

**Biography of Herman Lunden,  
Lumberman and Conservationist**

by Herman Lunden Miller

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## Preface

While writing *Lumbering in Early Twentieth Century Michigan, The Kneeland-Bigelow Company Experience*, I came to realize what an extraordinary man Herman Lunden was. It seemed important to put together some of the large amount of material I had acquired into a biography. That would preserve the material and the wonderful obituaries for his descendants. I was only four years old when he died, so I have little memory of him, although there was contact because he was my grandfather. I have relied on what Lunden and other people wrote, as it appeared in his correspondence files. They are now at the Bentley Historical Library of the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Material came from his obituaries in the *Otsego County Herald-Times*, the *Montmorency County Tribune*, and parts of published information described in the footnotes. Some anecdotes came from Fred White and some from Herman Lunden's daughter, (my mother) who had preserved his papers.

## Obituaries

This biography starts with selections from the lengthy obituary published in the Otsego County Herald-Times for January 17, 1929, Paul MacDonald, Editor-Publisher, to show why it is worthwhile to read more about him.

Gaylord and Northern Michigan have lost their greatest friend and benefactor, and the State of Michigan one of its greatest men and friends.

Gaylord and Northern Michigan are stricken with grief and cannot even yet reconcile themselves to the fact that Herman Lunden is now but a memory--a memory that will act as a spur to the many communities that felt he belonged to them, and make them expend extra effort in seeing that whatever is attempted toward developing their community does not fail, for it would not, had Mr. Lunden been the guiding hand, as it always had been in the past.

When the news came to Gaylord of the death of Mr. Lunden, the city was stunned, and tears streamed unashamed down the cheeks of many men who were known for their fortitude and lack of display of emotion.

In the next column is expressed the thought of the entire northern part of the state, but cannot begin to express the thoughts of the people of Gaylord, Otsego County, and parts of Montmorency County for Herman Lunden was a part of us, the leader in nearly every movement begun to improve the community, the guiding hand, the power which spelled success in our community life.

Herman Lunden is gone, but his acts of the past will live long in the hearts of everyone with whom he came in contact. Mr. Lunden's last words were that he had but few more years with us at the best, but until the end came, he was for everything that would improve conditions for those to follow. We wonder if he knew just how highly he was regarded, and how he was looked to, to pass his opinion upon every community enterprise, and how much his expressions had to do toward the successful conclusions of these enterprises.

Democratic, high minded, honest, capable, loved by his friends, respected by those who may not have been in accord with his thoughts and deeds, devoted to every activity that would tend to improve the community, forgetful of self in his great desire to help others, generous to a fault,--the friend to all, and an enemy of none.

His self-sacrifice of time and money, his untiring energy--his true Americanism places him above us as an ideal--a criterion of what can be done if there is the desire.

Words are incapable of expressing our thoughts of him for we loved him. His courteous

attitude toward rich and poor were the same, which endeared him to all.

Some of this respect was faintly manifest by the hundreds of floral offerings placed about his casket; the crowds that wended their way through zero weather to the Methodist church where his body rested in state from eleven o'clock Monday morning until the funeral service at one, when the building was crowded to capacity. Honorary pallbearers numbering nearly a hundred, made up of the business and professional men of Gaylord and nearby towns and localities followed the remains to the train, where he was taken to Bay City and following services there was placed in a vault until spring.

The year after coming to Gaylord, the great love of cooperation and working for the community good was evident, and in the next year he was made president of the Otsego County Fair, which office he held until his death.

An obituary written by Frank Weber, Editor-Publisher of the *Montmorency County Tribune* gave a different perspective and more details in the January 17, 1929 issue:

Herman Lunden, Northern Michigan's Grand Old Man died at Bay City last Friday evening at eight o'clock. Mr. Lunden had gone to Bay City from Gaylord on the noon train Friday to attend a meeting called by the Bay City Chamber of Commerce to foster the paving of M-76 from Standish to Roscommon, which was being held at the Wenonah Hotel. A couple of speakers had finished responses to toasts and Mr. Lunden was called upon to talk. He responded in his usual optimistic talk, closing by stating that it had been his desire to see his beloved Northern Michigan "come back" and that he felt it was now doing that. He said that it was also his desire to see the younger generation take up the work of those who would soon be compelled to lay down the working tools, and that he himself felt that he had not many years to carry on. He finished his talk and sat down, a man sitting next to him said, "that was fine, Herman." Mr. Lunden's head dropped forward and he crumpled in his chair. There were physicians in the hall and although they did everything possible to bring back life, the spark had flickered and died, never to be turned into the dynamic glow it had burned with for many years, and Herman Lunden, probably the best loved man in the whole of Northern Michigan, passed from earth as he would have desired to go--in harness, doing his bit for his beloved Northern Michigan. Walter N. Wrape, a business associate of Mr. Lunden was present and took charge, having the body prepared to return to his home at Gaylord... . He was taken to the home of his son, Lester, and on Monday at one o'clock a service was held at the Methodist church in Gaylord, after which he was conveyed to the noon train and taken to Bay City where another service was held Tuesday and the remains laid to rest in Elm Lawn cemetery. ...

He had been chairman of the Republican committee of Montmorency County and served

every capacity that would further the interests of his chosen party; at the time of his death holding the office of county road commissioner, which he had held for a long time. In his work on the state Conservation Commission and in his work as county road commissioner he never took a cent of salary or fees for performing the duties of the offices with the utmost vigor and attention without any recompense whatever. He was generous to the last degree, never refusing to go down deep into his purse to help any needy person or cause. He was particularly fond of little children, he had his hand in his pocket as soon as he met them and they always left him clutching a coin and murmuring their thanks.

If he had a duty to perform, no matter whether it was business, political, or social, he was always there to do it. He was rugged physically, and despite the admonitions of his friends to let up, he went farther, harder, and faster as he advanced in years, showing a natural vitality that could not be equaled in one in a thousand much younger men. Mr. Lunden, while not having had the advantage of much "schooling," was keen mentally and had acquired an education which was marvelous, under the circumstances. He was young in spirit and had an imagination and enthusiasm for progress that was truly American. He went about his work with a zeal and honest idealism that at once raised him above the average. His counsel in all matters was at once honest, constructive, and fearless. He received his education in the pine forests of Northern Michigan and thus his faith in the country never waned, and such faith! Faith is perhaps the one greatest factor in human existence; the background of everything good that has ever evolved; the foundation of every act or deed or accomplishment; the governor regulating the success or failure of individuals, and is responsible for the development of human character and the scope of human attainments. Mr. Lunden had faith, not only in his community, but in human nature and this faith allowed him to carry on and do so much for his fellow men. Thus, in his passing away the whole of Northern Michigan loses its greatest force for advancement, its truest friend, its one man who would at all times go to any honorable length to do a good turn for his beloved Northern Michigan and its people.

Another obituary was written by Joe Dermody of the Northeastern Michigan Development Bureau and published in both the *Otsego County Herald-Times* and *Montmorency County Tribune*:

Herman Lunden, the "grand old man" of Northern Michigan is dead.

He died as he lived, extolling the attributes of Michigan and urging conservation of natural resources, reforestation, fire prevention, and other things that were so close to his heart.

The slender tendril of life snapped for Herman Lunden just as he had finished his address at a good roads banquet at the Hotel Wenonah, Bay City. In a voice tremulous with feeling, he had completed his speech with the words, "I am getting old and I do not know

how long I shall be with you, but we should do all we can to complete road projects in Michigan so this great area in all its beauty will be easily available to our children and their children." when he sank into his chair and expired.

Scores of his friends who were present at the banquet shared the opinion expressed by one that Mr. Lunden died as he would have chosen to, had he any volition in this great crisis, asserting his confidence in Michigan's future and urging improvements which would hasten its arrival.

In the death of Herman Lunden, Northeastern Michigan has not only lost one of its best known, most beloved and most valued citizens but one who probably more than any other man contributed in time, money and energy to the prosperity and advancement of this section as a whole.

Mr. Lunden's business interests, while tremendous, were never so important that he could not divorce himself from them to participate in any movement which held promise of advancement for Michigan, Northern Michigan, and Northeastern Michigan, agriculturally, industrially, and recreationally. He gave freely of his money to all projects, but his most important contribution was the donation of his time and energy because coupled with his robust enthusiasm was his superb judgement. He had the faculty to an unusual degree of communicating his enthusiasm to others.

The spirit of sacrifice which animated him was exemplified in the circumstances that ended in his death. Mr. Lunden had nothing to gain in a material way from his activities outside his business connections and affiliations. He had ample of the world's goods to give him all of life's comforts. But inherent in him was the spirit of service which impelled him to interest himself in all things which were calculated to improve the state which he loved so well and the residents of the section in whom he was so keenly interested.

Herman Lunden, a native of Sweden, came to Michigan when he was a youth of 20 years, without friends, prospects or money. He died at 69 with unnumbered friends.

He maintained homes at Gaylord and Lewiston, but in the larger sense he was a resident of Northeastern Michigan. Virtually every county and city and town in this area looked upon him as one of their own citizens. He was as much at home in one as another and in all were scores from every walk of life who called him "Herman" and to whom he was a friend.

His philosophy of life was one of his beautiful elements. No one ever heard Herman Lunden say an unkind word about anyone. A difference of opinion religion, politics, conservation or other matters meant nothing to Herman Lunden. In fact, some of his staunchest friends were persons who disagreed with him on some subject

An ardent conservationist, he was vigorously interested in the conservation of wild life, recreational areas, forests, etc. He served two terms on the state conservation commission under former governor Alex Groesbeck. He personally originated the idea and built the first forest fire tower in Michigan. The lumbering firm with which he was associated was one of the first, if not the first, to institute safeguards against forest fires in cleared areas. No conservation meeting in the state was complete without the presence of Herman Lunden, and no distance was too far, nor personal inconvenience too great to prevent his attendance.

One of the phases of his life about which little was known and about which he was reluctant to talk were his charities. These were always made quietly and unostentatiously. The education of boys was one of his hobbies. Many there are in the practicing professions who know of his benefactions. These delicately tendered aids were usually made in a manner to permit the student to repay loans as and if they wished. The boys who were called from his home county to the Great War remember concrete evidences of his interest in their welfare. The boys who attended the Four-H at Gaylord will cherish his memory for the same reason and the girls who attended summer camps in that vicinity will recall his tender manifestations of affection.

For years, Mr. Lunden supplied a Christmas tree to the Bay City Kiwanis for use at their annual Christmas party to the children of Bay City. The furnishing of this tree was as eagerly looked forward to by Mr. Lunden as was attendance at the party by any of the children.

To one whose relationship with him was more or less casual through business, a catalogue of his virtues and invaluable qualities of mind would fill a volume. This is because the mere mention of his name to an acquaintance invariably resulted in the recital of some act of kindness or consideration. So any effort to recapitulate his manliness, rectitude, probity, and charitableness must necessarily seem ineffectual and futile.

Mr. Lunden was vice-president of Kneeland-Bigelow Company, lumber manufacturers, Bay City; vice-president of the Gaylord State Savings Bank; principal owner of H. Lunden and Company, bankers, Lewiston; member of the executive committee and past president of the Northeastern Michigan Development Bureau and former member of the Michigan Conservation Commission. Fraternally, Mr. Lunden was a mason, belonging to Lewiston Lodge No. 418, F. & A. M., Gaylord Chapter No. 119, R. A. M., Bay City Consistory and Detroit Consistory, Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, and Moslem Temple, Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, of Detroit. He was also a founder and life member of the Au Sable Club, a member of the Gaylord Country Club, and an honorary member of the Bay City Kiwanis Club, and of Clyde Wilks Post No. 1518, Veterans of Foreign Wars of America. He was also president of the Northern Michigan Road Commissioners Association and president of the Otsego County Fair Association. He was one of the organizers of the Top O' Michigan Potato Show.

He is survived by his widow, one son, Lester, of Gaylord; one daughter, Mrs. Josiah Miller, Detroit, two grandchildren, and three sisters, Mrs. Ellen Blixberg, Bay City; Mrs. Ida Blixberg, Kawkawlin; and Mrs. Emma Netterstrom, Detroit. ...

Lunden achieved a lot and kept the esteem of his contemporaries. What were the background and experience that led to this obituary? His accomplishments include:

A fifty-year career in the lumber manufacturing industry, starting as a sawmill hand and culminating as First vice-president of the Kneeland-Bigelow Company. The Company owned approximately 50,000 acres of timberland, two large sawmills on the Saginaw River in Bay City, a large flooring mill and a planing mill. His career spanned a period of rapid progress in sawmill technology. Big mills progressed from reciprocating gang saws to circular saws and finally to band saws. His logging career began just before the end of the time of driving logs on rivers, encompassed the era of narrow gauge railroads and went almost to the end of standard gauge railroad logging. He experienced every logging job except that of cook. His name is on the Lumbermen's Monument on the high banks above the Au Sable River, so he was accepted as a lumber baron.<sup>1</sup>

Lunden served on the first Michigan Conservation Commission from 1923 to 1926 where he helped to establish policies on land management, forestry, and forest fire control that continued for many years afterward.

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<sup>1</sup> Letter, 11/27/28, Wm. B. Mershon to H. Lunden, at Bentley Library

# House of Representatives

## Resolutions of Sorrow at the death of Honorable Herman Lunden

**Whereas**, The House of Representatives has learned with deep regret of the sudden death of the Honorable Herman Lunden, of Gaylord and Lewiston, which occurred at Bay City on Tuesday, January 11<sup>th</sup> 1929, at the age of sixty-nine years, and

**Whereas**, Herman Lunden has served his state with unusual ability as an exponent of good roads, a member of the Department of Conservation, and the promotion of the best interest of the state in all matters of civic nature; therefore be it

**Resolved**, That the House of Representatives deplors the passing of Mr. Lunden and expresses to the bereaved family our sincere sympathy, and be it further

**Resolved**, That these resolutions be spread upon the Journal of the House, and an engrossed copy sent to the family of the deceased.

*Irving*  
Speaker.

*Wm. A. Gray*  
Clerk of the House of Representatives.



## Family

Lunden's family originated in southern Sweden where his ancestors had lived for generations. He was the oldest in the family, born August 2, 1859 in Faggemala, in Lonnberga parish, in Kalmar Lan (same as a county). The village is some distance inland from the Baltic Sea port of Kalmar, and does not show on the map of Sweden in either the 1911 Encyclopedia Britannica or current AAA maps of Scandinavia. Kalmar Lan is part of the ancient province of Smoland, which with eight other old provinces comprised Gotaland, and the people thereof were Goths. The area immediately north of Gotaland is Swealand and includes Stockholm. King Sverker (1134-1155) integrated the Goths with the Swea ethnic group. Smoland is described in *Encyclopedia Britannica* as "A region of poor and stony soils that has been cultivated through the ages with some difficulty, as evidenced by the enormous mounds of stone cleared from the land."

(Karl) Herman Lunden's mother was Sara Stina Petersdotter (SSP). Both she and his father had been married before and had children of their first marriages, some of whom came to the USA. Her son, John Lundeen came to the USA sometime before his mother and half-siblings. When John brought his younger brother, Herman, to his workplace he went on the payroll as Herman Lundeen. Sometime before 1886, Herman changed the spelling to just one "e" (the Swedish spelling except for an accent mark over the e) but some early documents had his name spelled Lundeen.

Herman Lunden's father was a farmer named Samuel Johan Gustavson (SJG). He held title to his farm as a rusthaller, which meant he paid rent to the crown in the amount to support one royal cavalryman and his horse. SJG was also a lumberman, a sheriff, and a state senator from 1864 to 1870, when he introduced legislation to promote reforestation in Sweden. The children of his first marriage used the family name Samuelson and lived in Warren, PA. He had a mortgage on the farm, so that when there was a fire, it ruined him financially and he had to move to the USA. Herman Lunden remarked once that, "High taxes to pay for past wars made it hard to get ahead in Sweden, while the USA was a young country with low taxes."

Flyttningsbevis. (Fol. 30)

1. No 12

2. Karl Herman Samuelson, son af Samuel

3. Johan Gustafson och hustru Sara Eira Petersdotter,

4. född år 1859 (juni 10)  $\frac{2}{8}$  i Lönneberga förs:g

5. af \_\_\_\_\_ län,

6. Sin äktenskap föring

7. \_\_\_\_\_

8. \_\_\_\_\_

9. Har haft skyddskoppor \_\_\_\_\_

10. Läser innantill al (med bevis gorkänd)

11. Kristendomsksamhet al (med bevis gorkänd)

12. Bevistat förhören \_\_\_\_\_

13. Oförhindrad att begå H. H. Nattvard \_\_\_\_\_

14. Åtnjuter medborgerligt förtroende \_\_\_\_\_

15. \_\_\_\_\_

16. Fullgjort \_\_\_\_\_ årets bevaringskyldighet

17. Afflyttar till Stora America förs:g af \_\_\_\_\_ län

18. \_\_\_\_\_ mantalskretsen här till nästa år

19. Betygas Lönneberga förs:g af Kauman län

20. den 7 Juni 1879 (ejutionis)

Hjalmar Lugårdman  
C. Pastor

Länköping, P. M. Sahströms Bokhandel.  
(Hasse W. Tullberg.)

Permit To Emigrate From Sweden Giving Name and Home

In June 1879, SJG left Sweden for the USA at age 51, with his wife, SSP, age 57, and five children, arriving in New York on July 4, 1879 and Bay City, Michigan on July 9. At some time, he purchased fifteen acres just east of Kawkawlin, bounded by the railroad on the west, Au Sable state highway on the east, and the Kawkawlin River on the south. Herman Lunden eventually finished paying for the farm. The State Highway Department's buyer said the little farm had the most sandy soil in the area, when the State bought it in 1966, under threat of condemnation for fill dirt to build Interstate-75. (All my Swedish ancestors seemed attracted to land with water features to water livestock, but sandy soil.) Albert Blixberg wrote that SJG was an extrovert with lots of drive and energy, who had some financial success making wooden water pumps until cast iron made wooden pumps obsolete. He also grew cucumbers for a local pickle factory. SJG and SSP both had severe arthritis that also afflicted their granddaughter and great-granddaughter. Two of their grandchildren had serious loss of vision from macular degeneration. Infections in the mastoid bone behind their ears troubled at least three descendants during childhood and killed one.

The children of SJG and SSP were: Dan, who married Maggie Cameron and had two children, Norman and Marguerite. Ellen (Anna Helena) married Charles Blixberg and had two children, but only Albert survived childhood. Ida (Alida) married August Blixberg and had two children, Hazel and Alice. Emma (Charlotta) married Joe Netterstrom and had two children, Lester and Stella.

On March 21, 1882, Herman Lunden married Ida M., who died in childbirth with their child on May 10, 1884. They were buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery in northwest Bay City. That is all I know of her. Probably, a fall caused a miscarriage that killed her, because Lunden was unusually aware of the danger to pregnant women from falling.

On February 26, 1888, he married Tillie Hallenius after giving her a large family bible for Christmas {as evidence of honorable intentions?}. She had come with her parents, sister Louise, brothers Charles and Will, cousins John and Peter Olund from near Uppsala, Sweden to a farm five miles west of Gaylord in 1880. She attended high school in Gaylord, got a teaching certificate, and then taught a country school near Otsego Lake. A daughter, Sadie Irene, was born to this union December 20, 1889, but Tillie died December 17, 1890 at age 22. Apparently, she developed tuberculosis as a result of extreme fatigue from moving mail from the post office and things from their house to a place out of the path of a threatening big fire in Otsego Lake Village.

On July 15, 1896, in East Saginaw, Lunden married Sarah Smyth who came from Ireland by way of Canada. Two children were born to them, Carl Lester on November 5, 1898 who died October 30, 1982, and Jenson Daniel on February 17, 1900, who died August 10, 1904.



No. 9 1896

# MARRIAGE LICENSE

Montmorency County,  
Michigan.

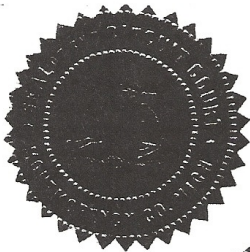
TO ANY PERSON LEGALLY AUTHORIZED  
TO SOLEMNIZE MARRIAGE.

## Greeting:

MARRIAGE MAY BE SOLEMNIZED BETWEEN  
 Mr. Herman Lunden and Miss Sarah Smyth  
 affidavit having been filed in this office, as provided by Act 128 Laws of  
 1887, by which it appears that said Herman Lunden is 33 years  
 of age, color is White, residence is Lewislon, and birthplace was  
Sweden, occupation is Farmer in Mill, father's name  
H. Lunden, and mother's maiden name was Sarah Pasterop  
 has been previously married Time 2, and that said Sarah Smyth  
 is 28 years of age, color is White, residence is Bay City, and  
 birthplace was England, occupation is At Home, father's  
 name Smyth, and mother's maiden name was  
 and who has been previously married Time 2, and whose  
 maiden name was

In Witness Whereof, I

have hereunto attached my hand and the seal  
of Montmorency County, Michigan, this 11th  
day of July, A.D. 1896



Thomas Edoule  
Deputy County Clerk.

## Certificate of Marriage.

Between Mr. Herman Lunden and Miss Sarah Smyth  
 I hereby certify that, in accordance with the above license, the persons  
 herein mentioned were joined in marriage by me, at Sequoias St.  
 County of Ingham, Michigan, on the 15 day of July  
 A.D. 1896, in the presence of Wm. Frankenstein of Ingham  
Mich, and Castle of the St. of Ingham Ed.,  
 as witnesses.

W. M. Gallagher  
NAME OF MAGISTRATE OR CLERGYMAN  
Rector of St. Paul's Ch

NOTE: THIS DUPLICATE IS TO BE RETAINED BY THE PERSON SOLEMNIZING THE MARRIAGE

## Autobiography

Herman Lunden wrote a brief autobiography in about 1927 that I quote here:

I was born in 1859. My father was a lumberman and a farmer. He was also sheriff for a number of years and state senator from 1864 to 1870. He introduced the first reforestry bill and started the first forest fire organization in Sweden.

I came to America in 1879. I worked in the saw mills and lumber woods and on the railroad for a number of years.

I was or am now a member, president, or vice-president and director of the following organizations:

Director, Michelson & Hanson Lumber Company, Lewiston, Michigan  
 Vice-president and director, L. Jenson Lumber Company, Salling, Michigan  
 Vice-president and director, Kneeland, Lunden & Bigelow Company, Bay City, Michigan  
 Vice-president and director, Kneeland-Bigelow Company, Bay City, Michigan  
 Director, Bigelow-Cooper Flooring Company, Bay City, Michigan  
 Director, Kneeland-McLurg Lumber Company, Phillips, Wisconsin  
 President and director, Gaylord Lumber & Fuel Company, Gaylord, Michigan  
 President and director, Montmorency County Telephone Company  
 President, Atlanta State Bank, Atlanta, Michigan  
 President, Lewiston Bank, Lewiston, Michigan  
 Director, Gaylord State Savings Bank, Gaylord, Michigan  
 President, Northern Michigan Road Commissioners' Association  
 Chairman of Montmorency County Road Commission  
 Member National Forestry Advisory Board

I was also County Treasurer of Montmorency County from 1896 to 1901. I was elected Chairman of the Republican County Committee in 1896 and am still chairman of that committee.

I have been Deputy Sheriff for thirty-six years and have been on the State [Republican] Central Committee for fourteen years. I am president and have been for six years of the Top O' Michigan Fair [Gaylord]. I was [Albert Township] school treasurer for 18 years.

I was a member of the Michigan Hardwood Manufacturers Association which started the first Forest Fire Prevention Organization in the state. I was Chairman of the Fire Organization up to the time our fire department was turned over to the State. I personally built the first fire tower in the state and after that the Hardwood Manufacturers Association built a number of fire towers long before the State had any.

I was on the Conservation Commission for nearly five years. I gave all that I am able and

I have never charged anything, neither for time nor expenses for any public work that I have given to Township, County, or State.

I helped too, and was one of the pilots of the Michigan Pikers Association. We started in 1913 and each year thereafter up to and including 1919. We took in all of Lower Michigan and the Upper Peninsula, part of Wisconsin, and part of Canada. Our aim was to promote the building of good roads, and no one can say that we did not succeed, although at first it took a lot of hard work to get the public to see the need of good roads.

My sincere hope is that the Conservation Department will build up their Fire Organization and Reforestry Program. If this is done, we will have both game and fish.

\* (55)

1776 THE UNITED STATES OF NORTH AMERICA 1812

**CERTIFICATE OF NATURALIZATION.**

State of Michigan, }  
 Montcalm COUNTY. } ss. *Thomas E. Double*, Clerk of the Circuit Court for  
 the County of Montcalm and State of Michigan, (the said Court being a Court of  
 Record, having Common Law jurisdiction, and a Clerk and Seal,) **DO HEREBY CERTIFY** that  
*Merriam Lundew* is a Citizen of the United States of America, duly **NATURALIZED**  
 according to the Laws of said United States, to which Citizenship he was admitted in open Court,  
 held at the Court House in the Village of Atlanta Montcalm County and State  
 aforesaid, on *Monday* the *Eighteenth* day of *March* in the year of our  
 Lord one thousand eight hundred and *twenty five*, as appears from the  
 Records of said Circuit Court now in my office.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand, and affixed the seal of said Circuit Court,  
 the *twentieth* day of *March* A.D. 1915

*Thomas E. Double* Spt. County Clerk

Richmond, Darius & Co., Stationers, Detroit.

Certificate of Naturalization

### Herman Lunden's Early Career

Herman Lunden started his career of lumbering in the saw mill of the Sage Lumber Company and the T. H. McGraw mill, both in Bay City. These mills were described<sup>2</sup> by Rolland H. Maybee. He spent the winter of 1881-2, when there was almost no snow throughout the state, (according to official weather records) as clerk of a logging camp on the Muskegon River. He made his reputation then, described by Louis Smith<sup>3</sup>, except that I added the words in brackets:

As an example, there was Herman Lunden, a clerk in a camp on the Muskegon River, just two years over from Sweden and only twenty years old. The foreman went to town for Christmas, and as there was no snow, did not come back. Herman was ever a restless soul, he considered things, discussed the details with the blacksmith. He had men cut a large maple and cut [from it] four blocks a foot long. These were trimmed to round, pierced for axles, and ironed off with two bands apiece. A heavy wagon which had been used for toting supplies was robbed of its hardware and long axles were put on the sprinkler and the wheels mounted. Green boughs were placed in the tracks to help catch the water and fill small depressions. Soon there was a base of ice and the sprinkler could be put back on its sleigh runners. Two crews put on water day and night so logs began to pile up at the landing [on the river bank]. By the end of January they had a foot of ice on the main road.

On the night of March 16, the walking boss drove in with his buggy after dark. After his supper, he told Herman to pay off all the men in the morning except three to care for the horses. "After the weather warms up, we will bring in a crew, tear down the decks [piles of logs] and peel the logs and deck them again and put them in [the river] next winter if they don't burn." Peeling, called 'rossing' was to stop the worms from spoiling the timber. Herman protested that if they were allowed to continue another three days, the logs would all be on the river bank. On being told what had been done, he dropped the subject till morning, inspected the roads, remaining logs and the landing, then broke out: "We have seven camps, six under old, experienced, foremen who have sat around all winter without lifting a finger, and you a mere boy and a greenhorn to boot have put your logs in. This is your camp next winter, if you want it." One can surmise that it was a bitter pill for him to have to go back to Company headquarters and report this, knowing that it would be obvious that he too had failed to use his head. Incidents like this, perhaps explain why the records show that of all the firms who engaged in lumbering in the State up to 1930, almost 90% ended with less money than they started with, while a few became wealthy. Of course, practically all loggers ran on a shoestring and borrowed money, and much of the profits went into the vaults of the bankers.

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<sup>2</sup>Maybee, Rolland H., *Michigan's White Pine Era, 1840-1900* page 50, Michigan Historical Commission, 1960

<sup>3</sup> Louis F. Smith, *The Forest That Was*, (Luce-Mackinac Genealogical Society, 1998), pp 43-44

Lunden arrived in Otsego Lake Village on July 7, 1883, with a crew of lumberjacks who had to locate their camp site and build shelter at once. While at Otsego Lake, he also worked as a sawyer in the Briscoe-Romer Lumber Company mill. The Gratwick, Smith, and Fryer Lumber Company (GSF) employed him to move a narrow gauge locomotive and logging cars loaded with rails from Otsego Lake to the North Branch of the Au Sable River for their Crapo Lake<sup>4</sup> and Northwestern Railroad. There is no mention of GSF or the Crapo Lake and Northwestern Railroad in the Michael Koch book<sup>5</sup> of data on Shay locomotives, so it must not have been a Shay locomotive. Louis Smith described the action as follows:

In the 1880s, Gratwick, Smith and Fryer, operating along the Au Sable River moved a locomotive from Otsego Lake [Village] on the Michigan Central [Railroad] some twelve miles east over the hills and swamps to begin railroad logging. [According to Fred White, the little railroad carried logs to the North Branch of the Au Sable where they were put into the river and floated down to the mill at Lake Huron.] Several miles of rails with their accessories, ... went along. The crew moving the locomotive was bogged down in the sand at the first big hill when my father [Fred Smith] happened along. As a former salt water sailor he had seen locomotives unloaded on the docks of Shanghai and moved on sectional tracks. He made the suggestion, and the crew promptly built sections of track using four by four Norway [red pine] for rails. Windlasses anchored to trees and big pine stumps wound it up hills, [while] on fairly level ground, single or double blocks and lines kept it moving. It was told me that six men with three teams of horses delivered it in place in ten days.

While in Otsego Lake he started working for the L. Jenson Lumber Company, and that led to his working as millwright for the Michelson & Hanson Lumber Company (M&H) when Jenson and the others started it. Thenceforth, Lunden's career was with approximately the same group of men, and Jenson served as his mentor. Lunden's wife, Tillie, had the money to buy stock in the new company because she had been saving to go back to Sweden with her parents, but now she would not be going. When M&H moved to Salling in Bagley Township and took over a mill on the northeast shore of Otsego Lake, (presumably Jenson's) the Lundens also moved there on March 1, 1890. When M&H was looking for a site for a new town and mill to cut the timber they were buying around and southeast of present Lewiston, Lunden and Luke Dubber were sent to explore. They chose the site on the north shore of East Twin Lake instead of a proposed site on Swede Lake straight east of Salling. Lunden cruised most of the timber M&H bought.

When the new M&H sawmill in Lewiston burned after running only one week, Lunden moved to Lewiston to supervise rebuilding the mill and to run it. The new mill was the bandsaw type with a

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<sup>4</sup> Graydon M. Meints, *Michigan Railroads & Railroad Companies* Michigan State University Press, 1992

<sup>5</sup> Michael Koch, *The Shay Locomotive, Titan of the Timber*, World Press, Denver, Colorado, 1971



capacity of 25,000,000 board-feet per year.

The Montmorency County Treasurer had embezzled money in 1895, so the County could not pay its bills. Lunden was elected Treasurer in 1896. He drove to Atlanta to get the treasurer's books and take them to Lewiston for safekeeping. Mr. Kneeland heard that protagonists of the former treasurer planned to stop Lunden on the road from Atlanta and take away the books, so he sent George Cross with the livery stable's best team to warn Lunden and return with him. Crosses' horses were tired out from their fast trip and could not return to Lewiston that day. Lunden refused to wait and started out with his horse and buggy. He was stopped and the books demanded from him. He picked up the small cruiser's axe that he always carried and said, "Well, the first man won't get it." No one wanted to be the first one hit with the axe, so he spoke to his horse and pulled away safely from the men who wanted the books.

All he had to do then was find money to pay the County's anxious, angry creditors. The County owed the Alpena National Bank \$6000 and interest and the Bank was threatening a Mandamus to collect directly from the County's taxpayers.<sup>6</sup> The Gaylord State Saving Bank wanted to collect for several small orders. There were court proceedings in Cheboygan to recover the County's money from the company that had bonded the treasurer, and that delayed paying the County's bills. Lunden continued in his position with M&H and hired a deputy, Williard T. Warren, to run the treasurer's office. The county's books were audited by an accountant from Detroit, Julius Dresser, who also set up a new bookkeeping system. The County had been paying people with "orders" probably because there was no bank to write checks on in the County. The orders could be used to pay taxes, but if the holder did not owe taxes, he had to find someone to accept the order, usually at a discount. Being elected county treasurer established Lunden as the influential chief Republican in Montmorency County for the rest of his life.

In November 1901, Lunden's leg was injured in a sawmill accident. The Lewiston physician, Dr. MacKinnon, thought it should be amputated, but Lunden thought not, so he had himself put on a train and went to Dr. Tupper in Bay City who saved his leg.

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<sup>6</sup> Letter 4/1/98 J.C. Comfort to H. Lunden

### With Kneeland-Bigelow

In 1901, the Kneeland-Bigelow Company (KB) was started for logging the hardwoods north of Lewiston, sending the logs by the Michigan Central Railroad to a sawmill KB bought from the Rust Lumber Company in Bay City. George Cross ran the logging operation initially, but withdrew his investment and left to start a retail lumberyard in Rochester. At this time, Lunden was considering a position with Lewis Jenson in Bagley, but early in 1903 he became vice-president and woods superintendent for KB. March 26, 1902, Jenson wrote Lunden: "...while a deal of this kind may look right to yourself and Mr. Kneeland, I don't believe there is another person connected with M.& H.L.Co, who will see it that way, and I would feel a good deal like voting Mr. K. a censure for even proposing such a thing." Lunden accepted the position with KB that raised his salary from \$125 per month to \$150 per month for the remainder of 1903 and to \$208 per month thereafter.<sup>7</sup> He also got the right to buy 200 shares of KB stock to be paid for from dividends on it, but he had to pay 6 percent interest on the unpaid balance. Lunden continued on the boards of M&H and of the Lewiston & Southeastern Railroad until they finished operations and he was among the directors who signed a petition to dissolve M&H.<sup>8</sup>



Herman Lunden about 1898



Herman, Lester, and Sarah at Colorado Springs in 1909

<sup>7</sup> Letter, 03/12/03, C.A. Bigelow to H.L. Lunden,

<sup>8</sup> Letter, 10/28/12, George Alexander to H.Lunden

After the M&H mills finished their cut in 1910, the Lunden family moved to the former Staninger farm seven miles north of Lewiston and 0.7 mile south of KB's store, commissary, and logging headquarters at Bigelow. The Farm was named Walnut Hill Farm because of the walnut trees there, planted earlier by the Staningers. Lunden had the house remodeled, adding partitions to the north wing, extending the basement under the south wing, adding a furnace in the basement, adding a fireplace, enlarging the porch, adding a woodshed and pump house at the back. He had plumbing installed and electric lights, powered from a 32-volt storage battery that was charged by a gasoline powered motor-generator set. The basement under the barn was extended to full size with four box stalls for horses built in it, and three lean-to sheds added. He had a two-car and later a four-car garage built. A substantial number of apple trees were planted in 1912, so eventually they supplied the KB camps with 100 to 300 bushels of apples in most falls.



Herman Lunden about 1915

In 1922, the Lundens rented an apartment with an office for Lunden above the Gaylord State Bank because his interests had grown wider with KLB lumbering in Otsego, Antrim and Cheboygan counties. He still maintained legal residence at the Farm. Communications, particularly telephone, were much better at Gaylord than at the Farm or at Lewiston. Lunden wrote

Bigelow<sup>9</sup> that telegrams sent to him at Gaylord would always reach him within half a day, unless he was in the woods and there was no tracking snow. (He must have paid messengers generously.) Mail service was fast because the railway post office car on trains took the bag of mail from each town, and sorted it into bags for all the towns along the line, while the train was traveling. Also, there was a late mail pickup from a box on the depot just before the train arrived. There were two passenger trains north and south bound, and one east and west bound, through Gaylord every day. Grandmother Lunden liked living in Gaylord better, too.

Lunden had brought from Sweden, the idea of cutting on a sustained yield basis, leaving the young trees to grow undamaged. To protect the young trees, he set up a fire protection system for KB's timber and second-growth, having a man equipped with field glasses on a platform in a tall elm tree watching for fires during times of fire danger.<sup>10</sup> Eventually, KB built three-legged fire towers of galvanized angle-iron (like windmill towers) to protect its timber. One still stands north of Lunden Lake.

Lunden lived through the period of big fires on cutover pine land.<sup>11</sup> He traveled around Michigan a lot, so he saw the effects of the fires, and how very slowly the land recovered from them. The Kneeland-Bigelow experience was that mature hardwood trees were damaged by forest fires, so the lumber cut from them had to be sold at reduced prices. He had responsibility for protecting Kneeland-Bigelow's extensive timberlands from fire. Before the State had a fire fighting organization, KB joined with other timber owning companies to have a coordinated organization, obliged to fight fire on any member's land.<sup>12</sup>

Lunden's practice of protecting the young trees for second growth was successful, except with hemlock, which usually did not have young trees beneath it to grow. After logging, mixed stands of hemlock and hardwoods converted to hardwoods, but pure hemlock stands remained as barren as if burned, growing berry bushes, sumac and finally aspen. In areas at a distance from the main tract, and where there was good farming potential, (i.e. near Elmira) KB did have chemical wood clear cut to make way for farming. His continuing interest was to demonstrate "sustained yield" timber management

In some cases, KB bought timber land that was cheap because it would be expensive to log and was able to log it at a profit because of their skilled techniques. They logged about 70,000 acres altogether under Lunden's supervision.

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<sup>9</sup>Letter, H.Lunden to C.Bigelow

<sup>10</sup>Detroit News, 01/15/28.

<sup>11</sup> Letter, 7/16/11, H.Lunden to D.M.Kneeland. Lunden describes damage from the last big fires in Northern Michigan.

<sup>12</sup> letter, 9/27/12, from Charles F. Hickok, Chief Warden, Forest Fire Protective Department.





Herman Lunden in the lumber woods

The mixed hardwood stand along M-32, 20 to 28 miles east of Gaylord grew back so well from cutting that both Colonel W. B. Greeley, head of the National Forest Service, and Raphael Zon of the Lakes States Forestry Experiment Station, declared it to be the finest example of natural second growth of public interest in Michigan. This stand of second growth convinced Colonel Greeley of the value of natural reforestation and influenced national forestry policy. Lunden mentioned the stand in speeches as an example that if fires were kept out, the forest would naturally grow back. He seemed to believe this was true of conifers as well as hardwoods; probably because KB had logged second growth red pine from land cut by an earlier company.<sup>13</sup> Knowing that the tract east of Gaylord must soon be logged again, Lunden saved some of it by having KB give the State Highway Department a right of way 200 to 400 feet wide through the tract for M-32.

The tract mentioned above was logged again in 1935-37, then clear-cut for chemical wood, thus

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<sup>13</sup> Letter 10/15/25, H.Lunden to A.Blixberg

stopping the experiment. While it was recovering, my father bought 440 acres of the tract. In 1974, 75, and 76, I had forester marked timber stand improvement (TSI) cuts done on my hardwood areas. In 1975 and 76, cedar posts were cut from my swamp lands, as had been done several times during my father's ownership. In 1984, a forester marked TSI was done with substantial amounts of firewood and pulpwood removed, including several 24 inch diameter aspen logs. In 1998, 60 years after clear-cutting, where soil conditions were good in the tract, TSI cut, 155 hardwood logs 14 inches in diameter or larger, according to Weyerhaeuser mill scale, were harvested from about sixty acres. Additionally, there were 125 veneer quality logs sold. In 2008, 1670 saw logs and veneer logs and 424 tons of pulpwood were cut, on the west eighty acres of my property, all on a sustained yield basis. This demonstrated the effectiveness of Lunden's ideas.

When KB was trying to sell its lands during 1926-9, Lunden was more effective than anyone else, probably because of his many acquaintances and detailed knowledge of the land as to water frontage, values, etc. He set up sales to the State in Township 33N-R1W and to Ross & Wentworth in Township 30N-R4W that were completed after his death. KB should have set its prices for selling land lower in 1926, so it would have sold while people were still prosperous. KB lowered prices in 1928 and 1929, but apparently, that was too late.

### **Smaller Enterprises**

Herman Lunden had an entrepreneurial spirit that led him to invest in several businesses in Lewiston, particularly in 1898-1900. One was Lunden & Cross, that owned timber land, had a logging camp north of Lewiston on Currie Road, and sold the logs it cut. Messrs. Lunden and Cross retained their positions with M&H, managing their company evenings and Sundays. This may have merged into the Kneeland-Bigelow Company. During later years he invested in the Lewiston Bank, Atlanta State Bank, and Montmorency County Telephone Company. Probably, these businesses would not have survived without his participation, but were needed, both for his main business of lumbering, and for the community. In 1928, he and the other shareholders in the Montmorency County Telephone Company sold their stock to the Tri-County Telephone Company, now a part of Frontier. He also had the Atlanta State Bank merged into the Lewiston Bank in 1928, which in 1956 obtained a state charter.

Lunden invested in local companies to build the local economy. In September 1925, he bought all of Henry Stephens' stock (a controlling interest) in the Gaylord State Savings Bank for \$38,880. He then sold some of it to people that he wanted to be sure would patronize the Bank. He also bought stock in Gaylord Manufacturing that made wagons and logging wheels. Lunden bought stock in the Gaylord Motor Car Company that made the Gaylord car. They made a car especially for him, equipped with extra fold-down seats attached to the doors, so extra men could be carried while the doors were open. Apparently, this worked well enough. In 1912, after two years of operation, the Gaylord company tried to upgrade to making a car with a six-cylinder engine, but

they could not make the engine (bought from a company in Rochester, NY) run properly.<sup>14</sup> Lunden lost patience with them and bought an Oakland six cylinder car that he liked very much. In later years, KB bought a new Cadillac for Mr. Bigelow every year and when he finished with it, it went to Lunden for a year, then to the staff at Bigelow. Lunden was one of the first people around to use a car, but he could not use it in winter until the counties started snow plowing roads.

When the Gaylord area sawmills finished their cut, there was need for a lumber yard that brought in lumber from other mills to sell. So, in 1916, he started the Gaylord Lumber and Fuel Company, a retail lumber yard, that ran from Main Street north to the next street, on the east side of the railroad tracks. It started with a large two story lumber "shed" with a little office space on its southwest corner. Bill Merrick, who had been a camp foreman with both KBB and KLB, was the manager and owned a minority stock interest. They had branch lumber yards in Vanderbilt and Indian River. The Lunden and Merrick heirs sold their last stock in the company in 1973.

Early in the development of Otsego Lake real estate, Lunden noticed that summer cottages and resorts were being built there. It appeared to him that West Twin Lake near Lewiston had potential for development, so June 30, 1908, he bought a tax deed for 66.25 acres, the part of the north half of the northwest quarter of Section 28 around the northeast shore of West Twin Lake that was not under the Lake. This was later sold, and the eastern 49 acres of this eventually became the North Shore Resort and Epicurean Estates. The western 17.25 acres became the Royola subdivision platted in 1913. Mr. Bennett built the first summer cottage on a lot, and Lunden bought and had moved three vacant houses from Lewiston to lots in Royola. The 1913 plat was unsatisfactory because it had a road running along the lakeshore and that created problems. Also, the lots were too small. So, Lunden bought back all of the lots he had sold, and in 1926 a new plat was surveyed and recorded.

On July 1, 1908, he bought, on a tax deed, the northeast fractional quarter of Section 29 containing 5.20 acres, with the idea of it being a personal reserve, but it eventually became part of Moccasin Trail. The State did not retain oil, gas and mineral rights on this and the previous deed.

An abstract shows that on April 25, 1926, Lunden bought from Oscar Peters, for \$8000, the southeast fractional quarter of Section 20 in Township 29N-1E, embracing Government Lots one and two. Lot one covers the southeast quarter of the southeast quarter, and Lot two covers the west half of the southeast quarter. It appears from maps that he also bought 160 acres adjoining this on the north, but that was not included in this abstract because it had been sold to Fred Wiltse before this abstract was made October 15, 1938.

On April 22, 1940, the plat of Moccasin Trail was filed by Lunden's heirs to include all the land described in the abstract.

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<sup>14</sup> Letter, 9/20/12, Gaylord Motor Car Co. to Brownell Motor Co.  
Letter, 9/21/12, H.Lunden to Guy Hamilton, Gaylord Motor Car Co.  
Letter, 2/15/12, Gaylord Motor Car Co. to H.Lunden, stating they have been building cars for nearly two years.



To all to whom these Presents shall come, Greeting:

Know Ye, That reposing special trust and confidence in the integrity and ability of

HERMAN LUNDEN

In the Name and by the Authority of the People of the State of Michigan, I do appoint

Him

Member of Commission of Conservation.

And I do hereby Authorize and Empower him to execute and fulfill the duties of that office according to law: to have and to hold the said office, with all the rights, privileges and emoluments, thereto belonging to fill vacancy.



In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand, and caused the Great Seal of the State to be affixed at Lansing, this sixth day of April in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and twentythree and of the Independence of the United States of America the one hundred and forty seventh.

Alex Groesbeck

By the Governor: [Signature] Secretary of State



### While on the Conservation Commission

Lunden demonstrated an interest in conservation early, when in 1915 he was appointed a Special Fire Warden by the Michigan Department of Game, Fish, and Forestry.

There is a noticeably different style, with greater enthusiasm, in letters Herman Lunden wrote regarding his public service activities, as compared with Kneeland-Bigelow activities. Somehow, he found time and energy to carry on both activities at the same time. The printed *Proceedings of the Conservation Commission* show that Lunden attended every meeting of the Commission from 1924 through 1926 with the possible exception of one in 1924 whose minutes are missing. He took an active part in making and seconding motions. He had much to do with establishing procedures for preventing forest fires and reducing their damage. Some of the effort was educational and involved exhibits and posters in a railroad car that was left in towns for a day with a member of the Commission present to talk to people. Lunden went with the car through the Upper Peninsula and thoroughly enjoyed it.<sup>15</sup> In 1926, he was given an inscribed gold pen knife for his efforts. He liked talking to people and said he could learn something from anyone.

The other members of the Commission were more interested in the recreational aspects, that is, hunting, fishing, and parks. In a sense, Lunden represented the lumber and wood products industry, so that his first interest was forestry: stopping forest fires and replanting the barren areas--needs that were apparent to the industry. At that time, forest fire fighting still depended on drafting logging crews, farmers, and "keymen" with a few firefighting tools. There was not yet much state-owned equipment, so he did not consider that they had adequate means to fight fire.

A summary of the Commission's accomplishments from 1923 through 1926 included:

- Wild life films of the American Eagle and Kirtland Warbler were made and distributed.
- State parks were increased in quantity from 21 to 56.
- Bounties for predators were replaced by employing trappers for predators.
- Abated water pollution that was recognized as serious, even then.
- Some cutover lands were reforested.
- The Commission recognized that all conservation problems were caused by disturbance of nature's balance.

About half the Commission's time was taken up with decisions on applications to homestead, lease, buy, or trade for state lands. The Commission rejected most trades because the property offered was not as valuable as the state land. When people asked to homestead land unsuitable for farming, often they were advised to select a more suitable tract. The Commission accepted land gifts for several state parks.

There was a lack of information about lands in most places, so it was necessary to have

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<sup>15</sup> A set of photographs of the car and people is in the Bentley Historical Library. In letter, 03/22/26, H.Lunden tells of his experiences on the Forest Fire Train.

conservation officers come from the field to Lansing to describe the situation to the Commission. This need for more information led the Commission to start the Land Economic Survey. (At that time there were few areas mapped by the U.S. Geological Survey topographic maps.) In 1924, the Land Economic Survey had a budget of \$28,934. The field work was done in summer by college students in forestry, biology, surveying, and civil engineering, supervised by professors in these fields. Three maps were produced of each area: first, a base map showing only water features and man-made features; second, a Farm-Forest map that in addition showed what the vegetation was including tree size and species, cultivated areas; and third, a map of ownerships.

Lunden played a great part in getting people to deed land for the Pigeon River State Forest. He wrote a whole sheaf of letters asking people who owned land within the proposed Forest to donate or sell it at nominal price to the State. Michigan Pipe Company, a manufacturer of wooden pipe, offered the State options on 3080 acres at prices from \$4 to \$8 per acre, depending upon whether taxes were paid to date or not.<sup>16</sup> Other land for the Forest (and west of it) was given or sold below market value to the State by Cobb and Mitchell, Yuill Brothers, Richardson Lumber Company,<sup>17</sup> Kneeland-Bigelow, and many individual owners.

According to the *Proceedings*, Lunden was involved in actions on the following dates:

December 11, 1924 - Mr. Lunden presented a deed to approximately 38,000 acres in the Counties of Cheboygan, Charlevoix, and Emmet from the Cobb and Mitchell Company of Cadillac. The gift of land under warranty deed was accepted by the Commission.

Mr. Lunden presented the matter of the Hanson Co. tract of virgin pine (now Hartwick Pines) near Grayling. The Hanson Company have indicated willingness to sell this tract to the State at a reasonable figure.

February 9, 1925 - A communication was received from the Governor bearing on the offer of the Salling Hanson Co. to sell to the State a tract of land totaling 8360 acres, 85 acres of which are covered with virgin pine. In view of the fact that Salling Hanson have been informed that legislative action would be necessary to purchase this tract, it was moved by Mr. Lunden and supported by Mr. Lawrence that the matter be laid on the table.

September 21, 1925 - Mr. Lunden offered on behalf of the Trustees of the Kneeland-Bigelow Trust, a deed to the State for lands in Township 33N - Range 3W as follows:

S 1/2 SW 1/4 of Section 14  
 SW 1/4 NE 1/4 and NE 1/4 SW 1/4 of Section 16  
 Entire Section 18  
 N 1/2 of Section 27

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<sup>16</sup> Letter 01/23/24, Eugene H. Smith to H. Lunden

<sup>17</sup> Letter, 11/14/23, from Roy S. Richardson, Richardson Lumber Company, Alpena.

Entire Section 30

NE 1/4 NE 1/4 and N 1/2 NW 1/4 and SW 1/4 NW 1/4 of Section 36

[nominally 1920 acres located 5 miles southwest of Wolverine]

[In July 1927, KB deeded a tract along the Sturgeon River for public use. Lunden received a grateful letter from P. S. Lovejoy of the Conservation Department acknowledging the gift of the very attractive tract.<sup>18</sup>]

Mr. Lunden moved that the NE 1/4 of Ne 1/4 of Section 24 in T29N - R2E be leased to Albert Township for 25 years on condition that the marl deposits on it be made available to all township residents.(For correcting soil acid and texture)

October 26, 1925 - Mr. Lunden, Mr. Andrews, and Mr. Schaaf constitute a committee to simplify the administration of the Timberland Tax Law by formulating a set of field instructions to be furnished to the field men in making examinations, and a blank form furnished to applicants.

February 8, 1926 - Letter from Cobb and Mitchell, Inc. to Herman Lunden offering 1200 acres in Township 33N - Range 4W, including the Village of Springdale. The tract had just been cut, ending in June 1925.

Submitted recommendations for improving fire protection signed by John Baird, H. Lunden, and C. A. Peterson and dated December 17, 1925. Despite Lunden's early support of fire towers, the committee recommended use of airplanes based near the Straits of Mackinaw for spotting fires. This report also contained the phrase "keep Michigan green," perhaps for the first time.

He planned a state game refuge in the cutover lands east of Lewiston at a time when there was still a scarcity of deer.<sup>19</sup> After his death, the game refuge was named for him. When the deer population became too large, it became the Lunden State Game Area, a public hunting grounds.

He helped persuade P.S. Lovejoy to leave his faculty position with the University of Michigan for the Conservation Department.

Governor Fred Green, during his candidacy against Governor Groesbeck, convinced the voters that the Conservation Commissioners should be replaced, but seven newspapers wrote that Herman Lunden should have been kept on. The 1923-6 Commission was composed of men who had already made their mark in life outside politics and who by statute served without pay except expenses. Consequently, they were not subject to political pressures, nor susceptible to corrupt opportunities to enrich themselves, but politicians who had to make a day to day living could not afford to be on the Commission. Lunden wrote a letter resigning with the rest of the Commission,

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<sup>18</sup> Letter, 7/22/27, from P. S. Lovejoy, H. Lunden files

<sup>19</sup> Letter, 04/28/26, H.Lunden to P.S. Lovejoy.

but expressing a desire to stay on. Lunden also wrote congratulatory letters to all the new appointees to the Commission. Some months later, Governor Green wrote to Lunden that because his conditional resignation from the Commission had been mislaid and did not reach the Governor, he assumed that Lunden had resigned unconditionally, as the newspapers reported all the Commission had.<sup>20</sup> He could have the first vacancy and one was anticipated. His family had been happy to have the Commission work done, but then his health deteriorated, so he never returned to the Commission.

Governor Groesbeck appointed Lunden to be Michigan's representative at the Deep Waterway Congress [St. Lawrence Seaway] at St. Paul in July 1926.

Lunden served on the Lake States Forest Research Advisory Committee in 1927-8.

### **Herman Lunden's Speeches**

Lunden's files contained texts for 22 speeches he had given. The common thread is that we must have good fire control before it will do any good to reforest. Planting trees will not be necessary if fires are kept out after cutting, so that natural reproduction occurs. He also gave figures showing that land owners could not afford to pay taxes at usual ad valorem rates while growing timber, so there had to be a tax break if people were to grow timber profitably.<sup>21</sup>

Introductory humor has been deleted, and my comments italicized.

*In a speech on reforestation and fire prevention about 1925, Lunden wrote:*

I have been interested in fire prevention since childhood because the same thing which exists here today existed in one of the European countries [Sweden] when I was a child. My father was the author of the first forest fire bill which was passed in his native country. I have fully investigated their success, and know that they have had wonderful results, and the townships and counties have been well paid.

*In a speech about the Timberland Tax Law to the Tri-State Development Conference in Duluth, January 24-5, probably 1925:*

I have been interested in reforestation from childhood, as my father fought a hard battle for conservation in one of the European countries, when I was only a child of nine years, [the year 1868] and I have not only seen, but have come to know that a great deal of good has come from his hard work, and that not only the owner, but the country as a whole was

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<sup>20</sup> Letter, 1/11/27, H.C.Lawrence, Secretary to Gov. Green to H.Lunden

<sup>21</sup> Herman Lunden Miller, *Lumbering in Early Twentieth Century Michigan, The Kneeland-Bigelow Company Experience*, pages 9 and 10

benefitted by it.

Some twenty years ago, our company decided to make a strong effort to protect a certain tract of land that was then being lumbered for saw timber and chemical wood, from fire. We did not allow the wood cutters [for chemical wood] to cut any young standing timber for wood, as we wanted to know what the result would be.

On an average, this land will now cut 2000 feet of saw log timber per acre, worth not less than \$20.00 or \$10.00 per acre stumpage. This same acre will cut at least 14 cords of chemical wood at 75 cents per cord [stumpage] which amounts to \$10.50 per acre, or a total revenue per acre of \$30.50. The average charges against this land are as follows: The lands were placed at a value of \$6.00 per acre, which at 6% [compounded annually] for twenty years would amount to \$19.18 [for interest]. The taxes, which have been about 22 cents per acre for twenty years, and interest would amount to \$8.60. Fire protection at five cents per acre for 20 years plus interest would amount to \$1.95, making a total of \$29.73 or a net gain of 77 cents per acre. The taxes at present are higher than when this land was set aside and consequently, it would not show a profit now. This, of course, is not taking in overhead expense, [fire] tower building, telephone system, etc. and with that added, you can see that it would be a loss to the owner to try to raise timber. However, if the taxes had been placed at five cents per acre on the reforestry land, it would have made a small profit to the owner, but owing to the fact that taxes would be raised yearly faster than the growth of the timber, it cannot be raised successfully by private owners without some assurance of the tax problem.

Under the present system we cannot raise timber at a profit, but if a five cents per acre tax could be assured, I am satisfied that within 35 years, the money advanced to the townships or counties by the state could be repaid to the state with interest, beside providing ample forests for the coming generations. As you know, the forests will conserve the game and fish and the water flow of the streams.

*During another speech, when speaking about fire prevention and reforestation, evidently given in 1927 or 1928:*

People who say "burn the slash" do not know what they are talking about, for I am here to tell you that from many years of experience in this work, I am a firmer believer every year that the slash should not be burned. Particularly is this true of hardwood. The main reason that it should not be burned is the very fact that the burning kills the young timber, burns the humus in the soil, the limbs and tops that give protection to the young timber and increases rather than decreases the fire hazard... I have always found that the second fire [on a tract] is worse than the first one. I can show you today, fine tracts of second growth hardwood, where the merchantable timber was cut about twenty-five years ago, which now have much good merchantable timber on it. I, personally lumbered much of this and know that the slash was not burned, yet there is no sign of it now, and there has not been for years. It rotted and went back to earth and formed a mulch and soil humus that assisted the young timber which was there to grow when the large timber was cut. I can show you other tracts that were cut

at the same time and where the slash was burned and natural reproduction has never taken place. ...allowing weeds, brush and briars to grow and choke out the trees that might have sprouted there.

Therefore, gentlemen, in this business of reforestation, I am not for it, if first the proper preparation is not made. That is, I do not think there is any use of making preparations for planting unless we have made reasonably sure that we can keep the fires out. Fire protection is the first consideration of reforestation.

... I can show you places where once were large swamps of virgin swamp timber, which were burned over after the first harvest of the timber was completed, where now nothing but brush and tall swamp grasses are growing. On the other hand I can show you in the same territory where swamps of large and fine swamp timber have been cut and they are still producing merchantable timber because the fire has been kept out. At the present time we are cutting swamp timber in a swamp that we cut only a few years ago. We have kept the fires out, and today we are cutting a good grade of swamp timber. It cost us much less to keep the fires out than it would have cost us to burn the slash, and plant seedlings. If we had burned the slash and planted seedlings, it would still have been necessary to keep the fires out, and would have taken a much longer time to have produced the timber . . . These things which have come under my personal observation have caused me more and more to grow away from all programs of reforestation to produce merchantable timber, and become more and more convinced that in the prevention of fire in our present timber areas is the one surest and quickest way of getting back the great stands of timber we once had.

The idea of reforestation is all right. I am for it, and believe in it, but I am also first for proper preparation before reforesting . . . I believe we should reforest the large barren plains as soon as we are equipped to prevent them from burning. The one great enemy we have to combat is fire, and I will reiterate what I have often said before, that if we had kept the fire out of our growing timber and places where timber should grow, there would never have been need for a great program of reforestation in this country.

### **Herman Lunden's Personality**

Lunden had an exuberant personality with a very quick temper, but one always knew where he stood and he liked people to say what they meant. He was not obstinate and responded appropriately to whatever situation he was in. His driver's license, dated August 14, 1919, describes him at age 59: light brown hair, blue eyes, 5 ft 8 inches tall, 195 pounds, (so he was a bit overweight). He liked good food and good horses and saw that his camps had both, along with good equipment.<sup>22</sup> Lunden enjoyed horses so much that he owned six horses at the time of his death and had a ceiling of tongue and groove boards installed over their box stalls to make them warmer in winter. He exhibited horses at the Otsego County fair. He had presence, energy, and

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<sup>22</sup> Lester Lunden, October 1979, interview by author

exuberance that show in most photographs and help to identify him. Lunden used his boundless energy to get into many different activities, which he managed by finding good people to run them and then letting them do it, but keeping in contact. He had controlling ownership in three banks, a small telephone company, and a retail lumber yard. He always dressed well, wearing a suit, and in cold weather an overcoat with a fur collar. This was not warm enough for winter driving in a sleigh, so he wore chamois underwear over ordinary long underwear. He usually started the day with a cigar and smoked cigars at the rate most people would smoke cigarettes. He was a keen observer and wrote down his observations for us. Whatever he was doing, he tried to do the very best he could. He sometimes went over his past decisions to consider if something else would have worked better.

Lunden was brought up in the Lutheran church, but did not ordinarily attend church in the USA. He explored Christian Science during the spring of 1897, but dropped it because of the effects of the Lewiston diphtheria epidemic in June 1898. Several children died during that epidemic because their parents relied on Christian Science instead of medical treatment with diphtheria antitoxin. He had his daughter change to the Congregational Church Sunday school then.

Lunden maintained family connections with letters to and from his father and sisters. His sisters wrote to him in Swedish, but he replied in English on a typewriter, and he was a good typist. He learned English on the job, never having attended school in the USA, but must have had a good basic education in Sweden. When he had difficulty finding a good sitter in Bagley for his baby daughter, Rebecca Hallenius volunteered, so his daughter stayed with the Halleniuses until he moved to Lewiston. Then, his mother-in-law moved with him to take care of his small daughter. When she had to leave to take care of her sick son, his recently widowed sister, Emma, came to Lewiston with her daughter age five, and son age three. About the same time, another sister, Ellen, with her husband and son moved to Lewiston. His brother, Dan, with wife and two children also moved to Lewiston. When his brother, Dan, became unexplainably ill in 1896, he arranged for him to go to University Hospital in Ann Arbor. After the brother died, he helped his widow and two children. Four of his nephews worked a short time as scalers in KB camps. Three apparently caused no problems, but Lester Netterstrom got in wrong with two camp foremen and caused sarcastic comments in a letter from Mr. Bigelow to Lunden. Nevertheless, Lunden persisted, giving the young man a stern reprimand and sending him to a third camp where he did shape up. Later, he attended Ferris Institute with Lunden's support, and eventually became a very successful wholesale candy salesman. Albert Blixberg went from scaling at Camp 4 to billing clerk with Michelson and Hanson in Lewiston. Then Mr. Kneeland moved him to Bay City to be a wholesale salesman for Kneeland-Bigelow, continuing in that career the rest of his life.

He seems to have had little continuing interest in Sweden, the land of his birth and youth. I saw few exchanges of letters with friends or relatives in Sweden. He never traveled back to Sweden, perhaps because he was more interested in the things he was doing here. During a diplomatic crisis between the USA and Sweden he told his daughter, "I renounced my allegiance to the King of Sweden." Now, the USA had his full allegiance and was his country. He did not push his daughter to learn the Swedish language. Probably, his lack of interest in Sweden came about because all his close relatives were in the USA, and he had left Sweden at age 19, when one is ready to break with

the past.

In 1912, there was a fire in Lewiston so bad that their only hope of stopping it was to dynamite buildings in its path. The only dynamite was at Bigelow (KB), so Lunden was phoned to bring some. He drove by horse and sleigh from Bigelow to Lewiston in twenty minutes with the dynamite on his lap and the caps in his vest pocket. The dynamite stopped the fire.

Lunden was a man who could work with his hands. He had a well-made tool chest 23 in. high by 25 in. wide by 38 in. long, with several drawers filled with millwright and carpenter tools, both old and new. He had a camera, and used photographs he took to reinforce his statements.<sup>23</sup> He was skilled at using an axe. He did not read fiction and thought people should not waste time with it.

During World War I, he had the Gaylord Bank give a five-dollar gold coin to every local man going overseas, so they would have emergency cash good anywhere in the world.

He visited the Ford Motor Company to present a proposal from Atlanta people for two possible water power sites within four miles of town, but Mr. Ford already had 100 sites under consideration for development, so nothing developed.<sup>24</sup>

In 1926, after buying the land that became Moccasin Trail, he invited University of Michigan Professors Hinsdale and Ruthven to excavate the Indian mounds on the property, so he supported and took responsibility for preserving history.

In May 1927, he served on a committee of timberland owners and operators from the lower peninsula to consider matters of mutual interest to the group and the proposed School of Forestry and Conservation at the University of Michigan.

At Christmas 1927, he sent flowers to at least seven people, so he must have been outgoing and generous.

In 1928, his failing health led him to disengage from some of his activities. Lunden wanted to include his farm and detached forties in any sale of the surrounding KB land because he would have no use for it after the KB lands were sold. However, Mr. Bigelow was unwilling to add land that would increase the price of the KB lands above \$15 per acre. This led Lunden to list what various improvements to the farm had cost him. He tried to, but did not, sell his West Twin Lake property except for a few acres in Section 29 that he wanted to keep indefinitely. Lunden died owning a mile of frontage except for six or eight lots sold previously. At the time, he was planning to build on the Pigeon River property that he had bought from KB, and had logs there to build with. He wrote about how beautiful the Pigeon River country was. In the days before he died, he was both feeling and appearing unwell.

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<sup>23</sup> Letter 11/14/25, H.Lunden to C. Bigelow

<sup>24</sup> Letter 10/30/25, H.Lunden to C. Bigelow



Early in life, he gave up hunting after almost shooting the man he was hunting with, but made an exception when the Postmaster General invited him to hunt at Turtle Lake Club.

Lunden had a long time active interest in good roads. He participated in the organization for the Dixie Highway that ran from Sault Ste Marie to Miami, Florida. Participation in the Northern Michigan Road Commissioners' Association sounds like a Lunden project. One of its purposes was to prevent roads dead ending at county lines. He originated planting evergreen trees along highways to replace snow fences. The annual report of the Montmorency County Road Commission dated October 4, 1928 seems to contain effects from Lunden's membership. Knowledge of the cost per yard of earth moved, and gravel hauled, sounds like his passion for knowing costs. Increasing the use of heavy machinery sounds like Lunden because he was used to it and would think of it. He favored taking road work away from the townships and giving it to counties, because only counties could afford the heavy equipment necessary for road building and maintenance. Lunden had the Lewiston Road (491) moved from steep, hilly, section lines to the long ravine it is in now. He remained a member of the Montmorency Road Commission until he died. He pushed hard to get M-32 built and had KB crews clear its right of way across KB land. He opposed building M-32 straight west from Lake Inez because of the big steep hills and scarce settlers on that route. At that time, most freight between Gaylord, Atlanta and Alpena moved by the BCG&A Railroad instead of by truck.

Herman Lunden could anticipate problems large or small and make preparations either to eliminate or moderate them, so he did not have "bad luck." Sometimes his precautions seemed unduly burdensome to those who had to carry them out.

Lunden had a modern attitude on equal opportunity for women. He employed a woman to run the Lewiston Bank during the 1920s. The wife of the KB Farm foreman was paid with a separate check for "boarding" the farm crew that ranged in size from four in winter to eighteen or twenty in summer. Lunden had a bonus system for paying KB cooks that gave them an incentive to keep down costs. He stuck by the system when it gave the woman cook at new Camp 2 a larger pay check than the foreman, so that Mr. Bigelow questioned it.<sup>25</sup> When he visited logging operations on Saturdays, he took his daughter with him. He bought a car for his wife in 1923.

He hired an American Indian to run KB's shingle mill.

He had a sense of topography that enabled him to lay out railroad routes that avoided steep grades going to the camps north of Lewiston. His logging roads got logs to the railroad with mostly downhill hauls.

Lunden was a compassionate man. When a man bought land from KB on a contract and was unwise enough to make substantial improvements before paying off the contract, then ran short of money, Lunden kept accepting excuses and giving the man more time despite pressure from Mr. Bigelow to foreclose.

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<sup>25</sup> Letter 07/18/25, H.Lunden to C.Bigelow

"You always knew where you stood with Herman Lunden. He would not stab you in the back." Another person said, "He had a presence."

In July 1928, Lunden attended a Kneeland-McLurg directors' meeting at Phillips, Wisconsin then looked over their woods operations approvingly. He was able to make suggestions and learn things too. He thought the Kneeland-McLurg sawmill very efficient. On his way home, he visited sawmills, including that of I. Stephenson in Escanaba, which he considered wasteful, and Northwest Cooperage which had a wonderful mill cutting to very good advantage. The Stack mill was doing well, but not up to the Kneeland-McLurg mill or Northwest Cooperage. The Ford mill, 224 miles from Phillips, was the most wonderful he ever saw. They were getting an overrun of 40 to 50 percent over the scale of logs going into the mill, (probably by making use of short pieces of wood.) The mill sawed 250,000,000 board feet per year. Evidently, Lunden made a point of visiting other people's logging and sawmill operations and was known and welcomed. The respect for him by his colleagues in the lumber industry was shown by Cobb and Mitchell transmitting their deeds for land through him to the Conservation Commission.

He was no superman and did make mistakes. The big KB farm lost several thousand dollars a year after 1920 when the economics of farming worsened, so perhaps he should not have built the big barn, and should have sold the three smaller farms sooner. The big barn cost almost \$100,000. The complicated framing for its gothic roof required use of journeyman carpenters. The upper peninsula timber probably was a money loser, so he should not have had the Company buy it. The freight cost to Bay City was excessive, and much of the maple was sap stained making it unsuitable for flooring although usable for railroad ties. The value of timber decreased, which he could not anticipate. The reduced price was because of reduced<sup>26</sup> demand, not overproduction. Lunden did not have proper foundations put under some buildings he had built, so most of them have been torn down. Probably, he was like other people in the lumbering industry, who did not expect to use their buildings for long.

Fred White said one time when he was looking up how to spell a word in the dictionary, Herman Lunden walked into the office and said, "I'm not paying you to look up words in the dictionary." The next time he came to the office he brought a word book that gave spellings, but no definitions, so he found a good way to get the work done more quickly.

He was so interested in knowing his costs that he had an accountant in the logging office at Bigelow, so he knew how much it cost per board-foot to get out logs in each camp and how much it cost to feed the men and horses. There was also cost accounting for the stock farm.

Lumberjacks had a song about Herman Lunden and his dog Spot, but no one seems to have preserved it, not even Professor Beck in his *Songs of Michigan Lumberjacks*.

Lunden was a hands-on manager: Once, the railroad train crew left a string of empty flat cars at Bigelow instead of Camp 6, where they were needed immediately. It was almost all downhill to

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<sup>26</sup> Stewart Holbrook, *Holy Old Mackinaw*, page 232, Comstock Edition, Inc. (1956)

Camp 6, a drop of 170 feet in 2.7 miles, so he got on board, released the brakes and had a wild ride coasting to Camp 6.

Lunden had a long-standing feud with the manager of the MCRR Mackinaw Division that began when he called the manager a liar during a court proceeding, and ended in 1927, only when another man took over that position. The new manager found 25 carloads of KB logs held up in Grayling. One might think that a large customer of the railroad would be treated well, but the manager found all sorts of ways to harass KB and cause extra expense. The MCRR would not send cars if Lunden's name was on the request, which may have been the reason his name was left off when KLB and KB merged in 1922. Johannesburg Manufacturing also had a troubled relationship with the former MCRR manager.

When the MCRR in 1925 decided to end service on the railroad branch that served the company logging headquarters, Camps 8, 22, and 23, Lunden and Bigelow made a big effort to keep the service but were unsuccessful. This meant that KB had to maintain a locomotive, hire an engineer and fireman, thus raising their expenses. Lunden adapted to the new situation by changing his strategy to reflect the new conditions. He wrote, "If I do not have to build railroad to MCRR standards, I'll build more railroad and less sleigh road." Thus, he saved the expense of loading and unloading some logs on sleighs.

Lunden was able to work with extremely difficult Charles Bigelow, who got angry and fired people with no consideration of the consequences. Bigelow had diabetes that was not properly controlled, which probably explains his behavior. Occasionally, Lunden would get a telegram or phone call from Bay City that, "Charlie's on a rampage. Come quickly." He was the only one who could calm down Bigelow. He valued Bigelow for his foresight, but it was not always right. Bigelow had no religion according to Albert Blixberg.

KB always used the Scribner log rule for measuring the number of board-feet in a log instead of the Doyle rule which usually gives a smaller estimate, so Lunden insisted on continuing the Scribner when other lumbermen in the Upper Peninsula used the Doyle. He said "I think the Scribner Rule is as near just and right for both parties as can be."<sup>27</sup>

When visiting camps, he would usually say how well the other camps were doing as an incentive.

Regarding cant hook handles (stocks) he said: "We have never bought a cant hook stock since I came into this woods. I would not give 10 cents a dozen for purchased turned cant hook stocks. We have always made our own by splitting green small logs. One we make is worth ten that we can buy."<sup>28</sup>

If he expected a person to be unreceptive to an idea he wanted implemented, he would talk about

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<sup>27</sup> Letter, 12/6/28, H.Lunden to Pierson Kneeland

<sup>28</sup> Letter, 10/15/27, H.Lunden to C.A.Bigelow

it to someone else in the room instead of the person to whom it was directed, expecting that he would hear, but not have his defenses aroused.

He insisted on my being named after him. Lunden's many acts of generosity left a reservoir of good will that helped his descendants. His daughter was so in awe of his ability and judgement that she was unwilling to change from the way he had done things.

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#### Photographs



H. Lunden in Gaylord car at K.B. store



H. Lunden showing Horse at Otsego County Fair





Matilda Hallenius about 1885



Herman Lunden on snow shoes about 1927



Herman Lunden with wife Sarah at Good Roads meeting, 1921





Herman Lunden about 1927