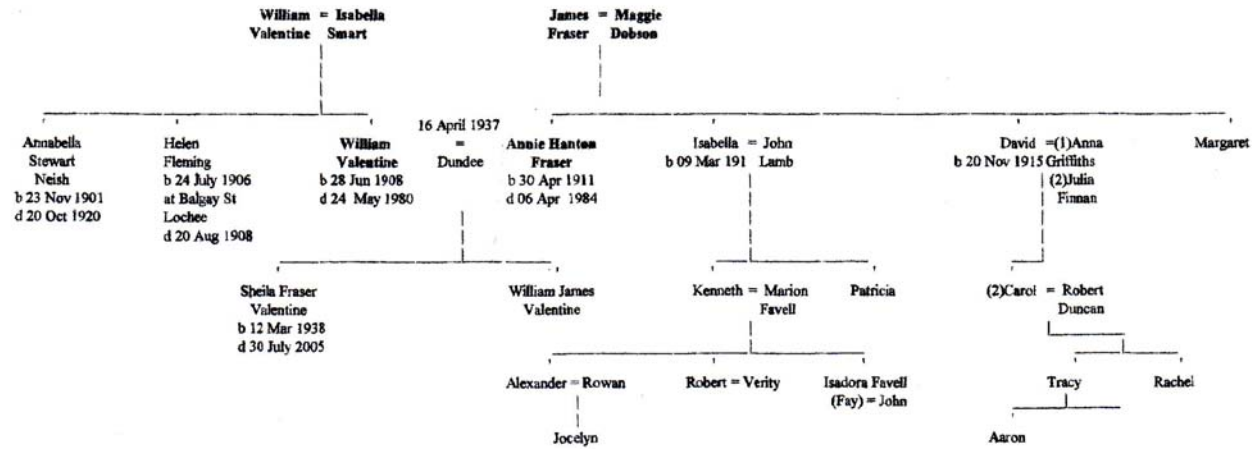


William Valentine and Annie Fraser



William Valentine Annie Hanton Fraser

Willie & Nan were married on 16 April 1937 at Albert Halls, Tullideph Road, Dundee. They honeymooned in London with one week in the Bonnington Hotel and one week with the friends, the Guilds. The original suggestion had been that the wedding should be on 30th April (Nan's Birthday) but it was decided this was too close to the coronation of George VI on 12 May. (didn't want to upstage him). Willie was a Jute Clerk of 63 Kirk Street, Lochee and she a dressmaker of Provost Road. After the honeymoon they returned to stay at 63 Kirk Street, one of a row of cottages formerly known as Bible Row, the former Valentine home.



Willie & Nan



Kirk Street Cottages

Sheila was born 12 March 1938 in Clement Park Nursing Home. She was baptized on 12th May and the family moved to 287 Strathmore Avenue eighteen month later. When war broke out in 1939, Willie who had had pneumonia several times was declared Grade III for the armed forces so continued working but added ARP duties - firewatching in case

of incendiary attack.

On one occasion when walking near Beechwood with Jim, his father-in-law someone started baiting Willie about not being in the forces, Jim waited for no explanation, simply felling the man with one blow.

Around this time Willie started working for the Prudential Assurance Co. travelling around North & Central Scotland selling insurance & collecting premiums. On one occasion when driving from Aberdeen to Dundee in blackout he drove the whole way between two fish lorries (vehicles were allowed to show only a tiny slit of light so no headlights). Aircraft kept passing overhead the whole time as he drove. This was the Clydebank raid of 1941. When he arrived home he was quick to tell Nan to take Sheila to the Air Raid Shelter. Nan didn't usually go there as the doctor had said it was too damp and bad for her chest however on this occasion it seemed the best course of action. In 1941 also, Nan was Matron of Honour & Sheila flower girl at Bella's Wedding. Sheila's dress was made from her mother's wedding dress - white satin with streamers.



Nan and Sheila



Willie and Sheila

Shortly after Willie became one of only six OB (Ordinary Branch) reps. With responsibility for the North of Scotland This proved lucrative in that he was dealing with farmers and others who could afford to take insurance and so boost his earnings. It also had the advantage that he could get the occasional eggs or hen on the black

market! Sheila started school in 1943 at Harris Academy. Children's parties were held for her this year and in 1945. On 30 Aug 1945 Bill was born in Fernbrae Nursing home. Nan had climbed the Law the day before to celebrate VJ (Victory in Japan) day. Whilst Nan and Billy were in Fernbrae, Sheila met her dad by accident after school and persuaded him to take her to see her mum and the new baby but Granny didn't know about this and was worried when Sheila didn't come home from school on the bus as usual but then became furious when she found out why. The installation of a telephone at 287, which happened in 1946, might have avoided that particular difficulty but supplies of everything after the war were strictly limited. Later the same year Nan spent 6 weeks in DRI with chest problems. Although her weight dropped to six stones she recovered sufficiently to be



Sheila and Billy

allowed home just before Christmas.

At this time Sheila remembers wearing a blue coat and beret to Sunday school and having difficulty getting the beret on properly.

Between 1945 and 1954 Sheila had piano lessons from Miss Bird, who always threatened to open a sweetie shop when her pupils didn't play well. Sheila's Saturday timetable was: 11.30 music, 12.00 election then to William Miller (grocer) for Belfast Ham. 1945 saw the family's first holidays in Aberdeen with Bella & John at Balmoral Road, - just up the road from Duthie Park then from 1947 at Ashley Road.



Sheila

A Maroon Ford was bought in 1947, the first car they had owned for some time because of wartime restrictions and a tradition of Sunday picnics was instituted. Very few people had cars at this time and various friends and relations appreciated being asked to accompany them to Loch Tummel, Queens View, the Hermitage and so on. Holidays by this time were to Morningside Avenue in Aberdeen still with Bella & John. After the holiday in 1950 Sheila started secondary school at Harris Academy. At the same time Bill started school at Rockwell because Harris was full but transferred to Harris before the end of the academic year.

Over much of their time in Strathmore Avenue, Nan would shop at Bessie Hoy's grocers a few hundred yards down the road. While most of the customers were coming in buying for their immediate needs - 1oz tea and 2 oz sugar, for example, Nan would sit in the back shop with a cup of tea while the Hoys made up her order - no self service in those days. An old shopping basket was always taken to carry dirty things like potatoes in these days before pre-packs. Finally a bill would be written out by hand detailing everything which had been bought. All the while the gossip of the district would be relayed by the shopkeepers - something modern supermarkets can't do! The bill paid, and having spent the whole afternoon, Nan would stagger home up the street with her heavy bags and the news!

Around 1953 or '54 Sheila interest in football grew and she persuaded her dad to take her to Dens Park. This was the start of an interest, which has never left her. In 1953 Patricia had been born to Bella and John and it wasn't felt fair to go there on holiday so they set out touring and sleeping in the car! After a night at Lochearn at the roadside and another just outside Inverness they decided that this maybe wasn't such a good idea and returned home.

1955 saw Nan again in hospital - Maryfield this time for an operation on her nose. Sheila passed all her exams and later in the year joined the church at St Luke's Lochee. "Unchained Melody" she remembers was in the pops.

Sheila's school days finished in 1956. In the autumn she went on a train trip to Blackpool leaving at 5am on Sunday and returning in the early hours of Monday morning! "Mountain Greenery" was now in the pops. After a holiday to Grantown on Spey with Bella & John she started Teacher Training College and although she did well at the theory she hated the practical placements and left at the end of first year. After a short spell working at Smedleys Cannery in the summer filling cans with rasps she started work in Telephone House on 9th September 1957. The next February, Sheila met up with Douglas at the J.M. on 5th February. Neighbour Beryl Dow married on February 8th, a day of heavy snow, which saw Willie out clearing the paths and talking to everyone. Sheila took a holiday to Grantown with her friend Stella in September and Granny Fraser wintered at 287 as she had done other winters since her husband Jim died in 1956.

On 1st Jan 1959 Sheila went to meet Douglas at his cousin's farm, Raith, the 2pm train (yes! trains ran on New Year's day) didn't materialize (presumably the driver had celebrated too well) and a long wait ensued before the 4pm. This year also saw Sheila's 21st and the family got their first TV. Emergency Ward 10, (Tues & Friday) and Hughie Green's Opportunity Knocks were popular. The set, which cost £86, was too expensive to be covered by the normal house insurance and required a separate policy costing 11s 6d per year. Sheila and Douglas became engaged on 1st November and they were married on 12 July 1961.

Granny Fraser broke her hip in February 1962, she spent some time in DRI then stayed with Nan & Willie for 14 weeks before it became too difficult for Nan to look after her and she was hospitalized in Stracathro, Brechin, Whitehills (Forfar) and Victoria hospitals. Later that year a train excursion to Loch Lomond with the whole family was taken, travelling by Stirling, Clydeside and Balloch, where the "Maid of the Loch" was taken to Ardluie. The train had moved into position to continue the trip to Crianlarich, Callander and Dunblane. In 1964 Willie and Nan spent a holiday with David and Julia in Hamilton and enjoyed trips to Largs and a cruise "Doon the Watter" among other things.

With increasing affluence, alterations began to improve their home. Coal fires were replaced by gas ones, which meant that the coalbunker could be removed from the kitchen. This was a great saving in time and effort as the whole kitchen no longer had to be cleaned of coal dust after each visit by the coal man and of course fires no longer had to be set, stoked or cleaned out for the next day thus reducing the 'stour' in the whole house. At the same time the old gas wash boiler, which Nan had never used, was removed and replaced by a "state of the art" twin-tub washing machine. Other kitchen fittings were also installed as well as fitted wardrobes in the bedroom.

Throughout his life Willie was passionate about golf being a founder member of Downfield, a member of Grange in Monifieth and of Carnoustie. His handicap at its best was 8. Family holidays always consisted of golf in the morning for the "boys" and picnics with the family in the afternoon. In 1973 he won the Downfield Handicap Rosebowl a high honour but was unfortunately unable to continue playing after that because of rheumatoid arthritis. For many years Bill and friends attended the Open Golf Championships - Lytham St. Ann's, Muirfield, St. Andrews, Troon, Carnoustie and so on.

On one occasion a hole-in-one resulted in Willie being interviewed by the police! - A number of murders had occurred in the West of Scotland, other people had been engaged in conversation by the suspected killer but had escaped before they became his next victim. During these conversations he quoted from the Bible, thus gaining the name "Bible John" and mentioned that he had had-a-hole in one. The police therefore arrived at the door at 287 Strathmore Avenue as part of the process of checking out everyone who had managed this feat. Fortunately Willie was able to convince them that he was in no way involved!

An activity which both Nan and Willie enjoyed was reading and on Saturdays he would go to a little, private owned local library above a tobacconist and sweetie shop on the Brantwood Avenue/Strathmore Avenue junction. Here, books could be taken out for a few pence a week and Willie would choose their reading for the week (Nan was content to allow him to choose her reading material as well). Libraries such as this one existed at many newsagents and tobacconists although Local Authority Libraries also existed. Nan also enjoyed some success in doing "Spot the Ball" competitions and on several occasions won hampers.

Willie was also Union Rep at the Prudential. This involved him attending meetings in London. He usually travelled by air until an air crash occurred after which he travelled by train. As well as attending to the union business, the meetings allowed him to meet many people, some of them very important and also led to him being invited to visit the Houses of Parliament.

For his valedictory interview on retirement Willie and Nan travelled to London in 1968. Bella & John also went and after the formal proceedings they joined up and toured London and the South Coast. Willie was still awaiting delivery of his new car so they travelled in John's. Willie's car eventually arrived, a Triumph 1300 with damson paint and black upholstery. This was Willie's pride and joy and took he and Nan on many B&B holidays often to the north of Scotland - Dornoch, Thurso, Fort William etc. Nan, who tended to be shy, always enjoyed these holidays as Willie would speak to everyone and thus allow her to meet people as well. The car itself is still in regular use by Sheila thirty years later.

After retirement Willie worked at various jobs - a Bookkeeper for Blackness Garage, a Filing Clerk at General Accident Assurance Co. a collector for Vernons Football Pools. He also joined Barnhill Bowling Club but didn't have enough time to bowl much although he did visit the club for companionship.

By 1969 Bill was teaching at Alloa Academy until 1973 then at Kirriemuir for a short time before being promoted to Principal Teacher of Business Studies at Nairn Academy where he stayed until 1977 when he moved to Kinross Academy. Staying in Dundee and travelling to Kinross. He decided to purchase a house in Broadford Terrace, Broughty Ferry into which he and his parents moved in 1975. Willie became increasingly incapacitated by rheumatoid arthritis and died on 24 May 1980. Shortly after Bill and his mother moved to 15 Blake Avenue, next door to Sheila, an arrangement, which among other things allowed Ruth to visit her Gran each day before school, a visit both of them enjoyed. Following a stroke on 1st April 1984 Nan died on 6th April.

1908 Dundee 282/5 no. 236

William Valentine	1908	M	William Valentine blacksmith	William Valentine father
	28 June		Bella Valentine	
	1h 15m a.m.		M.S. Smart	
	3 South Church St.		1900 Dec 31 Lochee	
	Lochee			



Golden Wedding of John Dobson and Mary Howe

Back L-R ?,?, George Williams, Doris Williams,?,?, Isabella Lamb ?,?,?, Julia Fraser,?, Agnes Dobson,
David Young, ?, William Valentine, Margaret Dobson, Charles Dobson, ?,?, Ruth Wilkie,?,?,?,?

Middle: ?,?,?,?, Anna Cowper, May Young, John Dobson, Eleanor Young, ?, Annie Dobson,
Isabella Luddington.



287 Strathmore Avenue 1989



Kirk Street (on left) and Bible Row,



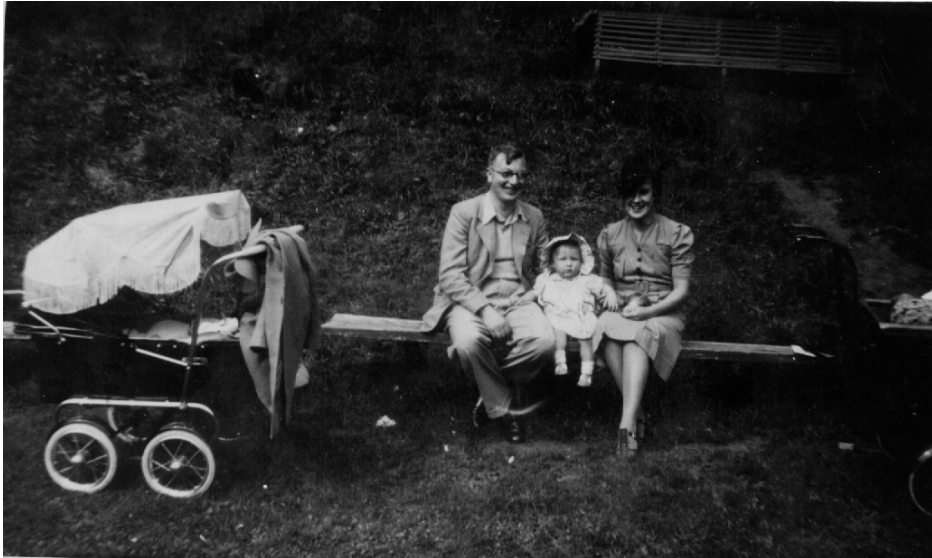
Willie and Nan.



Willie and Nan



Sheila aged 18 months



Willie, Sheila and Nan



Nan, Billy, Willie and Sheila



James Fraser, Sheila, Maggie Fraser, Nan & Willie



Sheila



Jim Fraser, Maggie Fraser, Billy, Willie & Sheila



Willie, Sheila, Nan, Billy, Bella and Nan.



Sheila

*287, Rathmore Avenue,
Dundee.*

The Prudential Assurance Company Ltd.

Mr. W. Valentine.

ORDINARY BRANCH REPRESENTATIVE. TELEPHONE 66406.



Taken at Frances Smith's 21st.



NATIONAL SERVICE (ARMED FORCES) ACTS

GRADE CARD.

Registration No. DMZ 10517
Mr. William Valentini

whose address on his registration card is 284 Strathmore Rd. Dundee

was medically examined at
on

and placed in
GRADE* III

E.D. Until*.....(Medical Board stamp.)

Chairman of Board Gus W. Miller

Man's Signature W Valentini

*The roman numeral denoting the man's Grade (with number also spelt out) will be entered in RED ink by the Chairman himself, e.g., Grade I (one), Grade II (two) (a) (Vision). If the examination is deferred the Chairman will enter a date after the words "E.D. Until", and cross out "Grade"; alternatively, the words "E.D. Until....." will be struck out.

N.S. 55

[P.T.O.]

DESCRIPTION OF MAN.

Age 33 Height 5 ft. 9 ins.
Colour of eyes Blue Colour of hair Brown

If this Certificate is lost or mislaid, the fact must be at once reported.

The finder should send it to the nearest Local Office of the Ministry of Labour and National Service.



Willie and Nan



Anne Stewart (Nee Williams) & Bill



Bill and Nan



Willie