

# William Pilling Crook

(1878 - 1918)



## War Record<sup>(2)</sup>

William attested on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 1915, going into the 1<sup>st</sup>/5th Battalion (Territorials) Loyal North Lancashire Regiment. Service No: 8103. He was almost 38. He was born in Q1 of 1878.<sup>(36)</sup>

*William Pilling Crook*  
ve questions are true, and that I am willing to fulfil the (2)

Whilst in the Territorials, William would have signed the Imperial Service Agreement which meant that he could be sent overseas to fight if required.

He was 5'4 and one quarter inches when he was mobilised on 24<sup>th</sup> March 1916. Service No: 243513. If he had not already attested into the Territorials, he would have been conscripted under the 1916 Military Service Act, despite the fact that he was 38. The act allowed for men to be conscripted up to the age of 41, as long as they were unmarried. Did William think he would never have to go abroad? His picture appears to show someone very anxious.

William left for France on 13<sup>th</sup> February 1917.

His health deteriorated from 7<sup>th</sup> April 1918, when he became ill with boils on his back and arms. On 12<sup>th</sup> April he is transferred to the UK in hospital ship Jan Breydel(?). He was then in hospital in Chatham and transferred to Cox Heath, Maidstone, dying at 3.15 am on the morning of 29<sup>th</sup> May 1918 from Secondary Pneumonia.

**“Pte William P Crook, LNL Regiment, whose home is at Wellington Road, Turton, was brought from the front suffering from trench fever, with pneumonia supervening, he died on May 29<sup>th</sup> at the Auxiliary Hospital, Maidstone. He joined up in March, 1916, prior to which he was employed by the Edgworth Spinning Company. His name is on the Roll of Honour at Turton Church and he was 40 years of age”<sup>(16)</sup>**

William is also remembered on the Loyal North Lancashire Territorials Memorial in Queen’s Park, Bolton.

**CROOK** William Pelling of 25 Wellington-road Turton **Lancashire** private 5th Loyal North Lancashire regiment died 29 May 1918 at Cox Heath Hospital Maidstone Administration (with Will) **London** 6 December to Mary Ellen Crook spinster. Effects £146 8s. 11d.

(32)

His sister Mary Ellen received his Victory and British War Medals and his personal effects.

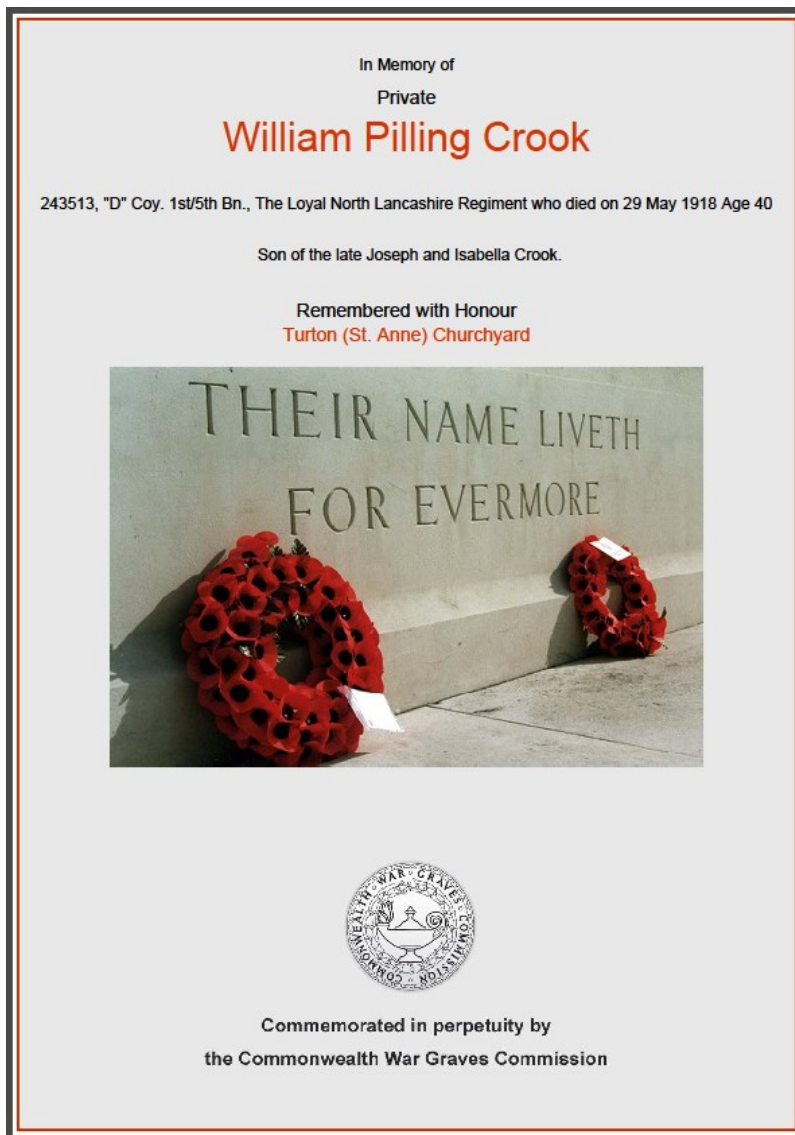
## **Family History<sup>(1)</sup>**

In the 1871 Census, William’s mother and father, Joseph and Isabella both appear as single people living with their families in Halliwell, Bolton. Isabella is working as a Cotton Doubler and living at 139 New Road. Joseph is working as a Mechanic in a cotton mill and lives next door at 137. Isabella and Joseph marry in 1876.

By 1881 they are living at 25 Wellington Road, Turton and by 1901 they have one son and three daughters:

### **1901 Census:**

|                       |    |                              |           |
|-----------------------|----|------------------------------|-----------|
| Joseph Crook          | 54 | Cotton Mill Mechanic         | b: Bolton |
| Isabella Crook        | 54 |                              | b: Bolton |
| William Pilling Crook | 23 | Yarn Tester, Cotton Spinners | b: Bolton |
| Mary Ellen Crook      | 20 | Towel Weaver                 | b: Turton |
| Edith Alice Crook     | 19 | Card Room Hand               | b: Turton |
| Isabella Crook        | 10 |                              | b: Turton |



By 1911 both mother and father have died. Isabella had died in September 1906 at the age of 59 and was buried in St. Anne's Turton<sup>(3)</sup>. Joseph died in 1909, aged 63 and is also buried in St. Anne's.<sup>(36)</sup>

William was now a Warehouseman, Mary Ellen was still a Towel Weaver, Edith was the Housekeeper and Isabella was an Assistant Teacher.

Isabella and Mary Ellen didn't marry and both are buried with their mother, father and William in St. Anne's Churchyard, Turton. They were still living together in Edgworth in 1939 at 25 Wellington Road.<sup>(35, 36)</sup> Edith married Stanley Jones in 1911 at St. Anne's.<sup>(3)</sup>

Buried Old Ground Left – F16<sup>(15)</sup>

**Research:** Linda Spencer

**Standard references:** 1, 2, 3, 32, 36, 35

16 Bolton Journal and Guardian 7.06.1918

17 Original data: The National Archives of the UK (TNA): Public Record Office (PRO) – [www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk)