

Robert Charles Lund

Robert Charles Lund was born 29 May 1847 in New Diggins, Lafayette, Wisconsin Territory. He was the second of ten children of Wilson Lund and Eliza Ann Brace.¹ As the Mormon pioneers began their travels west in 1847, Robert's father was one of the men who were asked to secure employment and turn their wages over to the Church Immigration Fund. Although disappointed not to be with the first travelers, his father accepted the call and worked in a rock quarry in Wisconsin.² The next year they were released from their call and immigrated to the Salt Lake Valley with the Warren Foote company in 1850.³

On the 1850 census, the family was living in Tooele, Tooele, Utah Territory.⁴ The family lived in Salt Lake City until 1861⁵, when they were sent south by President Brigham Young. They settled in St George, Washington, Utah Territory.⁶ When President Brigham Young decided to spend his winters in St George, he needed a secure form of communication with his office in Salt Lake City. He asked for a recommendation for a young man who could quickly, keep his own council, and have the gift of leadership. The unquestioned choice was Robert Lund.

President Young took Robert to Salt Lake City where he attended school, passed his tests, and became an official telegraph agent for the Deseret Telegraph Company. He was put in charge of the telegraph stations at St George and Pioche, Nevada, and was the official agent for President Young and the Mormon Church.⁷

In 1870, Robert married Mary Ann Romney⁸ in Salt Lake City. Mary Ann was his next-door neighbor, and her brother Tom teased her that the neighbor boy with very red blonde curls would be her future husband.⁹ They had ten children.¹⁰ Robert was a store clerk, living with his wife in St George, on the 1870 census.¹¹ About this time, he became interested in the old co-op store and learned the mercantile business. In October 1875, he joined his financial resources with those of Edwin Gordon Woolley and Thomas Judd to establish the firm of Woolley, Lund and Judd, opening a store in St George. They were so successful that they threatened the cooperative mercantile founded by Erastus Snow the same year.¹²

All three partners were called on proselyting missions in 1876, perhaps due to the competitive businesses. A compromise was found where Lund was permitted to remain in Utah to operate the business. In 1878, Woolley and Judd returned home and the three men expanded operations to a

¹ Utah Death Certificates, 1904-1964.

² Wilson Lund Family History, by Russ Bateman; Wilson and Eliza Lund, by Sharon Kay Steele, at *Familysearch.org*

³ Utah, Pioneers and Prominent Men of Utah, 1847-1868; Mormon Pioneer Overland Travel, 1847-1868.

⁴ United States Census, 1850.

⁵ United States Census, 1860; Utah Statehood Census Index, 1856.

⁶ *Salt Lake Herald*, 8 September 1900, p. 2.

⁷ Robert Charles Lund, by Mary Phoenix, at *Ancestry.com*; History of Utah, by Orson Ferguson Whitney, Vol 2, 1893, p. 421; *Salt Lake Herald*, 8 September 1900, p. 2.

⁸ United States Census, 1870.

⁹ Miles Romney and Elizabeth Gaskell Romney and Family, by Caroline Eyring Miner, 1978.

¹⁰ *Familysearch.org*

¹¹ United States Census, 1870.

¹² History of Utah, by Orson Ferguson Whitney, 1904, 4:553; Robert Charles Lund, by Mary Phoenix, at *Ancestry.com*

store in Silver Reef, a silver mining boom town just north of St George. They opened business in the Wells Fargo building.¹³

Robert served as coroner in St George.¹⁴ In 1878, he received the bodies of two horse thieves who had been found in the Damron Valley about eight miles from St George.¹⁵

With his friends, Thomas Judd and Edwin W Woolley, he opened the Woolley, Lund & Judd Mercantile in St George. It acted as a bank and credit agency for southern Utah and Northern Nevada.¹⁶ In 1878, they opened a store at the Grand Gulch copper mines in Arizona, 75 miles south of St George, which was ultimately unsuccessful. However, the St George business was extremely successful in 1880-1881, and they took on ore hauling contracts and other work at Silver Reef, Washington, Utah Territory. They also bought a two-thirds interest in the firm of Liddle Brothers & Company there.¹⁷

The Woolley, Lund & Judd store was housed in the south side of the Wells Fargo building on Main Street in Silver Reef.¹⁸ It was a mercantile and mine supply store¹⁹ and they served as the official representatives of Wells, Fargo & Company.²⁰ The newspaper described their merchandise as all the “furnishings for a quartzmill, down to a ball of twine”. One of the exotic items was a “fine lot of white, gray, mottled and vicuna blankets”.²¹ On the 1880 census, Robert was listed as a general merchant; living with his wife, five children, his mother-in-law and a niece, in St George.²² In 1882, their “vast supply of new goods” necessitated some improvements in the store.²³ He was one of the leading merchandisers of Silver Reef as well as a stock man.²⁴

In 1883, the Gillespie, Lund & Company doing business in Silver Reef was “dissolved by mutual consent”. R T Gillespie retired from the business, and Edwin G Woolley, Robert C Lund, and Thomas Judd assumed all debts and liabilities under the new name Woolley, Lund & Judd (Salt Lake Herald, 25 October 1883, p. 5). Robert was elected mayor of St George in 1884 and served for two terms until 1888.²⁵ He built a new home with lumber he purchased when the Catholic hospital was closed in Silver Reef.²⁶

In 1887, Robert and Judge E G Woolley travelled east to purchase merchandise for their new building (the old John W Lowell & Company property). They will offer wagons, mowers, reapers, threshers, engines, rakes, drills, feed mills, plows, and agricultural machinery and implements.²⁷ Robert served

¹³ Robert Charles Lund, by Mary Phoenix, at *Ancestry.com*

¹⁴ *The Union*, 4 October 1878, pp. 2-3.

¹⁵ *The Union*, 4 October 1878, pp. 2-3.

¹⁶ *The Merchants' and Bankers' Almanac for 1885*, p. 258; *Utah Gazetteer and Business Directory*, 1884, p. 715.

¹⁷ *History of Utah*, by Orson Ferguson Whitney, Vol 4, 1904, p. 554; *Deseret News*, 10 April 1878, p. 14.

¹⁸ *Saga of Three Towns*, by Marietta M. Mariger, 1951, p. 97.

¹⁹ *Historic American Building Survey*, National Park Service, 1968, p. 4.

²⁰ *Wilson Lund Family History*, by Russ Bateman; *The Banker's Almanac and Register*, 1883, p. 91; *The Merchants' and Bankers' Almanac for 1885*, p. 258; *Salt Lake Herald*, 8 September 1900, p. 2.

²¹ *Silver Reef Miner*, 30 September 1882, p. 3.

²² *United States Census*, 1880.

²³ *Silver Reef Miner*, 28 October 1882, p. 3.

²⁴ *Salt Lake Evening Democrat*, 22 May 1885, p. 4; *Salt Lake Herald*, 20 October 1887.

²⁵ *Salt Lake Herald*, 20 March 1884, p. 8; *The David H. Morris Collection*, BYU; *Edward Hunter Snow: Pioneer – Educator – Statesman*, by Thomas G. Alexander, 2012, p. 81.

²⁶ *Silver, Sinners and Saints*, by Proctor and Shirts, 1991, pp. 92, 199.

²⁷ *Salt Lake Herald*, 20 October 1887, p. 5.

as Washington County commissioner from 1887-1896.²⁸ He was a selectman for the county with a compensation of \$56 annually.²⁹ He was a delegate from the county to the constitutional convention of the state of Utah.³⁰

In 1888, he was president of the State Board of Equalization for school taxes across all the counties in the state. He travelled 48 days of that year and was reimbursed \$240.³¹ He was elected councilor for the 12th district of the Utah Territorial Legislature; succeeding E G Woolley.³² In 1890, he was on the committee to arrange for the purchase of Fort Cameron (originally Camp Beaver, a military installation), with 160 acres, buildings, and water rights, to be used as a branch of the state insane asylum.³³ However, this land was purchased by two investors who later donated it to the Beaver branch of the Brigham Young University. Today it is a golf course.³⁴

Robert was appointed regent of the University of Deseret for six years.³⁵ He was instrumental in developing a new reservoir and canal to bring water to 3,000 acres of fruit and farm land.³⁶ He supervised the construction.³⁷ "We have just completed a canal ten miles long at a cost of \$49,109. The canal is nine feet wide by four feet deep, and takes water from the Rio Virgin River. We removed 111,371 yards of rock and earth and have six tunnels through mountains totaling 520 feet in length. We constructed a rock and earth dam 600 feet long and twenty-five feet high."³⁸ The LaVirken Fruit and Nursery Company, one of Robert's corporations, built a canal and ran a tunnel canal to cultivate 700 acres of the best fruit land in Utah.³⁹ Robert was chosen as the first president of the Washington Field Canal Company.⁴⁰

In 1890, Woolley, Lund & Judd leased the mines and mills of Stormont and Christy companies and employed 50 men in the mines and 15 more in the mill. "Mr Lund believes that under favorable silver legislation there can be no question but that Silver Reef will again take its place among the leading mining camps of Utah, as it is only a question of time when capitalists will snap up some of the numerous undeveloped claims and work them for all they are worth."⁴¹ The mill was converted into a water-driven plant and used the water of Quail Creek when not it was needed for irrigation. In 1898, Brundage & Company of Cleveland, Ohio, bought out their interests, but silver prices continued to decline. The last mill run was in 1903 and then the mills and buildings were torn down and the materials taken elsewhere.⁴²

²⁸ A History of Washington County: From Isolation to Destination, by Douglas D. Alder and Karle F. Brooks, p. 154; Edward Hunter Snow: Pioneer – Educator – Statesman, by Thomas G. Alexander, 2012, p. 81.

²⁹ *Salt Lake Herald*, 23 September 1887, p. 8; 26 January 1890, p. 7.

³⁰ Constitution of the State of Utah, 1887, p. 16.

³¹ Utah, Pioneers and Prominent Men of Utah, 1847-1868; *Salt Lake Herald*, 9 March 1888, p. 5; 14 July 1888, p. 8; 25 January 1890; *Salt Lake Tribune*, 19 June 1890, p. 5.

³² *Salt Lake Herald*, 30 June 1889, p. 8; 14 January 1890, p. 8.

³³ *Salt Lake Herald*, 21 February 1890, p. 2.

³⁴ *Fortiki.com*

³⁵ *Salt Lake Tribune*, 11 March 1890, p. 2; *Salt Lake Herald*, 11 March 1890, p. 5; Council Journal of the Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Utah, Vol 30, 1892, p. 307.

³⁶ *Salt Lake Herald*, 6 February 1892, p. 6; 8 April 1896, p. 8.

³⁷ *Salt Lake Herald*, 15 February 1891, p. 6.

³⁸ *Salt Lake Herald*, 21 March 1893, p. 5.

³⁹ *Salt Lake Herald*, 25 December 1890, p. 2.

⁴⁰ Robert Charles Lund, by Mary Phoenix, at *Ancestry.com*

⁴¹ Financial and Mining Record, Vol 29, 1891, p. 42; A Complete and Comprehensive Description of the Agricultural, Stock Raising and Mineral Resources of Utah, 1891, p. 99.

⁴² Saga of Three Towns, by Marietta M. Mariger, 1951, p. 92; Memories of Silver Reef, by Mark A. Pendleton, in *Utah Historical Quarterly*, 1930, p. 112.

Robert was the mail contractor from 1893-1899, with an annual pay of \$489.⁴³ In 1895, he refused to run for governor when urged by colleagues.⁴⁴ In 1896, he became the director of the Utah & California Railway.⁴⁵ Robert and others petitioned for a new postal route from Sulphur to St George and from Cedar City to Paragonah, to be carried by the railroad.⁴⁶ He was the chairman of the Board of County Commissioners⁴⁷ and nominated for presidential elector in Utah's first vote for president and vice-president of the United States.⁴⁸ He was a charter member and on the executive committee of the State Historical Society of Utah.⁴⁹

Robert and E D Woolley were named as commissioners by the governor of Utah to visit and negotiate with the legislature of Arizona on the matter of securing the annexation of that portion of Arizona north of the Colorado River. The area was difficult to reach due to the Colorado River and was known for its lawlessness. Some felt that if Utah were to include the area it could be better developed and maintained.⁵⁰ Robert's salary as commissioner was \$37.50.⁵¹ A B Andrus bought the entire merchandise stock of Woolley, Lund & Judd and organized the firm of James Andrus & Sons.⁵²

Robert had the subcontract to carry the mail from St George to St Thomas, Nevada, from 1898-1902.⁵³ About this time, Robert and two others sold their 24 claims in Eagle Valley mining district in Nevada for \$200,000. It was one of the largest and most promising in the country.⁵⁴ It is interesting to note that on the 1990 census, he is listed as a capitalist, living with his wife and five children in St George.⁵⁵ He ran as a Democrat for state treasurer in 1900.⁵⁶ In 1902, he became president of the newly incorporated LaVerkin Oil & Mining Company.⁵⁷

In 1904, he became one of the directors of the newly organized Southern Utah Telephone Company.⁵⁸

Robert died 30 January 1906 in St George and was buried in the St George City Cemetery.⁵⁹ Mary Ann lived with her youngest daughter⁶⁰ and then her son⁶¹ until she died in 1924. She was also buried in the St George City Cemetery.⁶² Throughout their lives, they collected a library of classics and many fine paintings.⁶³ Robert was a colonel in the Southern Utah Militia⁶⁴ and a member of the St

⁴³ US Register of Civil, Military, and Naval Service, 1863-1959.

⁴⁴ *Salt Lake Tribune*, 5 September 1895, p. 7; *Mohave County Miner*, 19 May 1900, p. 2

⁴⁵ *Salt Lake Tribune*, 18 March 1896, p. 1; 22 June 1896, p. 8; Utah Place Names, by John W. Van Cott, 1990, p. 237; *utahrails.net*

⁴⁶ *Salt Lake Tribune*, 24 January 1899, p. 5.

⁴⁷ *The Union*, 5 September 1896, p. 2.

⁴⁸ *Salt Lake Herald*, 25 September 1896, pp. 1, 3; 12 January 1897, p. 3.

⁴⁹ *Salt Lake Herald*, 29 December 1897, p. 8.

⁵⁰ *The Union*, 6 February 1897, p. 1; *Flagstaff Sun-Democrat*, 18 February 1897, p. 5.

⁵¹ *The Union*, 31 July 1897, p. 1.

⁵² Utah Since Statehood: Historical and Biographical, Vol 4, p. 629.

⁵³ *The Union*, 30 April 1898, p. 3.

⁵⁴ *Salt Lake Herald*, 15 January 1898, p. 8.

⁵⁵ United States Census, 1900.

⁵⁶ *Deseret Evening News*, 7 September 1900, p. 1.

⁵⁷ *Salt Lake Herald*, 15 July 1902, p. 8; *Mining Reporter*, Vol 45, 1902, p. 568.

⁵⁸ *Salt Lake Tribune*, 29 March 1904, p. 12.

⁵⁹ Utah Death Certificates, 1904-1964; Utah Death and Military Death Certificates, 1904-1961; Utah Death Registers, 1847-1966; Utah Cemetery Inventory, 1847-2000.

⁶⁰ United States Census, 1910.

⁶¹ United States Census, 1920.

⁶² Utah Death Certificates, 1904-1964.

⁶³ Miles Romney and Elizabeth Gaskell Romney and Family, by Caroline Eyring Miner, 1978.

⁶⁴ Robert Charles Lund, by Karen Terry Rowley, on Familysearch.org.

George Drama Association.⁶⁵ He was the “best-known figure of Utah outside of Salt Lake City” and a “sturdy heroic type, a pioneer by instinct and training, a keen business man, a most useful citizen, a devoted friend”.⁶⁶



(Left image from the *Salt Lake Herald*, 25 September 1896, p. 1; right image from *Familysearch.org*)



Robert Charles Lund is the fifth from the left on the front row (image from *Ancestry.com*)

⁶⁵ A History of Washington County: From Isolation to Destination, by Douglas D. Alder and Karle F. Brooks, p. 154.

⁶⁶ *Salt Lake Tribune*, 1 February 1906, p. 4.



Wilson and Eliza Lund family (image from *Familysearch.org*)

Edwin G. Woolley. Robert C. Lund. Thomas Judd. James Andrus

WOOLLEY, LUND & JUDD,

Importers and Jobbers of

Agricultural Implements and Wagons

General Agents for the

*Champion Harvesting Machinery, Fish Bros'. Wagons
 Moline Steel Plows, Imperial Chilled Plows, Buckey
 Rakes, Grain Drills, Cultivators and Spring-tooth
 Harrows, Springfield Threshers, Horse Powers,
 Portable and Traction Engines, Kelly Feed
 Grinders, Sechler Buggies, Carriages and
 Road Carts, Fish Bros'. Spring Wagons.*

**HARDWARE AND WAGON REPAIRS. COMPLETE STOCK OF REPAIRS
 FOR CHAMPION MACHINES.**

SALT LAKE CITY. Branch Houses, Ogden, St. George & Silver Reef.

(Image from the *Salt Lake Herald*, 22 May 1888, p. 2)

Gillespie, Lund & Co.,

Wholesale and Retail

GROCCERS

.....AND.....

**DRY GOODS
MERCHANTS.**

Sole Agents for Southern Utah of

**Du Pont's Blasting Powder
AND GIANT POWDER.**

We Carry the Largest Stock

.....OF.....

GENTLEMEN'S CLOTHING

Furnishing Goods,

HATS, BOOTS & SHOES

And recommend our large assortment of

Woolen and Flannel Undershirts

In all Colors and Qualities, and the

Finest Linen and Woolen Overshirts

A Fine Assortment of

Ladies' and Misses' Shoes

Of every description.

— Genuine California —

HARNESS AND SADDLES

And Saddlery of all Kinds.

Assayers' Goods

**Tobaccos, Cigars
AND PIPES.**

Mill Supplies, Pipes & Fittings

HARDWARE

TINWARE, IRON AND STEEL.

Powder and Fuse, Miners' Tools

.....ALSO.....

Lard, Coal and Lubricating Oils

(Image from the *Silver Reef Miner*, 30 September 1882, p. 2)



Robert Charles Lund home in St George (image from *Ancestry.com*)



(Image from *Findagrave.com*)