

Sergeant Major William Field Hook

William was born in 1831, the eldest of four children of **John Hook**, and his wife **Susannah Field**. At the time of the 1841 census John's work as a servant took the family to live in the wonderful Georgian houses surrounding Regent's Park in London. John died in 1846 just after William had started working for the Post Office. By the summer of 1848 William signed up to the military and this would shape the rest of his life.

In January 1853 he was '*discharged by payment*' suggesting that he bought his way out of service. The reason for this was probably that he had just married **Anne Shinkwin** who was from a military family, the daughter of a colonel in the 44th regiment and born in India. William's occupation was given as an office clerk working at Fulwood Barracks, near Preston. However, by May the same year he had signed up again and remained an employee until February 1860 when he was '*discharged when disembodied*'. In the meantime Anne had given birth to **Margaret Mary Hook** who died aged six months. Sadly Anne died six months later.

Soon afterwards, in Zante, Greece, William met and married **Jane Giovanna Lagomarsino**. Jane was of the Catholic faith and so William converted to Catholicism and their children were brought up within that faith. They had eleven children over 20 years, although the eldest **William** died in infancy. Several grandsons would be named William Field Hook.

By June 1860, not long after William's discharge, William and Jane lived in the Green in Giggleswick for the birth of their second child. William described himself as a drill instructor. Not only was he the drill inspector for Giggleswick School but was the '*drill and musketry instructor*' for the North Craven Rifles. By 1863 he was made Sergeant-Major to the battalion [1].

SETTLE.
NORTH CRAVEN RIFLES.—The members of this corps for the past few weeks have been engaged in target practice at Attermire, for the annual government classification. The result of the classification will also determine the members who will have the honour of representing the corps at the annual competition for Major Wilson's prizes, to be held at Eshton Hall, near Gargrave, on Whit-Tuesday. We understand that General Hay, the instructor of musketry at the government school at Hythe, has granted a first-class certificate to Sergeant-Major Hook, of the 2nd Administrative Battalion of West York Rifles, who has recently undergone the necessary instruction and examination at the government school at Fleetwood. In addition to being Sergeant-Major to battalion, Mr Hook has ever since the formation of the North Craven Rifles creditably occupied the post of drill and musketry instructor to that corps.

Jim Nelson wrote about the North Craven Rifles for The North Craven Heritage Trust, '*With the deteriorating relations with France, the Secretary of State for war permitted county lieutenants to raise volunteer rifle corps. A meeting was called on 6th June 1854 at the Court House in Settle; Walter Morrison of Malham Tarn and John Birkbeck of Anley were joint secretaries and thirty volunteers signed up. Each was asked to pay £2-1-0 for his own grey tunic uniform and £3-8-0 for a rifle and bayonet. Drills were held initially in the meeting room of the Joiners Arms, now Commercial Yard in Duke Street, Settle, but by 1864 Mr Morrison had provided the drill hall, (now the Scout HQ), at the foot of Castlebergh. From early days Settle Volunteers won fame for shooting. In matches held between Skipton, Ingleton and Settle at Malham Tarn, the 'Morrison Silver Bugle' came back to Settle time and time again. The Attermire range was set up in 1860 by which time there were sixty volunteers. In 1862 Settle took the top three places when shooting against the rest of Yorkshire at York. The grey uniform had changed to scarlet but when the unit transferred to the Territorial Army, in 1908, khaki was introduced. This transfer made no difference to the rifle range; it was well used right up to the beginning of the first world war.*



Settle Graveyard Project

The North Craven Rifles met for the first time in uniform in November 1859 soon after a member shot a white rabbit at 1000 yards [1]. There were 50 members, including the band. In January 1860 William was recruited, giving 'assiduous attention to the drill, and the percentage of "first class men" and of "marksmen" was equal to that of the best regiments of the regular army' [ph9]. In May 1861 William was commended for his work in the management and welfare of the corps by Walter Morrison of Malham Tarn Hall [SC]. Praise indeed. William did his job well. There were 81 members in 1872 with some familiar Settle names. He was a pretty good shot too [SC].

In January, 1860, the connection of Sergt.-Major Hook with the corps, as drill instructor, which was destined to be of such long duration and of such great value, commenced.

and others. Sergt. Major Hook gave assiduous attention to the drill, and the percentage of "first-class men" and of "marksmen" was equal to that of the best regiments of the regular army. In fact the Corps felt justified in sending teams to compete at York and other places.

APPOINTMENT.—At a special meeting of the Guardians of the **Settle** Poor-Law Union, on Tuesday, Sergt.-Major Hook (formerly of Lancaster), after a close contest, was successful in obtaining the appointment of registrar of births, deaths, and marriages, which was vacant by the death of Mr. Cowburn.

For some reason, William, aged 45, decided on a change. In November 1876, 'after a close contest', William was appointed as the Registrar of birth marriages and deaths taking over from **John Cowburn** [2]. Then in 1878 the Postmaster at the Duke Street Post Office, **John Battersby**, died and William, going back to his roots, took over as Postmaster as well as the registrar. The Post Office was moved to Cheapside in the Market Place of Settle [ph1] 'expensively fitted' and 'much more commodious'[2]. Wife Jane and the children helped out. He was a busy man in 1887! [LSA].

SETTLE.—EXTRAORDINARY SHOT.—One of the members of the "North Craven Rifles," not long ago made one of the most wonderful shots ever heard of, he having killed a white rabbit at the remarkably long distance of 1,000 yards. The weapon used was the Short Enfield Rifle.

NORTH CRAVEN RIFLES.—This corps will meet for the first time in uniform, on Tuesday next. The corps has now been under drill for upwards of 3 months, and has attained a high state of efficiency. The muster-roll numbers about 50, including the band.

I have very great pleasure in here testifying to the invaluable services of Serjeant Major Hook in everything connected with the management and welfare of the corps.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient Servant,
W. MORRISON,
Captain Commanding 15th W. R. V. R. C.
Head Quarters, Settle. April 24th, 1862.

SETTLE v. SKIPTON—On Wednesday, October 4th, a rifle match for £5 a side, between ten members of the Settle, and ten of the Skipton corps, took place at Skipton. The ranges were 200, 500, and 600 yards, five shots at each range, Wimbledon scoring, Hythe position, and new regulation targets. Below we give the score, from which it will be seen that the Settle corps won the match, heading their opponents 42 points:—

SETTLE				
	200	500	600	Total
Sergt. Major Hook	13	13	9	35
Col. Sergt. Myers	15	4	10	29
Sergt Hutchinson	16	13	5	34
Private Bulcock	13	11	12	36
" Burrow	17	7	9	33
" Ovington	13	7	14	34
" Taylor	13	6	0	19
" Wilkinson	15	8	4	27
" Wray	11	10	6	27
" Ward	11	2	6	19
				293

THE NEW POST OFFICE.—During the past week the postal arrangements have undergone a change. The Post Office, which has for many years been in Duke street, has been removed to Cheapside, where Mr. Hook, the newly-appointed master, resides. It has been expensively fitted up, and we doubt not will be found much more commodious as well as possessing the advantages of a more central position than the old Post Office, and the public generally will be benefitted by the change of premises.

SETTLE POST OFFICE.
MARKET PLACE.

POSTMASTER Mr. W. F. HOOK.

DESTINATION.

BOX CLOSURES.
8.0 a.m.—Local Post only.
11.0 a.m.—Leeds, Manchester, London and North. General Mail.
6.30 p.m.—Leeds, Skipton, Manchester, London and North. General Mail.
7.30 p.m.—Lancaster, London, Manchester and North. General Mail.
9.25 p.m.—Leeds. General Mail.

On **SUNDAYS** the Box closes at 5-45 p.m. General Mail.
These times are subject to the change of time of Mail trains, notice of which is posted at the office.

OFFICE HOURS.—The Office is open to the public on week days from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Sundays from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. During these hours Postage Stamps may be purchased and Letters registered. Money Order Office and Savings Bank closes at 5 p.m. Postal Orders may be had until close of business.



Settle Graveyard Project

William's work as a registrar included registering the death of many of our graveyard inhabitants including poor old **Annie Simpson** in 1889.

1889. DEATHS in the Sub-District of <i>Settle</i> in the County of <i>York West Riding</i>									
Columns 1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	
No.	When and Where Died.	Name and Surname.	Sex.	Age.	Rank or Profession.	Cause of Death.	Signature, Description, and Residence of Informant.	When Registered.	Signature of Registrar.
111	<i>Sewatop north April 1889 Settle R. D.</i>	<i>Annie Simpson</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>53 years</i>	<i>Widow of James Simpson farmer</i>	<i>Pericarditis Anomala Echausion certified by Dr. Cadbergood, M.D.</i>	<i>James Simpson second son present at death Settle</i>	<i>May 1889</i>	<i>William Field Hook Registrar</i>

A wonderful family photo [ph3] was taken in the early 1880s, perhaps outside the back of the Post Office. It was carefully staged with William earnestly studying some paperwork, surrounded by his family in their Sunday best. At the time of each census from 1881, William and Jane also looked after William's niece **Frances Ann Crossley** who was the only surviving child of William's sister **Charlotte** who died when Frances was just six. It's not clear whether any of the children in the photo is Frances.



William died on 13 February 1896, aged 65 of kidney failure, certified by **Dr Charles William Buck**. **William Thomas Bilton**, the assistant

<i>Thirteenth February 1896 Settle R. D.</i>	<i>William Field Hook</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>65 years</i>	<i>Post Master</i>	<i>Chronic Interstitial Nephritis Uræmia certified by Dr. W. Buck, M.R.C.S.</i>	<i>Francis George Hook son present at death Settle 9, Barrington Road, Bury</i>	<i>Thirteenth February 1896</i>	<i>William Thomas Bilton Assistant Registrar</i>
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registrar, registered his death. William Field Hook left a surprisingly modest estate of just £93 and 15 shillings, worth about £10,000 in today's value. Jane moved to Goldielands with daughter Cecilia and niece Frances who both assisted at the Post Office. By 1907 Jane, Cecilia and Frances had moved to the newly built High Hill Grove. Jane died of a stroke in 1907, aged 69. Her death was certified by **Dr Lovegrove** and **James Parker** was the replacement registrar.

What of their children? Sons **Vincent Eyre Hook** and **Francis George Hook** were both day students at Giggleswick School. Vincent used his education to become an accountant in London. He married **Ellen Leo** whose parents had moved to London from Ireland. Vincent and Ellen had three sons and a daughter but Vincent died of consumption, aged just 28, whilst a passenger on board a ship 'Akoroa'. The three surviving children [ph4] were brought up in Settle by William and Jane – quite a houseful! Ellen remarried the wonderfully named commercial clerk, **Culloden Rowan**, but he also died soon afterwards. At the time of the 1911 census, Ellen appeared to be in prison – a newspaper report of 1908 may be a clue as to the unfortunate circumstances of her decline, having being found drunk in the street twice [6]. Amazingly Vincent's eldest son, another **William Field Hook**, had a career in the navy and son **Joseph Francis** emigrated to the States.



A FORTIFIER.
Mrs. Ellen Rowan, 42, of St. John's-road, Upper Holloway, said in reply to the allegation that she had been found drunk in the street twice within a short period, that she had had a lot of trouble, but had now decided to drink no more. In fact, she had taken the pledge. **Mr. d'Hyacourt**—I shall fine you 2s. 6d., which may perhaps fortify you in your good resolution.

William and Jane's son **Joseph John Hook** seemed quite a character. In 1884 Joseph, aged 16 and two friends were charged with riding their bicycles along Duke Street in Settle with no lights on [2]. In the process of being stopped by the police Joseph's bike was damaged. Joseph John was defended by **George Marshall Robinson** who led a debate as to the exact definition of the times that bicycle lights were required and pointed out that Joseph was well known so didn't need to be stopped with any force. The boys paid a nominal fine of 6 pence plus costs.

THE POLICE AND THE BICYCLISTS.—At the petty sessions on Tuesday, before J. Birkbeck, Esq. (chairman), Rev. H. J. Swale, H. Christie, and J. Birkbeck, jun., Esqrs., Thomas Raynor Hartley, Wm. Maudsley, and Joseph John Hook, all of Settle, youths, were charged by the police with a breach of the bye-laws. Mr. G. M. Robinson appeared for defendants.—Supt. Inman having stated the nature of the charge, called P.C. Jessop (Langcliffe) who said that on the 14th inst., at 9 5 p.m., he saw the defendants riding bicycles along Duke street from the direction of the Market Place, the machines having at the time no lamps attached.—P.C. Rennard (Settle) gave corroborative

omission to provide lamps. Hook was dismounted in a most summary manner, suffering a severe shaking, and his machine was damaged, and he (Mr. Robinson) submitted that Hook being well known in Settle there was no occasion to stop him for the purpose of taking his name. As the Bench would have observed from the character of the cross examination proceedings against the officers were contemplated.—Defendants were ordered to pay a nominal fine of 6d., with 2s. 6d. costs each.

SETTLE—BICYCLISTS AND THE POLICE—At the Settle County Court yesterday—before Mr T. H. Ingham, judge—two policemen named respectively John Wm. Jessop and Wm. Rennard, were sued by Joseph John Hook, a youth, for £2 19s. 6d. for damages to a bicycle, assault, and illegal arrest. On the 14th ultimo, plaintiff and two companions, whilst riding upon their bicycles along Duke Street about nine p.m., were stopped by defendants because they had no lights attached to their machines, as required by the bye-laws. Jessop got hold of plaintiff's machine with the result that the latter was thrown heavily to the ground, and the machine was broken. The youths were subsequently summoned before the magistrate, who inflicted the nominal penalty of 6d. and costs for the breach of the bye laws. His Honour now told Jessop, who appeared, the other defendant having decamped, that they had exceeded their duty, and entered a verdict for plaintiff for £2 with costs.



Incredibly, Joseph John Hook then took the policemen to court to sue them for damage to his bicycle [3]. His Honour decided that the policemen had 'exceeded their duty' and fined them £2! Joseph John soon decided on a military career. At the age of 22 he married **Catherine Keenan** in Bangalore in India and spent the rest of his life there with his family [ph5].

Most of William and Jane's other children moved away. **Francis George** became a railway clerk, **Mary Hellen** took Holy Orders and served in York, **Emily Jane** married an insurance agent and **Matilda Field Hook** married a draper. **Elizabeth** died aged 27 and **Louisa Agnes** aged 26. William and Jane's daughter **Cecily/Cicely/Cecilia**, born in 1869, stayed in Settle and looked after her parents together with her cousin **Frances Ann Crossley**. In 1890 Cecily and brother **James Lagomarsino Hook** began employment with the Post Office in Settle as telegraph and sorting clerks.

Two years after her mother died, in 1909, Cecily married **Robert Joseph Rawdin** who had moved to Settle from Leicestershire. She was 39 when she married although at the time of the 1911 census claimed she was just 34. She had two daughters. The family lived in High Hill Grove with cousin **Frances Ann Crossley**. A great photo of the Edwardian era shows Cecily with one of her sisters [ph6].



Robert Joseph Rawdin

Robert (Bob), born in 1874, was the son of **Thomas Rawdin** and his wife **Sarah Ann Lilly**, born in Bottesford between Nottingham and Grantham. For some reason Robert was the one selected out of ten siblings to be brought up by his childless aunt and uncle **William and Eliza (Lilly) Sutton**. Robert must have been well educated as he became a solicitor's clerk. In Settle he worked for Mr Wm Hartley and Mr J H Vant's solicitors. Bob was known to be a sporting man – cricket [ph8], billiards [ph7], shooting and fishing. In 1905 a poem was written about the Cricket Club team, the year they won the Ribblesdale League, when Bob was Vice-Captain alongside **Charles Alured Swale**. It included the verse:

*Bob Rawdin is Vice-Captain, and well he does his work,
For when his chief is absent he's never known to shirk;
He is a steady batsman and as a stumper he does stand;
Bob also is the leader of old 'Macnamara's Band.'*

Bob served in the 6th Duke of Wellington's regiment in France during the war until he was invalided home [4]. Robert posed outside what was the White Horse Inn in the Market Place [ph2].

Robert died in 1930, aged 57 and Cecily followed in 1938, aged 68 (although burial records say 65). They were buried with their daughter **Mary Josephine** who died, aged just eight. Cecily's parents and sisters **Elizabeth and Louisa Agnes** are buried in the same plots. The author of the obituary got slightly confused, suggesting he was buried at 'the Roman Catholic Church of the Holy Ascension' [4] – a graveyard for mixed denominations was quite unusual in those days, and still is. Where they do exist, other denominations tend to be buried in a separate area but at Holy Ascension they are randomly mixed with all other burials. A commemorative stone was added much later.



In loving memory of the Hook and Rawdin families 1892 - 1999, Old C4/5

Robert and Cecily's daughter **Christine** stayed in Settle working as a photographer's assistant for **Anthony Horner** but later, when the Horner business was bought out, she worked for plumber **Eddie Percy**. Christine was, for a while, associated with **Eli Simpson**, the influential and controversial British caver and speleologist, and a founding member of the British Speleological Association. Eli is buried in the grave **NewD1**. Christine eventually married when she was aged 72. Perhaps Christine's ashes are scattered with her parents' remains?

What of Robert's own family? Robert's father **Thomas Rawdin** was a canal labourer based in Bottesford who died in 1927, aged 77. Robert predeceased his mother who died in 1937, aged 88 and was 'one of Bottesford's oldest residents' [4]. The



THE DEATH has occurred of Mr. Robert J. Rawdin, son of the late Mr. Thomas, and of Mrs. Rawdin. Deceased, who was 57 years of age, passed away at Settle, Yorks., where he had been employed by the late Mr. Wm. Hartley and Mr. J. H. Vant, solicitors, as clerk. Previously, Mr. Rawdin was with Messrs. Oldham and Marsh, Melton Mowbray. Fond of all sport, his chief recreations during the past few years were shooting and fishing. When war broke out he was a member of the 6th Duke of Wellington's Regiment, and proceeded to France with them early in 1915, serving until late in 1917, when he was invalided home. He was of a quiet and retiring disposition, and had many friends. The interment took place at the Roman Catholic Church of the Holy Ascension, Settle, where, for the last twenty-seven years Mr. Rawdin had been Master of Ceremonies, the sermon being conducted by the Rev. Joseph McAniff. The large attendance was evidence of the high esteem in which Mr. Rawdin was held. He is survived by a widow and one daughter.

ONE OF BOTTESFORD'S OLDEST RESIDENTS

A much-respected and well-known resident of Bottesford, Mrs. Rawdin, widow of Mr. Thomas Rawdin, has passed away at Brook House, the home of her son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. J. Hall, at the advanced age of 88 years.

Of her six sons four served in the war, and all attained non-commissioned rank. Three became sergeants, and Mr. Harry Rawdin, who served on the Rhine after hostilities, left the service as a quarter-master-sergeant. Another son, the late Sergeant T. Rawdin, figured in an heroic exploit at Nitra's Nek during the South African War, but was killed later while following his employment on the railway.

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article gave details of four out of six sons who served in the war. Robert's brother, Sergeant Thomas Rawdin served in the Boer War and was awarded a medal for distinguished conduct in the field when using his Maxim gun in the field at Nitral's Nek in July 1900. Mr Bennett Burleigh mentioned 'the most heroic thing in the Lincoln's fight was the conduct of Sergeant Rawdin.



of the Maxim gun. He was afterwards awarded the medal for distinguished conduct in the field. Mr. Bennett Burleigh, telegraphing from Pretoria to the *Daily Telegraph*, thus recounted the incident in which Rawdin played so gallant a part:—"The most heroic thing in the Lincoln's fight was the conduct of Sergeant Rawdin, who worked the Maxim which was supporting the D and F Companies. The enemy concentrating a venomous fire upon the Maxim, he ordered the others to retire, and remained alone serving the gun. The Maxim actually jammed under fire. He then dissectioned it. Recoupling the parts, he resumed firing the gun, which was saved from capture by Volunteers of the D Company, who dragged it out. The weapon is pitted with bullet marks."



The enemy concentrated venomous fire upon the Maxim Rawdin was using. He ordered the others to retire and remained alone with the gun which jammed. He then dissectioned it, recouped the parts and resumed the fight. The weapon is pitted with bullet marks'[4, ph9].

Thomas retired from the army soon after and worked as a platelayer for the railway at Colwick, Nottinghamshire. Tragically he was killed when a train ran over him while he was clearing snow. He would have had a quick death [5].

DECAPITATED AT COLWICK PLATELAYER'S TERRIBLE DISCOVERY ON THE RAILWAY

A shocking accident occurred early yesterday morning near Colwick on the Great Northern Railway. A foreman of platelayers named Marshall was walking along the line between Nottingham and Colwick, and when about a mile from Colwick Station he came across the dismembered body of a man lying across the metals.



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.

The life stories of people with italicised names have been researched as part of the graveyard project and can be found on [dalescommunityarchives.org.uk/settle graveyard project](http://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'.

Illustrations kindly provided by Teresa Gordon, Poem with thanks to Peter Metcalfe of Settle Cricket Club

Newspaper cuttings with the kind permission of the British Newspaper Archives: 1 – Kendal Mercury, 2 – Lancaster Gazette, 3 – Yorkshire Post, 4 – Grantham Journal, 5 – Nottingham Daily Journal, 6 – Islington Gazette

ph1 – credit the Back in Settle Facebook page, contributed by descendant, Sarah Johnson, ph2 – posted by Ben Mackenzie, ph3 – credited to ancestry.co.uk, username davidJM2018, ph4 – credited to ancestry.co.uk, username Johnsonnest2 (a descendant), ph5 – credited to ancestry.co.uk, username psellek, ph6 – credited to the Back in Settle facebook page, posted from Rachel Richards' collection, ph7 – with the kind permission of the North Craven Buildings and preservation Trust, ph8 – credited to the Back in Settle facebook page, posted by Steve Cowburn, ph9 – credited to ancestry.co.uk, username wedge 35

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