

William Fairful(I)

1858 – 1943

For some reason there are many Fairful(I)s in Fife, mostly connected with the mining industry and coal. Our William Fairful was born on 24th March 1858 in Earlsferry – again the birth certificate does not identify the actual house but see later. His father was John and his mother Christina ms Jervis. By a process of elimination, we conclude that between 1850 and 1890 his family lived next door to David Scott the father of Andrew and James Scott. That would have been Ferry Cottage, which makes the Fairfuls as living in what is now Twoways in Earlsferry High Street. But then the English census of 1891 we have a William Fairfiel (this is a misprint it is clearly Fairful) in the actual register and he is shown as being a golf club maker and he is married to Jeannie.

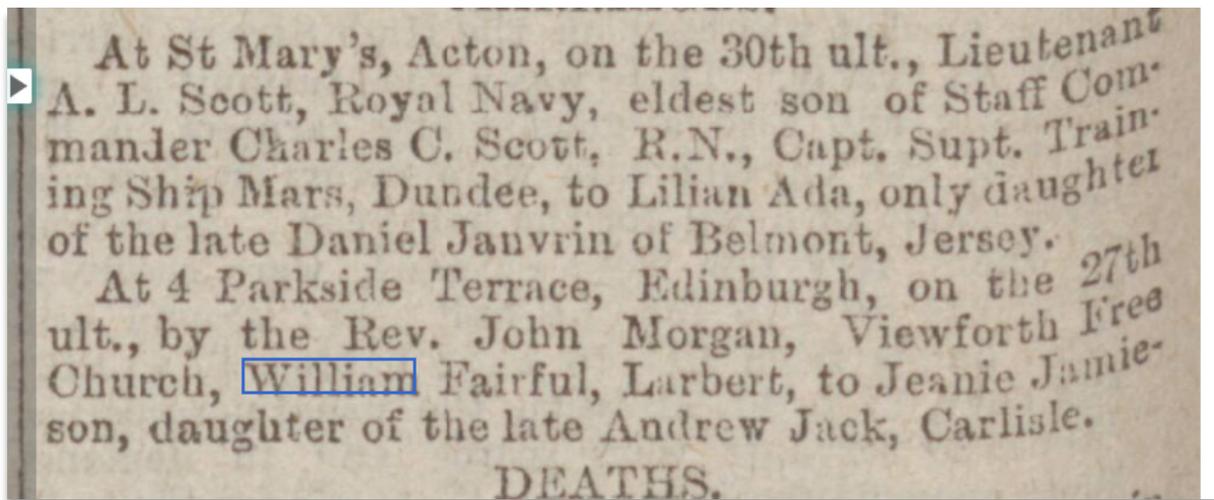
150		John J. do	Earlsferry	M	38	Shawler	X	Wales
		Esther Evans do	Earlsferry	M	38			London
		Martha do	Earlsferry	M	38	Scholar		Stirling Scotland
167 24	1	William Fairful do	Earlsferry	M	33	Golf Club Maker	X	Stirling do
		Jeannie do	Earlsferry	M	28			Stirling do
		Francis do	Earlsferry	M	7			do do
		Christina do	Earlsferry	M	5			Stirling do
		John H. do	Earlsferry	M	32	Bookbinder Assistant	X	Stirling do

He is shown as having two children Francis and Christina both of whom are apparently born in Stirlingshire – Francis in 1887 and Christina in 1888 and the fact that they were born in Stirlingshire suggests that at that time he was resident in Stirlingshire. And he might well have been employed as a golf professional/clubmaker, we think probably at Alloa Golf Club initially. And indeed there is a newspaper report in 1892:



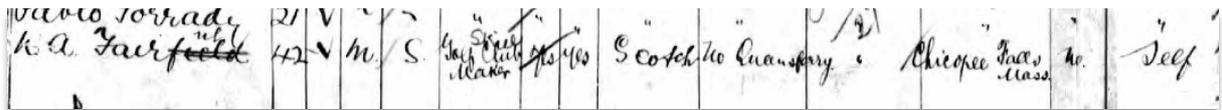
Only however for six months. He is also credited with being the professional at Dunfermline G.C.

So by 1892 he was back in Scotland. He married Jeanie in 1885:



So he must have gone south after that and then returned in 1892.

We cannot find any reference to his golfing exploits during this period until his employment with Alloa. Indeed, it is difficult to know where or if he was employed as a golf club maker in London. He may have worked in Army & Navy Stores under Braid's guidance. Since Alloa G.C. was established in 1892 we can assume that WF was employed to bring the course up to a standard that was fit for the people of Alloa. Later in 1930 James Braid redesigned the course.



We know he went to USA in 1900 to visit a friend in Chicopee Mass and returned the following year but he did not seem to take up any employment there returning to Scotland where his wife was ill.

In addition to Francis and Christina he and Jeannie had Victor Albert who was born in 1898. He was killed during the first world war – indeed 3 months before the armistice Victor Albert Fairful, 1899-1918. He died of his wounds on 21 Aug 1918 in Niederzwehren, Germany. On Victor's army records the family address in 1915 is 25 Rotherwood Road, Putney (pictured below).

<p> Hesse, Germany, Deaths, 1851-1958 Death, burial, cemetery & obituaries View</p>	<p>Name Victor Albert Fairful Birth abt 1899 Death 21. Aug 1918 (21 Aug 1918) Hessen (Hesse), Deutschland (Germany), Niederzwehren</p>
--	---



His daughter Francis married William Levack, also an Elie resident in 1921, and they emigrated to Canada where they remained, and she died in 1976.



Christina his second daughter married John Cunningham in 1914:

CUNNINGHAM — FAIRFUL. — At Hamilton's Rooms, Dundas Street, Edinburgh, on 24th inst., by the Rev. John Lamond, B.D., John Maule, son of John Cunningham, Edinburgh, to Christina Jarvis, second daughter of **William Fairful**, London (late of Elie).

And she died in Edinburgh in 1965.

Magdalene Fairful, 1904-1978, m. Robert Blaik Jackson, 1903-1978;

Williamina May Fairful, b. 1906, d.1960 in Farnham Surrey, m. William H. Pearson, bank clerk, b.1904, d.1977;

John H. Fairful, born in 1909 married Grace Falconer in Montrose in 1943 d.1986 Bexleyheath, Kent, and she died in 1959.

So, although we do not know where he may have done an apprenticeship he still qualifies as a member of this elite bunch by virtue of his positions in Alloa, Falkirk and Dunfermline even although his golf professional career was relatively short.