

George Henry Scott Douglas

1825-1885

Sir George Henry Scott Douglas was born in Edinburgh on 19 June 1825. He was the eldest of four children and the only son of Sir John James Scott Douglas of Springwood Park, Kelso and Hannah Charlotte Scott of Belford. His father died when he was just 11 and he succeeded to his father's estates and titles at that time. He was a pupil at Harrow school. His military career began with him briefly entering the navy and then joining the 34th Regiment of Foot (The Border Regiment).



Sir George Henry Scott Douglas picture courtesy of the Heritage Hub.

Sir George chronicled his early military career in his diaries. In 1845 aged 19 he was stationed at Athlone Ireland. By October that year he had set sail for Corfu. It was when based there at he purchased his first yacht the Cutter *Vampire*. He obtained leave and sailed around the Mediterranean. During this time he chronicled his travels in a vivid account. His stay in the army was a brief period (he resigned his commission in 1851) of his career but during that time he reached the rank of Captain.

While in Gibraltar he met his future wife Mariquita the eldest daughter of Don Francisco Serrano Sanchez De Pina of Gibraltar. They had six children although one son died in infancy. The eldest son James who was expected to become the fifth Baronet was killed on 3 July 1879 whilst



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servicing with the army in Zululand and it was the second son George Brisbane Douglas who succeeded to the baronetcy.

After he left the army and settled down to life in Kelso he became actively involved in local life. He served as the Conservative MP for Roxburghshire between 1874-1880, he also was a magistrate and briefly served on the first school board for Kelso. He was also involved in Tweedside Physical and Antiquarian Society and contributed to their museum and was president of the Kelso curling club.

He kept a connection to his former life in the army by serving in the Kelso volunteer movement. He was the first captain of the Kelso company and took a leading part in organising the Roxburgh and Selkirk battalion. Following the death of Lord Polwarth in 1867 he was appointed Lieutenant-Colonel. He was also President of the Border Rifle Association.

Sir George passed away on 26 June 1885 shortly after his 60th birthday.