

Birth: Oct. 17, 1852
Brome
Suffolk, England
Death: Jan. 10, 1935
Ely
White Pine County
Nevada, USA

, told to her grandson Frank before 1935

Near the end of the nineteenth century there was further Mormon colonization in eastern Nevada. The Mormon church purchased a large ranch in the White River Valley in White Pine County. In 1898 several Mormon families traveled by wagon from St. George, Utah, to settle in Nevada. The trip took about a week. The families established the towns of Lund and Preston. They divided the ranch land into smaller parcels and bought land to farm. Members of the community built a mill to make adobe bricks, and many of the early houses were built of adobe. The settlers dug ditches to irrigate their crops. They planted cottonwood, Lombardy poplar, and willow trees along the banks of the ditches. Many Nevada settlers planted Lombardy poplar around their farms and ranches. The trees grew quickly and provided a wind break.

Mary Oxborrow, who had earlier emigrated from England then overland to St. George, Utah, was one of the first settlers in the White River Valley. She lived the rest for her life there, making a home and working as a midwife and healer. Several years before her death in 1935, she told her grandson Frank, one of her 55 grandchildren, the story of settlement in the White River Valley.

" In 1870, I was married to Joseph Oxborrow. While living in St. George I became the mother of eleven children, four of whom have died. Then in 1898, after my husband's death, we moved to White River Valley, Nevada, to make a permanent home.

" The trip to the present site of Lund took just one week. Here we found only one large ranch so our first home had to be in a tent,

our wagon, or under the stars. A few people who had come before us were living in log houses situated near a large spring. This spring with others, now furnishes a permanent supply of water for Lund.

" A big job for the men was to dig canals for carrying water from the big spring to their farms. Then came the problem of homes, constructed mostly of log, rock, or sod.

" Joseph, my son, his wife, and I made a trip to Taylor, an old deserted mining camp. About thirty-five men from Lund, tore down an old lumber house there, and hauled it back to rebuild for a home. On the road we picked wild currant and preserved them for future use. After I had a home, my sons started a farm so that in a few years we were able to provide a living for ourselves by farming and stock raising.

" A few years of hard labor passed--Lund became a small town, old houses were torn down and new ones built in their places. In 1913 Joseph bought the first Ford to use in mail service between Lund and Ely. Today the town supports a milk truck, which hauls about one hundred fifty gallons of milk each day for the Ely Ice-cream and Dairy Company. Mail is carried three times each week, and large trucks freight hay, potatoes, eggs, and other farm products to market.

" The children first went to school in private homes, in 1902 the first church and school combined was built, then in 1915 a modern schoolhouse was constructed. There were about fifteen pupils in the beginning, but now we have a four-year High School. Nine pupils from Preston, a town six miles away, attend; they are transported by a modern bus, with them our enrollment numbering forty students.

" I have lived here thirty years and hope to continue my work many years longer. I have fifty-four grandchildren living, forty-eight of whom are in Nevada, also twenty-five great-grandchildren, eighteen in this state.

" I have lived to see great changes in the appearance of our town and of the whole valley, and I hope I can witness the installment

of many more modern conveniences."

Family links:

Spouse:

[Joseph Oxborrow \(1817 - 1895\)](#)

Children:

[Joseph Oxborrow \(1871 - 1938\)*](#)

[Ephraim Oxborrow \(1876 - 1934\)*](#)

[John Christian Oxborrow \(1879 - 1940\)*](#)

[Edward Oxborrow \(1883 - 1934\)*](#)

[Lavera Vera Oxborrow \(1894 - 1907\)*](#)

*[Calculated relationship](#)

Burial:

[Lund Cemetery](#)

Lund

White Pine County

Nevada, USA

Plot: B1-02-2

Created by: [Rena Burgess Linn](#)

Record added: Jun 24, 2010

Find A Grave Memorial# 54087355