



History of Lound, Retford, Nottinghamshire

Lound is a Scandinavian name, being the modern form of the old Norse 'Lund', a term denotes a wood or grove. Some indicate it may be a copse in which pagan rites were celebrated.

The name is common and there are several instances in Nottinghamshire, such as Haughton Lound, Northlund at Blyth, Eastlund at Trowell and perhaps Birkland of which the suffix has become perverted into 'land'. Until far into the 13th century this village constantly occurs in records as Lound next to Mattersey and sometimes as Lound upon Idle. Fortunately, for its inhabitants it lies more than a mile from that once badly-flooding river, and its sandy soil preserved it from becoming an unproductive marsh.

More commonly, the village is referred to in records, old and new, under the compound name of Sutton-cum-Lound, Sutton being the larger of the two, but unfortunately, the annals of both villages are so intermixed that it is difficult to distinguish between them.

The earliest known documentary reference to Lound date back to 986, when like Sutton, it

formed part of King Edwy's large grant of lands to Oskytel, Archbishop of York. By 992 both villages were incorporated among the permanent possessions of the archbishopric and by the time of the Norman Conquest, Sutton and its dependencies, of which Lound was one, had attained some importance. The archbishop was then the largest proprietor, his Sutton manor (*estate or territorial unit*) included land in Lound, Barnby Moor and Scrooby.

Together, they were taxed in 1066 at £8 - no small sum in those days and as Scrooby Palace was not in being. The Archbishops regarded Sutton-cum-Lound as their chief manor in the district.

The royal manor at Bothamsall also had land at Lound and Barnby Moor. A manor which Ulchel had under the Confessor was granted to Roger de Busli, who was ranked one of the foremost men and landowner in Nottinghamshire.

In the year 1164 the local sheriff requested the belongings of all persons condemned to death and those who had died by ordeals of water. One was 58s 6d, the value of the goods of Robert Lund who had not survived the water test. What his offence was is not known but Robert would have been thrown into an ordeal pit (or into the river Idle) with his hands bound, to sink or swim in the water consecrated by the priest. If he sank, it was accepted as a sign of innocence and freed, though if his character was bad, he might have to abjure the realm like one who had taken sanctuary. If he floated, it was taken that the water rejected him, and he was hanged or lost his right foot and sometimes his right hand also.

At that time, such ordeals were common; there were 30 of them in the county whose guilt was made manifest in this fashion in 1165. However, in the following year, new regulations were made to abolish such practices by the Lateran Council.

Although Lound was more than a mile from the river Idle, it flowed through a part of the lordship and the villagers had to keep that section in a navigable condition.

The Idle was an important waterway linking the port of Bawtry and Retford. The obligation to keep the river free was often evaded. In 1363, the district was flooded by the Idle due to being choked. It was a recurring problem and back in 1337 Thos. De Lund and others were charged with wrongfully diverting the course of the Idle.

The King's peace was often broken, in 1333 justices were appointed to deal with accusations that the men of Clayworth and other local villages assaulted, robbed and evicted the folk of Lound.

In 1351, Taylor of Lound was arrested and imprisoned in Nottingham Castle as one of a wandering vagabond for felony and trespass.

As the 14th century ended, the Archbishop of York forfeited the manor of Lound. Two years later the Plantagenet dynasty ceased for the House of Lancaster.

The Archbishop of York's land remained undisturbed by the reformation, but those of the monasteries were dispersed among lay purchasers. In 1539 Mattersey Priory went to Anthony Neville, esquire of the royal body and in 1553 two jobbers named Browne and Trappers purchased Priory land. One result of the change of religion was that Lound lost its church.

With an income of only £4-2s-6½p, in 1548 it suppressed. In vain, the inhabitants tried to uphold the change but failed and the chaplain, John Thorpe was pensioned off and all income seized. As no provision was made of its use it fell into decay. Subsequently, by law the adults of Lound were compelled to worship in their parish church at Sutton and is doubtful if they received much benefit from the vicar instituted in 1598. He was the Rev. James Brewster, probably brother of William Brewster.

For nearly three hundred years the village had no church until 1859 when a new building, St. Anne's church was erected (now a private house).

Trouble vexed the villagers of Lound in the time of Charles I when the King, inspired by adventures, approved a scheme for the drainage of the 'drowned lands' of North Nottinghamshire, and particularly of the fens about the river Idle.

The famous Dutch engineer Cornelius Vermuyden was engaged for the task and he proceeded in the work of reclamation with complete disregard of established rights, swamping lands, blocking up channels and cutting new dykes wherever he thought well without obtaining permission or offering compensation.

Lound was affected by these operations and Patent Roles of 1633-34 disclose how vigorously its inhabitants protested by the flooding of their meadows through the stopping-up of the Idle and the enclosure of their commonable lands. The whole of the district was up in arms, but there is no record that the injured folk of Lound shared in the throwing down of Vermuyden's embankments or cutting his sluices to water their parched soil.

After the Civil War ended in 1642, there appears to be no records of interest relating to the village of Lound for more than a century. It is not until the second half of the 18th century when in 1778 the Enclosure Acts were implemented. A series of Acts of Parliament that empowered enclosure of open fields and common land in England and Wales, creating legal property rights to land that was previously held in common. Between 1604 and 1914, over 5,200 individual enclosure acts were passed, covering 6.8 million acres.

In Sutton and Lound, 719 acres of commonable lands were awarded to the Duke of Portland as impropiator and 106 acres to the vicar in lieu of all tithes. The Duke's portion, known as Dane's Hill Farm, was partly in Sutton and part in Lound. Three years later, a school was built midway between these villages at a cost of £100, towards which the sum of £70 came from a charity left by Reverend Taylor in 1742.

To complete the series of Lound Archive, the village has obtained images of two original "Sutton cum Lound Enclosure Maps", dated 1778, from Nottinghamshire Archives. These show how the large mediaeval open fields, with their multitude of individual long, thin strips, were "enclosed" to form more efficient fields as we see today.

To do this an Act of Parliament was needed, specifically for the Parish of Sutton-cum-Lound, long before two separate Civil Parishes were created for Sutton and Lound.

At the time these maps were drawn by hand, King George III was on the throne and Great Britain was fighting the American War of Independence. The French Revolution and the Napoleonic Wars were still to come.

For enclosure map details go to 'Lound Enclosure Maps – 1778'. These maps are almost identical, but not quite. Look for Cottage Road and explore the amazing amount of detail about our village 240 years ago.

Lound Village Archive (Unknown Author)

Lound Village Parish Boundary - 2019

