

William Tarrant Gray

Isle of Wight County Press – 8 March 1941

NEWPORT

Nonagenarian Naval Veteran's Death. – The death occurred at St. Mary's Hospital on Thursday, at the great age of 95 (he would have been 96 in June), of Mr. William Tarrant Gray, formerly of Elm-grove, a naval veteran and ex-grocer, who was a familiar figure in the borough as, until a few months ago, when he was removed to hospital, he remained wonderfully active for his years and took his daily walks. Mr. Gray served in the Royal Navy for some years. He joined as far back as 1861 and during Portsmouth Navy Week a few years ago, after he became a nonagenarian, he caused much amusement on H.M.S. Victory by inquiring if there was anyone there who served with him in 1861. He was in H.M.S. Perseus during the bombardment of Kagoshima, Japan, in 1863, and was a survivor of the burning of H.M.S. Pelorous in the Bay of Biscay. After leaving the Senior Service he was for many years employed in Messrs. Jordan and Stanley's store and at the same time carried on business at a general shop in Elm-grove, where he had been a resident for the greater part of his long life, although for a few years he was in business at Freshwater as a house decorator. Until his final indisposition, due to his age, this hardy veteran had never had a serious illness. His recipe for good health and long life was moderation in everything and plenty of fresh air. He was a member of the P.S.A. Brotherhood and the Foresters. He was twice married, and had two daughters, but his only surviving relatives are seven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. The funeral will be at Carisbrooke Cemetery on Monday.

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