Oxford Reference

Fairley

Variants: FAIRLY, FAIRLIE, FAIRLEIGH

- **Current frequencies:** GB 2254, Ireland 127

- **GB frequency 1881:** 1463

- **Main GB location 1881:** Midlothian and Lanarks; also Durham and Northumb

- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Down; Derry and Tyrone

1 Scottish, English: (i) locative name primarily from Fairlie (Ayrs), but perhaps occasionally from other places similarly named, such as Fairley (Northumb), Fairlee in Newport (IoW), and Fairliehope (Linton, Peebless). (ii) see FARLEY.

Further information

A Scots family once known as *de Ros* adopted the name *Fairlie* when granted lands at Fairlie (Ayrs) by Robert the Bruce.
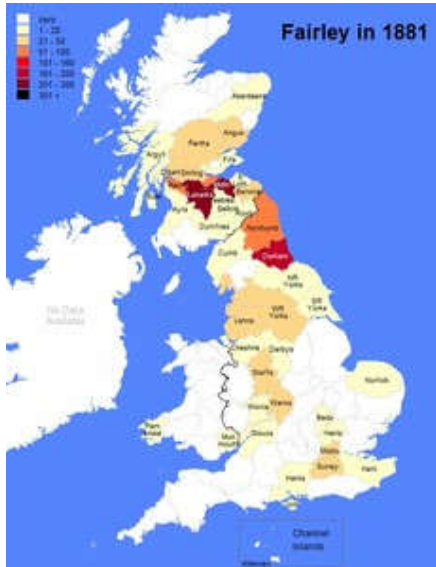
Early bearers

Scotland:

William Fairlie, 1306–29 in Great Seal of Scotland (Midlothian); William Fayrly or Fayrley, 1329 in Exchequer Rolls of Scotland (Edinburgh, Midlothian); William de Fairlie, 1335 in Rotuli Scotiae; Elspaitt Fairly, 1576 in IGI (Aberdeen, Aberdeens); Bessie Fairly, 1600 in IGI (Leith, Midlothian); Elspeth Fairlay, 1633 in IGI (Liberton, Midlothian); Jenet Fairley, 1640 in IGI (Pencaitland, E Lothian); Margaret Fairlee, 1697 in IGI (Stow, Midlothian).

England: Ricardus atte Fairle, 1379 in Poll Tax (Newport, IoW); Richard Fairley, 1567, Jean Fayrley, 1571, Ellen Fayrlay, 1579 in IGI (Kirkleatham, NR Yorks); Germane Fairlye, 1571, Henrici Fairly, 1609 in IGI (Marske in Cleveland, NR Yorks); Leonard Fairley, 1577 in IGI (Berwick upon Tweed, Northumb); Hellen

Fairly, 1638, Richard Fairlie, 1639 in IGI (Herstmonceux, Sussex); Adam Fayrly, 1645 in IGI (Newcastle upon Tyne, Northumb).

2 Irish: from *Ó Fearghaile* , see FARRELLY.

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Fairley, 1881 frequency.

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