 1743, at Causeen [Causine] Manor in Portobacco Lower [East] Hundred, Charles County. In 1783, through the death of his brother Richard Land Douglas without issue, he inherited the family plantation.

He courted and wedded Anne Middleton, a maiden of the countryside and orphaned daughter of Samuel Middleton by his wife Elizabeth

Ward. The marriage occurred on February 16, 1775. They became the parents of a brilliant set of children, the daughters marrying into aristocratic families of old Virginia, while the sons felt the call of urban opportunities and amassed several fortunes in Baltimore Town as well as New York City. Furthermore, his sons were active in purchasing and executing land grants in the West particularly in the Territory of Illinois, which amounted to thousands of acres. They also carried on a brisk trade with the West Indies from the port of Baltimore and often made trips there in the interest of their enterprises.

According to one of his sons, Benjamin became the administrator of several estates in Charles County, and as there were several Douglasses bearing the same Christian name, he added an extra "s" to his name as a mark of difference.

Benjamin Douglass saw his native Maryland change from a Province of Lord Baltimore to the independent State of Maryland and then saw it become an integral part of the United States of America. His participation in the armed conflict between the colonists and the old country was minor, so far as extant records show. He subscribed to the Patriot's Oath of Allegiance and Fidelity to the State of Maryland on February 28, 1778, before Judge John Dent in Charles County. Citizens who refused to sign were penalized by having their property triple-taxed. In 1776 he was thirty-three years old or thereabouts, but not beyond the age for military service. He served as a private in the militia company commanded by Captain Thomas Hanson Marshall of his county. It can be assumed that he reported every Saturday afternoon at the courthouse green in Portobacco, which was only about five miles from his home. It is not known whether he participated actively in any battle or was even called into Continental service to go beyond the borders of Maryland.

The British made several raids along the Potomac coast in Charles County and caused much depredation: crops were stolen from the plantations, slaves were carried away and houses of the planters burned. Early in the morning of one day in April 1781 the British landed unexpectedly in Charles County and began pillaging a number of plantations. At Portobacco Creek they "showed an intention of landing at G. B. Causin, Esq. which was prevented by the appearance of some militia." As the home of Gerard Blackistone Causin was on "Causine Manor" as well as that of his deceased father, where his brother and sisters were living, it is not unlikely that Benjamin Douglass was a member of the militia battalion which fought off the British. The British moved further down the river, and burned the "elegant home"

of Captain George Dent at Pope's Creek, and carried off his son, Lieutenant Samuel Dent, as a prisoner of war.

At the end of the war, in 1784, Elizabeth Ward Middleton died and made the following provisions for her daughter Anne Douglass:

To my well beloved Daughter Anne Douglass the use of negro girl now in her possession called Mille during her life and at her death if said negroe Girl should have any increase it is my will and since that she together with her increase should be equally divided between my grandson Richard Henry Douglass and my granddaughter Matilda Douglass. I also bequeath to my said daughter one feather bed and furniture and an armed chair.

In the census for Charles County 1775-6 to determine the able-bodied men for military service, Benjamin Douglass is shown domiciled in Pomonkey Hundred, living with his wife's family, who had plantations in that section of the county. Pomonkey Hundred bordered the Potomac River and was separated from Prince George's County by no natural boundary. At that time he apparently had no landed estate of his own, as his father did not die until 1780 and he did not inherit the parental estate "Causine Manor" until the death of his brother Richard Land Douglas in 1783.¹

His brother Richard Land Douglas died testate and unmarried in 1783, and devised him a portion of "Causine Manor" and "Wathen's Adventure" according to the provisions of their father's will. He was also to share equally with his brother-in-law, Nathaniel Freeman, in the library of the deceased. He and Nathaniel Freeman were named in the will as co-executors, but at probate on September 13, 1783, Freeman refused to act and letters of administration were issued to Benjamin Douglass as sole executor. Gerard Blakiston Causeen [Causine] was his bondsman. He closed the estate of his brother on February 22, 1790, when the balance or £301/19/7 was distributed according to the will of the deceased.²

On February 23, 1789, as the administrator, he filed the inventory of his spinster sister Elizabeth Douglas, who died intestate. The estate was appraised at £173/8/6, including four Negroes. On July 5, 1790, he filed an account with the court in Charles County, when £186/1/11 was divided equally among the following representatives: Benjamin Douglass, the accountant; Nathaniel Freeman in right of his wife; Robert Marshall in right of his wife; the children of Thomas H. Luckett, who had married a sister of the deceased; and the heirs of John Douglas, a deceased brother.³

At the First Federal Census of 1790, he as "Benjamin Douglass of John," had in his household one male besides himself over sixteen years of age, one male under sixteen years, two females and eleven Negro slaves. The only other Benjamin Douglass the head of a family in Maryland was "Benjamin Douglas of Charles" who was his cousin.

On September 22, 1790, Ignatius Semmes of Ignatius, of Montgomery County, conveyed for £1000 to Benjamin Douglass of John, of Charles County, and Hoskins Hanson, presumably a mortgage, twelve slaves, cattle, horses and other personalty.⁵ On July 30, 1792, styled Benjamin Douglass Sen., he and James Simms, both of Charles County, conveyed to Robinson, Sanderson & Co., of Alexandria, Virginia, certain Negroes at a value of £331/2/9.

On March 21, 1800, styled Benjamin Douglass, he with Henry Cooksey, Samuel Amery and Walter Dyson as commissioners for the estate of Robert Slye, deceased, conveyed "Lapworth" to John Parnham.⁶

It is evident that he had commercial interests in Alexandria, Virginia, one of the flourishing ports of the South at that time, and probably spent much time there.

Of his daughters, Matilda, who was perhaps the eldest child, married Gerard Alexander of an old family whose roots were of the Maryland gentry as well as Virginia; Sophia married James Ewell, whose family has given many distinguished sons to the South; and Aminta Elizabeth became Mrs. Moxley and lived in Prince William County opposite her childhood home.

Two of his sons died without issue. Samuel Middleton apparently died young. William, another son, settled in Baltimore and created a large estate, but left no descendants. George made a brilliant alliance by marrying Mary McElderry, one of the great belles and beauties of Baltimore Town. Richard Henry amassed a fortune and married Letitia Grace McCurdy, a modest Scottish maiden, who was the governess to George's children. The marriage was not looked upon with favor by Mary McElderry Douglass and it created a mild difference in the friendship of the two families.

Benjamin Douglass continued to live at his seat on Causeen Manor, but after his sons settled in Baltimore Town and his daughters married and lived in Virginia, he went to live with his daughter Aminta Elizabeth Moxley, a widow, at her estate "Greenwich" in Prince William County, Virginia, which was almost directly opposite her childhood home on Causee Manor.*

* The year 1812 approximates his settlement in Virginia and offsets the previously

quoted statement without sufficient documentation that he was the son of William Douglas and Sarah Berryman his wife, the latter being of Virginia ancestry. It has been shown elsewhere that Benjamin Douglas of William left Maryland before April 1789, when he alienated "Bowles Land," the early seat of the Douglas emigrant, which had been inherited by the said William's grandfather, Captain Joseph Douglas.

On January 16, 1813, he made the following declaration at a court held in Prince William County:⁷

Benjamin Douglass brought a female slave named Mariah a copper colour five feet three Inches high aged about sixteen years and has short hair the said Slave was raised by the undersigned and brought into the aforesaid State of Virginia for his own use without any intention of making Sale of the said Slave. . . .

It was further stated that "he hath been the actual owner of the said Slave for two years preceding his removal to this Commonwealth."

Benjamin Douglass wrote his last will and testament on May 17, 1823, and declared himself of an advanced age. He did not die, however, until 1827, at the age of eighty-four years or thereabouts. His will was probated in Prince William County on September 3, 1827, by William Sewall and Sophia M. B. Moxley, and in Baltimore Town on September 10, 1828, with the clerk of Prince William County certifying as to its authenticity.⁸

To daughter Aminta Elizabeth Moxley negro Betsy and her increase and all effects belonging to the testator at her home near Greenwich, Prince William Co.

Inasmuch as the testator was entitled to the estate of his departed son, William Douglass "which was administered by my son R. H. Douglass at Baltimore, Maryland, there seem to be twelve sections or 1920 acres in the State of Illinois" worth about \$5400.00 and sundry debts due to the late firm of R. H. and Wm Douglass, of Baltimore, therefore his share of his son's estate was to be divided equally among the testator's son, George Douglass, and the testator's daughters, Aminta Elizabeth Moxley, Matilda Ann Alexander and Sophia Ewell.

To his three above named daughters 1920 acres of land in the State of Illinois.

Inasmuch as the testator was indebted to his son, Richard Henry Douglass, of Baltimore, for money advanced or \$4400.00, the said son was to be reimbursed out of the testator's estate.

Executor — son George Douglass of Baltimore.

His son Richard Henry Douglass, who married Letitia Grace McCurdy, died testate in Baltimore Town.⁹ His last will and testament was executed on October 5, 1829, and was one of the longest wills pro-

bated in the Court of Baltimore. Besides providing for his widow and children, he made a number of bequests to members of his family. To his niece Sophia Mary Parnham Moxley, he arranged for a legacy of \$150.00 annually, and to his nephew Benjamin Gustavus Douglass Moxley, he bequeathed his watch and seale, his wearing apparel and "books as my dear wife may not wish" and requested him to carry on the business "under the style and firm in my name." His sister Aminta Elizabeth Moxley, was released from the debt which she owed, namely, \$5,395.00, as she was a "helpless widow." His brother-in-law, James Ewell, of Prince William County, was likewise released from his debt of \$1,700.00, plus interest. His nephew, Henry Douglass Ewell, was bequeathed \$2,000.00 at the age of twenty-one years. He cancelled the note of \$200.00 which was owed by his sister Matilda Ann Alexander, wife of Gerard Alexander, of Campbell County, Virginia.

If his widow refused to abide by the will, then his "beloved brother George Douglass of New York" was to be the guardian of his children. If his widow accepted the will and became the guardian of his children and she died during their minority, then his friend Larkin Dorsey of Maryland, was to be the guardian of his children.

At the probation his widow renounced the instrument and elected her dower rights. Furthermore, his brother George Douglass refused the executorship as well as the guardianship of the children.

SOURCES: 1. Brumbaugh's Maryland Records, vol. 1, p. 307; 2. Chas. Co. Wills, Liber B no. 1, folios 155, 219; A I no. 10, folio 31; 3. Charles Co. Wills, Liber A I, folio 406; 4. Heads of Families (Maryland) 1790, p. 49; 5. Chas. Co. Deeds, Liber K no. 4, folios 139, 465; 6. Chas. Co. Deeds, Liber I B no. 3, folios 224, 240; 7. Pr. Wm Co. Deeds, Liber 4, folio 529; 8. Pr. Wm Co. Wills, Liber M, folio 500; 9. Balto. Co. Wills, Liber 13, folios 297, 470.

GEORGE DOUGLASS⁶

1790-1869

George Douglass, son of Benjamin Douglass and Anne Middleton his wife, was born at Newport Village, Charles County, on June 24, 1790, but his youth was probably spent on "Causeen Manor" until his removal to Baltimore Town sometime before the year 1812. Presumably his older brother Richard Henry Douglass had already settled in Baltimore and had organized a mercantile and shipping house in which he accepted his brother George as a partner. Baltimore in that day was fast becoming the metropolis of the State and was attracting many enterprising young

men not only from Maryland but from other States along the Atlantic Coast — with not a few emigrants from Britain.

George Douglass was residing in Baltimore when President Madison on June 18, 1812, declared war against Great Britain. No doubt his brother had suffered by the suppression of American trade on the high seas which actuated the war. After the British burned Washington in the summer of 1814, they moved on to Baltimore by land and sea where they expected to establish winter quarters. Volunteers were called for and the Baltimore militia was hastily mustered into service. Baltimoreans were determined to put up a better fight than the Army at the battle of Bladensburg and the sacking of Washington. George Douglass volunteered and served as a private in the Baltimore Fencibles commanded by Captain Joseph H. Nicholson, the brother-in-law of Francis Scott Key.

Baltimore at that time was the third largest city in the United States and one of the principal shipping centers of the new world. It possessed great naval significance, because it was the home port of many of the privateers sent out at the beginning of the war to drive the British merchant shipping from the high seas.

The attack was well planned by land as well as by sea. It began on Monday September 12, 1814, and lasted until seven o'clock on the morning of September 14th. The siege came as no great surprise to Baltimoreans, who had been preparing for the attack since the British fleet appeared in the upper waters of the Chesapeake several weeks before.

Major General Samuel Smith, United State Senator, Revolutionary fighter, town merchant and a friend of the Douglas brothers, was appointed to defend the city. Men and supplies were conscripted, trenches were dug, guns placed at strategic points. When the raid and sacking were imminent, vessels were sunk in the harbour to obstruct the advancing fleet. On Sunday morning, September 11th, church bells rang loudly and continually as a warning of the approaching enemy at the mouth of the Patapsco. Many families had already evacuated the city with a few of their precious belongings to seek safety in the country and more followed on that Sunday morning.

The troops landed at North Point on the morning of September 12th, fully 5,000 strong and began their march towards Baltimore Town. The militia met them and, shot the commanding officer, General Ross, who had declared that he would have breakfast in Baltimore. The militia, however, could not hold out before superior strength and withdrew to

the entrenchments on Hampstead Hill, now known as Patterson Park, where William Patterson, father of Madame Jerome Bonaparte, maintained a palatial dwelling.

Major George Armistead, of Virginia, was in command at Fort McHenry at the entrance to Baltimore harbor. General Samuel Smith with his hastily assembled three brigades of volunteers and the drafted militia sent a detachment to reinforce the regulars at the fort. Captain Joseph H. Nicholson and George Douglass were among those ordered to the fort.

The British fleet had sailed from the mouth of the Patapsco and anchored in battle formation some distance from the fort. They began their attack and for virtually more than forty-eight hours of heavy bombardment the Americans confined in the fort had little or no sleep and only limited rations. All during the night of September 13th and into the early hours of the 14th, the British shelled the fort continuously.

George Douglass related in later life that as the bombs exploded he and his comrades-in-arms would lie on the ground in the arena of the fort and after the explosion they would be completely covered with sand and debris. He miraculously sustained no injuries except a few minor bruises. Once, before his eyes, enemy shell tore one of the fifteen white stars from the flag which was waving above them and it was also seen by Francis Scott Key from a British sloop in the harbor. The two men were friends, for they were both from Southern Maryland, and there was only one year of difference in their ages. The Keys had married into several families with which the Douglass family had also intermarried.

Several days before the British had sailed for Baltimore, Francis Scott Key had been sent to negotiate with them for the release of aged Dr. William Beanes, of Upper Marlborough, whose home had been used as the British headquarters when they occupied that town. One night Dr. Beanes and several of his house guests were snatched from their beds and trotted off to the British fleet then lying in the Patuxent.

All that eventful night Key amidst the thickness of battle smoke and low-hanging clouds had paced the deck of the British man-of-war on which he and Dr. Beanes were confined, wondering how long his compatriots could hold out against the terrific pounding by the British. Only when the flag was lighted during the night by bursting rockets could he see it waving in the September breeze above the fort, and so long as that banner was flying from the mast he knew that the British had not subdued his countrymen. Finally, towards daybreak, as the sun rose over the eastern horizon and the guns of the fort slowed their fire

and only an occasional shell was being heard, Key saw the banner and he knew that the British had not conquered.

George Douglass and the other brave men had held out for twenty-five hours of solid bombing. The British on that eventful morning fell back to North Point. Aboard the British sloop Francis Scott Key had jotted down on an envelope he had in his pocket some phrases and notes. After his release he went to a Baltimore tavern that night and completed the immortal "Star Spangled Banner."

Thereafter George Douglass and his comrades were known as the Old Defenders and celebrations and reunions were held on each Defenders' Day until the passing of the last survivor. Today the Society of the War of 1812 in the State of Maryland and the Daughters of the War of 1812 in Baltimore commemorate the defeat of the British by the citizen soldiery of Baltimore and its environs.

After the cessation of battle and the signing of the Treaty of Peace, George Douglass in his early twenties returned to civilian life. On May 16, 1815, presumably at the First Presbyterian Church where his bride's family worshipped, he was married to Mary McElderry, a lady of Scottish descent, who was known as the belle of Baltimore, not only for the wealth of her father, but for her wit and beauty. She was the daughter of Thomas McElderry who had come to Baltimore and established a Merchant House at the corner of Market and Gay Streets called the "Sign of the Golden Umbrella." Her mother was Betsy Parks, the daughter of John Parks, another prominent and successful merchant of growing Baltimore Town.

CHILDREN OF GEORGE AND MARY (McELDERRY) DOUGLASS

Benjamin Douglass married Elizabeth Dun.

George Douglass, died bachelor.

John Douglass married Elizabeth Chapman.

Elizabeth Douglass married Robert Graham Dun.

Letitia Douglass married Zachariah Chandler, U. S. Senator from Michigan.

Jane Douglass married Charles Bradford and Rev. John M. Buchanan.

Matilda Douglass married Augustus Finch.

Mary Douglass married John van Dyck.

Annie Douglass married Malcolm Graham.

Sophia Douglass married James H. Young.

Other children were:

Richard Douglass, died bachelor.

David Douglass.

Aminta Douglass.

Augustus Douglass.

Russell Douglass.

Twins (sex unknown) died.

Although raised in the tenets of the Episcopal Church to which the Douglas and Middleton families adhered in the Colonial period, the influence of his Scottish consort with her strong Presbyterian convictions converted George Douglass to that faith and he became a staunch member of that Church throughout his life in Baltimore and later in New York City.

On July 22, 1823, his brother and business partner, Richard H. Douglass, married the governess of his children at the First Presbyterian Church which caused a breach in the relationship of the two families. He dissolved the partnership and moved his young family to New York City in 1824. There he established himself as a commission merchant in the lucrative West Indian trade. In that city which was being recognized as the metropolis of the nation and its financial center, he visualized greater opportunities and his vision was not wrong.

In 1825 his brother-in-law Edward McElderry died without issue in Baltimore, and after several bequests to his brothers and sisters, the residue of his estate was divided equally between his brother, John McElderry, and his sister, Mary Douglass.

His brother and former partner, Richard Henry Douglass, died in 1829 leaving several young children and requested that his brother George act as their guardian. Upon the probation of the will his brother renounced the responsibility. Richard Henry Douglass stated in his last will and testament that the debt of \$11,989.96 which was owing to him by his brother, George Douglass of New York, exclusive of the half-interest and profit in a business conducted at Port-au-Prince for their joint account in 1812-13 was to be paid at his brother's convenience, inasmuch as "my Brother's family is large and his circumstances may not be very prosperous." Perhaps there was a little sarcasm in his testament, because George left a large estate at his death and his children made brilliant marriages.

One of George's letters, a copy of which follows, was found among family papers and expresses many human sympathies and the character of the writer. He was writing to his widowed sister then living in the city of Baltimore.

New York, Oct. 9th, 1855.

My very dear Sister:

Mr. Green very kindly called at my office on his way to England, but I was unfortunately, at the time, absent. He sent to my office half a dozen pair of stockings from you, which you were kind enough to knot for my use, and for which I thank you very kindly. I have worn them with much

satisfaction, as I did those you formerly gave me, until they could serve no longer.

From a friend of mine, who was in Savannah last winter, I was highly gratified to learn the most flattering accounts of both families, and of their continued good health. And we frequently hear through our friends in Baltimore of your continued good health, and of your children immediately around you. It is indeed a wonderful mercy that at your advanced age, you should be blessed with such a large share of health. I learn with a great deal of pleasure, that Douglass' daughters are very handsome looking women, and likely to do well, which I sincerely hope will be the case. Mr. Fisher's fine sons are occasionally on here, and we hope soon to have a visit from Aminta. I have been greatly distressed at the accts. I rec'd some months ago of the state of health of poor dear Rozey Reynalds, but Newton informed me, on her return from a visit to you, that her health was greatly improved, and I humbly pray the Lord that she may be restored to health and usefulness.

When I went on to Baltimore to see you, now nearly two years ago, you may remember, that I told you how sister Letitia and her daughters treated me, and which led to an entire cessation of visits from both families. Shortly after my return home, Mr. Barclay spoke to me in the street one day and said, "Mr. Douglass, I never dared speak to you respecting my nephew who married your niece, and now wish to enquire how he behaved." I told him I was very happy to say, that I was assured, that he made a very good husband; that he had forsaken hotels and gambling places, and spent his time chiefly with his wife and child; that when he was about to marry my niece, which I objected to strenuously, I informed her, that if he made a good husband, after a trial of a year or two, I would open my door and extend my hand to him; that I had very lately been to Baltimore and called upon my sister-in-law, where Mr. and Mrs. Barclay were stopping, and asked to see Mr. Barclay, which was declined by her, and that in consequence that I should never go near her or him again, and have nothing in the world to do with them directly or indirectly. He also said and neither will I; that his nephew had been the most ungrateful spendthrift, that the last thing his nephew did in London, previous to his return home, was to spend a thousand pounds of his money, say \$4500, of which he never expected to get a cent. My wife was in Baltimore, last summer was a year, about four weeks, and during that whole time sister Letitia, nor her daughters ever called upon her, or took any notice of her, nor upon any of our children who have been there on a visit. About a year ago I saw Mr. Williams at one of our hotels, but he did not speak to me, and he was evidently offended at the advice I gave his wife. This brings to a close, my dear sister, the last events leading to the alienation between my family and that of my dearly beloved and deceased brother.

I now come to relate further painful afflictions, which came upon me soon after. The first was the death and bereavement of my daughter in law, the wife of Benjamin. She was a lovely woman and greatly beloved. Over twelve years was she in my family, and during that time, not a jar of

feeling was known to happen between her, and any member of my large family, which is saying a great deal for the descendants of poor old Adam. Two weeks later, I lost a grand-daughter, a lovely babe, only four or five weeks old. Then soon followed the disgrace of Richard, of which you have heard, and the particulars of which are too painful to relate. Then George and Sophie, from growing up too rapidly, beyond their strength, had attacks of sickness, which caused no little uneasiness. Then followed my attack of sickness, commencing with a bilious colic and terminating in that awful disease, for which the medical faculty have no name, except that of inflammation of the vessels leading to the liver, and of which there are only eight or ten cases on record in the practice of medicine. It was terrific in the character and action, and my physician informed me that all other diseases, such as cholera, yellow fever, would be a mere circumstance; and yet the Lord mercifully raised me up, and my health is as good now as it ever was. During my sickness, I felt sweetly resigned and my will was merged and swallowed up in God's precious will. May you, my dear sister, possess this frame of feeling in your last hours. Now, my dear sister, don't you think that, for less than one year, I had the rod laid heavily upon me? Oh, that I might ever be in my proper place, in the lowest valley of humiliation before God, to be still and kiss the rod.

Let me turn now to a brighter page. For a year past, we have in great mercy enjoyed good health, but in religious matters, there continues great leanness. My daughter Annie expects, by the leave of Providence, to be united in the bonds of matrimony to Mr. Malcolm Graham of this city, merchant, on the 18th instant, and you will receive an invitation, although we cannot hope for you to come — this match is quite agreeable to us all. On the 24th instant, my son Benjamin hopes, by leave of Providence, to be married to Miss Hayes of Massachusetts, well known in Baltimore, of suitable age and great fitness, though not pretty, yet a lovely character: this also is very gratifying to us all. On the 24th proxo. my daughter, Elizabeth, will, by leave of Providence, be united in matrimony to Mr. Robert G. Dunn, brother of my late deceased daughter in law, and a partner with Ben, in the mercantile agency; this also is very gratifying to us all. And, in addition, I don't know but that poor Frith has an awful squinting in the same direction.

As usual, we have had very pleasant visits from our children in the West. Jane, however, and Mr. Buchanan could not come, because the latter could get no supply for his pulpit. We hope, however, to see them next May, as the General Assembly is to meet then in our city, and Mr. Buchanan will be a delegate. Tillie is spending the summer at Milwaukee.

We had a very pleasant visit the fore part of the summer from Miss Betsy Winter, now in her 73rd year. Her physical health is very feeble, but her mind is clear and bright. She is a great bible christian and truly pious, though a strong Episcopalian. She was only a few days with us, and has since written several interesting letters.

My dear wife's health continues through mercy very good. She and all my children here unite with me most cordially to you and those around

you in much love. The Lord bless you my dear sister, and take you into his holy keeping.

Your affectionate brother,

(Signed) George Douglass.

P.S. The pestilence at Norfolk and Portsmouth, Va., has been truly distressing. New York has done well in affording material relief. A committee, of which I belong, have raised upwards of \$36,000. Of this amount, I collected myself \$3100. from 190 Donors, averaging nearly 161½ each only, but few of the large committee were willing to use self denial enough to beg and my collections amounted to more than many of the committee's put together. We have another committee in the city which has collected about 14 or 15,000 \$ for the same purpose.

The people of this country are so absorbed in money making that they haven't time to set apart a day for prayer feeling humiliation before God, that he would stay his hand in the pestilence, in calamities, in disaster, by water, by land, by steamboats and railroads, and until we do, we must expect these judgments to continue. Alas for the blindness of the people.

G.D.

Although a resident of a northern state, George Douglass' southern birthrights were strong and his sincere belief in States' Rights was fervent. While on a visit to Baltimore at the beginning of the Civil War he went to Federal Hall, which figured conspicuously in the defense of Baltimore in 1814, and vowed that he would never cut or shave his beard until his native state of Maryland should be reinstated with her full sovereign rights. And the vow was religiously and solemnly kept.

George Douglass died in New York City on April 7, 1869. The following obituary appeared in one of the Baltimore papers of the time.

George Douglass, well known citizen of New York died in his eightieth year. Old Baltimorean, once associated with his brother, Richard H. Douglass. Was officer in the War of 1812, served at Fort McHenry during the bombardment, married in 1815 Miss Mary McElderry. They celebrated their golden wedding.

The following obituary was found among the Douglas family papers, the source of which was not noted:

The late Mr. George Douglass, who died in this city on the 29th ultimo was born in Maryland, 1790. His early youth was spent in Virginia. His business career commenced in Baltimore, and was prosecuted for some time in the West Indies. He married in 1815, and the golden wedding was celebrated in 1865. In 1824 he settled in New York, and became a communing member of the Brick Presbyterian Church (Rev. Dr. Spring pastor), and was ordained and installed a ruling elder in that congregation. At the time of his death he was a member of the 42nd Street Presbyterian

Church (Rev. Dr. Scott, pastor), in which he was also unanimously elected to serve as a ruling elder.

Mr. Douglass was a man of strongly marked character, and those who knew him best would admire him most. He was esteemed a man of the strictest integrity in all his dealings with his fellow man. Nothing could induce him to follow any line or mode of business that did not commend itself to his own conscience as right in the sight of God and just towards man. As a citizen and a Christian gentleman and the good "old school" and as a friend and companion, he was universally respected. His personal appearance was noble and commanding, and his character an honor to the mercantile community of the city. It is peculiarly gratifying to the writer of these few lines to remember that his first acquaintance with Mr. Douglass was brought about by receiving from him, in a distant city, a handsome contribution towards building a new house of worship as a missionary church. The acquaintance thus begun ripened into a personal friendship, which continued uninterrupted to the day of his death.

His life is full of the evidence of divine goodness, calling for most grateful acknowledgments to our Heavenly Father. Being of a genial disposition and "generous as Hatem," his hospitality was well known, and his kindness to the unfortunate is well remembered by many. Honored with a ripe old age, and still blessed with the full possession of his intellectual powers and domestic affections, and surrounded by a numerous household, who revered him as a patriarch, he was called home, leaving us to give thanks to God for such a man, and to cherish his memory. Through his long life he maintained, with remarkable uniformity and steadfastness, the principles and doctrines of his youth, and adhered to them often at great sacrifices. He was of a bold decided character, possessed of a strong will and great firmness of conviction in the truth of what he believed. Probably few men have ever lived who were as free from doubt and hurtful speculations on the subject of religion. As before God, he was a humble and teachable as a little child, while as to the popular opinions of his fellow men he was as firm and immovable as a rock; and yet of a most forgiving and affectionate disposition. His personal acquaintances well knew that he was remarkable in his reverence for God and faith in the divine perfections and promises. He always loved to have the character of Christ as a Mediator and the Saviour of sinners recalled, and the nature of repentance for sin and faith in the Great Redeemer fully and earnestly preached. A text of the word of God with him was the end of the law, and no appeal from it was admitted. The writer can say with confidence, that he never knew a man that seemed to love and submit to the sovereignty of God with more profound humility and so full and so sweet a trust as he did, Free, sovereign grace was his favorite theme, and his abiding hope for salvation. As he lived, so he died. His departure from us was unexpected, but such a man as he was always ready.

"Mark the perfect man and behold the upright, for the end of that man

is peace." "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord; yea saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors; and their works do follow them."

(unsigned)

The following tribute written and published by an intimate friend after his death gives an excellent vignette of his character, life and family.

The name Douglass was formerly spelled with one s, but Benjamin Douglass, Mr. Douglass's father, was an executor of a great many estates within Charles County, in the State of Maryland, and owing to the fact that there were two other Benjamin Douglasses in the county, he added an s to the name to avoid the confusion that arose in reference to the delivery of his mail, and the double s has been retained to the present day.

George Douglass was born at New Port, Charles County, Md., June 24, 1790. He was married in Baltimore, May 16, 1815, to Miss Mary McEldery, who was the belle of Baltimore, noted for her beauty, her social charms and her wealth.

At an early age he formed a co-partnership with his elder brother Richard, who at the time was engaged in the East Indian trade, and shortly after the organization of his firm, he was appointed supercargo, and for many years was engaged very successfully in the shipping trade with the West Indies.

Upon one occasion, after reaching Jamaica and disposing of his cargo for seven or eight thousand dollars, he purchased a supply of the products of the island for shipment to Baltimore. Just before leaving he found that his safe had been broken into and his cash receipts for the cargo stolen.

Mr. Douglass was over six feet tall, and of remarkable strength and vigor, and endowed with great courage. Being familiar with the Creole dialect he left the vessel at midnight and entered a section of the city which was entirely populated by the Creole people, and accessible only to one who could give the password in the native terms, and called at the door of the house occupied by a former employé. He knocked several times without obtaining any response. Finally, the occupant of the house answered in Creole. Mr. Douglass replied in Creole that a friend wanted admission. Thereupon the door was opened, and he pressed his way into the hall, and called upon the occupant to hand over the money he had stolen from his safe. The negro protested his innocence, but Mr. Douglass was inexorable and insistent — he must have that money at once, or would have him arrested. After some argument, the negro lifted the mattress from his bed and from between the two mattresses he handed Mr. Douglass the sum in original packages. Mr. Douglass left the house, and mounting his horse, which he had left in the immediate vicinity, rode back to his vessel unmolested.

Upon another occasion, an Englishman, who had insulted the American flag, was severely horsewhipped by Mr. Douglass, on one of the public thoroughfares in the mountain district of Jamaica.

When the war with England was imminent, he volunteered in 1812, and was assigned to Fort McHenry, one of the defenses of Baltimore, and remained in the service during the entire contest. He many times related that when the shells from the British warships were falling inside the fort, he and his companions, for self-preservation, threw themselves on the ground, and often, to use his own expression, the explosion of the shell completely "buried him alive" in the sand. He was never injured, and at the close of the war was dismissed with a certificate of merit.

Mr. Douglass's wife presented him during the period of the co-partnership with two sons and two daughters, and with a view to their mental development, he secured the services of a very talented governess. His partner and brother, Richard, at the time was a bachelor. He became enamored of the governess, and proposing marriage, was accepted.

After the marriage, owing to the changed relationship, Mr. Douglass concluded, rather than have any open breach with his brother, to dissolve the partnership and move to New York. Accordingly, in 1824, he went to New York and established himself in South Street as a commission merchant in the West Indian trade, with his residence at 64 Liberty Street.

He associated himself with the Brick Presbyterian Church, and was soon elected a Trustee and then an Elder.

He was also a Trustee of Lafayette College (Easton, Pa.), and served in that capacity during the years 1853 to 1856, inclusive.

In 1832 he took his eldest son, Benjamin, as a partner, and the firm continued under the name of George Douglass & Co., until its dissolution in 1838. He had established a large business and was very successful commercially. All indications pointed to a panic, and as he had accumulated a very comfortable fortune for that day and generation, rather than extend the business, he concluded to retire, and devote the balance of his years to literary pursuits. More than once he was appointed by the Mayor on Commissions, with other prominent citizens to consider measures of public interest.

The growth of the city compelled him to move, and he changed his residence to 64 Bleecker Street. He served his connection with the Brick Presbyterian Church, which formerly occupied the site of the original Times Building, facing the City Hall, and associated himself with Dr. Phillip's Church, at the corner of Fifth Avenue and Twelfth Street, which at that period of the city's growth was far in the country.

Later he moved to 25 West Sixteenth Street, where he remained until he died, March 29, 1869.

During the war, his sympathies were with the South, he was a firm believer in State rights, and was of the opinion that by the Constitution the States had the legal right to secede.

When visiting the fort on Federal Hill, near Baltimore, he raised his hand to heaven, and solemnly vowed never to cut or shave his beard until his native State should be reinstated in its sovereignty.

In those days, the ministers were disposed to saturate their sermons with political news, which led Mr. Douglass to sever his connection with

Dr. Phillip's church, and unite with Dr. Scott's church, Forty-fifth Street and Broadway, whose sermons were devoid of politics.

He had a most commanding presence and, being of large stature and well-proportioned, with a stately carriage, he was a most impressive man, and on his daily walks attracted marked attention. He was fond of fishing and hunting, and his accounts of many of his hunting experiences in the mountains of West Virginia are both interesting and exciting. The writer was his companion on many fishing excursions on the Hudson River, and his favorite spot was on Fort Washington Point, where the Hudson River is 120 feet deep, and weakfish usually favored his bait. His endurance was remarkable, and a biscuit would suffice for his noon-day meal. He was full of jokes and repartee, and his vein of humor was well developed.

Of his large family, special mention may be made of three sons and seven daughters.

His son, Benjamin, was married to Elizabeth Dun, at Chillicothe, Ohio. He, together with Arthur Tappan, was a founder of the Mercantile Agency of B. Douglass & Co., succeeded by R. G. Dun & Co.

George Douglass, his namesake, was a graduate of the Union Theological Seminary and was of great promise, but over-exercise in a gymnasium brought on a hemorrhage which caused his death.

His third son, John, was married to Miss Elizabeth Chapman, and occupied an important position in the firm of R. G. Dun & Co.

His eldest daughter, Elizabeth, married Robert Graham Dun, of the firm just mentioned.

His second daughter, Letitia, married Senator Zachariah Chandler, of Michigan.

His third daughter, Jane, married Charles Bradford, of Milwaukee, Wis., and after his death Dr. Buchanan, the pastor of a large Presbyterian church in Milwaukee.

His fourth daughter, Tillie, married Augustus Finch, a well-known Milwaukee lawyer.

His fifth daughter, Mary, married John Van Dyck, of Milwaukee, for many years leader of the Wisconsin Bar.

His sixth daughter, Annie, married Malcolm Graham, of the firm of Hartley & Graham.

His youngest daughter, Sophie, married James H. Young of New York.

In 1865 Mr. Douglass celebrated his Golden Wedding, surrounded by two sons, seven daughters, with their husbands, and nineteen grandchildren, and lived four years after that event, his widow surviving him many years.

Mrs. George Douglass lived for several years after the death of her husband and died on September 1, 1874, at Detroit. Her ancestry goes back to Ireland and it is probable that her father, Thomas McElderry, was a Scotsman resident in that country. Shortly before and after the American Revolution a number of Scotsmen with their keen business

acumen crossed the Atlantic and identified themselves with the business interests of the larger American cities, mostly in shipping and merchandising. The date of the arrival of Thomas McElderry is not known, but he was in Maryland towards the close of the Revolution and was engaged at that time in trade.

On September 6, 1782, "the Council ordered that the Treasurer pay to Thomas McEldery £55 out of the money appropriated for equipping and fitting out the Barges for one hhd of Rum."¹ It is therefore self-evident that he had business dealings with the State during the war.

On June 16, 1787, he was married to Elizabeth Parks by the minister of the First Presbyterian Church of Baltimore. She was one of the several daughters of John Parks, another merchant who was profiting by the growth of Baltimore.

John Parks was first a resident of Hagerstown, which up to the Revolution was known as Elizabeth Town. It was the center of trade and communication with western Pennsylvania, the Shenandoah Valley and the Ohio Valley beyond. He removed with his family to Baltimore in the year 1779. During the latter part of the Revolution he sustained much privation and humiliation as he was suspected of being in league with a group of Tories who were rather strong in Western Maryland. He was accused principally on the testimony of a Philip Replogle. In a dispatch forwarded by Baker Johnson, of Frederick, Colonel Smith was ordered to search his home and cast him into prison for high treason against the State. Colonel Smith searched his dwelling and stated that he found nothing incriminating.²

Parks petitioned the Governor, stating that he was "late of Hagers Town now Resident in Baltimore." As the petition or memorial contains much human interest, it is quoted as follows:³

[The Memorial of John Parks late of Hagers Town now Resident of Baltimore to His Exc^y Thomas Sim Lee Esq^r]

Respectfully Sheweth That your Memorialist has resided for some time past in Hagers Town, but for these last two years lived in Baltimore, a Peaceable and unmolested Citizen.

Since the late insurrection in Hagers Town, some Persons, devested, and acting repugnant, to every Principle, that might actuate the Honest Man, have maliciously, and from designing motives of Falicy been induced to Propagate a Report, intimating that your Memorialist, was interested, and accessory, to the Design, and Intentions of those Insurgents, which your Memorialist, conscious of the Line he always Pursued, of Amity to America, totally disavows: deeming it repugnant, and odious to his Feelings, as a Citizen, and Friend to his Country.

The above was intimated to Coll^o Samuell Smith, who with several others Residenters of this Place, in the Night of the 23^d June, searched the House, and most Private Papers of your Memorialists; when the Coll^o was fully satisfied, that He had nothing, which had the least Tendency, or aimed at a Subfersion of the Liberties, or good Peace of this Country, from whence your Memorialist was Carried to Gaol, where he now is, and on the 25th was ordered before, and Reexamined by the Coll^o and Cheif of the Majestrates of this Town, who found nothing in him Condemnable, or a Foundation on which, they cou'd Derive the most distant Idea, of your Memorialist being Concerned, when he was Remanded to Prison, there to Endure the unfortunate deprivation of Liberty, and Intercourse with his family.

Your Memorialist begs leave to inform your Exc^v that he has a Wife, and several small Children, who will be Liable to every incident, that may accrue from his being bereived of Liberty, and they being unprotected.

Your Memorialist therefore, conscious of his Innocence, and Aversion to what he is accused of and well Convinced of your Exc^v known Justice and Candour, most Respectfully intreats, your Exc^v will make an immediate Investigation of the Facts alledged against him, that if Guilty he may Suffer Condign Punishment, worthy of the Atrocious Crime; but if found innocent, (which your Memorialist has not the least Fears of) that his Liberation may be Effected.

Your Memorialist begs Excuse for his intrusion, and Doubts not it will be Received with Candour, and that your Excell^v will be Pleased to Scrutinize into his Complaint, and from the Nature of the Case be Deemed worthy your Exc^v Attention.

A number of Baltimore citizens declared their belief in his innocence and his wife was very active in his behalf. While in prison he wrote a friend, George Scott, to ascertain if any of the prisoners in Frederick County charged with high treason accused him as an associate in their plot. Scott replied that "the answer they gave me was that some person in Washington County had confessed something relating to it, but could not say what it was."⁴

Alexander McFadon, Richard Lemmon, Mark Alexander and James Calhoun, later a Mayor of Baltimore Town, declared their belief in his innocence to Governor Lee.

At a session of the Council of Maryland on June 30, 1781, the following was submitted to the General Court:⁵

A Person of the Name of John Parks of Baltimore has been charged as a considerable Accomplice in the Intended Insurrection at Frederick Town upon the oath of Philip Replogle; he is now in Gaol at Baltimore Town arrested in Suspicion and has petitioned for a speedy Trial. As your Commission is extended to all the Counties on the Western Shore, and as it would be extremely inconvenient to have a Special Court for him alone

or his Trial delayed till the next general Court, we presume that you will order a Habeas Corpus to bring him before you at Frederick.

On August 18, 1781, the Council of Maryland ordered that John Parks of Baltimore Town "having been Committed to the Custody of the Sheriff of Baltimore County on Suspision of Treason is hereby Ordered to be Discharged on his giving Bond with two good and Sufficient Securities. . . . in the penalty of one thousand Pounds Specie to be of good Behaviour during the present War between America and Great Britain and not to depart the State without Leave of the Governor and Council for the Time being."⁶

After the unfortunate experience John Parks continued to maintain the respect and esteem of the citizens of Baltimore Town. He did not live through the Second War with England, but died in 1812, at the age of 74, leaving an affluent estate to his widow and children.

His last will and testament had been drawn up on August 6, 1809, in the presence of his son-in-law Thomas McElderry, Alexander L. Boggs and Harms Boggs. He devised his entire estate to his wife Margaret, whom he named executrix. It was probated at a court held in Baltimore County on September 12, 1812.⁷

His widow executed her will on September 9, 1812, a few days before that of her deceased husband. Her death was announced in an issue of the *Baltimore American* on April 27, 1813: "Died 23d instant in her 70th year Mrs. Margaret Parks relict of the late John Parks."* Her will was probated on May 8, 1813, and her bequests consisted mostly of stocks in several banks and the York Town Road Co. Legacies were bequeathed to her children Elizabeth McElderry, Jane Aldricks, and Andrew Parks, and granddaughters Eliza Aldricks and Margaret Parks Aldricks. The dwelling "which I at present occupy on Aisquith Street in Eastern Precinct of Baltimore," was devised to her daughter Margaret Boggs. Her son-in-law Harmanns Boggs and her grandson John McElderry were named as executors. At the probaton John McElderry renounced the executorship.⁸

* Madam Margaret Parks was the daughter of Andrew Gibson and his wife, of Antrim Township, Cumberland Co., Penn. As John Parks was once a merchant of Hagerstown, which in the pre-Revolutionary period was a crossroads for western Pennsylvania planters—more so than Philadelphia, owing to difficult mountain passes—it is possible that John Parks had business dealings with Andrew Gibson, and thus met his daughter. Andrew Gibson wrote his will on April 13, 1782, which was probated on March 24, 1783. He devised his wife, Elizabeth, one-half of the plantation including the dwelling during life and two Negro slaves. To his daughter Margaret Parkes (sic) £5. Other children were: Jane Long, John Gibson, Thomas Gibson and Elizabeth

Gibson. He bequeathed in all four Negro slaves and one indentured white servant man. Ref: Wills, Liber D, folios 23-24, Courthouse, Carlisle, Cumberland Co., Penn.

The births and baptisms of the older children of Thomas and Elizabeth McElderry were registered in the record of the First Presbyterian Church, as follows:

1. John McElderry, born May 12, bapt. May 29, 1788.
2. Thomas McElderry, born June 10, bapt. Nov. 1, 1789.
3. Margaret McElderry, born Oct. 26, bapt. Nov. 5, 1790.
4. Hugh McElderry, born Aug. 8, bapt. Oct. 13, 1793.
5. Elisabeth McElderry, born Sept. 1, and bapt. Nov. 8, 1795.
6. Mary McElderry, born Feb. 9, bapt. Apr. 23, 1797.
7. William McElderry, born Jan. 19, bapt. May 5, 1799.

The births of James, Edward, Henry, Anne and Jane are not found in the parish register.

In 1793 Thomas McElderry constructed his private wharf in Baltimore Harbor and operated a lucrative trade in shipping which brought in rewarding financial returns. His town house in Baltimore was the center of much social life where he and his wife entertained the prominent leaders of rank and fashion. In 1806 he was elected a State Senator to the Legislature at Annapolis, where again he came in contact with the principal political leaders of the State from both shores of the Chesapeake. He died suddenly on May 28, 1810, in Baltimore, without executing his last will and testament.

During the War of 1812, his son Hugh served as a private in the Marine artillery, commanded by Captain George Stiles, and his other sons, John and Thomas, both served as privates in Captain James FASTER's Company of the 51st Regiment recruited in Baltimore City.

On June 17, 1812, Harmanns Aldricks and Jane his wife, of Baltimore County, instituted action in the High Court of Chancery against Elizabeth McEldery and her children, John, Hugh, Eliza, Mary, James, Edward, Jane, Henry and Anne McEldery (sic). It was stated in the bill of complaint that Thomas McEldery, late of Baltimore County, deceased, about three years before his death give the Petitioner Jane Aldricks in fee a lot on Aisquith Street. Thomas McEldery died suddenly without executing a deed of gift leaving a widow and ten children that is, John, Thomas, Hugh, Eliza, Mary, James, Edward, Jane, Henry and Anne. John and Thomas were the only ones of age. John had married Ann Evans. It was furthermore stated that Jane Aldricks and Elizabeth McElderry, widow, were sisters. The court thereupon ordered Elizabeth McElderry, widow, to make a valid deed of conveyance.⁹

On February 4, 1818, Thomas Quay, of Baltimore, stated that he bought of Thomas McElderry in his life time on August 23, 1808, for \$900.00 a lot on the west side of Eden Street and north side of Pitt. That Thomas McElderry died intestate leaving the following children — John McElderry, Hugh McElderry, Eliza McElderry who hath intermarried with Basil D. Mullikin, and Mary McElderry who hath intermarried with George Douglass who are above the ages of twenty-one, and James, Edward, Henry, Anne and Jane infants under twenty-one. That he had paid \$900.00 and wished a valid deed of conveyance. Hugh McElderry was appointed the guardian of his orphan brothers and sisters. Defendants admitted in court the truth of the statements made by the Plaintiff.¹⁰

The passing of his widow, Madam Elizabeth McElderry, was announced in the *Federal Gazette* on October 23, 1819 and the *American* on the same day: "Departed this life on 20th inst. in her 50th year Mrs. Thomas McElderry consort of the late Thomas McElderry after a long and painful illness."

She executed her last will and testament on July 1, 1819, which was duly probated in Baltimore County on October 27, 1819. Her bequests were mostly personalty. To her son John she bequeathed the family Bible. Other heirs were Elizabeth Mullikin, Mary Douglass, Jane McElderry, Ann McElderry, James B. McElderry, Edward McElderry, and Henry McElderry. She appointed her sons John and Hugh as executors.

SOURCES: 1. Maryland Archives, vol. 48, p. 255; 2. *Ibid.* vol. 47, pp. 297, 311, 382; 3. *Ibid.* vol. 47, p. 330; 4. *Ibid.* vol. 47, p. 382; 5. *Ibid.* vol. 45, p. 492; 6. *Ibid.* vol. 45, pp. 569-570; 7. Balto. Co. Wills, Liber 9, folio 264; 8. *Ibid.* folio 327; 9. Chancery Papers no. 131; 10. *Ibid.* no. 4184.

BENJAMIN DOUGLASS⁷

1816-1900

Benjamin Douglass, the eldest son of George Douglass and Mary McElderry his wife, was born on April 3, 1816, in the City of Baltimore, and was about four years of age when his parents moved to the City of New York.

In his teens his father placed him in his commission agency as a financial assistant, with the prospects of his taking over the business at some future time. When he was about twenty-two or twenty-three years of age, his father opened a branch of the agency in Charleston, South

Carolina, and placed him in charge, but either the Charleston adventure did not meet all expectations or his father realized that there were greater opportunities in the southern metropolis of New Orleans.

The business of his agency took young Benjamin up the Mississippi, along the Ohio, and into the small Scioto River to the growing village of Chillicothe. There he met Elizabeth Dun, the daughter of Robert Dun and Lucy Angus his wife, onetime of Virginia.

Their meeting grew to romance and betrothal. They were married in Chillicothe on July 28, 1842, by the Rev. Thomas Woodrow, the local Presbyterian minister and grandfather of Woodrow Wilson. Benjamin Douglass carried his bride down the Mississippi to New Orleans, where they resided for a few months in what was known and is still referred to as the English Quarter. Their oldest child, George, was born at Chillicothe in 1843.

Upon the advice of his father Benjamin closed the agency in New Orleans late in 1844 and returned to New York City, where he resided with his parents at 19 Park Place. There in December 1844, his second son was born and was given the name of his maternal grandfather, Robert Dun.

The house at 19 Park Place was immediately opposite the present Dun & Bradstreet building. About the same time that Benjamin Douglass returned with his young family, his sister Letitia married Zachariah Chandler. This couple also lived in the same dwelling until Zachariah Chandler moved back to Detroit in 1846.

Chandler, a native of New Hampshire, had been a merchant of prominence in the western town of Detroit and became acquainted with the Douglass family on one of his buying trips to New York. Deeply and zealously religious in the Scottish Presbyterian faith, it is assumed that on his New York trips he attended the Brick Presbyterian Church of which George Douglass, father of Benjamin and Letitia, was an elder and one of the pillars.

On his marriage with Letitia Douglass, Zachariah Chandler visualized a wholesale business in New York. He left his Detroit store in charge of an older employee and changed the name there to R. C. Bradford & Co., although he still controlled the business.

It was through Chandler that Benjamin Douglass met Lewis Tappan with whom he formed the Mercantile Agency. Chandler was an old customer and friend of Arthur Tappan, not only in business, but because of their common interest and activity in the abolition movement. Lewis Tappan had organized the agency, but had almost ruined it by his out-

spoken demands for the abolition of slavery and needed a conservative partner to offset his own unpopularity. At that time many Southerners had settled in New York and considerable business was transacted with southern bankers and business houses. In that day it must be remembered, the greatest wealth of the nation was concentrated in the South. Benjamin Douglass had a high standing among the merchant princes as well as definite southern leanings. It was a case of business making strange bedfellows, because no great love existed between Douglass and Tappan. Douglass finally became the sole owner of the agency.

In October 1845, the first-born of Zachariah and Letitia Chandler died an infant and was buried in the George Douglass vault. Chandler became dissatisfied with the New York wholesale operations, closed them out in 1846 and returned to Detroit. This was about the time that Benjamin Douglass became associated with Lewis Tappan in the Mercantile Agency.

In Detroit, Chandler soon became one of the wealthiest citizens of the town, mainly through his real estate investments rather than his trading activities. He also turned his attention to politics, a field in which he was destined to become one of the most widely known and powerful figures on the national scene, and one of the most hated in the South, where he was later known as "the Blood-letting Senator." He first served as Mayor of Detroit, but in his gubernatorial ambitions he was defeated. Then he became one of the founders of the Republican Party and was appointed the first Republican United States Senator from Michigan.

In his rise to political power he was closely associated with Lincoln and joined him in several stump speaking appearances in the Middle West. In Washington Chandler met Edwin M. Stanton, then Attorney General in Buchanan's cabinet. Despite Stanton's being a Democrat, he was an anti-slavery man, and the two abolitionists found so much in common that a fast friendship was formed, which was broken only by Stanton's death in 1869. Newspaper writers gave Chandler credit for bringing Lincoln and Stanton, old political enemies, together, and for persuading Lincoln to make him Secretary of War. Stanton at his death left his family with only limited resources. It was Chandler who initiated the raising of a public subscription for their benefit, starting it himself with \$10,000.

What feelings and emotions Mrs. Chandler felt for her husband's radical and ruthless vituperations against the South and southern slave owners and their belief in States' Rights, can only be imagined, but she was a dutiful consort. Her father was one of the leading proponents

of States Rights in New York and her ancestors had been among the largest slave owners in Maryland and Virginia. Her own aunts and uncles in the South were also the proprietors of slaves and had accepted slavery as a benevolent institution.

Chandler's actions were decidedly distasteful to the Douglasses. They criticized him and even stated that he should be locked up in the mad house for the duration of the war. Not only Benjamin Douglass but his brother-in-law Robert Graham Dun joined in their disapproval of their brother-in-law's aggressiveness.

During the war Minnie Chandler, the daughter of the Senator, attended school in New York City and lived with her Douglass grandparents except for one year, when their failing health would not permit it. She then lived with Robert Graham Dun whose wife was another daughter of George Douglass, Sr. During this period Mrs. Chandler made frequent visits to New York staying with her parents or her sister, Mrs. Robert Graham Dun.

In Washington after the war the southern contingent which had formerly set the fashionable pace no longer held that position. It was taken over by the northern Members of Congress, and Mrs. Zachariah Chandler became one of the great social leaders. It is said that Senator Chandler startled the town by "the prodigality of his entertainments." According to the *New York Herald* of February 2, 1869, his "imposing house on H Street blazed with light from top to bottom many times that winter," and guests went away to gossip long over the music and the flowers and the elaborate table looking "like a miniature model of Pekin, with confectionery of all kinds and colors shaped into temples, towers, minarets, and pagodas." It was a merry season for Minnie, the daughter of the hosts, and soon, "unspoiled" by the adulation, she became the bride of young Eugene Hale, of Maine. The *Herald's* account of their wedding, in January, 1870, described the groom as "pale like one who has worked too hard."

In the family papers of Robert Graham Dun is found the following notation "Still another wedding which we attended was that of my wife's niece, Miss Chandler, daughter of Senator Chandler. This was quite a distingué affair. She married Mr. Hale a member of Congress. Her wedding was honoured by the attendance of the President and all members of the Cabinet."

Senator Hale built a large house on Sixteenth Street, not far distant from the White House, where the onetime Minnie Chandler presided first as the wife and then the widow of her husband, Senator Hale, and

then later on as the hostess for her bachelor son, who followed in his father's footsteps as Senator from Maine. Their house was demolished only a few years ago to make way for a modern hotel.

To return to Benjamin Douglass, he was noted for his strict Presbyterian training and he ruled his boys with an iron hand. He would not permit them any spending money. When he placed his son George, then nineteen years of age, with the agency of R. G. Dun & Co. in Montreal during the war, he gave the manager of the agency explicit instructions that George was to live with him and his wife and always be accompanied going to and from the office and never to associate with the other employees. Furthermore, he was never to go out in the evenings unless accompanied.

In 1859, after Benjamin Douglass sold his interest in the business to his brother-in-law, he became deeply involved in real estate. At one time his holdings included the entire block bounded by 78th and 79th Streets and Madison and Fifth Avenues.

Some time prior to the war he had built a magnificent residence at Fort Washington near where the George Washington bridge is now located, but ultimately sold it for a handsome sum. He then leased a large country estate near Montrose in New Jersey, at a fantastic sum for that day.

It later developed that he had few revenue-producing assets, and had to mortgage his realty holdings and to depend on loans from R. G. Dun & Co., for carrying charges and living expenses. His children were maturing and marrying and he settled substantial dowries upon his daughters and upon the marriage of his sons gave each \$5,000.00 a year above their annual salaries from their uncle's agency, R. G. Dun & Co.

When the financial depression known as the Panic of 1873 occurred, his fortune was entirely wiped out except for the small equity which he received from the Fifth Avenue block for which he had previously refused an offer of over a million dollars. The block was purchased by Robert Dun to protect his mortgage on it. Dun ultimately made Benjamin Douglass director of his Chicago office where for over thirteen years he managed the interests of the rapidly growing agency.

The family therefore moved to that western city, and Robert Graham Dun gave his nephews, the sons of Benjamin Douglass, positions with his financial interests and at his death left each one a ten percent share of the estate. Benjamin Douglass's first wife, Elizabeth Dun, died on March 15, 1854, in the City of New York. His second wife was Julia Hayes. He died on May 4, 1900.

GEORGE DOUGLASS⁸

1843-1919

George Douglass, the first son of Benjamin Douglass and Elizabeth Dun his wife, was born in Chillicothe, Ohio, on July 19, 1843, and brought up in New York City.

In his teens his father placed him in his New York commercial agency, so necessarily he had very little formal education but good, sound practical business experience which was the foundation for his success in later life.

When the war between the North and the South broke out and Lincoln called for volunteers to strengthen the army George's parents and grandfather Douglass, being of Southern heritage and staunch believers in States' Rights, could not conceive of him and his younger brother fighting against their compatriots. Young George and his younger brother, Robert, were placed in their father's office at Montreal, Canada. There George gained valuable professional experience. Later he had additional experience in his father's office at Toronto. While there he took advantage of several commercial courses. His younger brother, Robert Dun Douglass, attended the University of Toronto, from which he was graduated.

After the Southern Army surrendered in 1865 and peace was restored, George and his brother returned to New York and became associated with the business enterprises of their father. Wishing to establish his sons in a business which would give them economic security, Benjamin Douglass organized a brokerage firm in New York City. However, as the possibility of gambling which existed in the stock market was contrary to his moral principles, he closed the office within two years and dissolved the firm.

Upon his return to New York from Canada, romance entered his life and one winter he was constantly seen in the company of a young cousin from Ohio, Susan Virginia Dun, known as Susie, who was visiting her relatives in New York. She was born on August 21, 1846, near Lafayette, Madison County, Ohio, the daughter of James Dun and his wife Susan Walke.

The time of their first meeting was perhaps in 1866, when she was a guest of her mother's brother, Dr. Walke, who was at that time established in New York. Later, she stayed with her father's brother, Robert Graham Dun.

In a letter of February 12, 1867, to his uncle John Dun in Ohio, Robert Graham Dun mentioned that Benjamin Douglass and his wife

with George and Robert Douglass, the two older sons, and the young children of his second wife had sailed for an extensive tour of England and Scotland. He also stated that Susie, the daughter of James Dun, was visiting him. "We find her a very pleasant, sprightly girl and hope to keep her some time. You know, I suppose, she is engaged to George Douglass — barring the relationship — I think it will be a very good match on both sides. George is rather good looking, domestic in his tastes and not at all inclined to be fresh."

On March 19, 1867, Robert Graham Dun wrote to his father's sister, Mrs. Elizabeth MacKinlay, of Glasgow, Scotland, that the Douglass family would be visiting her, and then continued about the courtship of George and Susie, "Ben's oldest son, George, is engaged to be married to James Dun's eldest daughter, Susie. I suppose you will not approve of cousins intermarrying, but in this case it is only a third cousin. She is very bright and pretty — full of wit and humor. Laying aside the relationship, I think the match a very good one on both sides."

Susie Dun spent the winter and early spring in New York and was perhaps there when her cousin landed from his British holiday. She returned to her home in Ohio in preparation for her approaching marriage. It occurred on October 16, 1867, at the home of the bride's parents near Lafayette in Madison County, Ohio.

CHILDREN OF GEORGE AND SUSAN (DUN) DOUGLASS

1. George Douglass married Julia Abb.
2. Elizabeth Douglass married Samuel Clay.
3. Virginia Douglass married Henry Weller.
4. Anne Douglass, born September 26, 1881, married February 4, 1908, at Milwaukee, Clarence Dillon, born September 27, 1882, at San Antonio, Texas.

George Douglass was now taken into the office of his uncle, Robert Graham Dun, whose mercantile agency was expanding at a great rate with the tremendous industrial advance of the country about this time and the rapid development of the Middle West. His uncle placed him in charge of the office at Davenport, Iowa, where he was established by the year 1872. He was later transferred to the larger office in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where he became manager of the entire agency business for that territory. He continued as manager of that office for the remainder of his professional career, and there his family grew up.

He died in Milwaukee on September 29, 1919, and was buried in Forest Home Cemetery of that city. His widow died on January 8, 1937, in Richmond, Virginia. She was in her ninety-first year.

BROOKE LINEAGE

ROBERT BROOKE, ESQ.

1602-1655

ENGLAND was in the midst of Civil Wars in 1649. The Political and social life of once Merrie-England was far from Merrie. The liberal element within the Church of England had become more assertive taking on momentum like a snowball rolling downhill. Cromwell and his followers were riding wide and high throughout the English countryside and with their successes in burning and destroying the castles and country houses of the Loyalists had even invaded Scotland. Charles I believing in the divine rights of kings, was at odds with his Puritan Parliament and had been forced to flee London Town which was always on the liberal side. Charles and his faithful followers had sustained several disastrous defeats and after a legal trial he lost his head at Whitehall in 1649. The Province of Maryland was fifteen years old and from reports from the planters and agents of Lord Baltimore had passed the formative period and was the most English of all the colonies then established along the Atlantic seaboard.

That was the background in England when Robert Brooke, Esq., then forty-eight years of age and the father of ten children, decided to leave his Hampshire ancestral estate and town house in London to seek a permanent home across the sea. He had been raised in conservative English traditions and had once been ordained a priest of the Established Church, so the Province of Maryland, with its ancient English institutions intact, appealed to him. It has been suggested that he was interested in Lord Baltimore's adventure from its inception and that only the illness of his first wife prevented him from being among the "Twenty or More Very Good Gentlemen of Fashion" who were aboard *The Ark* when she sailed from Cowes in 1633.

It has been said that he was an ardent huntsman and had been told that there abided in the Maryland country a rare variety of fox which gave chase to the hunter. Be that as it may, it is known that with him on the ship was his own pack of blooded English foxhounds — the first in