



## Henry Gavin (served as Larvin) 1876-1918

Henry was born in Dewsbury on 14<sup>th</sup> February 1876; his birth name was registered as *Gavan*. His father was Patrick Gavin born in Ireland around 1839 and died in 1884. His mother was Bridget (nee McManus) born in Ireland around 1849 and died in 1885.

Their other children were; Michael, born in Stalybridge, Cheshire in 1868, John, born in Stalybridge in 1870, Sarah (birth name registered as *Gavan*), born in Dewsbury in 1872 and Thomas (birth name registered as *Gavan*), born in Dewsbury in 1873.

Henry was married on 11<sup>th</sup> October 1897 to Mary Ann Nocton (born in 1876 and died in 1938). Their children were; Henry Nocton, born in 1896 and served in World War 1, Sarah Gavin, born in 1897 and died in 1902, twins Thomas, born in 1899 and died in 1902 and James, born in 1899 and died in 1902.

When his obituary appeared in the local press, his home address was given as 53, Back Victoria Road, Springfield, Dewsbury. He appears on the 1901 and 1911 census records living in Hull from where he embarked upon his pre-war Merchant Navy service.

He had served for seven years in the West Riding Regiment and upon leaving the army he signed on as a seaman in the Merchant Navy under the name *Henry Larvin*, travelling to the Far East on several occasions. At the outbreak of war he joined the Royal Naval Reserve and served on a number of ships including a Minesweeper; after a few weeks recovering from illness he served as Trimmer 1388TS on a whaling vessel HM "Blackwhale". On 3<sup>rd</sup> January 1918 whilst on escort duties the "Blackwhale" was sunk by an enemy submarine or a mine. Of the crew of 31, only 19 were saved but he was not one of the survivors. His remains were never identified for burial and so he is commemorated as *Henry Larvin* on the Chatham Naval Memorial, Kent. Henry was awarded the 1914-15 Star, The British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Despite his true surname being pointed out to the Admiralty, in a letter verified by the Chief Constable of Dewsbury, it was noted that: ***The name will not be altered in RNR records.***

Henry is also commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library and on the War Memorial in Our Lady and St. Paulinus Church.

In Memory of

Trimmer

## Henry Larvin

1388TS, H.M. Whaler "Blackwhale.", Royal Naval Reserve who died on 03 January 1918

Remembered with Honour  
Chatham Naval Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

