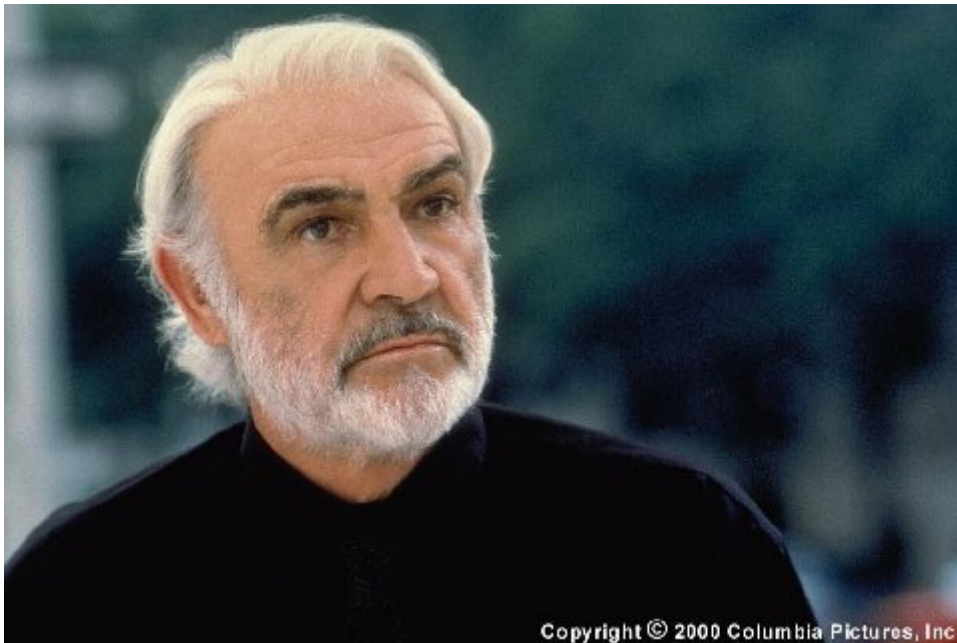


## Lord a-Leaping: The Lord Fairfax Interview



*Arthur Godalming, the 22nd Lord Fairfax*

**by Tootsie Fitzcarraldo**

**T**hough the gentleman has been in our midst for some time now, our sleuths at Pomp & Circumstance only recently discovered the latest blueblood visitor to Deppville, Lord Fairfax, who hails from Fairfax Abbey, near London . In true Prince and the Pauper fashion, Lord Fairfax has been keeping a low profile, assuming his more modest moniker of Mr. Godalming. If you've made his acquaintance, you may have been fooled by his eccentric appearance, but make no mistake about it, his is an ancestry that stretches back to Medieval Times. P&C's own Tootsie Fitzcarraldo caught up with Lord Fairfax recently as he dined on a humble filet and vin rosé at Chez Roux, where we learned more about his fascinating background, as well as what has brought him to our fair city.

**P&C:** Thank you so much for granting us an interview, Lord Fairfax.

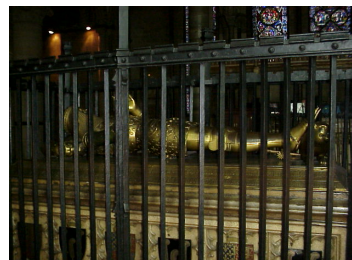
**LF:** My pleasure. Though I have rather enjoyed pulling the wool over everyone's eyes for as long as I could. It's rather helpful to the nature of my work, to be able to wander about in relative obscurity. A pedigree such as mine can be intimidating to those who might otherwise open up more freely in dispersing information for my research.

**P&C:** And what would that be?

**LF:** Just a little nonfiction volume I'm penning. It's somewhat of a departure from my usual fare, which are studies more scientific in nature. Let's say this one will have a supernatural theme. I'd rather not discuss it too much at this point in its development. Writers' superstition, you know. Wouldn't want to jinx it.

**P&C:** Well, perhaps we'll come back to that. Tell us about your family, I understand it began with an ancestor's ties to William the Conqueror ...

**LF:** Yes, that would be Sir Bedivere, in 1066. Our family has a long-standing involvement with British military history. We have in the wings several distinguished generals, one of whom, James Godalming, became a viceroy of India ... we even had a hand in introducing Napoleon to his Waterloo, as it were.



*Tomb of Sir Bedivere,  
1st Lord of Fairfax*

**P&C:** So that was you!



*General James  
Godalming*

**LF:** (laughs) Well, it was John Godalming, 21st Earl of Fairfax, to be precise. And I should mention quickly, now, before we put your readers completely to sleep with these facts and figures of my dignified military history, never let it be said that the Godalming line doesn't have its share of spicy material. Rumour has it that General James Godalming was a bit more than viceroy ... apparently Queen Victoria took quite a fancy to him. I couldn't tell you how far it went, the Godalmings are notorious for our discretion, but he was a frequent guest in Balmoral. But there must've been something there, to warrant a twig on the family tree. (winks)

**P&C:** Duly noted. Now, about your extensive properties ...

**LF:** Well, a family full of military types, we were bound to end up with a surplus of real estate, weren't we? We were a pesky lot. (laughs) We acquired Fairfax Abbey during the Hundred Years War ... we have Alderbury in the south, which came to us through a marriage in the 1600s. And what dusty old family would be complete without a castle?

**P&C:** That would be Glimmermere ...

**LF:** Correct. I see its reputation precedes it, now that it has become a popular tourist attraction. To me, it rather looks as if it were designed for tourism from the very beginning, with that high Gothic style that everyone seems to fancy. Its designer must have been a visionary.

**P&C:** All of the Fairfax acquisitions are remarkable properties, if I may say so. And they've all come down to you, and it's our understanding that you're the last in your illustrious line. Your passion for writing and research seems to have increased dramatically with the untimely passing of your wife ...



*Lord Fairfax cherishes still the memory of his late wife. He has  
remained unmarried ever since.*

**LF:** That's true. I must say, I miss her to this day. I've felt a restlessness ever since. Sometimes I feel I cannot dedicate enough volumes to her memory. Though my journey from that time forward has been solitary, it has not been without its comforts and pleasures. I have met many wonderful people along the way, including the fine citizenry of your lovely town ... and I have seen and learned many extraordinary things. One has to find the good in all situations, if possible. Otherwise, why go on?

**P&C:** Are there any people you've met here who have been particularly helpful to you, anyone you would care to mention by name? I don't suppose we would be fortunate enough to hear of you having found love in our town, someone to convince you to settle here permanently?

**LF:** Sorry, my dear, but my military background reminds me that I'm only obliged to give you my name, rank and serial number. (laughs) I feel I've made some fine friends here, but I'll save mention of their names for my next dedication. I must say, my only dodgy experience was with a certain local official who also shall remain nameless ... but even that misadventure was understandable, I suppose, in its own way. Matter of fact, it may have given me the germ of an idea for my first attempt at fiction ... an absurd comedy, perhaps ...

**P&C:** Most curious! Well, we'll look forward to that dedication, and we'll very much look forward to your next publication. We thank you for your time, Lord Fairfax, and we thank you for the opportunity for a photo shoot of your properties. We're sure our readers will be delighted. We hope you enjoy the remainder of your stay here in Deppville. Best of luck to you on your current and future projects.

**LF:** It's been my pleasure. Cheers, thanks a lot.

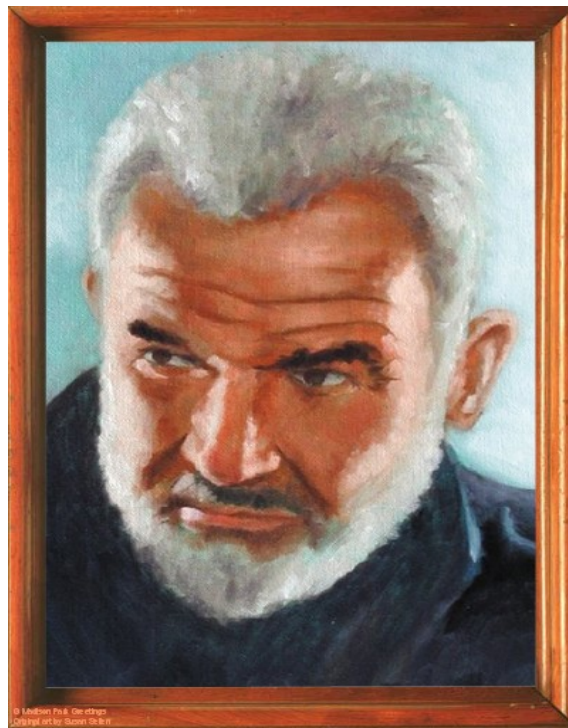
**The most renowned of the Fairfax Estates are Castle Glimmermere and Fairfax Abbey. See our special report of a tour at Glimmermere from our correspondent in Europe on page 81.**



*Glimmermere is a true High Gothic Fairy Castle. You can almost see Cinderella running down the stairs and losing a shoe. It was built in the early 12th century, and it has remained pretty much intact since then excepting some careful restorations. Lord Fairfax has opened this magnificent castle for tourists. Experience haunting beauty - special feature on page 81.*



*Fairfax Abbey is almost as old as Glimmermere. It was built as an abbey in the 13th century, but given as a fiefdom to the 8th Lord of Fairfax, James, for his services to the crown during the Hundred Years War*



*A painting of the Master of Fairfax Abbey by the illustrious artist Philippe Montsegur hangs in the main hall of the manor*