



**Charles A. Douglas**

While for a quarter of a century one of the distinguished members of the bar of the City of Washington, and a well-known authority on international law, Charles A. Douglas won his first cases and his early fame in his profession in his native State of South Carolina, and has always been deeply attached to the commonwealth which bore him and where his family has been known for several generations.

Mr. Douglas was born on his father's plantation in the Albion section of Fairfield County, South Carolina, January 31, 1862, son of John S. and Margaret (Boyce) Douglas. It was his great grandfather who settled the family in South Carolina after coming from Scotland. Mr. Douglas' father and grandfather were both natives of Fairfield County.

His literary education was completed with his graduation from Erskine College at Due West in 1880. The following two years he attended the Columbian, now the George Washington University at Washington, graduating with the LL. B. degree in 1882 and following that with further law studies in Georgetown University. Admitted to the South Carolina bar in 1883, he practiced at Winnsboro and in 1890 moved to Columbia and was a member of the capital city bar until 1895. He won success in the law and in politics in his native state, served several times as a member of the Legislature, representing Fairfield County, and in the presidential election of 1888 was president of the South Carolina delegation in the Electoral Congress and as such cast the vote of the state for Grover Cleveland.

Removing to Washington in 1895, Mr. Douglas was until 1915 a professor in the law department of Georgetown University. The special subjects assigned him were Elementary Law, Law of Torts, and Negotiable Instruments. During that period, he collaborated with Senator John W. Daniel of Virginia in writing the work "Elements of Negotiable Instruments," a students' textbook which for a number of years has been used in Georgetown University and other law schools. Mr. Douglas himself revised and has issued the fifth edition of the work entitled "Daniel on Negotiable Instruments."

Few American lawyers could claim a practice distinguished by participation in more notable cases and with greater importance of interests represented. Mr. Douglas is remembered as attorney for the defense in the famous Bonnie murder trial at Washington. He also represented the defendants in the Machen post office fraud cases during the Roosevelt administration. These are only two outstanding cases that attracted nation-wide attention, but many others have involved important legal and financial interests.

At the commencement of the revolution in Mexico in 1913, Mr. Douglas was employed as the American counsel of the successful Revolutionary party. He personally conducted the negotiations that culminated in the recognition of President Carranza by the United States Government and during President Carranza's term as President Mr. Douglas has been American counsel for the Mexican Government. For a number of years he has been counsel for the Nicaraguan Government in the United States, and as such negotiated and took part in securing the ratification of the Senate of the treaty for the purchase by the United States of the Nicaraguan Canal route.

As these facts indicate, Mr. Douglas has for years given much of his time to international law. His practice of this branch of his profession brings him in close relationship with Congress, especially the Foreign Relations Committee of the Senate. In his general practice he is counsel for the Continental Trust Company of Washington and represents several other financial and commercial corporations. He is a member of the University Club, City Club, Press Club, Washington Country Club, Lawyers Club of New York City, University Club and American Club of Mexico City.

Mr. Douglas has other ties with his native state by marriage. His wife was Miss Augusta Aiken, daughter of Dr. William E. Aiken of Winnsboro, South Carolina, a niece of Congressman D. Wyatt Aiken and a kinsman of the Governor Aiken family. Mr. and Mrs. Douglas have four children: Charles Simonton, Alexander Talley, Margaret Boyce Adair and Miss Patsy Aiken Douglas. [South Carolina, Special Limited Edition, 1920]

Douglas, Charles A., lawyer; born in Fairfield District (now County) in 1862; son of John S. and Margaret (Boyce) Douglas; educated in Erskine College, Columbian (George Washington) Univ., LL. B., 1882; Georgetown Univ.; admitted to S. C. bar in 1883 and began practice at Winnsboro; removed to Columbia in 1890, where he practiced until 1895; removed to Washington, D. C., in 1895 as professor in law in Georgetown Univ.; was attorney for defense in Bonnie murder case and attorney for defense in the Machen post office fraud cases; American counsel for Revolutionary party in Mexico in 1913; for number of years counsel for Nicaraguan Government in United States; counsel for Continental Trust Co. of Washington. Member of University, City, Press, and Washington Country. Lawyers' (of New York City), University and American Clubs of Mexico City. Married Augusto Aiken. Address, Washington, D. C. [Source: Who's Who in South Carolina, 1921, cb Donna Gurr]