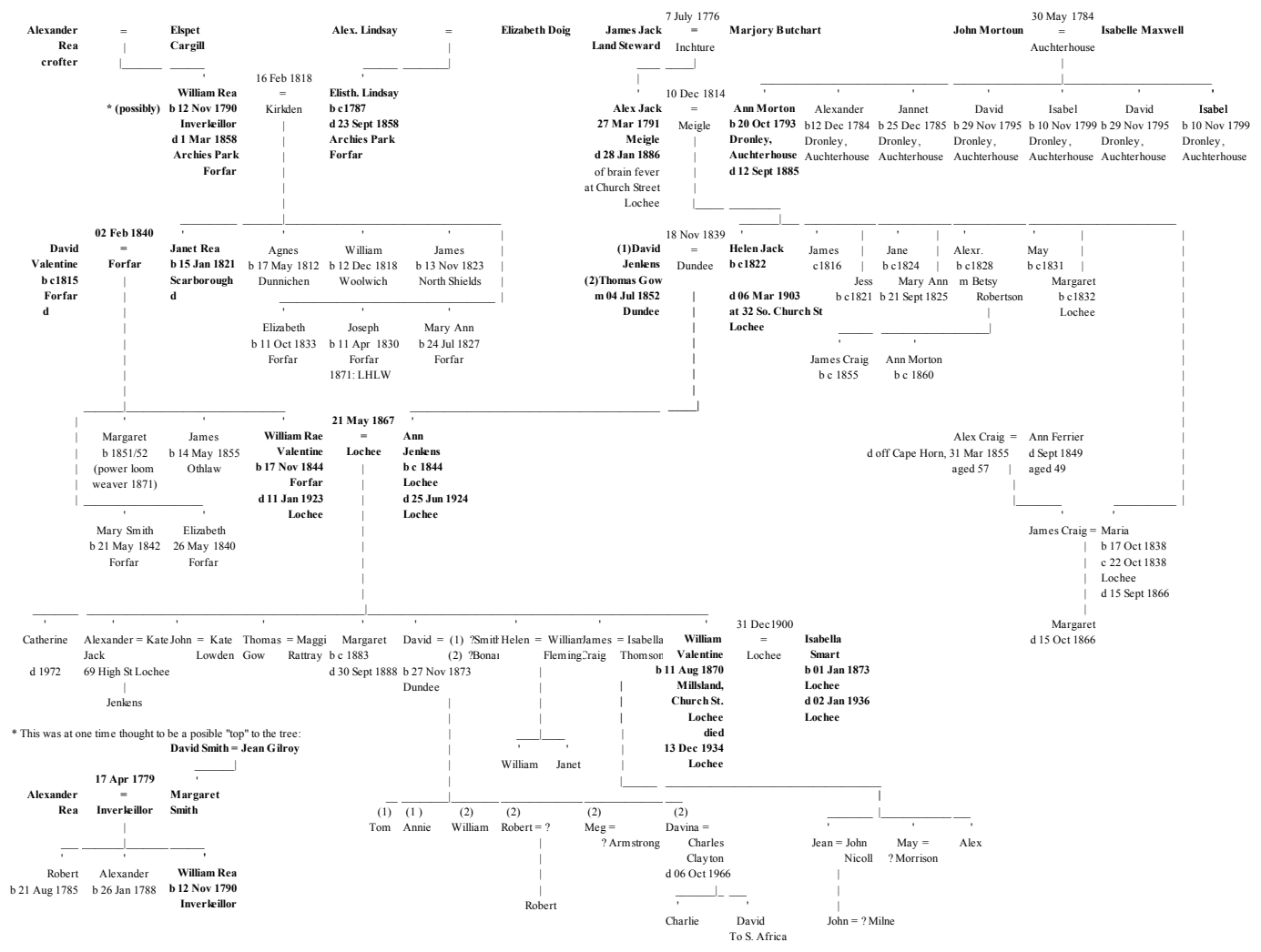


**David Valentine Janet Rea**



David Valentine Janet Rea

No record has been found of David's birth although it must have been about 1816 and the censuses all agree that it took place in Forfar. Janet had been born in Scarborough, England on 29<sup>th</sup> December 1820 when her father was stationed there during his service with the Royal Artillery. The birth is recorded at The Old Meeting House – Presbyterian or Independent, Scarborough, Yorkshire.



The couple were married in Forfar on 2 February 1840 when they were described as being “both this parish” and he was a weaver. A daughter, Elizabeth, was born in May that year.

Just over a year later they are living at Zoar, which is now the northern part of Forfar:

1841 Census Forfar, Forfar. Dist 288 book 14

Zoar

Valentine David	h m	25	linen HLW	y
Valentine Janet	w m	20		y (a mistake!)
Valentine Elizabeth	d u	1		y

When their son, Wm. Rae (or Rea) Valentine was born in Forfar on 17 Nov 1844, David was a linen handloom weaver and they were living at Horsewater Wynd which is now called Craig-o'-Loch Road and is in the west of the town. The house was 12 houses north from West High Street although it is fairly certain that the houses here have been re-built since then. At that time the area was mainly populated by people who were earning their living by weaving.

1851 Census Forfar Dist. 288 Book 14 Page17

Horsewater Wynd

Vallantine David	h m	35	HLW linen yarn	Forfar, Forfar
Vallantine Janet	w m	30	weavers wife	England
Valantine Elizabeth	d u	10	at home	Forfar, Forfar
Vallantine Mary	s u	8	scholar	Forfar, Forfar
Vallantine William	s u	6	scholar	Forfar, Forfar



Looking northwards from the Forfar-Aberdeen road towards Birkenbush.

On 14 May 1855 Janet gave birth to a son, James at Birkenbush Cottage in the parish of Othlaw. This is several miles north of Forfar. This is the only birth to the couple that took place after statutory registration of births began. The certificate tells us that David was 44, and an agricultural labourer. Janet is recorded as being 35 and born in Scarborough. As a “bonus” the 1855 registration tells us that James was her 7<sup>th</sup> child, of which two boys and three girls were still living and one boy and one girl were deceased. James himself is not with the family in 1861 census and we can probably assume an infant death.

By 1861 the family had moved to the Lochee suburb of Dundee where they remained until at least 1871.

1861 Census. Dundee, Lochee Dist 282/3 bk. 2 pg. 22

Mid Street, Smith's Land

Valentine David	h m	46	lab	Forfar, Forfar
Valentine Janet	w m	40		England
Valentine Elizabeth	d u	20	linen weaver	Forfar, Forfar
Valentine Mary	d u	18	linen weaver	Forfar, Forfar
Valentine William	s u	16	stoker	Forfar, Forfar
Valentine Margaret	d u	10	scholar	Forfar, Forfar

2 rooms with windows.

1871 Census Dundee, Lochee Dist 282/5 Book 2 page 15

114 Mid Street

Valentine David	h m	55	gardener	Forfar, Forfar
Valentine Janet	w m	50	housekeeper	England
Valentine Margaret	d u	19	power loom weaver	Forfar, Forfar

2 rooms with windows.

(As district 282/3 became 282/5 in 1871 it is probable this is the same house that they were occupying in 1861).

Despite repeated searches nothing further has been found about David and Janet after this date. They do not appear in the 1881 census in any part of Britain or Canada nor in the 1880 U.S. census. There is no record of their deaths anywhere in Scotland. (The indexes have been checked repeatedly both on the old paper indexes and on the modern computerised system). They may have moved furth of Scotland but there is no family tradition of such a move, this in a family which knew its history in considerable detail before any research was started.

A David Valentine of 4 Mid St reported the death of his brother Robert on 31 Mar 1874 but the 1881 census reveals that this David was born 1810, his birth place was not Forfar and his wife's name was not Janet.

As neither birth nor death has been found for David and there is no record of him owning property or leaving a will, no further progress is likely on this line of research. The index of the Minutes of the Forfar Weaver's Incorporation has been checked but no one named Valentine is therein.

The following David Valentines have been checked and are not thought to be correct:

Age	55	in	1872	Dist	282/2	No.	74
	66		1879		282/4		35 (this one died in the asylum and no details of parents were known)
	78		1893		685/4		793
	83		1896		282/1		138

In 1923 on the death of David and Janet's son, William, their grand-daughter, Catherine had David recorded as "wine merchant (deceased)" but nothing can be found to substantiate this.

O.P.R. Angus, Forfar

15 Jan 1821. William Rea, Royal Artillery and Elizabeth Lindsay his spouse had their daughter born at Scarborough 29 Dec 1820 baptized 15 Jan 1821, Janet.

O.P.R. Angus Forfar

2 Feb 1840 David Valentine weaver and Janet Rea both this parish were three several times proclaimed in the churches of Forfar and were afterwards married.