

Memories of Herman Lee of Lindale (1880-1972)

Herman Lee was born in 1880 in Liversedge in Yorkshire. From the age of 20 he was a Shoe and Boot Maker. In 1905 (aged 27) he married Amelia Bird, of Normanton, Yorkshire. Her family came from a mining area in Shropshire.

At some stage, possibly during the 1930s depression, Herman Lee moved to Kendal, and lived there until 1935. His shoe shop was in Finkle Street, where Roberts Bookshop used to be. In 1936 he moved to Gilpin House, Levens. In 1939 he was recorded at a cottage at Causeway End, Levens. From 1939-1945 there were no electoral rolls, and his granddaughter has not been able to trace him.

By October 1945 he was recorded as landlord of the Lindale Inn. He was one of the framed caricature paintings at one time on the walls of the Inn, and now feared lost. During the Second World War the Inn was known as 'The Village Inn', to avoid the possible identification of its location, in view of its proximity to Barrow-in-Furness and the implications of 'war work' being carried out there. After the war ended it reverted to its original name. During the course of the war, the Inn was hit by an incendiary bomb, which landed on the upstairs passage, just missing the bedrooms. No other area was damaged, but when walking along this wooden floored passage, the floorboards never failed to creak.

In October 1946 Herman Lee retired as a publican, and moved to live at Bayview, Back Road, Lindale until his wife Amelia died aged 59 in 1964. He then went to live with his son in Banbury and later moved back to Kendal. He died in 1972. Both are buried in Lindale churchyard.

Margaret Lee, now Green, still has her memories of visiting her grandparents in Lindale. She stayed with them at both Lindale Inn and Bayview. Granny (Amelia Lee) had been a teacher. She made Margaret do her music practice on the piano in the back parlour of the pub. She remembers playing '*Bluebells of Scotland*'. She also helped to clean up and polish in the pub. Behind the pub was an outhouse. Connie, Herman's youngest, lived in the cottage across the yard, up some steps. They used the stream for washing and to clean the pipes. They would walk into Grange and back. To make the journey less boring, Margaret would walk along the castellated Castle Head wall, touching the top of every one. They sang hymns on the way back. She remembers her grandfather asking 'Why are you never hungry in Grange?' (Because of all the sand which is there.)

Herman Lee was quite an entrepreneur, quick to spot a way to make money, and a bit careful in his spending. He kept a pig (at Bayview), but when he became a local councillor, rules and regulations made him give it up. Margaret remembers being told to pod the peas in the greenhouse at the back of Bayview, and that it was very hot in there, very sweaty. Marjorie Knowles remembers taking her shoes to Mr Lee at Bayview to be mended. She walked in the side door by the garage.

In 1957 when a search was conducted for James Dixon, plumber, Broughton-in-Furness, in relation to the sale of the Old Police Station, now Greenacres, Herman Lee, Bayview, Lindale, Retired Shoemaker, was listed as one of the Trustees of the Myles Taylor's Charity.

In April 2016 Mike and Margaret Green were visiting Lindale to help Margaret's memories of her grandparents. They have been told that the Lindale Inn is closed, bought by the Audi garage, with plans for its demolition. They had seen the outside of Bayview. They had also been to visit the refurbished gravestone of Amelia and Herman Lee in Lindale churchyard. They had commissioned an

Ulverston stone mason to re-carve the names, polish the stone and re-erect it. They have commissioned a similar refurbishment of a gravestone of Mike's grandfather and family in Natland church.

Sylvia Woodhead

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Note: By happenstance, as we were coming back from our allotment (at the top of the village) on 20 April 2016, a neighbour was showing a couple, Margaret and Michael Green, now of Preston, to our house. Margaret née Lee's grandfather Herman had lived in Lindale from 1946 to 1964. They had conducted considerable searches, which are summarised here.

Thanks also to Marjorie Knowles, and to Sue Broomfield for the loan of documents relating to Greenacres

PS. Herman Lee does not appear in the Grange Red Book for 1940, but is listed in 1941 as Lee, Lindale Inn. From 1947-57 he is listed as Herman Lee Bay View. I have not checked 1942-6 Red Books. SW