

Sarah Baillie, moving in rather precarious high circles

Sarah is one of the more unusual and prestigious burials in our graveyard. Whilst descending from a privileged background, Sarah had her fair share of difficulties to contend with.

Sarah Heather descended from a fabulously successful family on Portsea Island. Her grandfather was Alderman Thomas Heather 'a highly respected merchant and notary' whose extensive will detailed numerous children running successful businesses in Portsmouth [1].

Same day, at Portsmouth, in his 70th year, Alderman THOMAS HEATHER, a highly-respected merchant and notary of that port, and formerly of the firm of Heather and Lucas, of this town.

Sarah's father was John Fry Heather, Thomas's youngest child by his second wife, Sarah Fry. John was the academic in the family – he was left all his father's books in addition to his share of the assets. John was a Professor of Mathematics, serving at Woolwich Military Academy.

John married Jemima Selina Heather who was the daughter of his eldest half brother William, so his half-niece? They had at least six children. In 1858, when John was 43, he went bankrupt – he had racked up £1695 of debts [2]. Jemima died two years later, and John then married Eliza Emily Peach who was 35 years his junior. They had another son and then retired in Surrey.



John Fry Heather, mathematical master at the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich, was opposed by Mr. Lewis Mr. Towne, and Mr. Delassaux, and supported by Mr Dowse. The debts were £1695, and no assets.

It appeared that the detaining creditor was the insolvent's mother, who was put down for a debt of £25. In 1856 the insolvent's income, from various sources, amounted to, about £1000 a year, and he then entered into an agreement to pay his creditors £300 a year, which, however, he had failed to pay. Since then his income had much decreased, and his fixed salary now amounted to £350 a year.

Mr. Dowse now offered on behalf of the insolvent (an objection being taken to the petition on the ground that the insolvent had not been arrested on a *bona fide* debt) to pay a sum of £100 a year to his creditors.

The counsel for the opposing creditors required £200, on the ground that the insolvent made a considerable sum annually by pupils.

Ultimately an agreement was concluded for £150 a year, the first half to be paid on the 6th July, and the remaining portions quarterly.

Many officers of the Army and others will be sorry to hear of the death, on Saturday last, of Mr. John Fry Heather, M.A., late of 166 Stroud Green Road, Finsbury Park, N., who was for many years Mathematical Master at the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich, Lecturer at the Royal Artillery Institution, and author of many mathematical works of great value, and much in use in the military schools. He leaves behind him a widow and young son (13 years of age) totally unprovided for, for whose benefit endeavours are proposed to be made to raise a public subscription.

When he died John was remembered in a favourable light, despite the scandal of bankruptcy, 'Many officers of the Army and others will be sorry to hear of the death of Mr John Fry heather, MA, who was for many years Mathematical Master at the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich, Lecturer at the

Royal Artillery Institution and author of many mathematical works of great value, and much us in the military schools. He leaves behind him a widow and young son totally unprovided for' [3] and a public subscription was planned to support them

Sarah was just 14 when her dad was declared bankrupt, so this will have severely depleted her potential dowry and marriage prospects. However in 1860, when she was 17, Sarah married 19 year old Frederick Henry Mackenzie, the son of William Mackenzie, an Irish civil engineer based in London. Perhaps this would lift her out of these financial difficulties?

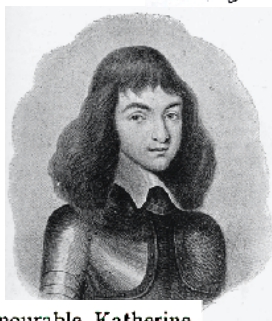
Unfortunately, William's career was not as successful as it could have been. In 1877, William and his son James Telford Mackenzie were taken to court by William's son-in-law Daniel Langham in a dispute about contract payment. During the hearing it transpired that William had been

struggling financially for a while [4]. Frederick's brother James Telford Mackenzie spent his last 20 years living in and out of the workhouse described as 'formerly engineer'.

Frederick also described himself as a civil engineer but died in 1865, five years after his marriage to Sarah. In that time Sarah had given him three children although daughter Ethel died in infancy. At the time of the 1871 census Sarah was living with her next husband-to-be and a new daughter, **Kate Louise Mackenzie** – the children from the previous marriage were living with relations. Sarah's husband was to be **Hugh John Baillie** and they married in 1873, just after the birth of their first son. Why the delay in marriage? Well, perhaps Hugh felt the difference between their backgrounds was too great. Sarah was a bankrupt's daughter despite her grandfather's excellent credentials.

the record, and the transactions between Mr. Langham and his father-in-law would become the subject of inquiry. Mr. Mackenzie, the father-in-law, was at one time practising as a civil engineer, and was at that time a person of some means, but for some years he had been a man without means, not carrying on his profession, and living in very impoverished circumstances; he had appeared in county courts upon judgment summonses for small amounts, and had declared that he had no means of paying. Mr. James Telford Mackenzie, the second defendant, was described as agent to a Limited Iron Company, but in point of fact he was only the clerk to the agent of such company.

In census returns Hugh described himself as a tea dealer, but he had a most sophisticated and impressive ancestry. He descended from 'Lady Grizel Baillie', 1665-1746, who was of Royal ancestry [ph1]. She was known as a Scottish songwriter and her household diaries, spanning 50 years, gave a wonderful insight into the social life of 18th century Scotland. The Baillie family owned Jerviswood, Lanarkshire and the impressive Mellerstain, Kelso [ph1]. Their ancestry can be traced back for centuries. Robert Baillie 1634 -1684 [ph1] was a Scottish conspirator implicated in the Rye House Plot to assassinate King Charles II but it fell through and he was executed for treason. Hugh's father **John Baillie** was a Canon at York Minster for 34 years [ph2]. Hugh's younger sister **Katherine Grizel** became the Dowager-Lady Polwarth of Hawick.



BAILLIE or **HEPBURNE SCOTT** the right honourable Katherine Grisell lady Polwarth of Deansyde **Hawick** died 14 August 1938 Confirmation of the honourable Walter Thomas Hepburne Scott master of Polwarth. Sealed **London** 28 October.



Compared to his siblings, Hugh had married 'poorly', but did the 'right thing' in marrying Sarah, the mother of his children. During the 1880s, the family moved to Townhead, Stainforth. Hugh's sister **Augusta Margaret (Baillie) Yorke** had lived in Long Preston with her husband, a successful farmer and county magistrate **Thomas Edward Yorke**. Thomas was Lord of the Manor of Bewerley in Nidderdale and Appletreewick in Craven. Augusta had died in 1879. Here in Stainforth, Hugh and Sarah had their second son **John Cecil George Baillie**, some 16 years after their previous son. Sarah was 45 and died soon after his birth and was buried in Settle, for some reason, with a small, simple gravestone.



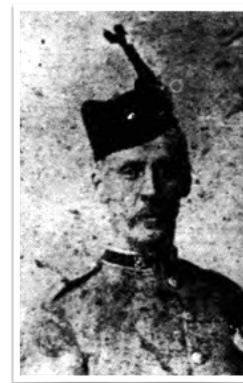


Sarah Baillie Aug 3rd 1890, Old B68

Hugh and Sarah's daughter Kate Louise Mackenzie/Baillie took Holy Orders, and their sons, James Hugh and John Cecil George became international businessmen, living in a variety of countries around the globe.

Hugh remarried, this time to widow Maria Ross, the daughter of William Nevin Wallace, an Irish Justice of the Peace. Hugh died in 1923, aged 84. His obituaries

explain that he had a long and successful military service with the London Scottish Regiment, with a prize winning rifle shot [5,6].



DEATH OF MR. H. J. BAILLIE

MR HUGH BAILLIE.
The death took place at Jerviswoode, Tunbridge Wells, last week, of Mr Hugh John Baillie, aged 84, a descendant of the famous Lady Grizel Baillie. Mr Baillie was a brother of the Dowager-Lady Polwarth, and of Mrs Scott, wife of the Rev. Walter Polliott Scott, formerly rector of St John's, Jedburgh, also a member of the Polwarth family. Mr Baillie was the eldest son of the late Rev. the Hon. John Baillie, Canon Residentiary of York, younger brother of the tenth Earl of Haddington, and of the Hon. Lord Jerviswoode, a Court of Session judge, who died in 1878. The Canon's sisters, celebrated for their beauty, included a Marchioness of Breadalbane, a Countess of Aberdeen, and a Lady Polwarth. Mr Baillie was married twice, and is survived by one son.

We regret to record the death of Mr. Hugh John Baillie, of Jerviswood, Rusthall, son of the late Rev. the Hon. John Baillie (of the Haddington family), Canon Residentiary of York. Mr. Baillie was one of the very first and oldest members of the London Scottish Regiment, and was in possession of the Volunteer Medal for Long Service. He was a well-known rifle shot, having won many Cups and prizes at Wimbledon and Bisley, amongst which was the St. George's International Challenge Cup. He was twice in the first hundred for the King's Prize. He will be greatly regretted by his many friends in Rusthall.



Sarah's son, William Charles Morrison Mackenzie by her first marriage to Frederick became a hairdresser in London but died, aged 26. Their daughter Ellen Clara Frances Mackenzie worked as midwife and then ran a lodging house, also in London. She died a spinster, aged 47.



This account has been compiled as part of the Settle Graveyard Project which has recorded gravestone inscriptions, updated church records and researched the lives of those buried. It has been written in good faith with no offence intended. If I have inadvertently included errors or breached any copyright I apologise and would welcome corrections.

Life stories can be found on dalescommunityarchives.org.uk/settle-graveyard-project. The 'Old Settle' family tree on ancestry.co.uk includes the families buried in the graveyard. The project is ongoing and welcomes queries and information on settlerearch@gmail.com. Latest news and events are on the Facebook page 'Settle Graveyard Project'.

Illustrations kindly provided by Teresa Gordon

Newspaper cuttings with the kind permission of the British Newspaper Archives: 1 – Liverpool Standard, 2 – Kentish Gazette, 3 – Army and Navy Gazette, 4 – The Chelmsford Chronicle, 5 – Aberdeen Press and Journal, 6 – Kent and Sussex Courier

ph1 – credited to Wikipedia, public domain, ph2 – credited to the family descendants on ancestry.co.uk, username christopherbarstow44