

There are several prominent families that played an important part in the history of Shrivenham and district, and yet, we know very little about them. The Fairthorne family falls into that particular description. The idea of this Listing is to bring together what we do know and hopefully encourage others to add to it.

A note came up in a Google search online from Rootsweb that concluded, *the Fairthornes were at Lambourne in 1553 and moved to Shrivenham in the early 17th century*. This is confirmed by parish records that state Edward was born in 1564 and married Elizabeth Seymour on the 11th February 1595 in Upper Lambourne. An interesting note and does match the documentary evidence we have, if we are happy to describe Watchfield and Shrivenham as one and the same. There is further within the Shrivenham parish records that Edward Fayrethorne (sic) operated a Farm and Mill at Watchfield in 1616. But we know that he was in occupation earlier as his son William was baptised there in 1606. He was clearly doing well as when he died in 1636 he left in his Will, '*all his leases in Eascott and Westcott within the parish of Swindon, lately purchased from John Padnell*.' He also left £80 to each of his unmarried daughters upon marriage. We also know that he had copyhold land in Longcott. What we don't know is how long William had been at Tuckmill Farm, if he had inherited it or was leasing it from an owner.

By 1679 it was his second son William who was running the Farm and Mill rather than his first son John, but we don't know why. From his Will we know that William Fairethorne (sic) was born and baptised in 1606 at Watchfield and that he was an aged and infirm man of 73 years.

By the beginning of the 18th century we have documentary evidence that Thomas Fairthorne was running Tuckmill Farm. (*See SHS N942 for more details*). The Watchfield Vestry Minutes for 1700 to 1703 show that Thomas attended at least one meeting. But also appearing on the list is John Fairthorne. During his tenure, Thomas also sold the estate that the family owned in Eastcott, Swindon, to John Villet (*VCH Vol 9*). By 1740 Thomas disappeared from the vestry meetings (*died 2nd June 1741*) but John is there for most of them up to approximately 1770, when Edward appeared. Confirmation of why this was so came from an Indenture dated 10th December, 1774 (*WRO 11/394*) when the Hon Mary Lady Holland and the Hon Charles Fox conveyed the lease of West Mill Farm to Edward

Fairthorne for the sum of £168 per annum. It further describes that the farm was, '*late in the tenure of John Fairthorne, Father of Edward Fairthorne.*' So at that point in time the documentary evidence supports the presence of Fairthornes in Watchfield rather than Shrivenham.

Further evidence of this can be seen by looking at the Baptism Registers for Shrivenham which includes Watchfield. The Fairthornes were producing children throughout the 17th century but they are all from Watchfield with one curious exception; Elizabeth daughter of Roger in 1619. Because Watchfield is not written at the end of the entry like the others, the assumption is that Roger is from Shrivenham. If this is correct then a likely explanation could be that Roger was a brother of Edward, and the whole family migrated from Lambourne, with Edward occupying the farm and mill at Watchfield and Roger at Shrivenham. Certainly by 1732 the family occupation shifted towards Shrivenham with Henry being born to Farmers, John and Marion Fairthorne at Fryars Farm and Mill. By 1746 the farm and mill at Watchfield are in the hands of Sir Mark Stuart Pleydell of Coleshill. (*See SHS N106 for details*). But they are still on the fringe of the village at West Mill. From then onwards the Baptisms become predominantly Shrivenham. When the family tree is examined, it is evident that the Watchfield branch of the family died out through lack of males. It would appear that another branch of Fairthornes, probably Rogers, begins another branch of the tree.

It is still unclear as to when and how they acquired land and property in Shrivenham. There were several members of the family to bear the first name of Amariah. The Will of an Amariah Fairthorne, Yeoman, was written in 1817 and a copy of it is found in the National Archives. (*PROB 11/1719/223*). We know that the Fairthornes owned and occupied the Manor House next to St Andrew's church in Shrivenham in the 19th century. This early 19th century Amariah left his house and two closes containing approximately five acres of land to his sister Sarah. The two closes strongly suggest he's referring to the Manor House but we cannot be certain when it came into Fairthorne possession. In a drawing from a Quarto Survey Book at the Berks County Archives, (*D/Ex 192/10*), there is a plan of the center of Shrivenham that clearly shows that the Manor House was in possession of the Riddleys. The date of the drawing is approximately 1750. Therefore we can assume that it's likely the Fairthornes acquired the Manor House between 1750 and

1817.

By this time we know from Amariah's Will that there were Fairthornes scattered around the district. He bequeathed considerable amounts of money to his Nephew William Fairthorne of Campden in the Parish of Faringdon, and to William's son, also called Amariah, (who was to become the well-known Brewer at Faringdon). He also mentions Nephews, Henry Fairthorne of Ruffinswick and Henry Fairthorne of Bishopstone as well as Edward Fairthorne of Watchfield. There is also a John Fairthorne in Shrivenham.

In a Will of a Henry Fairthorne dated June 1813 (*PROB 11/1581/53*), he refers to himself as of Shrivenham. He doesn't leave any property only money, and in those legacies he refers to a late brother called William and a sister called Rachel. He appoints his Nephew, Henry Fairthorne his sole Executor.

We have documentary evidence from the Shrivenham Tithe Map of 1844 that the Manor House was owned and occupied by John Fairthorne. The Church House, situated very close to the Manor House, plus the five cottages adjacent, was owned by William Fairthorne.

The Victoria County History under Langford Parish, records that the Fairthornes occupied Radcot Bridge Farm from the late 1830s until its sale in 1867. They employed nine labourers between 1851 and 1861.

The Reading Mercury newspaper dated Saturday 29th Nov, 1856, records a Mr W.A. Fairthorne of the village of Shrivenham, at the Reading Rooms in that village, gave an interesting lecture on, "*The Elemental Chemistry of the Gases and Carbon,*" It goes into quite some detail on it.

Jacksons Oxford Journal dated Sat 22 May 1880.

There is an advert by Messrs Badcock and Dyke to sell the property of the late William Fairthorne, a house and 5 cottages (Church House and the cottages adjacent - end of Claypits Lane) and a Cottage in the High Street, Shrivenham.

It could be the same above William Fairthorne, a son of which appeared in an article in the Reading Mercury dated Sat 9th Nov, 1872. The lad was playing with a chaff-cutting machine at Friar's Farm, near Shrivenham, when his hand became entangled in the wheels and badly crushed. His forefinger had to be amputated.

From Rootsweb online.

Amariah William Fairthorne, son of John Fairthorne and Lucy Wilson (from Ashbury), was baptized 20th June 1824 at Shrivenham, Berks. Married Emma Brown on 25 April 1867 at the Tabernacle, Back Street, Trowbridge, Wilts and died 5 June 1907 at The Manor House, Shrivenham. He was a farmer and then a Brewer at Faringdon. He was described by some of his nephews, as a strict man who considered reading the bible on Sunday as a bit frivolous.

From the Reading Mercury newspaper, dated Sat 22 Oct 1898.

Marriages. Kennard - Fairthorne.

On the 6th instant, at the Parish Church, Shrivenham, by the Rev E.F. Hill, David Gerald Kennard, of Shrivenham to Madeline Fairthorne, youngest daughter of A.W. Fairthorne, Esq, of the Manor House, Shrivenham.

From Brewery History, the Journal of the Brewery History Society Online.

Faringdon. Fairthorne & Co, Eagle/White Horse Brewery, Southampton Street.

Amariah William Fairthorne and Richard Busby Phillips formed a partnership, possibly in 1861, which would fit the latter coming of age, to buy the Faringdon concern. Richard Busby was the youngest son of Richard Phillips of Bicester. The census shows Amariah Fairthorne aged 56 and born at Shrivenham, where he was still living.

On 10 March 1883, Richard B Phillips sold his share and stated that the business would be continued by Amariah Fairthorne. The Brewing Journal of March 1899 mentions that the brewery at Faringdon had been bought by WG Phillips & Sons, closed down and the brewing transferred to Oxford.

The Census of 1861 show that Amariah Fairthorne was 36 years of age and resided at the Manor House, Shrivenham. He is listed as a Brewer & Maltster employing 3 men at the Malting (opposite the Eagle Pub at Watchfield) and 4 men and a boy and a female servant at the Brewery at Faringdon, Berks.

Reading Mercury dated Sat 8 May 1897.

Marriage of Miss Richards. On Wednesday in the last week the only daughter of the venerable Rector of Hinton Parva, Miss Kathleen Louise Vere Richards, was married to Mr Berkeley William Fairthorne, Lieutenant commanding the I Company 1st Batt. Royal Berks Regt, the eldest son of Mr A.W. Fairthorne, of Manor House, Shrivenham. The bridegroom, attended by Mr Alan Corbett, was the first of the bridal party to enter the church; next came the bridesmaids, and a little later the bride, resting on the arm of her father, who gave her away. The officiating clergy were the Rev P.V. Doyne, Vicar of Beckley, Oxford (cousin of the bride), assisted by the Rev H. Ault, Vicar of Bishopstone. Previous to the marriage Mr Berkeley Fairthorne was presented with a handsome silver teapot, by the tradesmen and others of Shrivenham, on his marriage. Mr Phipps made the presentation, and in doing so remarked that he hoped Mr Fairthorne would accept the gift for the sterling good wishes it represented.

Faringdon Advertiser Sat 3 Jan 1903

Shrivenham

Mr Edward Amariah Fairthorne, the youngest son of Mr A.W. Fairthorne, of Manor House, Shrivenham, was ordained at Salisbury Cathedral on Sunday, December 21st and officiated for the first time as Deacon in Shrivenham Church on Christmas Day.

Faringdon Advertiser Sat 8 June 1907

Death of Mr A.W. Fairthorne. We regret to record the death of Mr Amariah Fairthorne, of the Manor House, which took place on Wednesday afternoon, at the advanced age of 83 years. He had enjoyed good health until a few weeks since, when he was laid up with congestion of the lungs, which terminated fatally. Mr Fairthorne was highly respected in Shrivenham and neighbourhood, and also in Faringdon, where he formerly resided. He took to Mr George Franks' Brewery in Gloucester Street, which he carried on until he purchased the Faringdon Brewery previously conducted by Messrs Barnes, Wadley and Ansell, which he carried on successfully for many years, and ultimately disposed of the concern to Messrs W.G. Phillips and Sons, of the Tower Brewery, Oxford. Mr Fairthorne took an interest in the formation of the Faringdon Railway and the Corn Exchange, and was a liberal contributor to the principal Institutions in the town. After retiring he enjoyed the quiet of his old home, the Manor House, Shrivenham. He had the welfare of the village at heart and will be greatly missed. A somewhat sad incident occurred when Mr Fairthorne was nearing his end His eldest son Mr Berkeley Fairthorne, of Abingdon, arrived at the Manor House to see his father on Monday afternoon, and in the evening was taken seriously ill with haemorrhage, and although a change for the better has taken place he is still in a critical condition. The burial of Mr A.W. Fairthorne is arranged to take place this (Saturday) afternoon at 3pm.

Faringdon Advertiser Sat 15 June 1907

Funeral of Mr A.W. Fairthorne. The remains of the late Mr. A.W. Fairthorne, whose death was recorded in our last issue, were laid to rest beside his wife in the churchyard of this parish on Saturday afternoon. The officiating clergy were the Rev. E.F. Hill (Vicar), Rev B.M. Hawes (Curate of Watchfield), and the Rev. H. Ault (Vicar of Bishopstone). The coffin was of polished oak with brass fittings, and bore the following inscription:-
"Amariah William Fairthorne, born May 31st, 1824, died June 5th, 1907." The mourners were as follows: Rev E. Fairthorne, Miss Fairthorne, Mr & Mrs D.G. Kennard, Mr R. Richards,

Mrs B. Fairthorne, Mr & Mrs Mann, Mr F. Lovibond, Mr W. Kirkwood, Mr W. Jotcham, Mr A. Kennard, and Mr A.P.Macnamara. Others following or present in the Church were: Mr J.G. Day, Mr J. Lawrence, Mr T. Phipps, Mr H. Olliver, Mr U. Chivers, Mr H.C. Hall, Mr W. Cooper, Mr T. Fuller, Mr T. Larkin, Mr R. Pound, Mr C.K. Butler, Rev J. Bates, (Bourton), Mrs Hill, Mrs Ault, Mrs Dike and Mr E. Phillips, Faringdon. As it was the wish of the deceased that there should be no flowers, only a few floral tributes were sent, these being as follows:- From his children and grand-children, Rev & Mrs Ault, Mr J.P. Lockwood, Mr F. Liddiard, Mr T. Deacon, (Ealing), and Mr F. Elverstone. The funeral arrangements were satisfactorily carried out by Messrs Cadel Bros, Faringdon.

Faringdon Advertiser 19 April 1919

Re Miss Ethel Anne Fairthorne, Deceased.

All Creditors and other persons having any claims or demands against the Estate of Miss Ethel Ann Fairthorne, formerly of Shrivenham in the county of Berks, but late of No 6, Colville Gardens, Talbot Road, London, W.11, Spinster, deceased, who died on the 18th March last, are required to send in forthwith the particulars of their claims and demands to us the undersigned, the Solicitors acting in the said Estate.

Dated this fourth day of April 1919

Jotcham & Sons, Wantage, Berks.

Shrivenham Parish News of July 1975 makes note on a Mary Eustace who had been married for 68 or 69 years and was living at Watchfield. It records that she was married in Ealing that that her maiden name was Fairthorne.

Fairthorne Baptisms that appear in the Shrivenham Parish Register Shrivenham

Heritage Society N1230

William Faythorne	1606	March 16. Son of Edward, Watchfield
Jane Fethorne	1611	Jan 24. Daughter of Edward, Watchfield
Margaret Feithorne	1612	April 1. Daughter of Edwarde, Watchfield
Elizabeth Fairthorne	1619	June 7. Daughter of Roger, Shrivenham
Mary Fayrethorne	1643	May 28. Daughter of William & Mary
Edward Fayrethorne	1644	Oct 20. Son of William & Mary, Watchfield
John Fayrethorne	1647	May 9. Son of William, Watchfield
Elizabeth Fayrethorne	1649	July 1. ^{[[[} Da of William & Mary, Watchfield
William Fayrethorne	1652	March 30. Son of William, Watchfield
Anne Fayrethorne	1655	Oct 3. Daughter of William, Watchfield
Thomas Fayrethorne	1657	Dec 21. Son of William, Watchfield
Henry Fayrethorne	1660	July 30. Son of William, Watchfield
Susanna Fairthorne	1699	Feb 16. Dau of Thomas & Mary, Watchfield
Cordelia Fairthorne	1704	Mar 8. Dau of Thomas & Mary, Watchfield
Sarah Fairthorne	1727	Oct 25. Dau of Thomas & Mary, Watchfield
Mary Fairthorne	1730	Jan 15. Dau of Thomas & Mary, Watchfield
Anne Fairthorne	1732	Sept 15. Dau of Thomas & Mary, Watchfield
Henry Fairthorne	1732	Oct 5. Son of John & Marion, Fryers Farm
Edward Fairthorn	1734	Aug 10. Son of Thomas & Sarah, Shriv
John Fairthorne	1740	Oct 14. ^{[[[} Son of John & Marion, Fryers Farm
Elizabeth Fairthorne	1777	June 9. Dau of Edward & Elizabeth, Shriv
Mary Fairthorne	1778	June 23. Dau of Edward & Elizabeth, Shriv
Edward Fairthorne	1781	May 6. Son of Edward & Elizabeth, Shriv
Charlotte Fairthorne	1783	June 24. Dau of Edward & Elizabeth, Shriv
Henry Fairthorne	1787	June 10. Son of Edward & Elizabeth, Shriv
Elizabeth Fairthorne	1809	April 1. Daughter of John & Lucy, Shriv
Henry Fairthorne	1810	March 9. Daughter of John & Lucy, Shriv
John Fairthorne	1811	April 16. Son of John & Lucy, Shrivenham
Edward Fairthorne	1816	March 1. Son of John & Lucy, Farmer, Shriv
Amariah W.F.	1824	

Ethel Ann Fairthorne	1868	April 22. Dau of A.W & Emma, Brewer, Shriv
Berkley W Fairthorne	1870	April 20. Son of A.W & Emma, Brewer, Shriv
Henry Fairthorne ^[1] _[SEP]	1870	June 5. Son of William & Lucy, Fryers Farm
Mary Lou Fairthorne	1871	June 28. Dau of William & Lucy, Fryers Farm
Richard Berkley Fair	1898	Sept 25. Son of Berkley W & Kathleen Louisa

In Watchfield Chapel Register

Albert J Fairthorne	1884	July 13. Son of Frederick Thomas & Amelia
Lydia Ann Fairthorne	1888	Aug 5. Daughter of Fred Thomas & Amelia
Edith Mary	1888	Aug 5. Daughter of Fred Thomas & Amelia

Fairthorne Marriages

Shrivenham Heritage Society N1230

Elizabeth Fairthorne	1616	Oct 10. Married Robert Aldworth, Watchfield
Margerie Feithorne	1616	Feb 17. Married John Cox, Watchfield
John Fairthorne	1623	Feb 5. Marr Agnis Stevens alias Hanks, Watch
Elinor Fayrethorne	1636	Feb 6. Married Thomas Joyner, Watchfield
Susanna Fayrethorne	1640	Mar 4. Mar Tho Hall, of Bishopstone at Watch
William Fayrethorne	1642	May 9. Married Mary Blagrove, Watchfield
Mary Fairethorne	1667	June 17. Married Thomas Jenner, Watchfield
Sarah Fair (widow)	1701	April 19. Mar Jo Hall of Arlington, at Watch
Mary Fairthorne	1752	June 1. Married Nathaniel May
Susannah Fairthorne	1761	Jan 1. Married Thomas Perring by Licence
Rachel Fairthorne	1765	Oct 5. Married John Pullen
Mary Fairthorne	1789	Nov 13. Married Thomas Gerring
John Fairthorne	1808	July 7. Married Lucy Wilson

There is a wedding dated June 29, 1763 between John Pointer & Sarah Rickards and the Witnesses are William Wilson and Amariah Fairthorne. Where did he come from ?

Churchwardens at Watchfield

Thomas Fairthorne	1703/4
John Fairthorne ^[1748] _[SEP]	1748/9 and 1752
Edward Fairthorne	1766 & 1770