

# THE FAIRHAIRS, WHERE HAVE THEY GONE?

Some authoritarian writers on Surnames tell us that the name Fairhead comes from Fairhair, which in part might be so, but I have had some difficulty in establishing this; in fact I have found that in one case this name merged into Farrar.

Nevertheless, it is possibly true that some of us were Fairhairs. I have found that became corrupted into Fairher and then to Fairhead, but I am still at a loss to know where a large number of the Fairhairs have gone.

I give below a list of Fairhairs, together with some information that I have collected about them.

## **A.E.Fairhead**

Norwich,

Circa 1975

- 1 John Fayrher of Buckingham.
- 2 John Fairher of Scotland, Porchester and London. He was a Burgess of Berwick on Tweed.
- 3 Thomas Fayrher of Southwark.
- 4 Thomas Fairher of Suerk
- 1347 Thomas Fairher of Suthwerk St. Margaret.  
(The three above were probably the same person)
- 1 Richard Feirher, son of Thomas above.
- 2 Parisius Fayrhare of Somerset.
- 3 William Fayrhare. He was a merchant who became involved in irregular trading in Ireland.
- 4 William Fayrhare. He was involved in irregular Tree Felling.  
(Possibly the two above are the same).
  
- 1346 Richard Fairher, possibly the same as above, was mentioned a number of times in respect to claims regarding land.
- 1 Geoffrey Fayrher of Southwark.
- 2 Geoffrey Fayrher of Southwark.  
(These were doubtless one and the same, and were Fairhead's related to Thomas & Richard of Southwark).
- 1 William Fairehere of Salisbury.
- 2 John Fayrehere, Fishmonger of St. Andrews Hubbard, London. I believe him to be an early Fairhead.
- 3 & 1369 John again, possibly the same man. He is reported as claiming a debt at Westminster.
- 4 John Faireher. He was a rich Goldsmith in London, mentioned many times.
- 5 John Fairhere, Grocer, a Fairhead. See "The London Butchers"
- 6 John Fayrehere, Butcher (another Fairhead)
- 1410-1445 John Fairhare of York, Weaver.
- 1 William Fayrehere of Orcheston, Wiltshire. He was a sheep-farmer on Salisbury Plain. I have a copy of his Will in which he left his to those mentioned below as follows :-  

The Parish Church of Orcheston	20 Sheep
The Parish Church of St. George	2 Sheep
The Parish Church of Shrewton	2 Sheep
The Parish Church of Maddington	2 Sheep
The Parish Church of Rollestone	2 Sheep
To my daughters, each of them	40 Sheep
To my servant, Edith	20 Sheep
To my sons or to any of them	1 Sheep & 4 pence
To the Salisbury Cathedral fabric fund	20 pence
The rest of my goods to Marioone my wife.	

1 William Fayreheire, Doctor of Law  
2 John Fayrehare, Cambridge Graduate (see ref. Year 1567)  
3 Thomas Fayrehare  
4 George Fayrehare  
5 Hugh Fayrehare  
6 George Fairhair  
7 John Fairhair

The above are five generations of one family. They were the owners of Ford, now known as Greenwell Ford. The estate is still occupied by Mr. A.L.S. Greenwell whose forebears bought it from the Fayrehare's. It is situated about three quarters of a mile south of Lanchester in County Durham.

I give below an extract from the Surtees Society Publications which gives one some idea of the Master and Surf relationship, during this bonded period when the Estate was owned by the Fayrehare's.

*" John Shephird hold a messuage & twenty six acres to mow a portion of the Lord's Meadow, and to win and lead the Hay, and to drive the Swine from the forest and when he mowed he had corrody; and when he drove the Swine, a loaf; he now pays in lieu of services 8s 10d."*

I noticed that a certain John, of Fenhall and Gamel del Ford, took their names from the land that they occupied. It does rather compare with the name of Fairhead having been adopted from the Parish of that name. See "The Origin" book 10.

1 Edward Fayreheire of Nottingham.  
2 John Fayrehere here became a Clerk of Holy Orders and married Agnes Bennett at Barton Ben dish in Norfolk, where he became the Incumbent. I went over to the Parish to find that he was known as Fairhair or Farrar. I am rather afraid that the name became Farrar, but could not find any trace of any further records of him or his family.  
1497-1519 William Fayrehare L.L.D., University of Cambridge. He became Vicar General of the Ely Diocese and Rector of Sigston, Yorks.

This concludes the list of interesting Fairhairs of the past, but the question still remains unanswered – "Where have they gone?"