

# **LOUNT PRIMITIVE METHODIST CHAPEL**



**A TYPICAL ABANDONED METHODIST TIN TABERNACLE IN YORKSHIRE SIMILAR TO THE ONE USED AT LOUNT FOR THE PRIMITIVE METHODIST CHAPEL (SEE INSIDE PAGE)**

**BY SAMUEL T STEWART**

A "**Tin Tabernacle**" was a type of prefabricated ecclesiastical building made from corrugated galvanised iron. They were developed in the mid 19th century, initially in Great Britain. Corrugated iron was first used for roofing in London in 1829 by Henry Robinson Palmer and the patent sold to Richard Walker who advertised "portable buildings for export" in 1832. The technology for producing the corrugated sheets improved and to prevent corrosion the sheets were galvanised with a coating of zinc, a process developed by Stanislas Sorel in Paris in the 1830s. After 1850, many types of prefabricated buildings were produced, including churches, chapels and mission halls.

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Lount Chapel was established between 1884 and 1888, but the exact date is not known, although there are records of chapels being established in Heath End for example many years earlier.

**Samuel Stewart (the author's Great Grandfather)**, and his next door neighbour **William Fairbrother**, were the driving force behind this, and in the 1889 circuit plan featured later, Samuel was listed as the Steward, and William as secretary. The Stewart families were staunch Methodists, and members of the family carried on their work in Lount, Melbourne and Coleorton for over 100 years



**Samuel Stewart 1854-1932**



**William Fairbrother 1853-1927**

Lount Methodist Chapel was situated in the Hamlet of Lount, near to Rose Cottage, and between plots marked 9 and 44, as shown on the appended map. The Chapel was no more than a hut with a tin roof. It had a stove in the centre, with a long pipe exiting through the roof. This was recalled by Leda Shattuck (b.1919) of Lount, who attended services there as a little girl. Unfortunately, no photographs of the Chapel appear to have survived.

By 1929, when Sam Stewart and his wife Annie retired in old age from their farm in Lount, and moved to Stoney Lane, Coleorton, the congregation had started to dwindle. Permission was subsequently sort from the "Methodist Chapel Committee" for the surrender of lease and sale of the Chapel, by the then Superintendent Minister for the Ashby-De-La-Zouch Primitive Circuit, the Rev Charles Wacey, who lived at "Elmhurst", Burton Road, Ashby. This was granted on the 30<sup>th</sup> June 1937. There follows a copy of the official form of consent to sell the Chapel. The land on which the Chapel stood, was leased from the Earl Ferrers' estate. The terms of the lease are a little confusing, as in the documentation, two versions are given as follows:-

1. The building committee are "tenants at Will of the Right Honourable Earl Ferrers to whom a yearly rental of 1/- is paid"
2. The land is held on a 99 year lease at a rental of 5/- per annum.

**The Chapel building was reputedly sold to Whitwick Toc H, for a meeting room.**

Know all Men by these Presents, that we,

**Charles Ensor Walters** and **Robert Bond, D.D.**  
President and Secretary respectively of the Annual Conference of  
the Methodist Church, assembled at **Newcastle-upon-Tyne**  
in the County of **Northumberland** do hereby testify  
and declare that the consent of the said Conference is given to  
the **Surrender of Lease** ~~sale~~ of a piece or parcel of Land situate lying and being at  
**Lount** in the Parish of **Staunton Harold** and in the County of  
**Leicester** and the sale of an iron building used as a Methodist  
(formerly Primitive Methodist) Chapel erected thereon or on  
some part or parts thereof the said land and building being  
no longer required for Methodist Trust purposes.

As Witness our Hands this **twenty-third** Day of  
**June** **One Thousand Nine Hundred and thirty-seven.**

*C. Ensor Walters* President.  
*Robert Bond* Secretary.

To the Reverend **Charles Wacey,**  
Superintendent Minister of the  
**Ashby-de-la-Zouch (Burton Road) (P)** Circuit  
and all others whom it may concern.



