

Old Earby Families: The Lunds

Worthy Sons of an Honoured House

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There is no old Earby family more deserving of honourable mention than the occupants of Standridge Clough Farm for the greater part of the nineteenth century.

It was about the year 1818 that Edmund Lund, with his wife Mary, came to live at the hillside farm, which derived its name from the beautiful "clough": the farm house occupying a sheltered position at the head of the ravine.. They hailed from Wycoller, near Colne, but before settling at Earby they had a short stay at Noyna, near Foulridge.

From childhood Mary Lund had been connected with the Methodist Society, and had a distinct recollection of the last visit to Colne of the venerable John Wesley, and received her class ticket at his hands. Her name appears in the Earby Society's record of members in 1810, her name on the Class book being the twenty second out of 23 names. The family were thus associated with Earby Methodism before the first chapel was built in 1821.

Edmund Lund (1) was a man of fine proportions, a God-fearing man, and a very hardy type of farmer. As an old man, who attained the age of 87 years, he delighted to tell old ghost stories to his children and grandchildren as they sat round the fire on wintry evenings. He passed away at the age of 87, and his wife, who was much younger than her partner, lived to 91 years of age.

Edmund Lund (2) was the youngest of a large family, and was born at Noyna End in 1812, "some time l't backend", as his mother was wont to say. He was brought up to work on the farm, and developed a hardy constitution. He never went to a day school, but learned to read and write from a man at Varges Farm, who was "a bit educated" and could read newspapers.

In addition to farm work, handloom weaving was resorted to, as was the custom at all the farmhouses on the hillside. Times were hard, and the food consisted mainly of "t'stir about and oatcakes"

As the years passed the sons and daughters of the family married and settled in Earby and other places where there was employment in the cotton factories, which superseded hand spinning and weaving.

Edmund Lund Junior, when he was married, settled at Thornton in Craven, where he kept a shop at the top of the village which bore the sign "Edmund Lund, licensed to sell tobacco, pepper and snuff". Desiring a change, he gave up the shop and took a farm in Camm Lane, the landlord being Mr John Wilkinson Wasney, the lord of the manor. Mr Wasney was a keen hunter, and the land swarmed with game, which was the cause of another removal, and as his parents were advanced in years, he returned to the old home farm.

Squire Cunliffe's Steward

Edmund Lund's wife was named Coates, a native of Kettlewell, and the family lived at Mile End House. Later they removed to Wycoller, where the father, John Coates, was a farmer, and also acted as steward to Squire Cunliffe, the last occupant of Wycoller Hall. The "Mad Squire", as he was called, was a strange character, and the story still lingers how the Squire, when fox hunting, followed a fox with the hounds, through the open door of the hall, up the stairs and into the bedroom, where his wife lay in child-birth. She was so terrified that she died, and the Squire, filled with remorse, left Wycoller Dene and died abroad. The Coates family settled at Eccleshill, near Bradford. Both the father and mother died rather early, and all the

four girls went into service, the two boys being apprenticed to Mr Brumfitt, cabinet maker, of Skipton. Mr Coates was a horse and cattle doctor, and he was assisted in his work by his eldest daughter (who married Mr Lund). His premature death was caused by an illness contracted in Scotland, when he was bringing droves of sheep over the fells into England and sleeping out in bad weather.

The elder of the two boys was called John and the other William, and they both emigrated to America. John was married before he left Skipton, and he raised a large family in Patterson N.J. who spread abroad in different cities from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Five of the sons fought in the American Civil War. The younger brother lived a roving life, and being an enthusiastic naturalist, he made a fine collection of moths and butterflies. When his health failed he packed his collection, and started for the old homeland, but he died in hospital in Liverpool.

Miss Coates, before her marriage to Mr Lund, was in the service of Mr Samuel Wainwright of Thornton. Mr Wainwright's daughter was married to an independent gentleman named John Wilson. Mr Wilson was the circuit steward of the Colne Methodist Circuit for many years, and the most prominent supporter of the Methodist cause in Earby, being the chapel steward. Mrs Lund was an ideal Christian mother, strong but gentle, and the embodiment of kindness. Her constant thought was the trust that was committed to her in the care and training of the family. Every evening she gathered her children round her and always closed her fervent prayers with a verse from the Methodist hymn – "A charge to keep I have", this verse being:

Help me to watch and pray

And on Thyself rely

Assured if I my trust betray

I shall for ever die.

She inculcated in the children an intense sense of right and duty, and her gracious manner acted like a magnet in drawing them to her.

After Mr Lund (2) returned to Standridge Clough he spent the energy of his best years in making the farm an ideal hillside farm, converting waste land, which was waterlogged and covered with briars and gorse, into good fields; quarrying and carting stone and building hundreds of yards of six foot walls; cultivating the beck course here and there and making rough places plain; so that it was safe grazing land for all kinds of stock. He literally obeyed the scriptural injunction "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with all thy might".

A Famous Local Preacher

In 1833 Mr Lund became a fully accredited local preacher, being placed upon the Colne Methodist Circuit Plan, along with Thomas Smith of Earby, John Hobson of Colne and John Clegg of Barrowford; and for thirty years their names appeared in consecutive order and only parted company when the Nelson Circuit was formed. For 56 years he laboured incessantly in East Lancashire and West Yorkshire, from Barley in Pendle Forest to Addingham and Beamsley in Wharfedale. He was a very earnest preacher who knew his Bible from end to end, and had a marvellous gift of extempore prayer. Nothing could daunt him and on a wild night he would brave the storm with a lantern in his hand, as he went down into the village to meet his Society Class. He often travelled on horse-back, but would also undertake long journeys on foot, and when he was 70 years of age he walked from Paythorne (where he spent the last few years of his life) to Barnoldswick, for the morning service and to Earby for the evening service.

The removal from Standridge Clough to Paythorne was a painful incident. Notice to quit was served on Mr Lund because another farmer had offered more money for the rent, and he never recovered from the blow which he received, after a family tenancy of nearly seventy years. The Lund family (2) at Standridge Clough contained two brothers and three sisters, Edmund, John, Mary, Eliza and Emma

Mary, the eldest, did not marry, but lived at home with her parents and died of heart disease at the age of 47.

Eliza married John Smith, the engineer of Gargrave Mill. They afterwards retired to Morecambe in the eventide of their life.

Emma was married to William Moorhouse and early in their married life they moved to Gargrave where Mr Moorhouse was an overlooker at the mill, and he was very well known in the Skipton district as a local preacher. One of their sons, Currer, joined the staff of Howard and Bulloughs, the famous textile machinists, and he became the general work's foreman. He now resides at Bentham, having retired from business. Mr and Mrs Moorhouse removed to Morecambe where they took front rank as caterers and company housekeepers.. They were very well known and respected in Morecambe, and their two daughters are still in business at the popular seaside resort.

Mr Lund spent his last days at the home of his daughter, Mrs Moorhouse,. There he was visited by the Wesleyan minister, but the minister, instead of affording comfort to the aged Christian saint, was willing to sit at his feet and be encouraged in his work.

“Owd Cheery” and “Joa Watler”

Edmund Lund (3) the eldest son, was a worthy follower of his father in every respect. After working on the farm he went into Bracewell's spinning mill as a doffer. He was a tall lad for his age, 12 years, and Mr Henry Bracewell said to him “Tha' art too big for this job; go up and ask Duncan (the mule overlooker) to find thee a job”.it was too hot for him in the mule room so he went into the New Shed to learn weaving with Agnes Turner. There were only two tacklers at the time, “Owd Cheery” and “Tinker”. Then “Joa Watler” (Waterworth) came to be a tackler. Mr Lund received his education, at the Earby Grammar School, which was then under the care of Mr John Bentley and his daughters, and he held the old schoolmaster in very high regard. Owing to farm work and rough weather, attendance at the school was rather irregular. As a youth Mr Lund assisted his friend Alfred Varley, in managing a night school, but his opinion was that he himself obtained more good from the venture than the scholars.

Mr Lund was also the secretary of the Sunday School which had 180 scholars on the books, seven classes of boys with 85 scholars, and nine classes of girls with 95 scholars. There was also a “select” class for the adults, which was taught by Edmund Lund senior, Thomas Smith, James Brown and Thomas Taylor.

After his marriage to Mary Jane Green, second daughter of John and Anne Green, formerly of Gargrave, Mr Lund left Earby in search of “fresh fields and pastures new”. He secured an appointment as manager of the Cowling Co-Operative Society and later held a similar position in Gargrave, then at Drighlington and finally at Skipton, to which town he removed in 1884. The Skipton Society, under his supervision, attained remarkable success, new branches being opened in the town and district and he very materially assisted in laying the foundation of its subsequent development.

Mr Lund, after the death of his wife, married Mrs Orcherton of Skipton and they spent a well-earned retirement at Embsay. As a Methodist Local Preacher Mr Lund had a career which

surpassed that of his father in length, being on the "plan" for 58 years, in the Colne, Ctrsshills, Birstal and Skipton Circuits.

A Roving Career

Mr John Lund, the other son of Edmund Lund (2) has had rather a roving career, the thirst for travel and adventure being shared by his sons. He was trained as an engineer, and as a young man he settled in the Midlands. He was married to Miss Upton in the Parish Church of Barton-under-Needwood near Burton-on-Trent. Mrs Lund's father died when she was five days old. Her mother's maiden name was Handford of Leicestershire and Warwickshire yeoman stock. When his father was advanced in years Mr John Lund returned to Earby to the "Clough" and later they migrated to Ribble-edge Farm, usually styled "Adam's Farm" Paythorne. A friend of his with whom he worked in some electric works in the Forest of Dean, offered him a post at Stockport in the new telegraph works of the L &NW Railway Company, and after a couple of years he went to Blackpool to take charge of the generating plant at the tramway service. When that plant was abolished Mr Lund went with the cars to Neath in South Wales, where he still resides, hale and hearty in his 82nd year, but his wife is an invalid and cannot recover her health and strength. The eldest son, William Coates Lund, is living in South Africa. His early education was received at the little old toll-bar school at Newsholme and the teacher was an uncertificated girl, and this was followed by one or two terms at a more advanced school.

He started work as a porter at Newsholme station and by strenuous efforts in self education, and doing faithfully each day the work brought to him, he is now First Assistant Registrar of the Supreme Court Cape Town.. He has also served in Natal as the Registrar of the Native High Court and at Pretoria as Acting Registrar during a long absence of the Official Registrar. His wife is a native of Melbourne, Australia and is a descendant of the Cameron Highlanders.

Edmund Lund (4) graduated in the same school at Newsholme, followed by a short spell at Gisburn National School. When the family removed to Blackpool he went through every stage in the Borough Treasurer's Office. Then he was appointed Borough Treasurer at Ossett (Yorkshire) and later held a similar position at Wigan. For several years he has been rendering splendid service as Borough Treasurer at Carlisle.

The third son, Ernest Lund, is well connected with a meter business in Cardiff, having been in the meter industry for thirty years. He is married and there is one child, Edmund Lund (5). He is only eleven years old but the size of a boy of fifteen

The darling of the flock is Dora Lund, possessing many talents, music teacher, nurse, general housekeeper and the pride and joy of her parents.

The youngest is Percival Arthur Lund and is the head at a senior school at Thornhill, Dewsbury. He has one son whose name is John Lund.

Mr E Lund is regarded as an expert in municipal finance, and he has occupied the position as President of the Incorporated Society of Auditors and Accountants. He has frequent calls upon his time as a lecturer and consultant on municipal financial matters. In this connection he went to Denmark a few years ago for the purpose of studying and comparing the methods in that country with our own. To his surprise he was regarded as a kinsman and a brother, because of his name, which is Norse in origin and quite common in Denmark and Sweden. The British delegates were feted by the King of Denmark and also the Burgomaster and Council

Long may the happy succession flourish. J. H.