

KEARNS Thomas and Haidee – B. 186  
1920                      1951

The Kearns grave is on the right of the path from the lych gate (4<sup>th</sup> one along).  
The cross has been knocked off and lies down on the plot.

Thomas was badly injured in WW 1 and eventually died of his wounds in 1920, too late to be included on the War Memorial. His wife found a wonderful way to commemorate this worthy man in two ways. First she donated a piece of land on which to build a church at Minnis Bay and contributed generously to the cost of building it. She was asked to whom it should be dedicated and in honour of her husband she said "St Thomas".

Some time later the need for a church hall became evident and she again donated land and donations to help build the hall, which was called Kearns Hall. When she died, she left her own home, next door to the church and hall, for use as a curate's house. The members of St Thomas's church at Minnis Bay have never ceased to give thanks for Thomas and Haidee Kearns.

The inscription on the grave reads:

"In loving memory of Thomas Joseph Kearns, C.B.,  
C.M.G., Colonel, late of R.A.S.C., who fell asleep on 30  
Jun 1920 aged 59 years

And of his wife Haidee Ida Kearns M.B.E. who  
passed away o 5 Aug 1951 aged 89 years."