

Frank's Forage No. 44

Sir William George Herbert Taylor Ramsay-Fairfax

One is ever coming across snippets of information that answer the question, "I wonder why that is?" One can understand Sir William, the 2nd Baronet, being christened William George but where does the Herbert Taylor come from? Good question. Well, I have been aforaging.

William was born on 15th March 1831, the eldest son of Sir Henry Fairfax, the 1st Baronet. He had two brothers and one sister:

Thomas Edward, born in 1832, a barrister in the Bengal Civil Service.

Henry (Admiral Sir Henry Fairfax) born in 1837. He married Harriet Kinloch, youngest daughter of Sir David Kinloch of Gilmerton, Edinburgh. Henry died in 1900 in Naples. He captained *Britannia* when the princes were naval cadets.

Elizabeth Mary Somerville (named after her illustrious aunt). Can't find her birth details but she married twice, first James Liebig Gregory (1861) and second, Col. William Marshall Cochrane (1864). James Gregory died in 1863. Mary was Col. Cochrane's second wife.

Sir Herbert Taylor (1775-1839) had a distinguished military career and was made Colonel of the 85th Foot in April 1823. He selected Henry to be a captain in that regiment and later, Henry was to be a Colonel in the regiment. However, the two were well acquainted before then and Sir Herbert held Henry in high esteem, so much so that Henry requested Sir Herbert to be godfather at the christening of William. Sir Herbert agreed and suggested that his own name be incorporated in William's name, and there it is!

A few words about Sir Henry. In 1830 he married Archibald Montgomerie Williamson Ramsay. She preferred to be called Montgomerie. She died in 1844 aged 50 and it would appear she did not enjoy good health; a letter from Mary Somerville to Henry (her brother) in 1842 asked after her health. In 1851, Henry married Sarah Astell, daughter of William Astell, MP for Bedfordshire. She was well liked by the family according to correspondence I have read and she wrote a very detailed letter to William, who was in Malta at the time, about the death and funeral of Sir Henry. Sir Henry served with the 95th Rifle Brigade in the Peninsular War (1812-13).

Sir William also enjoyed a distinguished military career. He was a Colonel in Crimea and present at Sebastopol (medal and clasp and Turkish medal). He also served in India and in the 15th Regiment was Aide-de-Camp to the governor of Malta, where he was serving when learning of the death of his father. In September 1869 he married Mary Anne Pawson Hargrave (see Forage number 1B). They had three sons and two daughters.

Of these three sons, Henry became 3rd baronet, the second son, Archibald, died aged 4, and William also had a distinguished Army career. The two daughters, Frances and



Elizabeth never married. Ramsay was added to his name on inheriting the Maxton estate from his Aunt Elizabeth Williamson Ramsay.

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