

William Henry CREWS

Born Kenn (St Thomas) Q3 1864 Died 27 February 1919, Dawlish, aged 54
Private 67964 Devonshire Regiment, Depot Battn

William Henry Crews was the eldest child of Charles Crews (1839-) and Charlotte Ann (1842-). Charles was born in Kenn and Charlotte was born in Dunchideock, and he was an agricultural labourer. In 1871 they were living at 'Pridhams', Kenn, with three children:

William, 6,	1854-1919	}	born in Kenn
John, 4,	1867 -	}	
Priscilla, 2.	1869-	}	

By 1881 they were living at 4 Towsington Street, Exminster and **William** had joined his father as an agricultural labourer, and the family had grown with four more children:

Margaret	1872-	born in Exminster
Alice	1875-	Kenn
Alfred	1877-	Exminster
Mary Ann	1880-	Powderham

Charles and Charlotte were 72 and 69 by the 1911 census and living at Days Lane, Exminster, and the census form was completed by the mark 'X' of Charlotte.

William married Caroline Bond (1861-1935) in 1891 (BMD ref July-Sep 1891, St Thomas, Vol 5b, p 71).

At some time **William** joined the army and this may have been ca 1901 when his wife, Caroline, is living at 7 Truman's Court, High Street, Dawlish with three children:

Ethel Bessie	1893-	born in Dawlish
William Charles	1895- 1975	"
Reginald Henry	1900-1981	"

All the children are shown as having been born in Dawlish and so the parents may have moved to the town by 1893.

By 1911 he is shown in the census, living at 3 Priory Hill, Dawlish as an army pensioner. His family comprised his wife, shown as born in Cheriton Fitzpaine, and three children, Ethel, 18, a draper's shop assistant, William Charles, 16, an engine cleaner on the railway at Newton Abbot, and Reginald, 11, scholar. William Charles Crews worked as an engine cleaner at Llanelly in 1913 before enlisting in the Army in 1915. He transferred to the Royal Navy and was invalided from the service on 27 March 1917. He died at Devizes in Q3, 1975 aged 80.

Caroline Crews died in Q3 1935, aged 74.

It appears that **William Henry Crews** returned to Army service after the outbreak of war. The Commonwealth War Graves entry records that he had served in the South African Campaign, and that he was enlisted as a Private, service number 67964 with the Devonshire Regiment, Depot.

His grave, plot 1878, in [Dawlish Cemetery](#), suggests that he died in Dawlish, but perhaps as a result of injury sustained. The Register of Soldiers' Effects records that he died in a military hospital.

He is not listed on the Devon Roll of Honour nor does his name appear on the Dawlish War memorial.

Dawlish World War One Project

References:

- CWGC website
- Dawlish cemetery headstone.
- Free BMD refs
- References via susbscription (ancestry)
- Census entries

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