

Douglas D.

(1895 – 1969)

Douglas joined the growing band of recovering drunks at the beginning of 1937. The survey of the New Jersey Group of A.A. taken on January 1, 1940 lists Douglas as having been a member for three years. The survey also indicates that he has had several slips but is making some progress.

It is likely that Douglas would have been included when Bill and Dr. Bob counted up the first forty sober in the fall of 1937.

Interestingly enough we can trace Douglas's early path and find several instances where it might have crossed with Bill Wilson. Douglas, like Bill attended the officer's training camp in Plattsburg, NY in 1917. Like Bill he was an officer (Captain) in an artillery unit in WWI. Douglas was assigned to the 305th Field Artillery and was wounded in France.

During the time that Douglas was in A.A. he was living in Plainfield, New Jersey and is listed as an active member of the New Jersey Group. Douglas would have been a part of the original group that was attending Oxford Group meetings and the weekly gatherings on Clinton Street that included Hank P., John (Fitzhugh) M., Myron W., William R., Florence R. and Paul K.

Douglas D. is signature # 32 in the 1st Big Book ever sold, signed by all the early pioneers, and now housed in the archives at the General Service Office in New York.

Not much more is known about Douglas at the present. He apparently had a long successful career as a securities analyst with Merrill Lynch, which might be indicative of long-term sobriety.

Douglas died November 14, 1969 and the following obituary appeared in the New York Times on November 15, 1969.

Princeton, N.J., Nov. 14 –

Douglas D., a retired securities analyst for Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith, died in Princeton Hospital today of a heart attack. He was 74 years old and lived at 62 Battle Road here.

Mr. D. was graduated from Princeton University in 1917 and served as a captain of artillery in World War I. He joined Merrill Lynch in 1941 and retired in 1960;

He leaves his wife, the former Eleanor Marquand; a son, Douglas Jr., a stepson, Allan Forsyth, and Mrs. Blaikie Worth, and seven grandchildren.

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of
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