



When my mother died and I was clearing out her papers I came across an extract from the Courier and Advertiser of Dundee, dated February 1893, reporting the Golden Wedding (1843 to 1893) of my great-grandparents **Alexander Young** and **Helen Barnet**, above. They had 17 children, one of whom had died of diphtheria, another one with meningitis, and of two sets of twins only one had survived in each case. Twelve of their children were present and 30 to 40 of their grandchildren, one of whom was my father, **James Small Young**, who died when I was six years old. I had an Uncle **Will**, his brother, who used to visit us each week and told us tales of the family.

Finding this piece of paper triggered my interest and led me to research my family history. In that century when so many children died from typhus, etc – it is sad walking round the churchyards to see

that it was nothing for whole families to be wiped out. Mine had been so lucky!

### Golden Wedding at Errol

From the Courier and Advertiser of Dundee, February 1893 - *‘On Friday evening the golden wedding of Mr and Mrs Young of Waterbutts, Errol, was celebrated. Mr Young has been gardener for the last ten or twelve years to Mr Patrick Hunter of Waterybutts, whose family were most anxious that such a rare occasion should be properly observed. Over a hundred friends and neighbours met to honour the worthy couple. The larger granary, nicely decorated, was put at their disposal, and a little past eight o’clock the company sat down to a most sumptuous repast. Of those present about thirty or forty were grandchildren, and about a dozen were of the 17 children Mrs Young has presented to her husband. The father of Mrs Young, who is hale and hearty at 93, was also there to give her*

*,away as he did 50 years ago. Mr Angus Carr of Clockmaden who was best man at Mr Young's marriage was also there hale and hearty and, along with the bride and bridegroom, led off the first dance after the tables were cleared The Rev. John Honey, Inchtute, was the officiating clergyman on this occasion and after supper he made a very humorous speech and stated he had a very pleasing duty to perform. After passing a high eulogium on Mr and Mrs Young and family, he presented the worthy couple with a purse and sovereigns entirely collected from their children and grandchildren. He also presented a number of articles from other well-wishers in the district. Mr Young feelingly replied, stating that he enjoyed a position that night and received tokens of respect he was unworthy of. The rest of the evening was pleasantly spent.'*

### Tenant Farmers

My gt. gt. Grandfather was a Tenant Farmer on the **Duke of Atholl's** Estate in Redgorton, Perthshire. The Youngs had been tenants on that farm, "Upper Benchill" since the 1600s, first as tenants of the Nairne's. But their property was sequestrated at the 1745 rising, and according to history the Duke of Atholl who was a cousin cheated him of his property before he could buy it back. The farm is still a working farm in Redgorton. I had a chance to go and see it but it had all been changed since my people's time.

He died in 1838, and that time my gt Grandfather at 15 wasn't old enough to run the farm, and I suspect he was a gardener at heart.

He had moved down to 9, North Mains Farm, near Longforgan by the 1851 Census, at which time he first started working for the Hunter family who were his employers for the rest of his life.

And then to Seasyde Cottage in the grounds of Seasyde House, on the Firth of Tay by the 1861 Census.

Onwards to Overyards House Longforgan as a Market Gardener by the 1871 Census and the Mammiesroom Farmhouse in Errol by 1881. My Great Uncle **John** was the tenant farmer of Mammiesroom and I expect the old people moved there to help him. My son, **Myles**, has not been able, up to now, to get any photographs of either of these farms.



But by the 1891 Census at the age of 68, Alexander had moved to Waterybutts Cottage in the grounds of Waterybutts Lodge above, and here I am checking out the Waterybutts garden where Alexander worked for the Hunter family.



This quote is taken from "What's In Will Out," a book by **James Cameron** about shorthorn cattle -

*By heredity and early training Mr Wm. Constable Hunter, W.S., has taken naturally to farming and stock-breeding. His father, the late Mr Patrick Hunter, one of the ablest agriculturists in Central Scotland, long tenant of Ardgaith in the western section of the Carse of Gowrie, and latterly owner of Waterybutts, Inchture, was a son of Mr Charles Hunter, who took up the tenancy of Ardgaith in 1828'.*



Later on retirement Alexander and Helen moved to the smaller Waterybutts Gatehouse as finally all the children had left home!

When I saw the archivist at Blair Castle she told me that my family paid their rent on time and didn't hit the factor!!!

### **A Flying Start**

I was lucky that my mother had kept all the Young certificates, which got me off to a flying start. In Scotland, whether it was Births, Marriages or Deaths, the parents were also named on the certificates, so you had two generations to start with which was a great help.

My first job was to look on the IGI produced by the Mormons in Salt Lake City in the USA. They had been listing the details from the Scottish Records (which I was interested in as my family all came from there). The nearest IGI reader was in Sutton Library so off I went hopefully, and the first name I came across was my gt. Grandfather's birth! I found his date of birth and where he was born, his wife's name, where she was born and the date of their wedding. Nothing about deaths because you were just gone!! If you are lucky, when you read the church records, you might find the name of who had died and borrowed the mortcloth. This was used to cover the coffin and a charge was made for this. It was the only way to find a death unless there was a gravestone in the churchyard with the family name. A useful way to get the names of the family.

The next place to look was the census, because I now knew where they were born and married, and from that you found the names of the children and where they were born. I have copies of the census (from 1851 to 1891) and from that I have the details of my gt-Aunts and Uncles.

Incidentally, my Great Uncle John married a **Margaret Irvine** and her father was a **William Irvine**. I was also able to find the marriages of the whole family. ( I think there was only one who didn't marry) I was only interested in my direct family, but I may come back and dig further!

When I started chasing My Family Tree I was able to see the actual books, Birth, Marriages and Deaths.

They had just started putting them on the computer, and I liked seeing my father's signature there, as he was best man to his brothers, as you don't get the extra information in the computer lists.

**Worthwhile Trips**

My trips to Edinburgh to go to the Record Office were helped by my having two nephews there, so I was lucky to always have a place to stay. A day searching meant you had to be there by 9.30 am with your £60 in your hand, but it was worth it for the information you found. Recently I was in contact with a friend who now tells me that it costs £10 for the day!



The information you come across when you are not looking for it, the people you meet at the Record Office and also the fellow chasers make it worthwhile

Myles surprised me about a month ago by saying he would start on the Irvine family, and he has got the bug now! The IGI now is called "Ancestry" and the information you get by putting in one name is amazing. The best IGI list of names is the 1880 one.

my direct line, that is on the Young, Irvine, **Pattullo, Myles, Small, Stewart, Beattie** but I have only concentrated on the Young's today!!!

Now when I click on "My Young Family" I find myself looking at myself!

It is a consuming hobby, and hours can pass without you realising it.

*It is a consuming hobby and hours can pass without you realising it has gone*

When I got rid of my filing cabinet I came across lots of photographs which I got from my Mother of her and a lot we took when Myles was a baby, as you can see.

I now have contacts on my list of



