

Copyright © the estate of Lily Tattersall
All rights are reserved.

Page one

When I was a little girl called Lily Fielder I was born in Walsden. I had an elder sister Nellie Fielder who was older & an older brother Wilfred Arthur Fielder who was brought up with my grandmother Mrs Fielder & Harry Fielder Grandad us 2 girls was adopted with my mother's sister Fainea Dean then she married a man from Melton Fred Stott who was a policeman in Ashton Police stations. We were not at Ashton Long before my uncle Fred brought a Farm Middle Hill Wardle.

I would be about 3 or 4 then as my mother had died & my father was killed in Dardanelles in 1914 war of the 1st Lancashire Fusiliers At 5 years old I went to Hallfold school Whitworth after a 2½ mile walk over Brown Wardle moor & down Whitworth Dale to school never late I had to help to carry up Bread & Lampoil to the farm house on my way home from school. I used to like singing at school & I sang all the way home in summer I would walk home in my bare feet in the condewit which ran round Wardle till I left Brown wardle old road to enter Middle Hill & I would pass about 2 or 3 farms on my way home. it was very bad in winter when the snow used to drift very high I have got lost a few times and my uncle would meet me and carry me home on his shoulder high he was so big & tall & strong.

Page Two

We had all good food to eat as my auntie used to cook for all the Police at Ashton station before we took the farm. We knew who lived on all the farms dotted about. One lady died called Mrs Jones and they had to carry her to the main road across the Valley. It was nice at school we used to pay $\frac{1}{2}^p$ for a cup of hot Horlicks half milk & half water it used to warm us up. When my hands had froze out lessons would begin not before we said prayers & young one Lyne & I use to love singing. My brother had his voice trained & became a trained Glee singer at Todmorden Glimpie where he was in plays like Rose Marie out of Desert Song. He was fair blue eyes & so tall & a good Sunday School & was in the Choir he was great to old & young but died with hardening of the arteries in Halifax Hospital at the age of 51 years. He left Joy who was also a singer they had no children. His wife is still No 2 Fielders Street Todmorden. My sister was very well built & eat plenty of her meals Auntie use to call her big bear. As the rice pudding was in a big dish & she would wait to empty it. We were brought up very strict We said a Psalm before we started to eat I remember it now Christ is the Head of this house the unseen guest at every meal the silent listener at every conversation

Page three

As by now I was joining in all the sport at school we used to play another school to win such as Loddys street school here Leavengreive shares clough I liked Hockey & cricket not tennis cookey & History lesson sewing class too. As I got older I had to leave Hallfold school to go to Towncliffe school when I left I got chance to go to Littleborough Central school but my Uncle said it was too far when it was dark when I had to come home so I had to go for a job. I got a job at Roads Mill measuring I had to make hem stucke handchiefs for men but I was only on 1/2 day so I had to go back at dinner time & make my self useful feeding a calf washing up black leading the grate as we had coal fire with a oven at one side where my auntie used to make oven bottom muffins for us and home made cakes & puddings & rice pudding with milk that was very sweet. My Uncle could kill a pig those days & on the stone down on the cellar was a well & he used to salt the sides of Bacon on the stone & my auntie would get the Butter churn out & make her own butter I use to love to drink some of the butter milk & she used to make some cream cheese & put it in muslin & hang it from the wood beam to drip. We had a small green house where we had our own Tomatoes growing they were all good substance food she could cook.

Page four

As I watch her I used to love it & now I too like to cook too. I had had Diphtheria & I got Rematic Fever as I had to have Spring Water & water cres grown in the stream the water was lovely then & my auntie used to make her own Ginger Beer too. Parkin was good too. Anyway, as my sister had left school she went straight in the card room at Dura Hill Whitwood & I got a job in Facit Mill in Ring room but I was always feeling ill in there & lied down in the side alley. It was a good walk to work just like it was to school. every Sunday we had to go to Waterpore Chapel & on what Friday we had a new print frock & the band would play & we had races it was a treat for us. What a nice little chapel it was & plenty went every Sunday. The Parson used to visit the farm where he got a nice piece of cake & drink of tea. we had a collie dog called ~~TROUSER~~ on a lead near his kennel at the Pond of the farm he was a nice dog. We had 2 or three cats too for the farm they never used to come inside only if it going to snow and they used to sit with backs to the fire & my auntie always said it was a sign of snow. my uncle had plenty of hens & put a water wheel up for it to run a generator for lights for his Pencotes. then when the coal strike started he found out that he had coal up the Hill so he opened

Page five

a mine with colliers working for him from
Shawforth Taylor's coal merchant used to collect
it to sell it round to the houses in Whitworth
Facit & Shawforth. George Taylor & Jack Taylor
became a Policeman at Blue L fort & he sat side
by side with me at Hall Fold School. My auntie
had a girl which died & then Nora came along
& my cousin I had to take her to school too every
day. My sister was grown up then to a young
woman & wanted to go to live in the village at
her friend Grace Knott & left the farm & I miss
ed her very much but I had Nora to see too. My
auntie lived till she was 89 years old in a Bungalow
at West Lane Lancaster & Uncle died before her &
left all her belongings to Nora her only daughter
beautiful furniture such queen ann chairs show
cabinet a lovely big bed & Nora had been married
to James Wilson who died with cancer of the
stomach & she has been a widow since & works to
this day at Grey Cotes Guest House Lancaster as a
cook like her mother & she loves Middle Hill & loves
walking she hikes up to the Lakes on her
Holidays. It is a 3 bedroom Bungalow & in her
Garden she loves to feed the grey doves birds &
a horse over the fence the country life are still

Page one

with her.

The water works decided to buy the farm & my uncle at the time bought another farm up at Shaw which I did not want to go to that area so my sister had me go to live with her. & I got a job at Carrington & Dewhurst small bridge with weaving mill. She would not let me go back to my uncle & aunt she said it would be too much for me. I went to my holidays to Prestatyn Wales & got on with a boy from Shawclough Sidney Tattersall of Thrum Hall Lane. We got married at Zion Methodist Chappel & I got a house Goswile St. Rockdale & I worked still at small bridge. Was a back to back house & I got a house up Shawclough 13 Clarence street & had a my 1st baby Graham who was born 10/9/1938 I was married at 1st August 1936. Then the war broke out & I had my 2nd son Sidney Winston Tattersall. & Sidney went to join up with O.A.F. We were on Food Coupons & clothes chits. We had black outs at night so no lights could give us away so we would not be bombed. I used to push my pram down Shawclough Road to the bottom to shop at the Pioneers Co-Op pay my coal bill there too & our Divi used to come in handy to buy something for the children.

Page seven

after two years I had another baby Dorothy she was a smasher dark brown eyes & dark hair and plenty on when she was born she was a good baby & would sleep sound as a clock. I had plenty to do while Syd was away in R.A.F. bath time in a tin bath on the rug near a open coal fire then when all was in bed & asleep I would scrub my nappies & boil them up so they would be ready to hang out on the line the morning after I used to take Sid & Dott down for sun ray treatment in the pram as Sid was a bit knock kneed & Dott a bit bow leg & now they as straight as anything. Then I would push the pram from Town to Shawlough back & start to get the tea going & feeds then same routine bath & change to their nighties & to bed & me to wash all the nappies again I could do lots of jobs sometimes it was 1.0 clock before I got to bed. I spent a lot of time at the infirmary as Graham got pushed at school & broke his leg in 2 places then he got acute appendicitis & was in infirmary again Sidney my 2nd son broke his arm & then broke the other arm Dorothy broke her leg while she jumped off out house roof. We moved into a new council house up Greave avenue & I stayed there till 21

Day eight

years - had a big garden at the rear & one at the front it was nice then on leave every one kept their gardens nice & tidy with all colours of flowers in if you did not you would get a notice to quit those days.

We had good workmen those days Plumber Mr Blair joiner was good everyone did a good job. the children love it & use to help weed the garden I grew Parsley Gooseberries potatoes Raspberries strawberries & Sydney dad crazy paved a lot of Paths too.

After 21 years bringing the children up we were as we could not do the garden it got too much & we left to go to grouse street of Whitworth Road till Father Syd took to Permonia & after 2 years being ill went to Birch Hill Hospital to have a wellbaw out & was in intensive care unit 8 days but after all that he died Thursday October 13 1983 he was 73 years old. We had put in for a

warden controlled Bungalow Hamer Hall Crescent but he never made it we had a grave a new one as she wis bed where Dott & children used to pick blue bells & bring them home for me so I had a Furnell & a flitting & I am here to remember all the years which have passed on the farm getting

Page nine

married I now do not keep too well but with a little help I get by & now I have 11 Grand children & great grand children & had a lot of weddings to go too & still going too 2 more in October all being well & if God so passes me.

My oldest boy Graham has a good job & Sidney has been a teacher down Stafford where my mother was born she was called Nellie Bean & married Fred Fielder I have her birth certificate from Stafford Dorothy is quite clever too & Brenda is a Nurse Jack my youngest boy is a good joiner although I say it myself & looks at me quite a lot like Dorothy Graham too Sidney from Stafford too it makes you feel wanted in a terrible World like it has got.

I have got too 73 years old but re-erms my child hood days picking marsh marigolds may flowers violets clover buttercups down the valley from the farm which stands in ruins now the 3 trees are still there I use to have a swing between two of them my uncle made it for us & I look back & think of all those simple

Page Ten

Things like paddling in the brook
& watching the birds an a nightingel will
fly up all at once & do his bit of singing &
the cuckoo ee loing down Warden.

If only all these beautiful things were still
here, they have all gone very.

We had good summers then but bad winters
of course - one day as a girl at the
farm I woke up with a blanket of
snow on top of my bed & I was snug &
warm the big and had come threw the
slates it was so fine the snow.

I had a sledge & used to come down on it
from top of the hill to was great.

Times have changed now & a lot of
things are absolet such as price of
sweets we could get a lot for our spense
6^p a week. I got for shopping helping on the
farm we were kept clean underneath my
Auntie would sew on her singor sewing
machine our knickers liberty bobices
father pet notes no finery on top always
clean & tidy not a lot of toys we used
to make our own fun in summer we would
get a few empty tins cocoa tins little bottles.