

Freda Kendall Mew

Freda Kendall Mew was the sister of the poet Charlotte Mary Mew (1869 -- 1928), she was born at St Pancras, London in 1879 the youngest of seven children born to Frederick and Anna Mew, Frederick was a prominent London architect, associated with and related to Cubitt who built Osborne House, At the age of nineteen, in 1899, Freda was placed in the private wing of Whitecroft, known then as the Isle of Wight Lunatic Asylum where she was to spend another 59 years until her death in 1958. Interestingly her death certificate was falsified in that it gave her uncle Richard Mew of New Fairlee Farm as her father rather than her true father, his brother Frederick Mew the London architect !!

Mental health problems appear to have run in the family her eldest brother, Henry Hearne Mew, born 1865 was also placed in a Lunatic Asylum in London dying there in 1901 her sister the poet Charlotte and another sister made a pact not to marry as they thought there was a mental weakness in the family. Charlotte eventually committed suicide, by drinking Lysol, in 1928 (This was a common method of suicide in the early 1900s).

Source, The Charlotte Mew Chronicle

For more details see <http://studymore.org.uk/fredamew.htm>

<https://www.foncc.org.uk>