

Notes on Francis J Haverfield and his sister Katherine, cousins of Charles Mackarness and both mentioned in Grace Mackarness' diaries (as Frank and Katie)

Thanks to Dr Phil Freeman of Liverpool University, who has made a study of FJH's life and work, for this information.

Both Francis and Katherine were born at Shipston-on-Stour: FJH in 1860, Katherine in 1862. Indeed their mother died shortly after giving birth to her. Their father whilst still a working minister was lame and infirm and which I think distanced him from his children. The family eventually moved westwards to a series of curacies in Somerset etc. FJH attended Winchester College in 1873 and then went up to New College Oxford in 1879. From what I have been able to discern I suspect his childhood was quite difficult and lonely, a pattern repeated at Oxford. He eventually graduated in 1883 with a disappointing degree which meant he could not get a college post. As a result he ended up with a school-mastership at Lancing College. Because of his father's High Anglican leanings and involvement with the Tractarians (a legacy which seems to have influenced FJH in early years), I suspect family connections saw him get the Lancing post. [Note: his uncle George Mackarness was a co-founder of Lancing College] During his time there (1883-1893) he developed a reputation as a researcher on matters epigraphical and on Romano-British archaeology, sufficient for him to be awarded a tutorship at Christ Church, Oxford. He remained there until 1907 when he was elected to the Camden Chair in Ancient History etc and which meant he had to translate to Brasenose and where he remained until his death. I suspect with the early death of his parents FJH relied on his relatives more than usual - I know of a number of trips to Scarborough and he also developed the link with the Coleridge branch of the family - frequently holidaying at the family's seat at Ottery St Mary, Devon. However I am not aware of any particular closeness with his sister.

FJH had a major breakdown in 1915 partially caused by the news received of the recovery of the body of his favourite student GL Cheesman (other students are mentioned in the diary - Norman Whately is one such) and who was killed at Gallipoli. Whilst FJH made something of a recovery he was never quite the same and he eventually succumbed to a brain haemorrhage on 30th September 1919. Such was his reputation his funeral was a big event. Of his wife, Winifred there is an interesting story but I will say here under the terms of FJH's will she was looked after but their house - Winshields and again the diary - had to be sold, the profits going towards the creation of the still functioning Haverfield Bequest. She was forced to move back to her parents at Leamington Spa, in part because of ill health. It looks like depression and she was operated upon in June/July 1920. She then went missing with her body found in the River Leam. The coroner's verdict was suicide whilst temporarily insane. R P Booker [of Eton; son-in-law of CCM] was the executor of FJH's will was also very close to FJH - he had been close to FJH and was best man if not witness to his marriage in 1907.