

Franks Forages No 1A

Lady Ramsay Fairfax



Until recently it was not known who painted the portrait of Lady Ramsay Fairfax until the artist's signature was noted in the bottom right hand corner of the painting. The artist was Fanny Sutherland a Canadian artist born in 1834 and the daughter of Captain Edward Sutherland, an Irish army officer whose career led him to settle in Canada. He was himself an accomplished artist and all eight of his children were artistic of whom Fanny was the sixth and most famous. Edward had married Christiana Coffin who died in 1852. By 1871, Fanny was the only child living at home with her father; two of her siblings had died and the others married. Fanny exhibited at the Royal Canadian Academy and in 1873 at the age of 39 she was accepted into the Royal Academy in London and spent time in Britain where she specialised in

painting portraits and court scenes. In 1878 she painted the above portrait and in 1879 what was perhaps her most famous painting, a watercolour entitled "*The Queen Sits Alone at Linlithgow*". In 1896, Fanny (aged 62) married Edward John Chapman, a University of Toronto professor. They lived at Hampton Wick near Hampton Court Park. Edward died there in 1904 and Fanny continued to live there until her death in June 1924 aged 90. She is buried alongside her husband in Teddington Cemetery in the borough of Richmond upon Thames.¹

Lady Ramsay Fairfax was the wife of Sir William Fairfax, the 2nd baronet of the Fairfax baronetcy of The Holmes, Roxburghshire. She was Mary Ann Pawson Hargrave, the only daughter of William John Pawson of Shawdon Hall a few miles west of Alnwick in Northumberland. The portrait was painted two years after Sir William inherited the Maxton estates in Scotland. From a memorial in Benrigg graveyard, St. Boswells, near Maxton, Mary was born in June 1845 and died in September 1924. She married Sir William in September 1868 aged 23 (he was 37) and she would have been 33 when the portrait was painted. Sir William was born in 1831 and died in 1902.²

Shawdon Hall. The original 15th Century hall came into the Hargrave family in the early 18th century. William Hargrave demolished the building, replacing it with a new mansion (picture right) in 1779.³ William died in 1817, his daughter and heiress having married one John Pawson. Later Pawsons served as High Sheriff of Northumberland, including Mary Ann's father, William John. *Frank Storr*.



Notes. 1 [WikiTree.com/wiki/Sutherland-1047](https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Sutherland-1047)

2 *Burke's Peerage & Baronetage; Ramsay-Fairfax-Lucy*

3 [Snipview.com/q/country_houses_in_northumberland](https://snipview.com/q/country_houses_in_northumberland)