

William Fairful(I)

1858 – 1943

For some reason there are a large number of 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. The English census of 1891 shows 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).

160		Edwin J. de Lon	M	10	Chaveller	X	Wales
		Estimate Brown	Head	11			London
		Emily de wife	M	12	Sepolar		London
		Martha de Grace	M	13	Golf Club Maker	X	Highshire Scotland
167 24	1	William Fairful	Head	33			Stirlingshire de
		Janie de wife	M	28			Stirlingshire de
		Francis de	M	7			de
		Christina de	M	5			de
		J. H. Mack	Head	32	Bookbinder Assistant	X	Wales

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. The fact that they were born in Stirlingshire suggests that at that time he was resident in that county. He might well have been employed as a golf professional/clubmaker, we think probably at Alloa Golf Club initially. There is a newspaper report in 1892 (below):

Sports and Pastimes.

GOLF.

ALLOA GOLF CLUB.—At a meeting of the committee held yesterday **William Fairful**, professional golfer, London, was appointed greenkeeper for the next six months. The committee also fixed that the championship competition should be finished by the last day of February.

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

By 1892 he was back in Scotland. He married Jeanie in 1885 (see below).

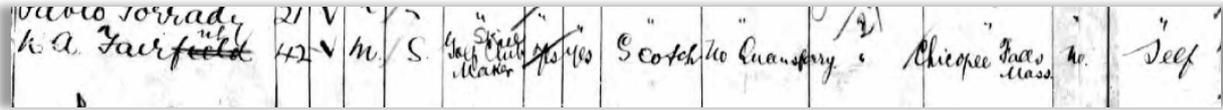
So he must have gone south after that and then returned in 1892.

At St Mary's, Acton, on the 30th ult., Lieutenant A. L. Scott, Royal Navy, eldest son of Staff Commander Charles C. Scott, R.N., Capt. Supt. Training Ship Mars, Dundee, to Lilian Ada, only daughter of the late Daniel Janvrin of Belmont, Jersey.

At 4 Parkside Terrace, Edinburgh, on the 27th ult., by the Rev. John Morgan, Viewforth Free Church, **William Fairful**, Larbert, to Jeanie Jamieson, daughter of the late Andrew Jack, Carlisle.

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 – just three months before the Armistice.

Victor Albert Fairful (1899-1918) died of his wounds on 21 Aug 1918 in Niederzwehren, Germany.

[Hesse, Germany, Deaths, 1851-1958](#)

Death, burial, cemetery & obituaries

[View](#)

Name Victor Albert Fairful

Birth abt 1899

Death 21. Aug 1918 (21 Aug 1918) Hessen (Hesse), Deutschland (Germany), Niederzwehren



On Victor's army records the family address in 1915 is 25 Rotherwood Road, Putney.

Tragically, his first wife Jeanie died in 1902

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1902 DEATHS in the DISTRICT of SAINT ANDREW in the BURGH of EDINBURGH

No.	Name and Surname, Rank or Profession, and whether Single, Married, or Widowed.	When and Where Died.	Sex.	Age.	Name, Surname, & Rank or Profession of Father. Name, and Maiden Surname of Mother.	Cause of Death, Duration of Disease, and Medical Attendance by whom certified.	Signature & Qualification of Informant, and Residence, if not of the House in which the Death occurred.	When and where Registered, and Signature of Registrar.
337	W.A. Fairful	1804	M.	20	Andrew, Jack Andrew, Andrew	Widowed	Widowed	1904 at Edinburgh
	Widowed	1904			Widowed	Widowed	Widowed	at Edinburgh
	Widowed	1904			Widowed	Widowed	Widowed	at Edinburgh

WF remarried in 1903:

(Page 4.)

1903. MARRIAGES in the Parish of Elie in the County of Fife

No.	Name, Christian Name & Maiden Name	Rank or Profession, Whether Single or Widowed, and Relationship of Bride	Age	Residence	Name, Christian Name, and Maiden Name of Bride	Rank or Profession, and Rank or Profession of Groom	Signature of Minister of Religion, or of Registrar, or of Sheriff's Officer	When & Where Registered, and Signature of Registrar
7	1903, on the Third day of December, at United Free Church & Manse, Elie.	(Signed) William Fairful Golf Club Maker (Widower)	45	Balhrum Cottage, Earlston, Elie.	John Fairful Richard Gardner Christina Fairful M.S. Jarvis	(Signed) J. Harry Miller Minister of the United Free Church, Elie.	1903, December 5 th At Elie	
	After Banns, according to the Terms of the United Free Church of Scotland.	(Signed) Isabella Harvey Domestic Servant (Spinster)	26	Armiston House, Conscophane	John Harvey Magdalena Harvey M.S. Brock (deceased)	(Signed) James Forrester Witness Isabella Chittars Witness	Robert (Public) Registrar	

And with his second wife, Isabella Harvey, they had three more children: Magdelana (1905) and Wilhamina (1906) both born in Elie. They were living at that time in what from the census looks like Balhrum Cottage but we have yet to pinpoint that property. They also had a son John (born in 1909), by that time however he had taken up employment with Wm Gibson and Co the golf club makers in Kinghorn

21	John	27	21
22	Isabella	25	22
23	Magdalena	19	23
24	Wilhamina	17	24
25	John	15	25
26	Isabella	13	26
27	Magdalena	11	27
28	Wilhamina	9	28
29	John	7	29
30	Isabella	5	30
31	Magdalena	3	31
32	Wilhamina	1	32

where he stayed for the rest of his life until he died in 1943.

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1943. DEATHS in the District of Morningside in the City of Edinburgh

No.	Name and Surname, Rank or Profession, and whether Single, Married, or Widowed.	When and Where Died.	Sex.	Age.	Name, Surname, and Rank or Profession of Father, Name, and Maiden Surname of Mother.	Cause of Death, Duration of Disease, and Medical Attendance by whom certified.	Signature and Qualification of Informant, and Residence, if out of the House in which the Death occurred.	When and Where Registered, and Signature of Registrar.
004	William Fairful Golf Club Maker (widow)	1943, September 18 th 11 h. AM 1 Glenlockhart Road Edinburgh (Usual residence) Morrison House Kinghorn	M	85	John Fairful Richard Gardner (deceased) Christina Fairful M.S. Jarvis (deceased)	Boonche- Permanence M. S. Jarvis George H. Row M.S.	M. Fairful Broughton Morrison House Kinghorn	1943, September 18 th At Edinburgh Frank Gray Asst. Registrar

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:



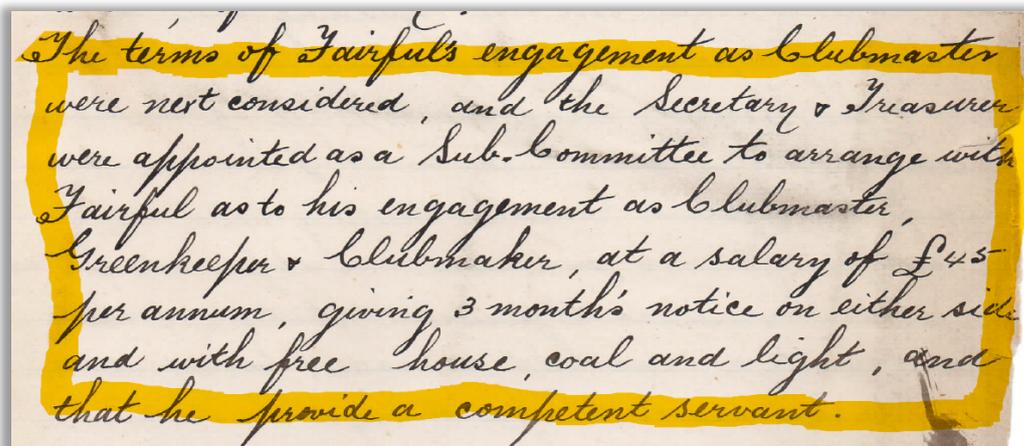
CUNNINGHAM — FAIRFUL. — At Hamilton's Rooms, Dundas Street, Edinburgh, on 24th inst., by the Rev. John Lamond, B.D., John Maule, son of John Cunningham, Edinburgh, to Christina Jarvis, second daughter of William Fairful, London (late of Elie).

She died in Edinburgh in 1965.

Magdalene Fairful (1904-1978), m. Robert Blaik Jackson (1903-1978); Williamina May Fairful (1906-1960) in Farnham Surrey, m. William H. Pearson, bank clerk (1904-1977); John H. Fairful (b.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.

**Post Hoc*, we are grateful to Dunfermline Golf Club who recently supplied some details of his tenure with that Club. At that time the golf club was at Halbeath and subsequently moved to Ferryhills near North Queensferry. The minute books of the club in 1897 show that WF was initially employed as greenkeeper/clubmaker and club steward.



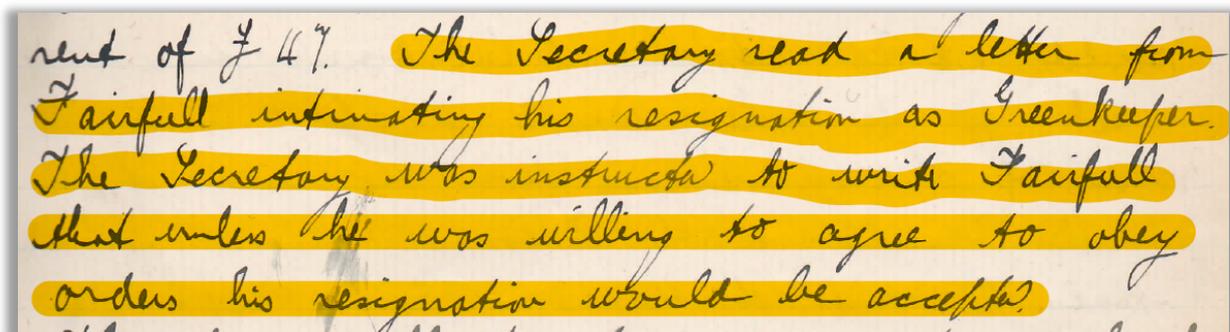
The terms of Fairful's engagement as clubmaster were next considered, and the Secretary & Treasurer were appointed as a Sub-committee to arrange with Fairful as to his engagement as clubmaster, Greenkeeper & clubmaker, at a salary of £45 per annum, giving 3 months' notice on either side and with free house, coal and light, and that he provide a competent servant.

February 1897

By March 1898 WF had sought a pay increase of £10, which was granted.

By September 1898 WF decided that the tripartite role of greenkeeper/clubmaker and club steward was too onerous so he resigned as clubmaster but offered to stay on as greenkeeper and clubmaker. This was accepted.

In April 1900 he tendered his resignation, which was accepted in somewhat enigmatic circumstances. It is not known his misdemeanour but shortly after this he went to the states to visit his friend.



rent of £47. The Secretary read a letter from Fairfull intimating his resignation as Greenkeeper. The Secretary was instructed to write Fairfull that unless he was willing to agree to obey orders his resignation would be accepted.