

MRS. HAIDEE KEARNS

The Kearns Hall is named after Mrs. Haidee Kearns, the donor of the land on which the St. Thomas's Church now stands also of 4 Grenham Bay Avenue. She died September 1951 at the age of 89.

The land was given in 1924 and was accepted by the Archbishop on behalf of the Diocese as a gift in memory of Colonel Thomas J. Kearns, C.B., C.M.G. He died of war wounds received in the 1st World War. He was Mace Bearer to Sir Vesey Strong, Lord Mayor of London in 1910. He was a Colonel in the R.A.S.C.

Col. And Mrs. Kearns only son died of war wounds in 1918. Mrs. Kearns came to live in Birchington in 1910, at Sunny Cot, Grenham Bay Avenue. During the Second World War she lived with Mr. and Mrs. Hodges of Woodford House School. She had a grand daughter. She devoted much care and love to St. Thomas's Church.

She was awarded the O.B.E. for her work during the 1st World War. She was a great character and a "John Blunt". I remember her.



St Thomas Church and Kearns Hall on the far left - 1967