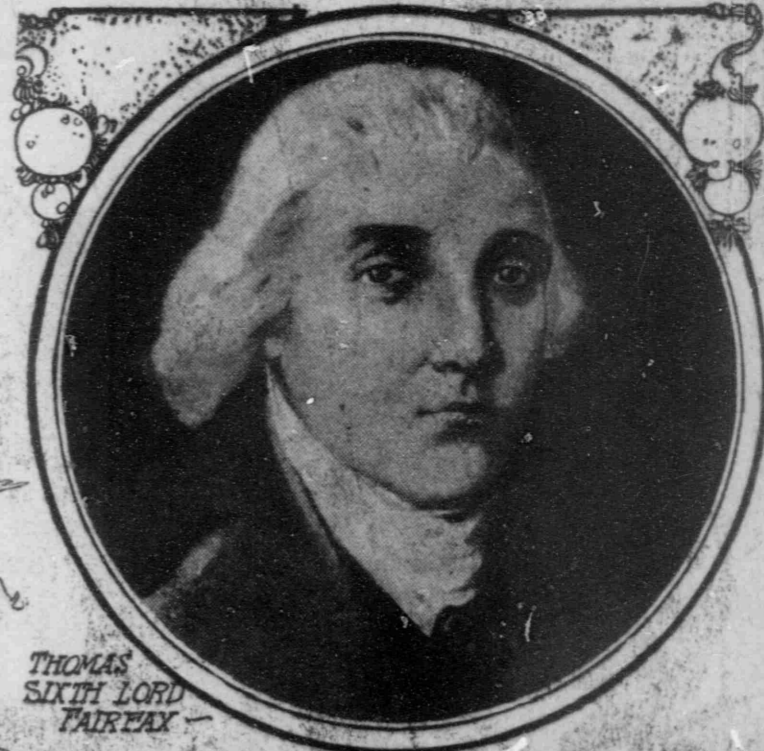


Lord Fairfax of America.



Young Virginian Whose Forefathers Trained George Washington Resumes Ancient Baronial Title Dormant for a Hundred Years.



In 1798 the Rev. Bryan Fairfax visited England, and proceedings were instituted to determine the validity of his titles as Baron of Cameron. He returned to America in 1799, in time to be one of the sincerest mourners at the funeral of his lifelong friend and neighbor, George Washington.

Bequest From Washington.

Washington did not forget his friend, but says: "To the Reverend now Bryan Lord Fairfax, I give a Bible in three large folio volumes, with notes, presented to me by the Right Reverend Thomas Wilson, Bishop of Sodor and Man."

On May 6, 1800, Lord Walsingham made a report to the House of Lords from the committee appointed to consider the petition of the Rev. Bryan Lord Fairfax to His Majesty, claiming the title and dignity of Lord Fairfax of Cameron.

After which it was "resolved and adjudged by the lords spiritual and temporal, in Parliament assembled, that the claimant, the Reverend Bryan Fairfax, hath made out his claim to the title and dignity of Lord Fairfax of Cameron."

Mr. Fairfax never assumed the title, and in 1802 died at Mont Eagle, near Alexandria, Va.

The ninth Lord Fairfax lived a life of retirement and comfort at Vauchuse, Fairfax County, Va.

His son, Charles Snowden, the tenth Lord Fairfax, held the office of clerk of the Supreme Court of California and was elected Speaker of the House of Delegates of California in 1854.

On his death his brother, John Contee Fairfax, M. D., became the eleventh baron. He was a practicing physician of Southern Maryland. He died in 1800 at Northampton, Md.

Albert Kirby Fairfax inherited the title and has unexpectedly assumed them. He was employed for some years by Brown Brothers in Wall street, New York.

At the time of the coronation of King Edward, he went to London and took part in the ceremonies. At present he is manager of the London branch of the International Banking Corporation, 11 Wall street.

Hon. C. Edmund Fairfax, brother of the Baron, is the heir presumptive. He is a member of the firm of Boyd & Fairfax, tea and coffee jobbers, at 22 Water street, New York city.



THE FAIRFAX BARONS OF CAMERON

PRIVILEGES OF THE AMERICAN PEER

HE is free from all arrest in civil action, and in such cannot be outlawed, nor can any attachment lie against his person.

He is exempt from serving as a juror, and must be tried in case of felony or treason by his peers. He gives evidence not on oath, but on his honor.

He would be tried by a special court in Westminster Hall, which is removed after each trial, and is privileged to wear his hat in a court of justice.

A NATIVE born American has become a nobleman of Scotland, and the crest of the House of Fairfax has been transported from Virginia to Westminster. Albert Kirby, twelfth Lord Fairfax and Baron Cameron, late of New York, has assumed the responsibilities of his high position and returned to the land of his forefathers.

Just what the debt of America is to the Fairfax family will always remain a matter of debate. It is maintained that George Washington got his fine ideas, his aristocratic training and education at the hands of the Fairfax family, who lived at Belvoir, across the river from his stepbrother's home, Mount Vernon.

Washington was intimate with the family throughout his life, writing affectionate letters to Lord Thomas Fairfax from the battlefields of the Revolution, though the old lord remained Tory to the last and died of the shock received on hearing of the defeat of Cornwallis.

The romance attached to the Fairfax family is unusual. The peerage dates back to 1627, and the present Lord Fairfax is the twelfth Baron. He is a descendant of Thomas Fairfax, son of Sir Thomas Fairfax, of Dunton and Nun Appleton; knighted before Rouen, 1594; created Baron Cameron 1627. The second Baron was the Parliamentary general of the Northern forces, also M. P. for Yorkshire. He held chief command at Marston Moor, where his son, afterward third Baron, commanded one wing of the army.

The present bearer of the title is the first to assume it for more than one hundred years. He was commanded by King Edward to attend the coronation and obeyed with alacrity. He has remained in London ever since.

THOMAS FAIRFAX, sixth Lord and all the Yorkshire properties were of Fairfax of Cameron, was sold to pay the young lord's debts, born at Denton, in Yorkshire. On the death of his mother, who was England, in 1802. His father, the heiress of Lord Culpepper, he died while he was at Oxford, father, he inherited the vast Culpepper

estates. These included Leeds Castle in Kent, England, and the Northern Neck in Virginia, which had been presented to Lord Culpepper by the general Charles II.

The Northern Neck comprised some 5,700,000 acres—all the land lying between the Potomac and Rappahannock, including the Shenandoah Valley.

The sixth Lord Fairfax is said to have been a man ambitious of distinction. He was intimate with Lord Bolingbroke, Addison and Steele, and had a commission in the Blues, a very prominent regiment of the day.

He was engaged to be married to a lady of rank, and the contract was actually drawn up when the lady jilted him, and he left to nurse his wounded amour propre on his American estates. Recently the marriage contract, with the lady's name carefully erased, has been found among some old family papers.

In speaking of Lord Fairfax, Archdeacon Burnaby said:

"Early in life he had formed an attachment to a young lady of quality, and matters had proceeded so far as to induce him to provide carriages, clothes, servants, and the necessary appendages for such an occasion. Unfortunately, or rather let me say fortunately, before the contract was sealed a more advantageous offer was made to the lady, and she preferred the higher honor of being a duchess to the inferior station of a baroness."

"This disappointment is thought to have made a deep impression on Lord Fairfax's mind and to have had no inconsiderable share in determining him to retire from the world and to settle in the wild and, at that time almost uninhabited, forests of North America."

"It is thought to have excited in him a general dislike of the sex, in whose company, unless he was particularly acquainted with the parties, it is said he was reserved and under evident constraint and embarrassment. But I was

present when, upon a visit of ceremony to Lieutenant-Governor Fauquier, who had arrived from England, he was introduced to his lady, and nothing of the kind appeared to justify the observation. He remained at the palace three or four days, and during that time his behavior was courteous, polite and becoming a man of fashion."

Lord Fairfax retired to America in 1748. He found settled in Virginia his cousin William Fairfax, who became his agent and whose son eventually succeeded him as the eighth lord.

For some time he lived at Belvoir, the house of his cousin, on the banks of the Potomac.

Here he made the acquaintance of the Washington family. He was at Belvoir when Lawrence Washington, the elder brother of George, married Anne Fairfax, and went to live with her on the neighboring estate of Mount Vernon, named after the famous English sailor, Admiral Vernon.

Fairfax was interested in young George Washington, and from the time when the future President was a lad of fifteen, visiting Belvoir frequently, his lordship never missed an opportunity to advance his fortune.

Through the influence of William Fairfax, George Washington came near being a sailor man. A commission was obtained for him in the British navy, but his mother would not consent to his going, for "several persons told her it was a bad scheme." Not long after this, Washington's uncle, Joseph Ball, residing in England, wrote to his mother, "I understand that you are advised and have some thoughts of putting your son to sea. I think he had better be put apprentice to a trade, for a common sailor before the mast has by no means the common liberty of the subject, for they will press him from a ship where he has 50 shillings a month and make him take 33, and cut and beat him like a negro, or rather

like a dog. And as to any considerable promotion in the navy, it is not to be expected, as there are always so many gaping for it here, who have influence, and he has none."

In 1748 Lord Fairfax employed George Washington and George William Fairfax, son of William Fairfax, as surveyors. They worked for a month in the upper part of the Northern Neck of Virginia. In a journal which he kept of this tour Washington states, under date of April 12, 1748, "Mr. Fairfax got safe home, and I to my brother's house, which concludes my journal."

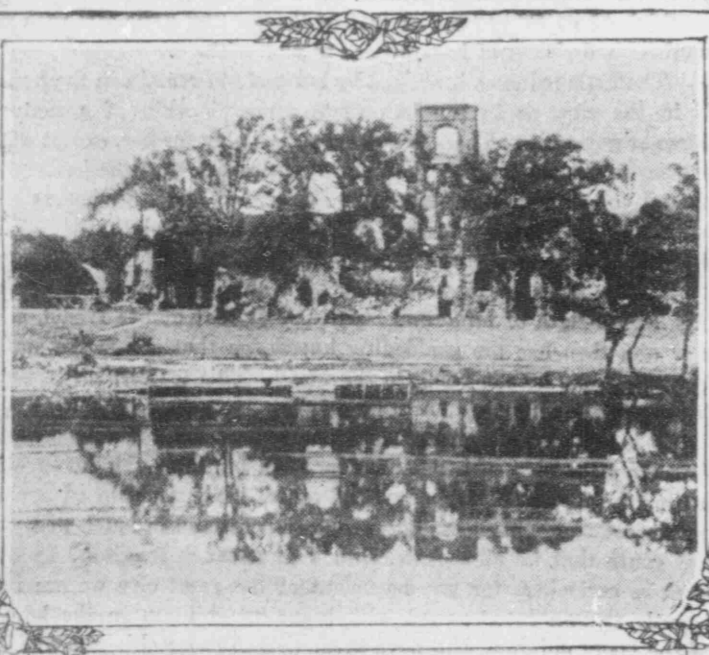
Shortly after his arrival in Virginia Lord Fairfax erected Greenway Court and Hastings Lodge, where he resided to the end of his days, more than fifty years in a state of baronial hospitality. His dress was always simple and his manners modest and unaffected. His generosity was such that he gave his English estates to his brother Robert, and distributed the surplus income from his American estates among his poorer neighbors.

His greatest amusement was hunting and after the chase the whole field was invited to partake of his hospitality.

Fairfax on the Bench.

He presided over the colonial court at Winchester, Va., for years, entertaining elaborately during the court's sessions. Lord Fairfax died in 1782, his 82nd year, at Greenway Court, and is buried at Winchester. He bequeathed Greenway Court to his nephew, Colonel Martin, and his barony descended to his only surviving brother, Robert Fairfax, to whom he had previously consigned Clements R. Markham in writing of the death of the old gentleman says: "Lord Fairfax was a staunch Loyalist. News of the surrender of Cornwallis reached Greenway Court, and the aged nobleman took to his bed. The downfall of the British cause wrought by George Washington, the man he had trained and molded, was his death blow."

Robert Fairfax, to whom the barony descended, died in 1793. The barony then devolved upon the Rev. Bryan Fairfax, son of William Fairfax, of Belvoir.



Ancestral Seat of the Fairfaxes.