

## A ROMANCE IN REAL LIFE

### THE DOUGLAS FAMILY

In the year 1707, as near as can be told, a daughter was born to Sir Charles and Lady Douglas, in Scotland, who was destined to become the progenitor of one of the old New Jersey families. As this daughter grew toward womanhood she evidently was beset with some of the difficulties that have ever been strewn along the pathway of womankind, for she had a stern father who thought himself best fitted to choose a life partner for his daughter, while she, with the individuality born of the royal blood that flowed through her veins, disdained to marry aught except from love's dictation. She had a lover whom she loved in return, but Sir Charles would have none of him for his daughter, but would give her hand to a man higher in the scale of what he considered to be nobility. Isabella, for this was the name of the daughter, finally resolved that something would have to be done if she was to wed according to her own fancy, and after many conferences with her lover and many sleepless nights it was decided that they take the matter in their own hands, and what better course could they pursue than to go together to the "new world," America, where they could live in happiness and contentment. A night was appointed when a ship bound for America was to be lying off shore, and then Isabella and her lover were to go on board, separately, and join each other when the ship was well under way. Isabella was true to her purpose, but whether her lover was finally too faint-hearted to make the attempt, or whether he mistakenly boarded another ship, was never known, but certain it is that "the course of true love" did not "run smooth," even in those days.

The ship sailed on, the sorrow of Isabella now almost an agony, as she had lost both home and lover; but nothing could change what had been arranged before the beginning of time.

The ocean was infested at that time with bands of pirates, who made a practice of overhauling ships and despoiling the passengers of whatever of value they possessed, and during the passage of this ship it was unfortunate enough to become the prey of one of these bands of outlaws, and Isabella Douglas, who had lost so much that was dear to her, was now to lose everything of value that she had brought with her to remind her of the home she had left behind, and she was left penniless.

As the ship drew near the landing place, Philadelphia, the passengers were asked to pay for their passage, but as they had lost their money, and the fashion was at that time to pay when you disembarked, there was nothing to do but to submit to the laws then in operation, which gave the ship's company the right to sell the passenger's time to the highest bidder, that they might work out the amount of their passage, and those who were passengers on this trip were duly advertised after the custom of the times.

A farmer named Fortner living in Sussex County, New Jersey, was in need of some domestic help, attracted by the notice of the sale of these passengers, went to Philadelphia to be pres-