

EXCERPTS FROM:

THE DOUGLAS GENEALOGY

The Descendants of

JOHN DOUGLAS

Of Middleborough, Massachusetts, The First

Of this Branch in America

THE DOUGLAS NOBILITY OF SCOTLAND

One generation passeth away and another
generation cometh.. Ecc. 1 – 4

BY

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FIRST GENERATION IN AMERICA OF THE DESCENDANTS OF JOHN
DOUGLAS OF MIDDLEBOROUGH, PLYMOUTH COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS

1. John Douglas was born in Scotland about the year 1695. His father was a wealthy and influential man, possessing a large tract of land, and renting a number of houses. John had an uncle, a merchant living in London, who wished his nephew to go and live with him, promising to make him his heir, as he had no children of his own. To this his father would not consent; but the boy, then twelve years of age, was so well pleased with his uncle's generous offer, that he ran away with the intention of going to him. On reaching London, he could not find his uncle; so he strolled down about the wharves, as a little boy would naturally do. There lay in port a man-of-war nearly ready for sea. The boy attracted the notice of the crew who, taking advantage of his being alone and unprotected, pressed him on board the ship and concealed him till they were well out to sea. The vessel was bound for Boston, and

arrived there in due time. John was sold or put out to a man till he should become of age, in a consideration of a sum of money required to pay in passage. Whom he lived with or how he fared during the remainder of his minority is not known. Neither is it known that his father ever knew what had become of his lost son. We next hear of John in Middleborough, Plymouth County, Maa., where about A.D. 1719, he married Eunice Rattleleaf (or Ratcliffe) of that town. They settled on a farm he bought of John Bennett, Jr., containing thirty-seven acres, for the sum of thirty pounds. The farm was situated in the Township of Middlebrough, Mass., being in the 184th lot in the third allotment in the purchase known as the sixteen shilling purchase. The deed bearing the date of May 27, 1739. They always resided on this farm, where they died at an advanced age, and were buried in the town graveyard.

The children of John and Eunice (Rattleleaf) Douglas born in Middleborough, Mass., were:

2. I. Elijah² born about 1720; married 1st, Phebe Taylor;
2nd, Elizabeth Estes.
3. II. John² born about 1722; married Mary Braley.
4. III. George² born about 1724 or 5; married Prudence Caswell.

SECOND GENERATION

2. Elijah Douglas (John¹) eldest son of John and Eunice (Rattleleaf) Douglas was born in Middleborough, Mass., about A.D. 1720; married, first, April 27, 1742, Phebe Taylor. Married by Benjamin Ruggles, Esq. They settled in his native town. They had born unto them three sons and two daughters. His wife, the eldest son and two daughters died and in the year 1751, he with his surviving sons, bid adieu to the land of their birth, to find a home in the wilds of the district of Maine.....

He married (2) Elizabeth, daughter of Edward and Patience Estes, born in Hanover, Plymouth County, Mass., April 7, 1731. They settled on a farm..... Situated on Merryconeag Neck, (now Harpswell Neck.)

In 1775 he removed to the Township of Royallsborough (now Durham.) He was totally blind ten years previous to his death in the year 1714 aged, 94 years, and was buried near the Friend's meeting house in Durham.....

3. John² Douglas (John¹) brother of the preceeding, and son of John and Eunice (Rattleleaf) Douglas, was born in Middleborough, Mass., about A. D. 1722. About the year 1751, he married Mary Braley, and settled in his native town on a farm situated near what is known as the Beech Woods. He bought the said farm of Mark Haskell, a tanner, for twenty-seven pounds of old tenor. The farm consisted of one-half part of the eighty-sixth lot of land in the third allotment of the sixteen shilling purchase. The deed bears date of February

10th 1746. At the breaking out of the Revolutionary War, he volunteered his services in his country's defence. He was in the battle of Bunker Hill. Sometime during the early part of the war he was taken sick with the camp disorder, from which he never recovered. He died at his home in Middleborough and was buried in the graveyard in that town. After his death his widow lived with her son John, at Plymouth, Mass., where she died about 1788, and was buried in the graveyard at Half Way Pond.

Their children all born in Middleborough, Mass., were:---

16. I. John³, born March 11, 1752; married Lydia Southworth.
 17. II. Ephraim³, born about 1754; unmarried, died in the Revolutionary War 1777.
 18. III. Mary³, born about 1757; married Libbeus Simmons.
 19. IV. Elizabeth³, born in the year 1760; married Ephraim Reynolds
 20. V. Sarah³, born about 1763. It is reported by some persons that she was married; but to whom or where, or any farther record of her has not been received.
 21. VI. Phebe³, born about 1767; married Roland Homes.
 22. VII. Elisha³, born Jun 12, 1771; married (1) Celia Oskin (2) Hannah Russell.
3. George² Douglas, (John¹) brother of the preceding and son of John and Eunice (Rattleleaf) Douglas, was born in Middleborough, Mass.. about 1725; married Prudence Caswell. He always resided in his native town on Beech Wood road. He was a successful farmer, and a man respected for his integrity, and high moral character. He died at his homestead April 13, 1793. His wife died March 14, 1798. They were interred in their family graveyard.

Their children.....

16. John³ Douglas (John², John¹) son of John and Mary (Braley) Douglas, was born in Middleborough, Mass., Mar 11, 1759. Early in life he fitted himself for a school teacher. He taught a district school in his native town fifteen winters in succession. Soon after the breaking out of the Revolutionary War, he went to Boston and volunteered his services in the army. He was an Orderly Sargent, which office he held until the end of his enlistment. He was paid off in continental money, which will be remembered was nearly worthless. He had to pay sixty dollars of it for a gallon of molasses, and one hundred dollars for a pound of tea. He was afterwards drafted, but not wishing to serve longer in the war, he gave a cow to a man to go as his substitute. About the year 1786, he moved to Plymouth, Mass., and settled in the neighborhood known as the Halfway Pond. There were but few inhabitants there at that time, and no schools within several miles. He was the first man who interceded and raised money to start a school; and all that could be collected was thirteen dollars. For this sum he taught a school

during the winter months of that year. After the death of his father, he removed to the old homestead which was given him in consideration of his taking care of his mother during the remainder of her life; also to have the care and support of his youngest brother and sister until they became of age. In 1804, he removed to Clyden, N.H. where he resided three years, then removed back to Plymouth, where he lived until his death. He was a worthy member of the Baptist church, and was much respected by those who knew him, for his genial disposition and integrity; so honest and upright was he in all his dealings that he was called "John the Baptist." He died in the year 1827, and was interred in the graveyard near the Halfway Pond. Their children were.....

- 17. Mary³ Douglas, (John²,) (John¹,) sister of the preceding, and a daughter of John and Mary (Braley) Douglas, was born in Middlebrough, Mass., about 1757; married Libbeas Simmons. He was a farmer and resided in Troy, Maine, where they died.

Their children, probably born in Troy, were:---

- 132. I. Elijah (Simmons) born.....; married Ruth Russell.
- 133. II. Betsey (Simmons) born; married David Vickery.
- 134. III. Thaddeas (Simmons) born; died young.
- 135. IV. Mary (Simmons) born: married Jere Mitchell.
- 136. V. Persilla (Simmons) born; married Joseph Mitchell.
- 137. VI. James (Simmons) born; married Hannah Buzzard.
- 138. VII. Sarah (Simmons) born; married David Reynolds.
- 139. VIII. Judath (Simmons) born.....; married William McCauslin.
- 140. IX. Libbeas (Simmons) born: married Esther Kelsey.
- 141. X. Lydia (Simmons) born; married James Parker.

- 18. Elizabeth³ Douglas, (John²,) (John¹,) sister of the preceding, and daughter of John and Mary (Braley) Douglas, was born in Middleborough, Mass., 1760; married Ephraim Reynolds, of Augusta, Maine, where they settled. In 1815 or 16, they moved to Warsaw, Wyoming County, New York. They were six weeks on the road. They hired a house to live in a short time, then Mr. Reynolds bought a farm in Gainesville, New York, where he moved his family. He subsequently sold this farm to Earl Douglas, (his wife's brother) and his son Jacob, in consideration of he and his wife being supported during their lives. The deed was given January 1819.

Their children were:.....

- 18. Phebe³ Douglas, (John²,) (John¹,) sister of the preceding and daughter of John and Mary (Braley) Douglas, born in Middleborough, Mass., about 1767; married Roland Homes of Plymouth, Mass. They settled in Troy, Maine where she died.

Their children were:.....

19. Elisha³ Douglas, (John²,) (John¹,) brother of the preceding and son of John and Mary (Braley) Douglas, was born in Middleborough, Mass., Jun 12, 1771; married (1) Celia Oskin, (2) Hannah Russell. His mother died when he was quite young, and he lived with his brother John until old enough to earn a living for himself. He settled in his native town where he resided until 1800, at which time his wife died and the following year he married his second wife and moved to Troy, Maine. In 1810, he removed to Winterport; and the same year to Monroe. He was quite a thrifty farmer. He also devoted some of his time to hunting. In 1814, when the English invaded Hampden, Elisha was called out, with the militia, who were in charge of General Blake, to oppose the enemy. The army was brought into line, and Gen. Blake rode in front, and forbade the firing until they received orders. By this time the British had landed. Elisha chose his ground and commenced action; firing a number of rounds before he was discovered. When the enemy saw the smoke they fired and wounded him in the arm, by which cause it was ever afterwards stiff, and he received a pension for his disability. In 1830 or 31, he removed to Burnham, where he died in the year 1851. His (2) wife died Feb. 1868.

Their children were:.....