

**A Brief History
of
William Irvine**

Born on 27 Sep 1841 in Yoker, Renfrew, Renfrewshire, Scotland

Died on 21 Dec 1913 in Lanark, Lanarkshire, Scotland



Franklin Pierce Mason II

William Irvine

Franklin P. Mason II

William Irvine was born on 27 September 1841 on Ferry Road in Yoker,¹ Renfrew, Renfrewshire, Scotland. His parents were John Irvine [born about 1800/01 in Forfar, Angus, Scotland] and Agnes Armstrong [born about 1811 in Ireland of Scottish descent]. William's parents were married in about 1830 in Ireland.

John and Agnes Irvine had the following children:

John Irvine, b. 1833, Ireland

Jessie Irvine, b. 1835, Ireland

Sophia Irvine, b. 1838, Glasgow, Lanarkshire, Scotland

William Irvine, b. 1841, Yoker, Renfrew, Renfrewshire, Scotland

Christina Irvine, b. 1843, Yoker, Renfrew, Renfrewshire, Scotland

James Irvine / Irving, b. 1847, Yoker, Renfrew, Renfrewshire

Collin Houston Irvine, b. 1848, Yoker, Renfrew, Renfrewshire

William's father, John, was a Journeyman Blacksmith at the shipyards on the River Clyde. John was also involved in the construction of Portpatrick Pier.

William Irvine, like his farther, was a Journeyman Blacksmith. William specialized in Marine Engineering.

Grandfather [William Irvine] worked in John Brown's famous shipyard (in Clydebank) on the River Clyde. He was the Quantity Blacksmith, which was a very responsible job and, for the time, a very well-paid job. When work was slack and other men paid off, his job was secure, and his pay went on.²

William Irvine married Elizabeth Gibson Alexander (born about 1844, Mortonhall Estate,³ Liberton, Midlothian, Scotland; died 14 Nov 1910, 13 Nairn Street, Dalmuir, Old Kilpatrick, Dunbartonshire, Scotland). They were married on 02 January 1867. At the time of his marriage William was 25 years of age and lived in Dalmuir Parish of Old Kilpatrick (near Clydebank). His bride was 23 years of age and lived in Barony Parish, Glasgow. They were married in Morton, Parish of Liberton, Midlothian, near Edinburgh, in the Free Church of Scotland by the Reverend David K. Guthrie. After they were married, they lived in a two-family stone house in Dalmuir, which they owned.

William and Elizabeth Irvine had the following children, all of whom were born in Dalmuir, Old Kilpatrick, Dumbartonshire, Scotland.

John Irvine, b. 1868

Mary Gibson Irvine, b. 1869

Agnes Armstrong Irvine, b. 1870

James Irvine, b. 1872

William Irvine, b. 1874

¹ The original village of Yoker dates back to the 12th Century and was once part of the county of Renfrewshire and is now part of the City of Glasgow. From the 14th Century, Yoker has marked a crossing point of the River Clyde. A ferry continues to link the area with Renfrew on the south bank. A whiskey distillery was established in the 17th Century.

² Recollection of William Irvine's granddaughter, Elizabeth Alexander Blackhall Robb (1911-1989).

³ Refer to: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mortonhall>

Christina Irvine, b. 1877

Janet Irvine, b. 1881

Sophia Simpson Irvine, b. 1882

Elizabeth Alexander Irvine, b. 1885

William Irvine lived in Dalmuir from just after his wedding until shortly after the death of his wife, Elizabeth, in 1910. At the time of her death, they lived at 13 Nairn Street in Dalmuir.

[William] was a very clever man, and he read a great deal. He kept bees and was very *friendly* towards them. He never wore a mask or gloves. Even when the bees were swarming, he was always gentle and kind. Nice to think we have that in our background. In the summer, they rented a cottage at Whistlefield down the Clyde, and the hives with the bees, and the smaller children went on a horse-drawn cart down to the little cottage until it was time for the bees to come home to Dalmuir.⁴

In the spring, when the strawberries were large and luscious, Grandfather [William Irvine] would go into his back-yard garden and pick a large, lovely cabbage leaf and fill it with strawberries and present them to Granny [his wife].

On Saturday nights, Grandfather [William Irvine] would go out in the streets and pick up drunken husbands and bring them back to their wives. And when there was no entertainment available for the young people, he arranged for [Sir] Harry Lauder to come to Clydebank to perform.⁵

William Irvine visited his daughter, Sophia Simpson Irvine Leckie in America several times. For example, he visited in 1911. The last time was in 1913 (which was the year he died).

William Irvine loved cowboy pictures [even in 1911]. It was about three miles to the nearest movie. One day he took "Baby Bill" (William Leckie, son of Sophia Simpson Irvine Leckie) with him on his shoulder but came rushing home because Bill (only nine months of age) had said, "Lookada osses."—translated by a loving Grandfather—"Look at the horses."⁶

Obviously, the occupation of blacksmith was an arduous one, requiring physical strength and endurance. However, it would seem that William balanced this aspect of his life with the calm of reading and gardening, and with the care of his family and community.

After his wife's death in 1910, William moved to Lanark, Lanarkshire (which is about 40 miles south-east of Dalmuir) to live with (or nearby) his daughter Christina and her husband James Blackhall. (Christina Irvine and James Blackhall had been married on 15 Jul 1903 at William Irvine's residence in Dalmuir. Their daughter, William's granddaughter, Elizabeth Alexander Blackhall, was born in 1911.)

When Grandfather [William] Irvine lived in Lanark, he worked in our large garden at *The Cottage*, 8 Greenside Lane, Lanark; and I remember him planting polyanthus (dusty millers). He also made a little glass house for propagating seedlings.

We had a little fox terrier dog, and our grandfather taught that little dog to stay on the path round the gardens and not to go on the flower beds.⁷

William Irvine died on 21 Dec 1913 (at age 69 years) of Arteriosclerosis, Angina Pectoris at 39 South Vennel Street, Lanark, Lanarkshire, Scotland.

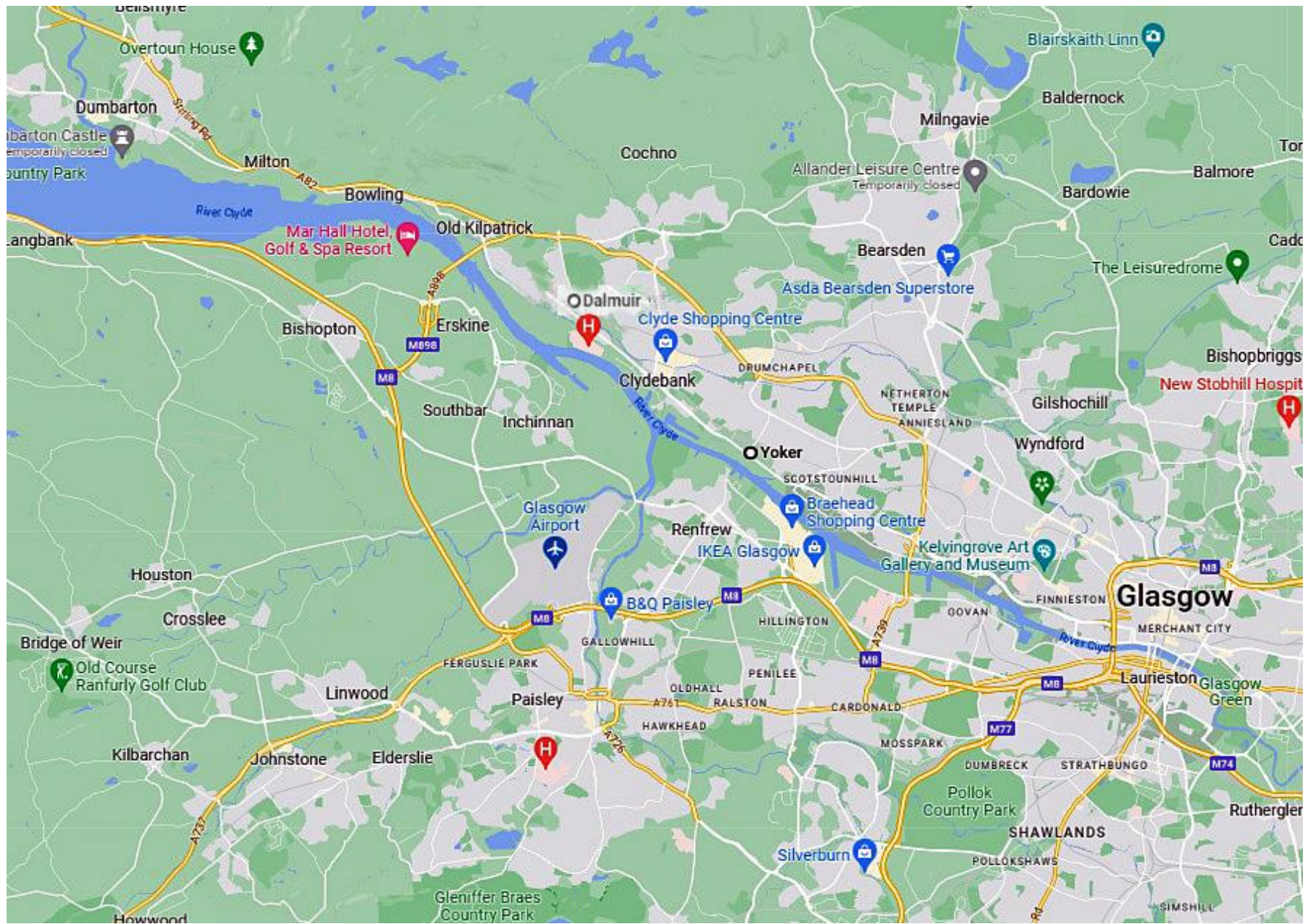
⁴ Recollection of Elizabeth Alexander Blackhall Robb.

⁵ Recollections of William Irvine's granddaughter, Agnes Armstrong Leckie Mason (1914-1994).

⁶ Recollection of Agnes Armstrong Leckie Mason.

⁷ Recollections of Elizabeth Alexander Blackhall Robb.

Appendix



Area near the River Clyde where William Irvine and his family lived: Old Kilpatrick, Dalmuir, Clydebank, Yoker, Renfrew

John Jovine

in the 1851 Scotland Census

Name:	John Jovine																				
Age:	51																				
Estimated Birth Year:	abt 1800																				
Relationship:	Head																				
Spouse:	Agnes Jovine																				
Gender:	Male																				
Where born:	Forfar, forfarshire																				
Parish Number:	575																				
Civil Parish:	Paisley Middle Church																				
County:	Renfrewshire																				
Address:	Ferry Road Hend																				
Occupation:	Smith Journeyman																				
ED:	2A																				
Page:	11																				
Household Schedule Number:	37																				
Line:	6																				
Roll:	CSSCT1851_127																				
Household Members:	<table><tr><th>Name</th><th>Age</th></tr><tr><td>John Jovine</td><td>51</td></tr><tr><td>Agnes Jovine</td><td>43</td></tr><tr><td>John Jovine</td><td>18</td></tr><tr><td>Sophia Jovine</td><td>13</td></tr><tr><td>William Jovine</td><td>10</td></tr><tr><td>Christina Jovine</td><td>8</td></tr><tr><td>James Jovine</td><td>4</td></tr><tr><td>Collin H Jovine</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>George Fafe</td><td>52</td></tr></table>	Name	Age	John Jovine	51	Agnes Jovine	43	John Jovine	18	Sophia Jovine	13	William Jovine	10	Christina Jovine	8	James Jovine	4	Collin H Jovine	3	George Fafe	52
Name	Age																				
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Collin H Jovine	3																				
George Fafe	52																				

1851 Scottish Census, showing John Irvine (misspelled "Jovine") and his family. Note that William Irvine was about 10 years of age at this time.

William Irvine

in the 1871 Scotland Census

Detail

Source

Name:	William Irvine
Age:	29
Estimated Birth Year:	abt 1842
Relationship:	Head
Spouse's Name:	Elizabeth Irvine
Gender:	Male
Where born:	Noker, Renfrewshire
Registration Number:	501
Registration district:	Old Kilpatrick
Civil parish:	Old Kilpatrick
County:	Dumbartonshire
Address:	Porter Lodge
Occupation:	Blacksmith (at Works
ED:	5
Household schedule number:	65
Line:	22
Roll:	CSSCT1871_88

Household Members (Name)	Age	Relationship
William Irvine	29	Head
Elizabeth Irvine	27	Wife
John Irvine	3	Son
Mary G Irvine	2	Daughter
Agnes A Irvine	6 Mo	Daughter

William Irvine

in the 1891 Scotland Census

Detail Source

Name: William Irvine
Age: 49
Estimated Birth Year: abt 1842
Relationship: Head
Spouse's Name: Elizabeth Irvine
Gender: Male
Where born: Yoker, Renfrewshire
Registration Number: 501
Registration district: Old Kilpatrick
Civil parish: Old Kilpatrick
County: Dumbartonshire
Address: 13 Clyde Trust Buildings
Occupation: Blacksmith
ED: 12
Household schedule number: 125
Line: 1
Roll: CSSCT1891_162

Household Members (Name)	Age	Relationship
William Irvine	49	Head
Elizabeth Irvine	37	Wife
Agnes Irvine	20	Daur (Daughter)
James Irvine	19	Son
William Irvine	16	Son
Christina Irvine	13	Daur (Daughter)
Jessie Irvine	10	Daur (Daughter)
Sophia Irvine	8	Daur (Daughter)
Elizabeth Irvine	6	Daur (Daughter)

William Irvine

in the 1901 Scotland Census

Detail Source

Name:	William Irvine
Age:	59
Estimated Birth Year:	abt 1842
Relationship:	Head
Spouse's Name:	Elizabeth Irvine
Gender:	Male
Where born:	Yoker, renfrewsre
Registration Number:	501
Registration district:	Old Kilpatrick
Civil parish:	Old Kilpatrick
County:	Dumbartonshire
Address:	13 Clyde Trust Bldgs
Occupation:	Shipyard Blacksmith
ED:	28
Household schedule number:	119
Line:	15
Roll:	CSSCT1901_174

Household Members (Name)	Age	Relationship
William Irvine	59	Head
Elizabeth Irvine	57	Wife
Agnes Irvine	30	Daur (Daughter)
William Irvine	26	Son
Christina H Irvine	23	Daur (Daughter)
Jessie Irvine	20	Daur (Daughter)
Sophia S Irvine	18	Daur (Daughter)
Elizabeth Irvine	16	Daur (Daughter)