

John Cook, and his son John, a 13 year old choirboy

John Cook was the only child of Irish tailor **James Cook** and his second wife **Ann Winnera** who died at John's birth. James already had eight children with his first wife **Dorothy Howson** and then married a third wife **Eleanor Atkinson**. Unfortunately many of those children died in infancy. James and Dorothy's eldest son was **Henry Gratton Cook** who married **Margaret Anne Metcalfe**, daughter of **James Metcalfe**, schoolmaster and they emigrated to the States. James and Dorothy's youngest daughter, **Jane Cook**, married **Henry Sanderson**, the brother of **Annie Sanderson** who caused quite a bit of scandal when she married **James Twisleton**. In 1841, John's half-brother **Thomas** served a carpentry apprenticeship with **George Wilkinson Newsholme** before leaving the area.

John became a joiner and married **Elizabeth Grime** from Clapham, sister of **William Grime**. Elizabeth was ten years older than John and lied about her age on the wedding certificate and for the rest of her life, to suggest she was only five years older. Did John know? In Victorian days it was acceptable for a man to have a younger wife, but not the other way round.

During the 1870s John's carpentry skills were perfect for employment on the railway. Whilst working one day, he noticed **Robert Kellam** taking a piece of mahogany from the railway stores and making a puzzle money box with it. John's foreman in 1877 was none other than **Worrell Kellam**, Robert's brother. For some reason **Worrell** had dismissed John and a little later John decided to tell the railway management about Robert taking the mahogany. John's eldest son, **William Edward Cook**, gave evidence on behalf of his father. The jury took the opinion that John was bitter about losing his job and that there was no proof of theft. They found Robert 'not guilty, with a doubt'. The chairman said that Robert had 'escaped justice by the skin of his teeth'.

THE ALLEGED FRAUDS ON THE MIDLAND RAILWAY.

learned counsel.—After a short consultation, the jury found that the prisoner was "Not guilty, with a doubt." —The Chairman, in discharging the prisoner, pointed out to him that he had escaped by the skin of his teeth.

John and Elizabeth lived and in Duke Street Settle and then in Giggleswick at Ivy Fold. Of their five children, the fourth, **John Cook**, died aged two so they also named their fifth child **John Cook**. This John, born in 1873, was a choirboy at the church. Tragically, aged just 13, John drowned in the Ribble at Birkbeck Weir near Anley [2]. Birkbeck Weir was a dangerous place — it was also where the solicitor **John Cowburn** died.

FATAL BATHING ACCIDENTS.

Yesterday afternoon the dead body of a boy named **John Cook**, the son of a joiner in Settle, was discovered in the River Ribble at a part called Birkbeck Weir, near Settle, which is a favourite resort for bathers. No one appears to have been with the boy when he was bathing. He was a member of the choir of the Church of the Holy Ascension, Settle, and his death called forth many expressions of regret.

In 1889 **John Richards**, a solicitor's clerk took **John Cook** to court for using threatening language and was ordered to pay £20 as a surety that he would keep the peace [3].

BOUND OVER.—**John Cook**, of Ivy Fold, Giggleswick, was ordered to enter into his own recognisance of £20 to keep the peace for six months towards **John Richards**, of Giggleswick, to whom he used threatening language on the 11th inst., the parties being directed to pay their own costs.

Elizabeth died in 1897, aged 71 and was buried with both sons called John in the unmarked grave Old AX44 with a couple of elderly paupers from the workhouse.

After Elizabeth died, dad John lived with their eldest son **William Edward Cook**, a joiner, who lived on Belle Hill in Giggleswick. In 1882 William Edward had a photo taken at the Horner studios together with his enormous Penny Farthing — he must have been very proud of it! [ph1] In 1886 William Edward married **Elizabeth Ann Brown**, the daughter of **John Brown**, the blacksmith on Belle Hill and they had five children. Both John and William Edward found work in Horton-in-Ribblesdale. John worked in the quarries and William Edward became the innkeeper at the Golden Lion (in Horton-in-Ribblesdale). In 1902, William Edward Cook had his watch stolen

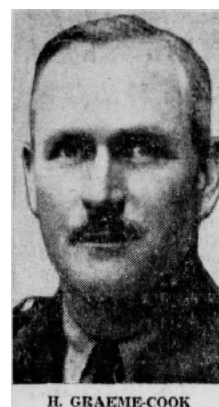
by **William Irving** of Settle who was helping him to move some furniture. William found the temptation to steal too strong! It became apparent that William was a serial offender having been in prison on 53 occasions! [2]

HE YIELDED TO TEMPTATION.
William Irving (51), of Settle, described as a quarryman, pleaded guilty to stealing a silver watch, the property of a man named **Cook**, at **Horton-in-Ribblesdale**. The watch was stolen while prisoner was helping the prosecutor to remove his furniture. In extenuation of his offence, the prisoner said, "I took the watch up twice, and put it down again, but the third time the temptation was too strong for me."
The Chairman: Unfortunately, temptation seems to have proved too strong for you on many previous occasions, as you have been in prison on 53 occasions.
A sentence of five months' imprisonment was passed.

15. Mr. John Cook, Joiner, of Horton-in-Ribblesdale, was accidentally killed at Foredale Quarry, aged 70 years.—Annual

Unfortunately John also had a tragic death, being accidentally killed at Foredale Quarry (behind Helwith Bridge) in 1904 aged 70 [LSA] and was buried up there too. William Edward and Elizabeth Ann eventually moved to live in Bury St Edmunds.

John and Elizabeth's other remaining son was **Frederick Grime Cook**, named with his mother's maiden name. He began his working life as a tailor and then assurance agent in Liverpool. However Frederick became an Anglican missionary and took his wife, **Elizabeth Pugh** and son, **Hubert**, to serve in India where he appeared to remain for the rest of his life. At the same time he changed his name to **Frederick Graeme-Cook** — many other Settle folk with the surname Grime changed their name to **Graham**, but no others opted for the double-barrelled version. Frederick's son Hubert Graeme-Cook came back to Edinburgh to graduate and then had a military career in Africa and India. At Partition in 1947 Hubert [ph2] and his Egyptian wife emigrated to Canada and made a living selling copies of the Encyclopaedia Britannica.



Mr W Cook, photograph by the Horner Studio. Horner Collection©NCBPT (CC-BY 4.0)



This account has been compiled by Sarah Lister 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 settleresearch@gmail.com. Latest news and events are on the Facebook page 'Settle Graveyard Project'.

Newspaper cuttings with the kind permission of the British Newspaper Archives: 1 – Lancaster Guardian, 2 – Leeds Mercury, 3 – Craven Herald

LSA - Lambert's Settle Almanac with the kind permission of the North Craven Buildings Preservation Trust

Settle Graveyard Project

ph1 – Image 2022.1.8.52 from the Horner Photographic Studio Collection provided courtesy of the Museum of North Craven Life, ph2 – credited to family descendants via Ancestry.co.uk, username Susan Kloske Padukov



Images from the Horner Collection are licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/).