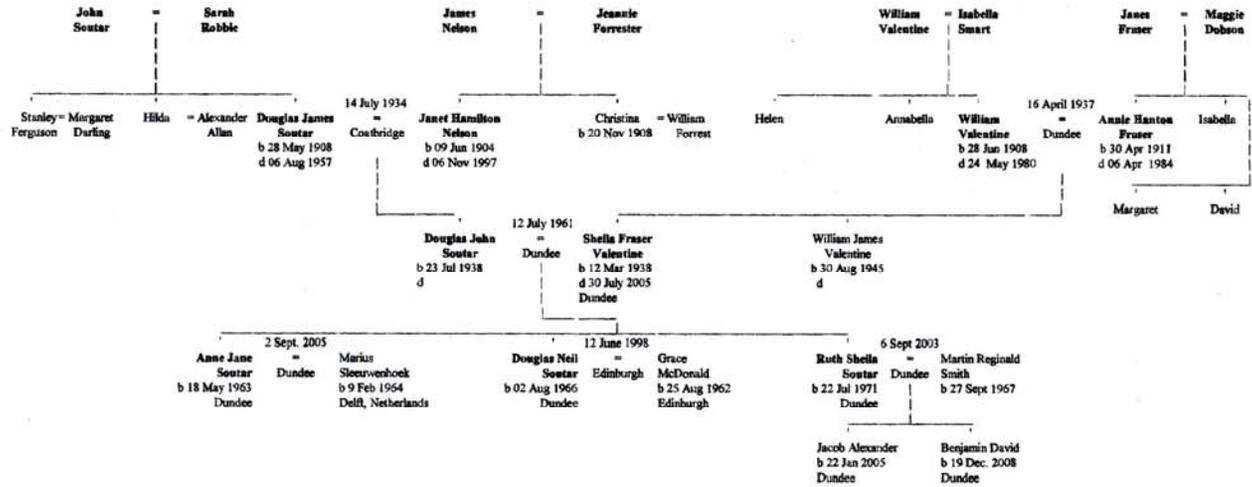


Douglas John Soutar and Sheila Fraser Valentine



Douglas John Soutar Sheila Fraser Valentine

Although Sheila and Douglas had known each other vaguely for a long time they didn't really meet up until 1955 when they sat together in "extra maths" in Donald McPhail's class in 6th year. After leaving school they met up again where everyone met, the JM ballroom. This was in the former St. David's church in N Tay Street. Its site is just north of the West Port roundabout on the west side of Marketgait. The dance floor was so crowded every dance was the same shuffle - just a bit faster or a bit slower depending on whether you were dancing to a waltz, a quickstep or a foxtrot. Perhaps this was just as well as anything more energetic might have resulted in additional injuries from the almost lethal stiletto heels which were the fashion.

They also started meeting in Bell St. or Ward Road at lunch times, by accident, of course, as she returned to work as a Civil Servant in Telephone House in pay slips dept. and he to Dundee Institute of Art and Technology where he was studying Mechanical Engineering. Wednesday and Saturday were JM nights and were followed by long talks sitting in his 1939 Morris 8 Series E parked somewhere on The Law.



His normal mode of transport during the day was by moped, in this case a "Cyclemaster Winged Wheel" which was fitted to a normal cycle and which had a maximum speed of 22 mph and on a run could return 240 miles per gallon (85 km per litre). although the tank only held a quart (just over 1 litre).

Sheila's work was made all the more interesting by all the gossip of a large office with many people of about her own age talking about engagements, weddings, scandals etc. During this time pay slips were expected to work if necessary on Christmas day to make sure pays could go out on time.

The September following the completion of his course, Doug & Sheila went off on a touring holiday a B&B holiday - Ayr, Dumfries (where they got 2 large fish each at Oughtons restaurant - he ate 1 and she ate 3), Lake District (beautiful York Ham which Sheila still remembers more than 40 years later at Keswick in the George Hotel

although they were staying in Chaucer House Hotel), Lancaster, Harewood, York, Scarborough, near where they had a picnic on the moors and were surrounded by sheep

who were obviously accustomed to joining in other people's picnics, Morpeth where they couldn't get single rooms so had to move on to The White Swan in Alnwick then Edinburgh and home. On 1st Nov they became engaged. When He proposed her enthusiastic reply was "I suppose that would be alright."

On return from holiday Douglas started at Dundee Training College to train as a teacher of Engineering and Maths. The course was officially for 1 year but because there was a great shortage of teachers it was shortened to two terms and in fact finished on 11th March 1960. At this stage he should have started National Service - a two year stint in the armed force which all males had to undertake at age 18 unless this was deferred to allow them to finish their education. This was ending and a further few months deferment was granted to allow him to take up a teaching post at Kirkton High School, a new school which had opened on 1st February and where, when he took up the post on 14th March, he discovered that he was the sixth person in the post. The school was only partly complete and had a compliment of only 150 pupils but was to grow to a maximum of 1600.

Holiday that year was to Barnton Hotel in Edinburgh and was spent touring the area after daily visits to Portobello outdoor swimming pool! Towards the end of the year, house hunting started and culminated with the purchase of plot 6 (later no.17) Blake Avenue in November. The house had three rooms but there was provision for stairs and a further two attic rooms. The house cost £1800; the stairs could be added for £50, the loft floored for £50 and the whole conversion completed for another £100. At these prices they could only afford to have the stairs installed! The remainder was completed by themselves in subsequent years.



Willie Valentine, Nettie Soutar, Douglas, Sheila, Nan Valentine, Stanley Soutar.

Wedding preparations were now underway. Dress material was purchased in February and Sheila's mum started sewing. The wedding was on 12th July in McCheyne Memorial Church by Rev. Duncan G. Darroch followed by a reception at Queens Hotel. Dundee. The menu being: Fruit salad or tomato soup or clear oxtail soup, followed by

fillet of sole Duglere then roast chicken with bacon rolls, strawberries and ice cream (with sand for Auntie Cathie or so she complained!) and finally coffee. The first night was spent at The Royal George Hotel in Perth on night of 12th then to London from 13th to 21st in Leincester Court Hotel, Bayswater - 8gns (that is £8:8s: 0d or £8.40) for B&B for a whole week!).

Sheila in accord with fashion spent the week visiting the usual sights in high-heeled shoes and wearing "sticky-out" underskirts, which tore at her stockings with each step. Casual clothes hadn't arrived!

SOUTAR--VALENTINE.--At McChesne Memorial Church, Dundee, on July 12, 1961, by Rev. D. G. Darroch, B.D., Douglas, only son of the late Mr Douglas Soutar and of Mrs Soutar, 232 Perth Road, Dundee, to Sheila, only daughter of Mr and Mrs William Valentine, 287 Strathmore Avenue, Dundee.

One further notable event occurred on 12th August when on a weekend visit to Jim & Elma at Raith. In the middle of the night someone came to the door to say the farm was on fire! The brigade was called and help summonsed from the other family houses round about. When Aunt Chris arrived, her first question to her husband, amid all the confusion and flames, was "Willie! Where's your teeth?" The damage was confined largely to a Dutch barn although the whole night and next day were spent driving still smoking hay out to a vacant field - not the holiday that had been expected.

A teachers starting pay was around £660 per annum so a mortgage of £13:16:2d a month didn't leave too much at the end of the month. £1 a week was generally allocated for Doug's pocket money and was spent on four gallons of petrol (about 16 shillings) tea & coffee (1s6d) and the rest (half a crown) as he pleased!

By the end of 1962 Sheila was pregnant. She left Telephone House on 6th Feb 1963 and felt very lonely at home after the camaraderie of the office. She did, however, continue meeting friends, particularly Ann McPherson or Kippen, on a weekly basis to exchange news. This arrangement had been in place since Sheila & Ann left school and continued throughout their lives. The winter was severe and Sheila remembers snow on 12th April. A new car, a Standard Companion Estate was acquired to carry all the clutter associated with a baby and the Morris sold for £18. Anne was expected on 4th May but the old wives tale about births and deaths coming together came true when Granny Nelson died on 2nd May. Anne finally arrived on 18th May in Maryfield Hospital and was baptized on 7th July. The meal at the christening party included broth and brisket, a meat which Anne came to dislike in later life.

In some ways 1964 was not the best of years. Gran Soutar died on 4th Jan and Sheila's mum spent 6 weeks in Ashludie hospital to wean her off the steroids she had been taking for asthma and bronchitis. This gave Sheila extra work in looking after her father and brother. 1965 brought the first of many camping or caravanning holidays this time in the Dumfries area, Gatehouse of Fleet, Glenluce, Portpatrick Stranraer etc. in a frame tent borrowed from Jim & Elma. Neil was born the following year on 2nd August in DRI. The baptism on 9th October was followed by a meal in Inverbruar Hotel in Roseangle. Granny Fraser died on November 1st, the day the first snow of the winter fell.

Over these few years cars came and went regularly. A badly damaged Hillman Imp had been re-built in 1966. Douglas was even working on it the day Neil was brought home from hospital after his birth on 2nd August. This car was sold quickly while there was still some profit in it, a process which wasn't helped when prospective customers were viewing the car and Anne, aged 3, put her head round the corner and said "Have you not sold that rotten old car yet" The Standard Companion had been swapped for a Standard Atlas caravette which was in turn sold and replaced by an Austin A40 Somerset costing £20 and which sold later for £25 to buy a smoke grey Austin 1100 which in 1968 was replaced by a black Wolseley 1500. This was soon resprayed using the left over smoke grey paint from the 1100. All the cars were damaged in some way and had to be at least partly re-built before they could be used.

A 16 ft caravan had also been acquired in 1968. This was sited and let out at Kinkell Braes, St Andrews where the family also spent weeks which couldn't be let. When there in July most lunches were taken at McArthurs Tearooms where strawberries were enjoyed for desert. Neil however didn't appreciate them, screwing up his face in disgust the others of course didn't mind as they ate his share. Neil did however enjoy Maltesers and stuffed himself from a box Anne and he had been given, not even stopping when Anne protested furiously. He simply continued pushing in more while chocolate flowed from the corners of his mouth. The 16 ft caravan was replaced by a 12ft one which was let in subsequent years at Kinkell Braes but towed on holiday by the family.



1971 was a busy year - Doug started an Open University course in January. Ruth was born on 22 July just before Doug had to attend a summer school at Durham on the 31st and the family went on holiday to Kenmore before schools resumed in August. At the baptism on 5th September Duncan Darroch said this was the first baptism he had arranged before the birth as he had met Sheila and Doug on the 22nd July as she was on her way to DRI and on asking if this would be a September baptism was told by Sheila "Yes! Put me down for September"! Three weeks after the baptism Ruth had a fractured skull when Helen,

aged 3, dropped her when trying to get her up to play with. As a result she spent four days in DRI. No ill effects are apparent.

By 1973, planning to extend the house started. The two upstairs rooms were to be turned into three, a new stair built, the kitchen and living room extended. Douglas drew up plans and had them submitted in December. Once passed, the alterations continued over the next three years. Help was only required for construction of the dormer shell and with the plastering and harling. The wrought iron stair wasn't totally complete for many years as the cherry tree which was eventually to supply the wood hadn't grown large enough for neighbours to cut it down and even then it needed several years drying out in a cupboard at Kirkton High before it was ready for use. With DIY going on all around them the children all grew up assuming that the sounds of sawing, drilling and so on were part of everybody's life and quickly learned to sleep through it all.

Sometime around this time an incident occurred which Sheila has never been allowed to forget. At the table someone spilt some sugar so Sheila asked everyone in turn "Was it you?" each time receiving the answer "No". Eventually she turned to Neil and said, "Well don't do it again." To this day no one knows who did spill the sugar. The culprit whoever he or she was doesn't remember.

Inflation at this time was very high there was a continuing round of increasing prices followed by increasing pay. A Principal Teacher's annual pay in 1974-75 was £3630 and in 1977-78 it was £5683. Some outgoings for June 1978 were: Mortgage £28.50, housekeeping £127.30, insurance £29.80, Local Rates £21.50, newspapers £5.20, church £3.00, birthday present £8.25, Automobile Association sub £22.30, tyres £13.72, T.V. aerial £13.90, T.V.licence £14.25, sandals £6.99, Addidas bag £4.25, T.V. rental £52.20. Total £351.16.

After attending a refresher course at Dundee College, Sheila started work in 1979 with Dundee University in the Economics department where she worked for some time.

Sheila's Dad died on May 24th 1980. The caravan had by this time been sold and a trailer tent purchased. Holiday accommodation seemed to get ever smaller as the family grew but in fact the available space in the trailer tent was much more than in the caravans with the added advantage of easier towing. The first foray in this outfit with an Austin 1300 estate which had been bought in 1974 was to Chester, Bath, Devon and Cornwall before a rare hotel holiday to London in October staying at the Gt. Northern beside Kings Cross Station. The next year it was taken to Belgium and Holland although Anne by this time had left school and was working in a Pitlochry restaurant for the summer. Early the following year she suffered what was diagnosed as mumps but what with hindsight was probably glandular fever and which affected her on and off for about seven years.

April 1984 saw the death of Sheila's Mum after a stroke. The summer proved to be very hot that year and the whole family were together again on holiday in the Lake District. Neil left school and Anne's 21st was held at home, a buffet party with old-fashioned games. The next year apart from being presented with her Gold Duke of Edinburgh

Award, she graduated with distinction and won the T.R.Murray prize for top student, following this up with Hons in 1986 both degrees being in Maths/Biology, and from Dundee Institute of Technology she then started work as a research assistant in Strathclyde University investigating anthelmintic resistance in *Ostertagia circumcincta*, an intestinal parasite of sheep. Several years later she gained an MPhil for a thesis on this topic. The same year was also Sheila & Doug's silver wedding and they celebrated with a holiday in Paris in early July. Coincidentally about this time Doug started silversmithing initially with a view to repairing a glass and silver decanter from Venice, which had been damaged. This developed this into an interest in silversmithing generally and eventually he was appointed to teach the class he had learned in.

A holiday in the Peak District (where they had heavy frost in July) and Cirencester followed Neil's 21st in 1987. This was held in Carlogie Hotel, Carnoustie. In 1988 Ruth gained the Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award and Anne moved on to Scottish Agricultural Statistical Services in Edinburgh as a Scientific Officer. Neil graduated BSc Hons in Physics and although he was offered a post with M.O.D. almost immediately they did not give him a start date until the beginning of 1989. This gave him time to do quite a lot of family history and to break his collarbone on a dry slope at HMS Condor in Arbroath. before starting at Southend.



A welcome stop near Ouistreham

Next year saw an extended holiday to Southend, Portsmouth, the Loire Valley, Ouistreham, where WW2 landing beaches and the Bayeux Tapestry were visited before

returning to Southend, visiting London and returning home. A go-slow in the passport office meant that passports could only be collected from Glasgow so Anne, who had just had her tonsils out, travelled to Glasgow, collected the passports and returned to Edinburgh with them and the first stop of the holiday was in Edinburgh to collect them from her.

Ruth this year was the last of the children to learn to drive and pass their test on the Cortina, which had replaced the 1300 in 1983. It is interesting to note that she did run over a whole row of plants in the front garden on her way to the test!



A full drive at 17 Blake Avenue

A further job move took Anne to Occupational and Environmental Research in Aberdeen University in 1990 and Neil Moved to Scottish Equitable as programmer/analyst in Edinburgh in 1991. Ruth by this time was studying Applicable Maths at Dundee Institute of Technology and spent summer placements as part of the course at Perth Council in 1991 and 1992 and graduated with distinction and the A.D.D.McKay Sen prize in 1993 and with first class Hons from University of Abertay, Dundee, the successor to DIT in 1994. She had had a summer job with A.T&T in 1993 and secured a full time job as a Software Engineer with them in 1994.

In 1992 a notice appeared on the staffroom notice boards all over Tayside inviting anyone who was interested in early retirement to write in for further information. Doug, who had now been in the school for thirty-two years considered: he was principal Teacher (Guidance) spending part of his time in school researching courses for pupils, writing references, liaising with employers, running the careers library and directing and overseeing the careers education for the whole school. The rest of his time was spent

teaching maths with at least some success - the previous year his classes had gained an 18% pass rate at Credit level when the national rate was 6%. On the other hand, discipline was becoming harder to maintain in class and, as important, Doug realised that the school roll had now fallen below 600, the level at which one less guidance teacher was required. A number of younger Guidance teachers were constantly applying for other jobs and might be successful at any time. There was a possibility of retirement now, with an enhanced pension, which might not present itself again. The result of his deliberations was that he requested further information despite being told by his headmaster that "Maths teachers don't get early retirement". In May an offer of full pension now if he decided to retire came through. Sheila was not too sure, partly fearing poverty and partly wondering if she could stand having him under her feet every day or rather buzzing round under her feet! Calculations of tax, income, etc. showed that there would be only a small drop in income, a drop which could be made up at least in part by tutoring so the retirement offer was accepted. Douglas's mother, Nettie, wasn't too keen on the idea of her son being retired and scanned the papers every day for another job for him but gave this up after none of her suggestions were taken up. So at the age of 53 he presented the prizes on the final day of term in June and left - a free man.



Final Departure from Kirkton High

Also in June, The Tay Valley Family History Society purchased shop premises in Princes Street, Dundee to convert to a Research Centre. The first few months of "retirement" were spent working on the fitting out of this Centre and a report in the next issue of the Society Journal said:

"Our Deputy Chairman, Doug Soutar, was nominated unofficial Clerk o' Works. Doug is one of those people who can look on chaos and visualise and organise the work to achieve the desired end result. It is difficult to imagine how we could have coped without his skill and expertise. His efforts must have saved us a fortune. The Society also owes

grateful thanks to his wife, Sheila, who must have been more than patient to put up with a husband who spent so many days and hours in the centre and invariably returned home covered in stour."

At the same time Doug was planning his own business, tutoring maths. An advert was placed and the first two students accepted. With succeeding adverts the number grew until after a year or two he was able to stop advertising and rely on word of mouth to bring in further students.

In December 1992 a phone call from Tayside Region offered a position helping to set up a computerised database of employers willing to give work experience to Tayside pupils. As a result, Douglas spent the months from January to July phoning employers, arranging interviews with them and persuading them to allow their names to be put on the database. Although he sometimes compared it to selling double glazing it was in fact interesting and the hours could be arranged to suit himself and the Region, which paid by the hour, was happy for him to do as much or as little as he liked. In early 1993 another opportunity presented itself with an offer to lecture on Dundee University's Family History Summer School in September of that year. This was a new venture for the University and hopefully would be repeated each year. The offer was accepted. Doug in fact took over the whole course, which ran successfully. This course was, however, one of only two at the University, which managed to enrol sufficient students and the University abandoned its Summer School Programme in subsequent years. 1993 was also important in that Sheila gave up smoking. After much thought February 3rd was chosen as the day and although tempted in dreams about smoking she has never looked back. Holidays were also taken to Poland in June and to China in November. The China holiday came about because a washing machine had been bought earlier in the year! With it came an offer of £400 off a holiday from the "Distant Dreams" brochure. As the machine being slightly damaged, had cost less than this it seemed a good idea to "make a profit" by utilising the offer. The chosen holiday was one of 10 days to Beijing and Chengde, a holiday of such contrasts - staying in a 5 (or 6?) star hotel adjacent to hutongs accommodating a Chinese family and measuring only 6ft by 7ft on the outside. Memories from this holiday include: peasants winnowing grain, Imperial palaces and temples, Kunming Lake - reputed to be the inspiration for Willow Pattern china, cabbages for sale from piles 6ft wide, 6ft high and 20 ft long on the streets and once bought, stored on window sills and roofs, a piece of sculpture on sale at the Friendship Store with a price tag of 25,800,000 yuan (£35,000,000).

Ruth's graduation on 11 November 1994 was also the day when her Gran Soutar broke her hip bone in a fall. Although this was successfully operated on and she was transferred to ward 12 Ashludie Hospital for rehabilitation she was never able to walk again and was transferred to long term care in ward 1 for almost three years before she died on 6th November 1997. Sheila meantime took a serious heart attack on February 26th 1995. She survived this and took up walking to help her condition. In June Anne gained a PhD from Aberdeen University for a thesis entitled "Seasonal and Allergic Symptoms in Rural Populations" and in July Ruth bought a flat in Scott Street, Dundee. Later that year Douglas & Sheila took a holiday to Jersey, flying from Dundee Airport.



Beijing Summer Palace reputed inspiration for The Willow Pattern.

At the beginning of 1996 Doug was again asked to work on the work experience database and spent 3 months bringing it up to date. A Holiday to Boston, New England, St. John, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Cape Breton Island Halifax, Digby, Bar Harbour (Ba'haba) and back to Boston was enjoyed. Highlights of 1997 were Neil's engagement to Grace in June, Ruth starting study for an MBA and an excellent October holiday in Spain when Granada, Cordoba and Seville were visited and a week was spent on the south coast of Spain. Shortly after they returned Doug's mother died at the age of 93. As he had frequently researched Wills, Inventories and Confirmation in connection with family history Doug decided to undertake the process of applying for Confirmation and winding up the estate himself, successfully completing the process in six months.

About this time, Doug bought himself a new “toy”, an angle grinder. As a first job for it he thought he would install an extra electric socket in the bedroom. He carefully covered everything with dust sheets and started cutting. Unlike cutting by hand, it was very easy and the plaster & brick were soon cut. Doug then removed his goggles & mask to discover that everything was covered in a thick layer of grey dust. The dust had even penetrated wardrobes & drawers. Sheila's first comment when she saw the mess was “I didn't know I had so many pairs of grey suede shoes!”

Cash handling had changed by now, many bills being paid by direct debit or standing order. No more handwritten bills from the grocer or butcher but an electronically produced listing from the supermarket. The direct debits for 1997-98 are shown overleaf, along with a till receipt:

TURKEY RASHERS	1.55
GRPFRT JUICE	0.79
TURKEY RASHERS	1.55
MULTISAUER# (-1.00)	
T YOGURT 8PK	1.26
TDMS 750G	1.09
SCOT BEEF JNT	5.73
GINGERBREAD	0.69
LEEKS LOOSE	
0.25 lb @ £0.55/lb	0.14
T FROM FRAIS	1.74
TURKEY HAM	0.99
MINCE PIES	0.75
SALT FREE PEAS	0.49
LENTIL SOUP	0.39
ELMLEA SINGLE	0.55
VALUE TOMATOES	0.11
SHAPE YOG 170G	0.29
BANANAS LOOSE	
1.26 lb @ £0.49/lb	0.62
SHAPE YOG 170G	0.29
SHAPE YOG 170G	0.29

Date paid	Paid to	Amount
1st	Dundee City Council (tax)	£126.00
1st	Denplan Ins.	£13.69
1st	Scottish Widows Ins.	£25.00
1st	Scottish Widows Ins.	£25.00
1st	Scottish Widows Ins.	£11.41
1st	Norwich Union Ins.	£20.00
3rd	Prudential Ins.	£4.20
5th	Nationwide Building Soc.	£40.00
5th	Guardian Royal Exch. Ins.	£20.00
10th	Barclays Insurance	£2.62
14th	Norwich Union	£60.00
15th	British Gas	£31.50
21st	Scottish Hydro Electric	£26.00
25th	British Telecommunications	<u>£18.00</u>
	Total	<u>£423.42</u>

By 1998 The Family History Society had bought an adjacent shop which required extensive renovation before it could be incorporated into the existing one. Once again Doug was appointed Project Manager, this in addition to the post of Treasurer which he had held for seven years.



Neil & Grace

During the year, Anne gained her MSc in Occupational Hygiene and Ruth her DMS, the first stage of the MBA. Neil and Grace were married on 12th June at Prestonfield House, Edinburgh.

In 1999 Holidays were taken in York & Dalbeattie with an autumn break in Salford! This peculiar choice of venue was made to allow a visit to the Podiatry Department in Salford University, where special in-soles were made to protect Doug's feet from blistering as he had been diagnosed with EBA (epidermylosys bullosa acquisita). When in the district, visits were made to The Tate Modern Gallery, The Beatles Museum in Liverpool (Followed by a crossing on the Ferry Across the Mersey.) and the L.S. Lowery Exhibition in Salford.

The next spring, the master bedroom was completely ‘done up’ before Doug & Sheila set



off on a round the world trip. This was mainly undertaken to see Neil & Grace who had emigrated to Australia. Three days were spent in Singapore, three in Perth whence they flew via Ayres Rock to Cairns where they travelled on the Karunda Railway, saw the Great Barrier Reef and visited the Botanic Gardens. The next stop was Sydney to see the usual tourist sights before going to Canberra to stay for a few days in Jerrabomberra with Neil & Grace, who took them on a whirlwind trip around the area, including the War Museum, then to Beechworth for the weekend. The Tansworth Hotel in this gold rush town was extremely ‘atmospheric’ (perhaps old fashioned would be a better description) even including fights in the bar at night! Doug & Sheila then continued to Melbourne where they

Doug & Sheila in Pinnacles Desert

stayed for several days before flying back

to Canberra. At check in on a Friday afternoon, they were asked “Are you going to a wedding?” The implication being that no one would go to Canberra, particularly at the weekend, unless they had some good reason so to do. The return journey was via Sydney to Hawaii, then on to Vancouver where they spent several nights before returning home.

Anne & Ruth booked to visit Neil & Grace in Canberra later the same year but in the meantime (and after all the arrangements had been made) Neil & Grace had become so homesick that they sold up and returned to Scotland. The result was that while Anne & Ruth were in Australia, Neil & Grace were living in Anne’s flat in Edinburgh!



The big project in the early part of 2001 was the DIY renovation of Sheila & Doug’s bathroom. In June a short holiday was spent in Granton-on-Spey then July saw Ruby wedding celebrations with the family at The Mansion House in Auchterhouse. At the end of July, however, Sheila suffered another heart attack although she recovered quickly and they were able to holiday with friends in York and the Lake District, travelling in the first brand new car they had ever bought, a Skoda Fabia.

The following year a number of holidays were taken. In June to Orkney, seeing Skara Brae, Maes How, Ring of Brodgar, etc. In July to Cumbernauld, Coatbridge, Airdrie,



Doug & Jacques

Motherwell looking at family history sources and in September on a coach trip to France using the Rosyth-Zeebrugge ferry. Several days were spent at Loches in the Loire valley during which they visited Amboise, Chateau de Chenonceau etc. and were visited for a day by Jacques, Doug's French correspondent with whom Doug had stayed in Orleans on an exchange visit in 1953. After two nights in Paris, which was rather hot, dirty and dusty, the tour visited Chartres on the return journey to Zeebrugge. In October came the now obligatory holiday to York & Lake District.

In November the same year, Sheila contracted a chest infection, which caused her heart to race. Medication to slow the heart stopped it completely and she had to be resuscitated twice. February the next year again saw Sheila admitted to Ninewells Hospital with further heart problems.

In 2003, short holidays, to Peebles and Aberdeen were taken before Ruth's wedding to Martin Smith on 6th September 2003. Doug made the wedding cake, which consisted of three tiers decorated with 149 roses (not to mention 3 caterpillars, several aphids and a ladybird!). Neil & Grace, who had decided to return to Australia and who had been travelling there for 5 months on a sort of gap-year via US and NZ returned for the wedding. A coach trip to the Stratford-on Avon and Bourton-on-the Water area was taken in October.



L-R Grace, Neil, Bill (Sheila's brother), Anne, Martin, Ruth, Sheila, Doug

In 2004, Sheila suffered a further series of Heart attacks during the first two weeks of April. Doug was told that she was unlikely to ever be out of hospital but she rallied, was discharged at beginning of May and was able to take short breaks to Ayr and Melrose in August and York and Carlisle in October. All these places now being chosen partially because they had good coronary care facilities.



2005 began well with the birth of a grandson for Sheila & Doug when Jacob Alexander Smith was born on 22nd January weighing 9lb 1oz (4.1Kg). The new grandparents thoroughly enjoyed the next few months with opportunities to help out and to baby-sit for the new arrival.

Tay Valley Family History Society, of which Doug had been chairman since 2003, celebrated its 25th Anniversary over the weekend of 12-14 June. Sheila, as chairman's wife took a full part in the celebrations but a few days later was admitted to hospital again. She suffered repeated heart attacks and although she was discharged briefly and was at home for a week in July, a further attack caused her to be re-admitted. Over the next weeks the Family was repeatedly called to her bedside as one attack followed another and she died in the early hours of 30th July.



Doug being presented with Letters Patent by Ross Herald while Dundee's Lord Provost Letford looks on. Sheila (below) at the same function.

In the weeks before Sheila's final illness, arrangements were being made for Anne's wedding. Invitations were sent out in mid July in the hope that Sheila would make a recovery and be able to attend.

The wedding to Marius Sleuwenhoek went ahead on 2nd September at St. James's Church Broughty Ferry, followed by a reception at Lands of Loyal Hotel in Alyth. The cake decoration this time was a model of Marius's church in Delft, the Oude Kerk (Old Kirk).





L-R Marius, Anne, Doug, Neil, Grace, Ruth, Martin and Jacob.



Sheila in the outfit she had planned to wear.

In April 2006, Anne & Marius took Doug with them when they visited his family. They took a chalet in Delft for the week, as his mother wasn't really fit to cope with too many visitors. In between family visits, Anne & Doug visited some of the tourist sights while Marius attended to various pieces of business. It was the first holiday he had had where he was told to take his gardening clothes! It was, however, very nice in the sunshine, digging beside a canal with waterfowl paddling up and down. (It looked like a canal but Marius said it was just a ditch!)

In July, Neil & Grace were in Scotland for a time & Doug rented a house at Rockcliffe in Dumfriesshire, where he, Anne, Marius, Neil, Grace, Ruth, Martin & Jacob spent a week. It was a large and beautifully equipped house with lovely views and everyone agreed that the experience should be repeated sometime.

As a final trip that year Doug went on a tour that Sheila and he had often talked about. That is, to Shanghai and then up the Yangtze. The weather on the river tended to be rather foggy so that the views weren't as good as they might have been. China is certainly a country of contrasts. In the cities there is new construction going on all over. Yet, if you turn down side streets you find chickens running about and on one occasion a butcher's shop which was simply a trestle table with beef hanging on hooks above it. In the countryside just a few miles away, peasants are still ploughing with water buffalo but their houses (more just shacks) have satellite dishes outside!



Everything in the rather foggy left-hand photo has been built in the last 15 years, along with 6 bridges and 6 tunnels.

For some time, Ruth and Doug had been interested in learning to make windows with lead and coloured glass so when a class was advertised they joined it and managed to make a number of panels, boxes and lights.



The photo alongside was taken in October 2006. Jacob was more interested in dismantling the TV remote control than having his photo taken with Grandpa. Kitty, the toy cat, was his constant companion.

One of the most interesting things in 2007 was a trip which Doug took to New Zealand and Australia in April/May. The two weeks in NZ were on a package holiday and took him round South Island from Christchurch back to Christchurch then over to North Island and brief visits to Wellington, Rotorua and Auckland. Altogether it was a very pleasant time with good company on the tour and the weather, which can be quite bad at that time, was good after the second day.





He then flew to Sydney and spent a week with Neil & Grace before flying to Darwin then Kununurra, a little town in the north of Western Australia. While there he visited El Questro and the Bungle Bungle (No! There shouldn't be an 's' on the end of that since, in the Aboriginal language, Bungle is singular and it is made plural by repeating it.) The walk into Cathedral Gorge was probably the most impressive walk he had ever done. It was also the hottest since the temperature was in the high thirties Celsius. The photo alongside doesn't really capture it accurately. He was travelling independently in the north of Australia and occasionally joined day trips to other places. The journey out to NZ took 35 hours and the whole trip involved fourteen flights!

Neil & Grace spent a few days in Scotland in August and the whole family was at a surprise 40th birthday party for Martin. It was a surprise because it wasn't actually his birthday. This was because he was to be working in India on his birthday and this was the closest we could manage.

Jacob was almost three by the end of 2007 and really enjoyed dismantling anything, as can be seen in the photo, and was beginning to learn how to put things together again. Doug and he cooked, baked, took trips on busses, had bonfires together and anything else that Doug could think of to keep both of them amused on Thursday afternoons!



At coffee after church one day in 2008, someone mentioned that Doug's birthday had



been the past week. Someone else asked 'Was it a big birthday? One with a zero at the end?' he admitted that it was and the reply was 'I thought you would be about eighty'!



He was glad that that everyone else laughed at this suggestion. The birthday was celebrated twice in fact. Once, on the Saturday nearest his birthday, when the family took him to The Lake of Menteith Hotel. Neil & Grace were at home in Australia so couldn't be there but when they came in August a barge was hired on the Union Canal (near Linlithgow) and again everyone had a good day although having arrived the previous day, Grace, particularly, was very jet lagged. In the picture Grace & Neil aren't walking off in the huff but are going to raise the Australian flag on the Barge! After both trips everyone went to Anne & Marius's newly purchased house in Falkirk.

Earlier in the year Doug had spent a lot of time building an en-suite shower and a large wardrobe in his main bedroom. This was an interesting project, which he had been thinking about for a long time but which he eventually started on the spur of the moment when he had nothing to do one day.

In March, Doug spent a week in Netherlands with Anne & Marius. The weather was awful but it didn't matter too much, as the main intention was help re-decorate Marius's mother's house and they could do that most of the time and choose to see some of the sights on the occasions when the snow or rain stopped. At the end of September Doug took a trip to Italy, flying to Venice then travelling to Assisi, Sorrento, Capri, Pompeii, Rome, Florence and back to Venice. He had visited Venice before but the rest were new to him. It was a good trip but couldn't be described as a holiday as they were constantly moving on, the latest time of departure being 8 am! And the earliest 5am! This last was on the final day when they had to travel from Florence to arrive in Venice by 9am. The brochure had said they would travel through the beautiful Tuscan countryside but it didn't say it would be in darkness!

The most important happening of the year occurred just before Christmas, that is, the arrival of Ruth & Martin's baby, Benjamin David Smith on 19th December 2008. Benjamin (Alongside at 5 months.) weighed in at 9lb 4oz. They were out of hospital in time to come to Doug's on Christmas Day.



Doug was working on two main projects this year. The first was to finish off his en-suite by installing the toilet. This was a rather nasty job, which involved lots of crawling about under the floorboards, which he didn't much like. The second was to re-roof the dormer. He was almost finished this when he suddenly thought that perhaps he shouldn't be climbing about roofs at his age. This had him quite worried until he finished!

In May 2009 Doug took a trip to Moscow and St. Petersburg. This was very interesting but rather annoying when he realised that tourists were being charged three, four or, in

one case, even twenty times what the locals paid in entry fees. At least the metro was cheap and once he got the hang of it easy to use.

At the end of August, at Neil's suggestion, the family took a 'cottage' during their annual trip back to Scotland. They chose to go to Hume, near Kelso in the Scottish Borders. Apart from one day, the weather was co-operative and everyone seemed to enjoy the week with walks, cycle trips and outings to local attractions.

Back: Neil, Anne, Marius, Douglas, Grace
Front: Jacob, Benjamin, Ruth, Martin at Hume .



A Scrapbook follows:



September 2004
Back L-R: Martin, Neil, Grace, Marius.
Front: Ruth, Sheila, Doug, Anne.



Anne & Marius's cake.



Ruth & Martin's cake.



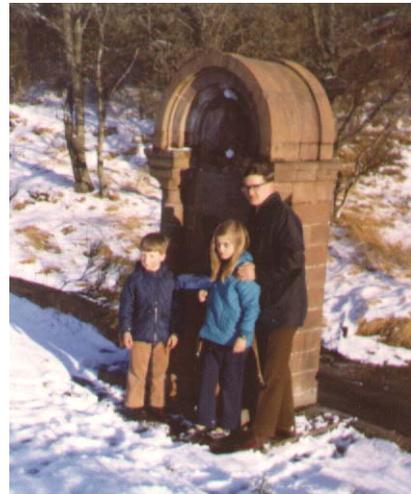
Nan Valentine, Willie Valentine, Sheila Valentine, Douglas Soutar 1959



John Lamb, Maggie Fraser, Janet Bain, Julia Fraser, Carol Fraser,
Bill Valentine, Willie Valentine, Patricia Lamb. 12 July 1961.



17 Blake Avenue before harling



Neil, Anne, Dad, Glen Prosen.



Neil at Sunday School





Neil (middle) with Boys' Brigade at Glen Doll.



Anne & Neil



Three girls who have gained 100 per cent. in the Girls' Brigade Bible study competition. From left—Heather Duncan (13), 1st Chalmers-Ardler; Anne Soutar (10), 10th McCheyne; and Jacqueline Murray (13), 20th Menzieshill Company.



SS Uganda Cruise 1978. Kirkton High staff: L-R Dorothy Grant, officer, Margaret Arthur, David McIntosh, Anne Lilburn, Douglas Soutar.

Presented to

Douglas Soutar

On his retiral
from the Junior Section
of the 9th. Dundee McCheyne Church Company—
of the Boys' Brigade

after

28 years

as Leader in Charge.

— . —



Karen Grainger and Ruth
receiving Baden Powell awards



Ruth, Sheila & Nettie



Neil, Anne, Sheila, Bill, Nettie, and Ruth 1986



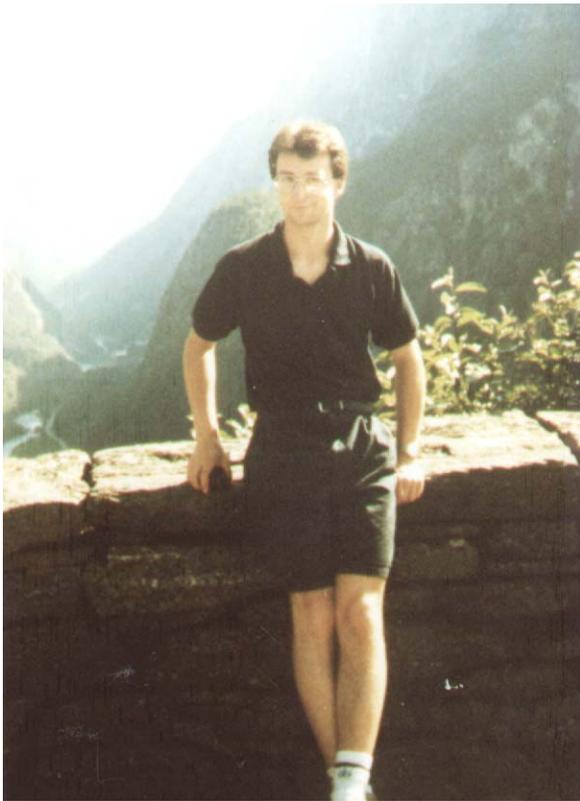
Trailer tent at York.



Neil, Anne & Ruth.



Above, Neil's Graduation



"Handsome Devil" (Neil's words)



Half Marathon



L-R Bob Williams, Bill Valentine, Sheila Soutar, Doug Soutar at Diane Stewart's wedding reception Aug 1990



Neil, Anne & Ruth



Anne. Ruth, Sheila.



Neil's 21st.



Can't believe how bad these passport photo's are!



Neil, Sheila & Ruth at Ruth's 21st.





Teachers retiring

Two long-serving teachers are retiring from Dundee's Kirkton High. Douglas Soutar (right), principal teacher of guidance, has spent 32 years in teaching, all at Kirkton.

Physical education teacher Sheila Noble has 37 years' service, the last 20 at the Dundee school.

They are pictured with acting rector Malcolm Davidson.



Sheila, relaxing in Jersey

DUNDEE UNIVERSITY has come up with an appealing alternative to summer sunshine holidays and is putting Bonnie Dundee on the map for a holiday with a difference. Discovering Scotland Summer Schools 1993 offers a dozen courses reflecting a growing interest in Scottish heritage.

There is everything from fiddle music to smuggling in Tayside, from creative writing to a course on geology.

Each course is designed to provide the perfect combination of lectures and excursions to ensure that everyone has an opportunity to discover Scotland, whether they are a beginner or have had some experience in their field of study.

Tracing Your Scottish Roots is expected to

=BY

Craigie

be a particularly popular course. It will consist of illustrated lectures, workshops and visits to archives, libraries and museums, the Scottish Record Office and New Register House in Edinburgh.

Incredibly, all participants will need is the name, approximate date and place of birth, marriage and death in Scotland of only one ancestor.

The lost age of steam

Going Scottish Railways is perfect for a railway enthusiast or even just a hopeless romantic.

The course includes excursions to Bo'ness and Kinneil Railway and other stations will provide a trip backwards through time to the lost age of coal and steam.

Every course also offers an opportunity to enjoy extra-curricular activities—a trip to Glamis Castle, evening entertainment and guest lectures, whether you attend the courses on a residential or non-residential basis.

Most of the courses cost £140 (non-residential) and £265 for those wishing to stay at Airlie Hall, in the centre of the campus.

Going Scottish Railways is £165 (£290).

For further details contact Gillian McIntosh, Summer Schools, Centre for Continuing Education, University of Dundee, Dundee DD1 4HN.



Sheila with Chinese "friends"



At Carol Fraser's wedding 3rd Sept 1983

Births

CRABB.—At Charleton, Montrose, on Wednesday, July 21, 1971, to Ian and Sheila (nee Duncan)—a daughter. (Both well.)

DOUGLAS.—At Maryfield Hospital, on July 22, 1971, to Ramsay and Laurine (nee Ferner), Saucher Village—a daughter. (Both well.)

JOSS.—Sandra (nee Ross) and Ahetair, 19 Kinghorne Terrace, Dundee, are happy to announce the arrival of Niall's brother, Keith, at D.R.I., on July 22, 1971.

MACLARTY.—At P.R.I., on Saturday, July 17, 1971, to Donald and Margaret—a son. (Both well.) Thanking doctors and nurses.

MELVILLE.—At Robroyston Hospital, Glasgow, on July 23, 1971, to George and Jean (nee Robertson) 38 Tweed Drive, Bearsden, Dunbartonshire—a son. (Both well.)

SMITH.—At Craigtoun Maternity Hospital, on July 22, 1971, to Jim and May (nee Lauder), Deasdale, Leven Road, Lundin Links—a daughter. (Both well.)

SOUTAR.—At D.R.I., on July 22, 1971, to Douglas and Sheila (nee Valentine)—a daughter. (Both well.)

YEAMAN.—At Craigtoun Hospital, on Thursday, July 22, 1971, to Ian and Edna (nee Robertson)—a son. (Both well.)



Sheila May 1999



Sheila and Doug's wedding china

Sasines Abridgement 1960 No. 4169 (No. 12) Dec 24 1960 10 - 10.50 (By post)
Feu disposition by Arthur Downie, builder, 2 Victoria Road, West Ferry, Dundee –
Douglas John Soutar, school teacher, 382 Perth Road, Dundee - of 17 poles 20 yards of ground with house
17 Blake Avenue, Broughty Ferry, Dundee thereon, bounded on the north by said Avenue, part of 499
poles 15 yards of ground (part of lands and estate of Balgillo) in Parish of Monifieth, described in disp to
Charles Buist, recorded 16 May 1905. Dated Nov 30 1960.