

## FAIRFAX

Do you have a family connection with this noble name?

### VIKING ORIGINS

Halfdan and Ivar the Boneless invaded the southern half of Britain in 865AD and made their way to Northumbria. A descendant of one of the Vikings named Skirpenbok settled in York and married a Saxon woman. In the 12<sup>th</sup> Century their descendants were given the name.....

### FAIRFAX

which is generally reckoned to come from the words 'fair feax' meaning fair hair, although one source suggests that the name goes back to Saxon times. Often the name was written phonetically with the result that there are over 140 recorded different spellings.

### Historical Fairfaxes

A Fairfax fought at the Battle of Crecy in 1346 while **Robert Fayrfax** was a musician and composer at St Alban's Abbey, Herts where he was buried in 1521. He was a Gentleman of the Chapel Royal and a favourite of Henry VIII.

The title Baron Fairfax of Cameron was bestowed on Sir Thomas Fairfax of Denton in 1627. His grandson, **General Sir Thomas Fairfax** (Black Tom) commanded the Parliamentary Army in the English 17<sup>th</sup> Century Civil War against King Charles I.

In the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> Century the vast estate of Virginia became the property of **Thomas Fairfax** 5<sup>th</sup> Baron Fairfax of Cameron. His cousin, **William Fairfax** had a lasting friendship with his neighbour George Washington. In Oxford, Somerville College was named after **Mary Somerville (nee Fairfax)** an eminent woman scientist.

Other Fairfaxes have emigrated all over the world distinguishing themselves as admirals, judges, theologians, authors, poets, philosophers newspaper proprietors etc. and taken positions of prestige and influence

Yorkshire Fairfaxes have served as High Sheriff, MP; Aldermen; Lord Mayor and as Knights of the Shire.

## The FAIRFAX SOCIETY

Invites you to become a member of this One-Name Society which can trace its genealogy back over many centuries.

### FAMILY TREES

The Society has identified more than 50 separate family trees, all emanating from the original family of William Fairfax of York. Work is being done steadily to identify individuals, their spouses and offspring to the present day. Links are being made with the American ancestry and their connections to the UK families.

If you have a Fairfax family connection, you may be able to help us to fill in some of the gaps. We would always be grateful for any Fairfax information you may like to share with us. Also, we may be able to help to fill in any gaps that are puzzling you. We are also researching social aspects of the family members.

Even if your name is not Fairfax, you may be interested to know more of this historical surname.

### Contact the Society

Our website [www.the-fairfax-society.org](http://www.the-fairfax-society.org) contains information and an application form to download or contact the Hon. Secretary: 22 Low Church Road, Middle Rasen Market Rasen LN8 3TY

### About the Society

The Society was formed in 1993 with the objects of researching and studying the origin, history and development of Fairfax genealogy.

Two Journals are published each year containing articles about past and present family matters and including interesting topics of Fairfax interest.

The AGM of the Society is held each year in September often combined with visits to places of Fairfax historical interest.

## Application Form for Membership

I would like to join the Fairfax Society

Name:.....

Address.....

.....

.....

Post/ZipCode.....

Tel No:.....

E-Mail:.....

Subscription Fee: £10 Please make cheques payable to "The Fairfax Society"

Fee enclosed:.....(Sterling please)

Please return this form to: Hon. Secretary,  
The Fairfax Society, 22 Low Church Road,  
Middle Rasen, Market Rasen LN8 3TY UK

It would be helpful to add any known information about your own family background on the back of this sheet, so that we might help in identifying your Branch. *A free chart is available on request.*

NB Data Protection Act. Your information will not be given to any person or organisation outside the Fairfax Society without your permission.

Please write any information you would like to offer about your own ancestry.

Fairfax parent dates:  
Place of birth

Fairfax g'parent dates  
Place of birth

Fairfax g'g'parent  
Place of birth

Do you have any queries which we might be able to help you with?

Founded 1993

Patron: Nicholas, Lord Fairfax of Cameron

The

Fairfax

Society

[www.the-fairfax-society.org](http://www.the-fairfax-society.org)

Member of the Guild of One-Name Studies