



LAHS Moments in History

JANUARY – DECEMBER 2019

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JANUARY 2019

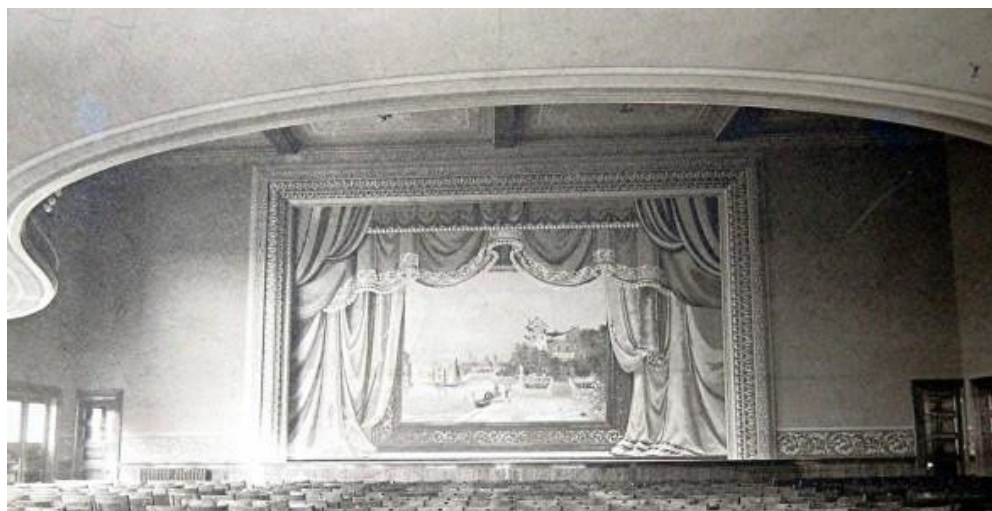
LISBON, LYMAN AND LANDAFF PAINTED CURTAINS

Near the end of the 1880s and until about 1940, town and Grange halls decorated their stages with painted curtains, some with romantic or bucolic landscapes and others with advertisements. These beautiful works of scenic art were installed in the most-visited places in the town, especially in northern New England where the public congregated for Grange and town meetings, public and private events. The curtains featuring advertisements were often in Grange halls, because the curtain would pay for itself by the different businesses purchasing an ad for the curtain. Curtains in town halls were usually paid for by the residents of the town.

Many historic painted curtains have been inventoried and/or conserved through grant funding by Curtains Without Borders, a Vermont-based nonprofit organization with a team of experts who search for, document and restore historic painted scenery. In 1996 the group began the process of doing just that in Vermont and continued with painted curtains in New Hampshire and Maine. Curtains Without Borders is now branching out to lower New England and across the United States. Some curtains are still hanging in halls. Others, after their usefulness, stage renovations or changes in style, were usually rolled up on a pipe or folded and stuffed somewhere in the hall. Some were thrown away. To date the organization has found, documented and restored or rescued 185 curtains in Vermont, 140 in New Hampshire, and 140 in Maine. In the spring, work will continue on curtains in New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Connecticut.

Lisbon, Lyman and Landaff have had five painted curtains, but only four exist today. The oldest was the Lisbon Opera House Grand Drape in the c. 1902 Lisbon Town Hall. Painted with a scene of Venice, Italy framed by painted billowing drapes, it was completed by W. H. Sullivan of Manchester, N.H. and cost the Town a whopping \$486. Townspeople were at the Lisbon depot to welcome the curtain when it arrived by train. Lisbon's painted curtain is gone and has been for years with no record yet found of where it went. Chris Hadsel, Director of Curtains Without Borders knows the nooks and crannies in halls where stage curtains were typically stored. She personally completed a thorough search of the Lisbon Town Hall, undaunted by the years of dirt, dust and cobwebs from the pitch-black space under the stage to the attic. The curtain wasn't found.

The Lisbon Town Hall Opera House Grand Drape pictured c. 1902





Landaff Grand Drape pictured c. 2007

The Landaff Grand Drape in the Landaff Town Hall and Mount Hope Grange Hall was painted in 1929 by Anderson Scenic Company of Buffalo, New York and cost the Town of Landaff \$129.49 including shipping by train. This grand drape is a combination Town and Grange drape, because it has painted in the bottom center medallion the Grange emblem "P of H" (Patrons of Husbandry). Again, this is called a grand drape because the drapes are painted on the curtain framing the generic country scene, probably meant to portray the Connecticut River. This grand drape was restored by Curtains Without Borders for \$2,000 through grant funding from New Hampshire Electric Co-op.

In 2010, three painted curtains were discovered in the upstairs of the Lyman Grange Hall when a member of the Lisbon Area Historical Society met a former Lyman Town Clerk to look at the downstairs of the Lyman Grange Hall. The upstairs was roped off due to safety issues, but the former clerk happened to mention there were some old curtains hanging on the stage upstairs. Chris Hadsel of Curtains Without Borders was immediately contacted, and arrangements were made with the Town of Lyman for her to lead a group to document, clean, safely wrap and store the historic painted curtains. The curtains were removed from the stage boards, ropes and pulleys, gently vacuumed, wrapped in DuPont Tyvek HomeWrap, secured with duct tape to keep out dust and critters, and labeled for storage until funding can be obtained for conservation sometime in the future. All three curtains are beautiful and in fairly good shape considering the decades and decades they have been hanging upstairs in the old hall exposed to insects and changes in temperatures.



Lyman Grange Hall Grand Drape pictured c. 2010

This c.1930s grand drape is painted with a romantic European scene bordered with painted billowing green and gold drapes. It was painted by Marion Fracher (1911-1972) in her stage scenery studio in Wentworth, New Hampshire.



Lyman Grange Hall Painted Curtain pictured c. 2010

This is a perfect example of a Grange curtain that paid for itself through business advertisements. A curtain such as this reached many prospective customers while being placed in the often-visited Grange Hall. This curtain was also painted in the 1930s by Marion Fracher in her studio in Wentworth, New Hampshire. Lisbon businesses with featured details are **Butson's Market** Groceries for Particular People; **Dexter's Garage** Washing, Greasing, Oiling, General Repairing; **Atwood's Filling Station** Gulf Products, Tires, Battery Service; **Snell's Café** Home Cooking; **Parker's Dry Goods** for Low Prices; **Merrill's Insurance**; **Woolson & Clough** General Insurance and Safety Bonds; **Carleton's Furniture and Undertaking**; **Wilfred Beauty Shoppe** Permanent Waving; **Family Drug Store**; **Jesseman & Swinyer** Chevrolet Sales and Service; **Gowing & Chamberlin** Heating Plumbing, Hardware, Tinware; **Lisbon Savings Bank & Trust Co.**; **T. H. Hastings** Stock Farm Milk, Cream, Eggs, Wood; **Lisbon Company** Lumber, Roofing, Building Materials; **O. R. Conrad** Manufacturer of The Leader Cattle Stanchion and Dealer in Native Lumber; **Lisbon Courier** North Country News; **Prescott Millinery and Gift Shop**. Lyman businesses are **W. H. Stephens Jr. Trucking and Carpenter**; **A. M. Keezer** Nationwide Store Groceries Gas and Oil (Lyman and Lisbon). Other area businesses are: **Parker's Drug Stores**, , Bethlehem, Maplewood, North **Woodstock**, St. Johnsbury (VT), Gilman (VT); **Premier Theatre**, Littleton; **Corey's Garage**, Franconia; **A. B. Hill Real Estate**, Littleton; **C. G. Lewis**, local and long distance trucking; **White Mt. Café**, Littleton; **Nash-Woodsville Co.**, Nash-Lafayette Sales-Service, Shell Gas, Oils, Accessories, Woodsville; **Woodsville News**, publishing, printers; **Bilodeau's Bakery**, Littleton; **A. F. Hill**, Veterinary, Littleton; **Spencer Drug**, Littleton; **Chamberlin's Greenhouse**, Woodsville; **Downing's Garage**, Littleton; **Houle's Electric**, farm electric plants and batteries, Littleton; **Fosgate's Greenhouse**, Littleton. Obscured at the top of the curtain is the drawing of a blimp advertising Jesseman & Swinyer. Blimps were often featured on advertising curtains and sometimes milk bottles were drawn to advertise dairies.



Lyman Grange Hall Lisbon Businesses Painted Curtain pictured 2010

Painted by Lucretia Rogers (1910-1977) in her studio in Plymouth, N.H., this colorful and whimsical painted curtain features mostly Lisbon businesses and was the most damaged of the Lyman Grange Hall painted curtains, because it was in front of a broken window and exposed to the elements for years. Chris Hadsel believes this curtain was not painted for use as a stage curtain but was most likely displayed in a dance hall as a party curtain and later moved to the Lyman Grange Hall for use as a stage curtain. (Does anyone out there remember this curtain in a dance hall or other venue?) This curtain is on permanent loan with the Lisbon Area Historical Society for future conservation. Lisbon businesses featured are: **Dexter's Garage; Cloughs Hardware, Your Friends at Thomas Café, Lisbon Company Inc. Building Material Lumber; Your Chevrolet Dealer; Boynton Oil Company, Marcou's Market; Merrill's Insurance Agency; C. W. Carleton Furniture Undertaking; Butson's Market; Parker's Department Store; Bangs Rexall Store; Jordan's 5cent-\$1.00 Store. Other businesses: Lyman's Neighborhood Store; C. A. McKenney Jeweler, Littleton; James Rowe, Cattle, Horses, Farm Equip., Woodville.**

For more information on Curtains Without Borders, the artists and to view other beautiful curtains in the United States and more go to www.curtainswithoutborders.com.

FEBRUARY 2019

PHYSICIANS IN LISBON, LYMAN AND LANDAFF

When the Lisbon Health Clinic in the old Carleton Block on North Main Street closed in 2005, our three towns were without a physician in close proximity for the first time in almost 200 years. Residents have to travel elsewhere unless they receive medical care at home supplied by special agencies such as North Country Home Health and Hospice in Littleton, N.H.

At the beginning of settlement in our three towns there were traditional home remedies used, and some women were known locally for specializing in herbal treatments and assisting with childbirth. The first trained physician in our three towns was Dr. John French (1780-1873) who was born in South Hampton, N.H. and first practiced medicine in Warren, N.H. before moving to South Landaff as early as 1808. He married Mary Gale of Kingston, N.H., and they had ten children. By 1822 the French family had moved to Bath, N.H. where Dr. French practiced until 1857 when he moved to Beloit, Wisconsin to be near his children. He died there on Christmas Day. His wife died in 1855. Dr. French left a manuscript containing a record of the 2,336 births at which he assisted during his long tenure as a physician in our part of New Hampshire.



Dr. Samuel Hoskins was born in Grafton, N.H. and received his medical degree from Dartmouth College. He began practicing medicine in Lyman in 1817, married Harriet Cushing of Salisbury, N.H., and began a family eventually settling on Parker Hill near the intersection of Parker Hill Road and Pettyboro Road in what was later known as the Olin/Stephens Farm. By May of 1832, Hoskins was appointed Lyman Postmaster. He practiced medicine in Lyman into the 1850s, and by 1860 he was living with his son in Maine and still practicing medicine. He died in Chelsea, Massachusetts.

Dr. Samuel Hoskins (1795-1873)

Dr. William Merrill of Warren, N.H. was the first physician in Lisbon, probably around 1830. He died of typhoid fever a few years after he came to town.

Dr. Moses Hibbard (1800-1863) was born in Bath. After graduating from Dartmouth College, he married Jane Sutherland of Bath. Dr. Hibbard studied with Dr. French of Landaff and Bath. Dr. Hibbard then practiced medicine in Greensboro, Vermont before moving to Lisbon as early as 1840. He lived in Lisbon in a house that used to be on the site of today's Shared Ministry's Brick Church at the corner of Depot and Main Streets and practiced in Lisbon until 1857. By 1860 he was practicing medicine in Townshend, Vermont where he died of typhoid fever.



Lisbon home of Drs. Richardson, Thompson, and Brown during the years 1835-1882

Dr. Bernice Richardson (1785-1859) came to Lisbon from Vermont with his wife, Olive (Harnden) around the year 1835. He built a 2-story house with pillars. The house was remodeled around 1900 and is today a red house and ell with barn on the right side of Route 302 beyond Henry Pond just after leaving Lisbon toward Littleton. The Richardsons had seven children. Their son, Dr. Darwin Richardson (1812-1860) married the next-door neighbor, Jane Cobleigh, daughter of Levi Cobleigh who was then owner of the old Young Tavern. Darwin practiced medicine in Lisbon until 1847 when he and his wife went westward as converts of the Mormon church. Dr. Bernice Richardson then sold his home to Dr. Benjamin Thompson who probably took over his practice.

Dr. Benjamin Thompson (1799-1854) was born in Vermont and came to Lisbon with his wife Rebecca (Powers) in 1848. He lived and practiced in the former Dr. Richardson house until his death. Benjamin Thompson's son, Dr. John Fletcher Thompson (1823-1902), known as a botanic, lived on South Main Street in Lisbon and also practiced medicine in Lisbon until his death. Dr. John Fletcher Thompson may have been related to or influenced by Dr. Samuel Thompson b. 1796 in Alstead, N.H., who is considered the father of American herbalism.

Dr. Samuel Brown (1819-1901) was born in Moultonborough, N.H. He came to Lisbon in 1855 to care for his parents, Samuel and Martha, who lived in the Dr. Benjamin Thompson home and farmed the property. Dr. Brown and his wife, Mary, who was Dr. Benjamin Thompson's daughter, continued to live in the old Thompson home, and Dr. Brown took over his father-in-law's medical practice. Dr. Samuel Brown practiced in Lisbon from 1855 until 1882 when he moved to Concord, Vermont where he practiced medicine until he died. The property is now a private home.



Dr. Charles Hart Boynton (1826-1903)



The School St. home and office of Dr. C. H. Boynton

Dr. Charles Hart Boynton was born in Meredith, N.H. and earned his degree from Berkshire Medical College in 1853. He married Mary Cummings in Lisbon in 1854 and practiced in Alexandria, N.H. before the couple moved to Lisbon in 1858 where Dr. Boynton practiced for 28 years from his home on School Street. The c. 1902 Boynton Block on Main Street was built under Dr. Charles Boynton's sponsorship. Dr. Edgar Crossman and Dr. Harry Perrin later owned and practiced out of Dr. Boynton's School Street home. The property is now an apartment house.



Dr. Oren Hart Boynton (1834-1909) The “doctors’ house” at the corner of Main and Central Streets

Dr. Charles Boynton’s brother, Oren Hart Boynton, was born in Meredith and first learned the carpenter’s trade before studying medicine at Dartmouth College School of Medicine from which he graduated in 1860. He moved to Lisbon to practice medicine and married Alice Hollister. Her parents owned one of the oldest homes in Lisbon on the south corner at the intersection of Main and Central Streets. Dr. Oren Boynton lived in and practiced out of that house. So many doctors lived and practiced in that house over the years that it became known as “the doctors’ house.” The front section was added on by the Hollister family in 1831, and the rear ell was the original house built by William P. Beane as a coffee house and tavern c. 1800. From 1862-1866, Dr. Oren H. Boynton also practiced in Bath while its resident physician Dr. William Child served as a surgeon in the Civil War.



Harry Hollister Boynton (1869-1934)



Perry Sanborn Boynton (1866-1961)

Dr. Oren Boynton’s son, Harry Hollister Boynton gradually took over his father’s practice in the late 1800s after studying at Dartmouth and the Medical University of Baltimore. Dr. Harry Hollister married Anita Bradford of Barre, VT in 1895. She died eight months later from pneumonia. In 1904 he married Jeanie McCargo in New York. “Dr. Harry” practiced in Lisbon for 42 years. In April of 1934 he suffered a heart attack while at the movies in Woodsville and never recovered. He had made house calls in Lisbon on the day of his death. Boynton family physicians had served Lisbon for decades, and with the death of “Dr. Harry,” the town was without a Boynton physician for the first time in over 75 years. The practice and house were sold to Dr. John Eckels who soon moved to Littleton and left the area after serving in WWII. The Boyntons were all dedicated physicians and country doctors. Regardless of the type of patient, location, or time of day, they could be counted on to make a house call. Dr. Oren Boynton’s other son, Perry Sanborn Boynton, attended Dartmouth College and spent his career practicing medicine in New York City where he was a surgeon.



Lisbon District Nurse Miss Ellen Bone

Dr. Harry Hollister Boynton was instrumental in founding the Lisbon District Nursing Association which formed in 1908 and sent members to give nursing care to patients in their homes and assist physician house calls. The salary for visiting nurses at that time was \$80 per month. Nurse Ellen Bone of Lisbon was one of the most well-known.

Dr. George Martin (1842-1906) was born in New York and graduated from the University of Pennsylvania Medical School. He married Addie Snow of Columbia, N.H., and by 1880 they were living in Lisbon where Dr. Martin practiced homeopathic medicine from his Main Street home. His wife died in 1888 in Littleton, N.H., and by 1900 Dr. Martin had moved to Iowa where he died.

Dr. Wilmington Thomas for a short time practiced medicine out of the old c. 1883 Lisbon library building on North Main Street.

Dr. Ella Higginson practiced medicine in Lisbon for seven years until she died in 1917.



Dr. Harold C. Pickwick (1897-1972)



Dr. Harold Pickwick and Hazel Ash Pickwick home

Dr. Harold “Pick” Pickwick was born in Rhode Island and lived in Connecticut and Manchester, N.H. He graduated from Tufts Medical School in 1922 and came to Lisbon in 1923 to begin his long tenure in Lisbon. He lived and practiced in the former Moore home across from the “doctors’ house” on Central Street. He was the last quintessential country doctor in Lisbon and made house calls to everyone in all locations. He had a car adapted with skis for snow travel. “Pick” was known as an exceptional diagnostician, and his wife, Hazel (Ash), who was descended from some of the earliest settlers in Lisbon and Lyman, worked with him as a bacteriologist. The property is now an apartment house.



Dr. Eugene Bowles McGregor, who grew up on Highland Avenue in Lisbon, returned to his hometown in 1948 to practice medicine after graduating from Dartmouth College and Rush Medical School in Chicago, serving in WWII in the U.S. Army and completing his residency in Portland, Maine. His ancestors had settled in Lisbon on Sugar Hill in 1797. Dr. McGregor lived and practiced in the “doctors’ house” until retiring in 1985. When Dr. McGregor began practicing, he charged \$2 for office visits and \$3 for house calls. As was the custom, there were no appointments, and patients just showed up at the office for care. It wasn’t until 1971 that Dr. McGregor began making appointments for patients. Dr. McGregor’s wife, Phyllis (Prescott), whom he met while in Maine, was a registered nurse, and early in his practice she was his assistant and took care of his office, both exceptionally well. Dr. McGregor and Dr. Pickwick took alternating days off so there would always be a doctor available in town.

Dr. Eugene B. McGregor (1916-2008)

After Dr. McGregor retired, a number of different doctors saw patients in the old office in “the doctors’ house” until Littleton Regional Hospital arranged to have a clinic in the old Carleton Block as mentioned at the beginning of this article. The old “doctors’ house” is now an apartment house with a rented hair salon business.

MARCH 1919

A TESTIMONIAL FOR THE "MEDICINAL" DUFFY'S PURE MALT WHISKEY

In February of 1904 images of "four vigorous old men of Lisbon, N.H." and their testimonials appeared in a Georgia newspaper advertisement for Duffy's Pure Malt Whiskey "the true elixir of life." These "well-known temperance men of high standing" endorsed the whiskey made in Rochester, New York as a medicinal stimulant, aid to health, and the best tonic in the world for old age. The manufacturer stated in the advertisement that these men were a few of the 4 million cures made by Duffy's in the past fifty years, prescribed by 7,000 doctors and used exclusively in more than 2,000 hospitals. Duffy's advertised that it was guaranteed as "the only whiskey recognized by the Government as a medicine" and cautioned the consumer to beware of refilled bottles, because pure Duffy's came in sealed bottles only and never in flasks or in bulk. Bottles were sold for \$1 in drug stores and grocery stores and came with a free medical booklet. The four Lisbon men featured were Samuel Pike age 90, Ira B. Gould age 85, William M. Kelsea age 78, and George F. Savage age 64.

FOUR VIGOROUS OLD MEN OF LISBON, N. H.
 Who are as active as boys of 10, owe their vigor, health and youthfulness to the great restorer of youth,
DUFFY'S PURE MALT WHISKEY.
 It Keeps the Old Young, the Young Strong.

Such testimonials as the following from well known temperance men of high standing, are conclusive and show that Duffy's Pure Malt Whiskey is the only tonic-stimulant and invigorator that keeps the system in a normal, healthy condition. It is the true elixir of life.

MR. PIKE bears his 90 years with becoming modesty. Grateful to the maker of this great remedy, and woeed eloquent in its praise.



MR. SAMUEL PIKE,
90 Years Old.

"I can not speak in any words but those of praise for your Pure Malt Whiskey. An old man like myself needs something of the kind to help nature, and nothing in liquid form was ever made to compare with Duffy's Pure Malt Whiskey, as an aid to health. Its wine grateful effect has a delightful effect and leaves sound sleep. No man feeling the advance of time should neglect to keep it in the house. Hence kind, please prompt us to inform others of the benefits to be obtained from such a source, and it gives me pleasure to testify in your behalf. I am in my ninetieth year and enjoy good health."
SAMUEL PIKE.

Mr. Gould agreed two years in the Civil War as his and from under the loss of one finger preventing him from enlisting as a private. He is in his 85th year.



MR. IRA B. GOULD,
85 Years Old.

"I am 85 years old and in fine health. Have lived in Lisbon, N. H. 56 years, and attend to my business personally every day. I have used Duffy's Pure Malt Whiskey as a medicinal, and found it the best tonic and stimulant I ever tried. Any man can keep breath in his body longer by using it, as it prolongs life, and I want my friends to know of its merits so they may do as I have done and keep fortified against disease by taking regular doses of Duffy's Pure Malt Whiskey. I would not recommend whiskey as a beverage, but Duffy's Pure Malt as a medicinal does prove life."
IRA B. GOULD.

Mr. Kelsea, best known man in Lisbon, served as tax collector for a long period. A native and lifelong resident. Born March 3, 1840.



MR. WM. M. KELSEA,
78 Years Old.

"I feel it my duty to speak a good word for your wonderful Whiskey. I am in my 78th year, and feel the need of a stimulant every day. Duffy's Pure Malt Whiskey will certainly help any old man to keep young, and acts as a soothing influence on the system. It is good that such a remedy is so easily to be obtained, and I can not speak too highly of it."
WILLIAM M. KELSEA.

Mr. Geo. F. Savage, tax collector and prominent 33d degree Mason says Duffy's Pure Malt Whiskey keeps his machinery in motion.



MR. GEORGE F. SAVAGE,
64 Years Old.

"I am a native of Lisbon, N. H., and in my 64th year. As old age creeps on something is needed to keep the wheels of the body machinery in motion and I have found nothing as good as Duffy's Pure Malt Whiskey for that purpose. Nothing I ever used brings so much comfort, and, while I do not believe in the use of liquor as a tonic, I can cheerfully recommend this as the best tonic in the world for old age."
GEORGE F. SAVAGE.

These are a few of some 4,000,000 cures made by Duffy's during the past 50 years. It is so much better than any other medicine or combination of medicines for coughs, colds, catarrh, grip, bronchitis, pneumonia, consumption and all throat and lung troubles that it is prescribed by over 7,000 doctors and used exclusively in more than 2,000 hospitals. It's an absolutely pure, gentle, invigorating tonic and stimulant, which act directly upon the tissues and quickly kills the disease germs. Duffy's Pure Malt Whiskey enriches the blood, stimulates the circulation, strengthens the heart and brings into healthy action all the vital forces of body, brain and muscle. It cures dyspepsia, nervousness, malaria, chills and all low fevers. Invaluable for all wasting, weakened, diseased conditions from whatever cause. It is a promoter of long life—makes the old young and keeps the young strong.



CAUTION.—When you ask for Duffy's Pure Malt Whiskey be sure you get the genuine. Unscrupulous dealers, mindful of the excellence of this preparation, will try to sell you cheap imitations and Malt Whiskey substitutes, which are put on the market for profit only, and which far from relieving the sick, are positively harmful. Demand "Duffy's" and be sure you get it. It is the only absolutely pure Malt Whiskey which contains medicinal, health-giving qualities. Duffy's Pure Malt Whiskey is sold in sealed bottles only; never in flask or bulk. Look for the trade mark, the "Old Chemist," on the label, and be certain the seal over the cork is unbroken. Beware of refilled bottles.

Sold by all druggists and grocers, or direct, \$1.00 a bottle. Medical booklet free. Duffy Malt Whiskey Co., Rochester, New York.



Samuel Pike (1814-1904) was a relative newcomer to Lisbon, having only lived in town for seven years. He was born in Hebron, N.H. and had previously lived in Haverhill, N.H. where he was a farmer. He waxed eloquently and praised the maker claiming that one wine glassful of Duffy's at night had a delightful effect and produced sound sleep. He was ninety years old when the ad was published and died the next month of old age.



Ira B. Gould (1819-1915) was born in Hanover, N.H. and lived in Lisbon for fifty-five years, previously living in Haverhill, N.H. where he was a farmer. While in Lisbon he worked as a brick mason and before retiring was a carriage driver around town. "Any man can keep breath in his body longer by using (Duffy's). I would not recommend whiskey as a beverage, but (Duffy's) as a medicine does prolong life," he was quoted as saying.



Ira B. Gould is pictured at left during the Civil War. He lost a finger to an injury that occurred before the war which prevented him from enlisting as a private.

Ira B. Gould's father had served in the War of 1812, and his grandfather had served in the Revolutionary War. Following tradition, Ira Gould in August of 1862 enlisted and served in the Civil War in Company G, NH 11th Infantry and by October he was transferred to the U.S. Army Band in the 9th Infantry, 2nd Brigade, 2nd Division and promoted to Musician 3rd class. He was discharged the following January for disability and mustered in again the next January into Company F Veteran Reserve Corps, 13th. He was finally discharged for good in November of 1865. His pension file lists him as a Drum Major. He was also a drummer in the Lisbon Cornet Band which played in Lisbon and surrounding towns.



Lisbon Cornet Band c. 1870 pictured on the lawn of the Lisbon Methodist Episcopal Church. Ira Gould is sitting second from left.



Gould home, School Street, on right before hill and sharp corner



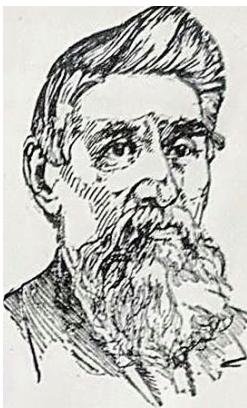
William Merrill Kelsea (1826-1906) was born in Landaff and was a lifelong resident of Lisbon and for a time served as Lisbon Town Clerk and Tax Collector. He was also a farmer and mechanic. His daughter, Nettie, was the Lisbon Librarian for forty-eight years. She never married and is remembered as being quite strait-laced and would leave concerts at the town hall when people started dancing. Did she approve of her father drinking his “medicine,” which he claimed was a soothing influence on his system?



Ira B. Gould and William “Merrill” Kelsea c. 1905



Former Kelsea home on West Street, across from the Lisbon Lions Community Field.



George F. Savage (1839-1912) was born in Lisbon and was a lifelong resident and farmer. He also served as Tax Collector and was a prominent 32nd Degree Mason. He was descended from the first settled minister in Lisbon, Rev. Ozias Savage who built the c. 1800 house on the sharp corner across from Hodge Hill Road in what became known as the Savageville neighborhood of Lisbon. George lived there and farmed the property. In his testimonial, George Savage admitted that he did not believe in the use of liquor as a drink, but Duffy’s kept the wheels of his body machinery in motion.

APRIL 2019

THE BRONSON LEGACY IN LANDAFF

The Bronsons have been prominent in Landaff since the first members of the family settled in the town in 1782. Direct descendants still live on the land settled by their Bronson ancestors. Richard Bronson is one of them, and he and his wife, Angie, live in a caboose renovated into a cozy home which sits near the top of Barrett Hill Road, the approximate area of the site of the original Bronson log cabin and the actual site of the Free Will Baptist Meetinghouse frequented by the Bronson family in the 1800s.



Richard Bronson, a very reluctant and humble honoree, with daughters Tara (left) and Cheryl, was recently honored with a sugar on snow party hosted at the Landaff Town Hall by Landaff's Mount Hope Grange No. 77, one of the organizations Richard has been active in since he was a youth and in which he has been the long-time Grange Master. The Grange also recognized Richard for his service with a plaque that stated "Our heartfelt thank you to Richard Bronson who has worked tirelessly to make Landaff a wonderful place to live." Guests attended the celebration which had posters with photographs showing Richard's life of dedication to his family, the town, Grange, Old Home Day, nature, and an active life of doing good to everyone, including his years of his excellent donut making and making maple syrup in his own sugar house. Richard is also a very valuable source of local history and practical knowledge.

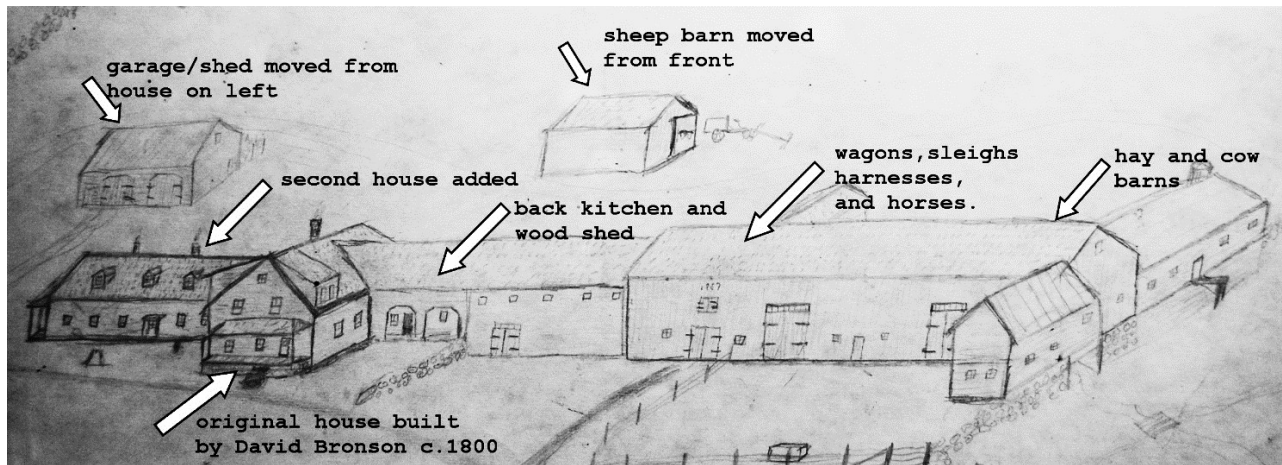
The Bronson name has been spelled differently over the years, i.e. Brownson, Brunson and Bronson. The first member of the family to settle in Landaff was Jonathan Brownson (1740-1818) who arrived in Landaff in 1782 via Bath, New Hampshire from Southington, Connecticut with his wife, Susanna (Judd), children David, Jonathan II, Susanna, and Polly and his 83-year-old aunt, Susanna Brownson. The Brownsons and

two yoke of oxen left Connecticut on June 17, 1781 and traveled over 200 miles before arriving in Bath on July 4th. Their small children were ages 6, 5, 4, and 2. They stayed one year in Bath before moving to Landaff and settling near the top of Barrett Hill Road where they built a log cabin. Jonathan and Susanna Judd Brownson had another child born in 1792, Lucy, who was their only child born in Landaff. Family tradition holds that Jonathan took the ox team back to Connecticut for supplies leaving his young son, David, as the man of the house for that first winter in Landaff. The family's milk cow was pastured near where today's Landaff Cemetery is located. There was a water source and crude shelter for the cow there, and young David walked the two miles from the cabin twice a day to milk and feed the cow. That first winter there were no neighbors within five miles of the cabin. The Brownsons were a hardy bunch. Aunt Susanna lived another twenty years after settling with the family in Landaff. She had lived in three centuries when she died two months shy of her 103rd birthday. Her gravestone (which gives her the two months and has her age engraved at 103) in the Landaff Cemetery is a local landmark.



“Widow Susanna Brownson was born August 3, 1699 and died June 12, 1802 aged 103 years. Her duty finished to mankind, To God her spirit she resigned.”

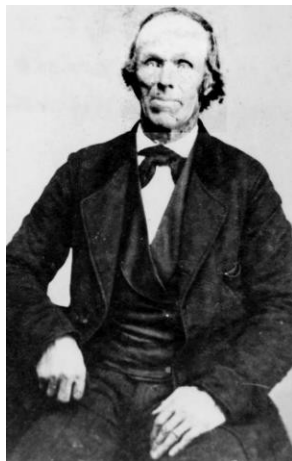
The original Bronson homestead consisted of about 400 acres. As the family prospered, Jonathan and Susanna's oldest son, David (1773-1859) built a farmhouse c. 1800 near the intersection of Pearl Lake and Jim Noyes Roads. The Bronson farmhouse was typical of a New England farm of that era as the main house eventually had built on to it a line of attachments. On the Bronson farm the attachments were a back kitchen, woodshed leading right into the building that housed wagons, sleighs, harnesses and horses, and then the barn for hay and cows. Additions to farmhouses provided that chores could be done and necessities reached without going out in the inclement weather, especially in the winter. Eventually there was a second house built onto the original farmhouse. The Bronson farmhouse, final attachments and barn measured about 300' in length. Richard Bronson made a drawing by memory of the impressive farm of his youth (pictured below).



It was David b. 1773 who changed the spelling of the name to Brunson. He and his wife, Nancy (Wallace) had five children: Hulda, David Jr., Isaac, Stephen, and Nancy. Their son, Stephen (1815-1898) later carried on the farm and was the one to change the spelling of the name to Bronson.

The farm was passed down from David through the direct male descendants of each generation as follows: Stephen b. 1815, Myron b. 1841, William ("Mon") b. 1871, and Howard b. 1907 (Richard Bronson's father). At one time there were four generations living in the Bronson farmhouse. The acreage was later divided between family members. The farmhouse went to Howard's grandson, Greg Bronson who later tore the old house down and built a replica up the road.

The Bronson history is a perfect example of how a New England farm family grows, prospers, and serves its community.



Jonathan Bronson II (1776-1860)



Hannah (Marston) Bronson (1784-1856)

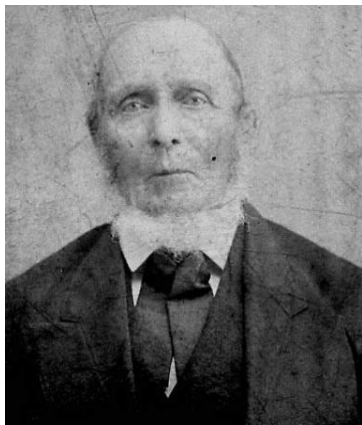
We have no images of the first Jonathan Brownson or his son, David Brunson who built the farmhouse. We do have an image of David's brother, Jonathan II (1776-1860) who was a lad of six years old when the family settled in Landaff.

Jonathan II married Hannah Marston of Benton, N.H., and they lived in Landaff near Pearl Lake. They had nine children: Joel, Olive, Oly, Ira, Orrin, Sarah, Jonathan III, Hannah, and Mary. Jonathan II was a busy farmer and Landaff servant. He was a Selectman and Surveyor of Highways and also represented Landaff in the State Legislature for eight years. Jonathan II's name appears on many documents for various

services from carpentry and chimney building, working on the “burying yard,” delivering townspeople and goods for the town by wagon or sleigh, to taking in people who needed a home. He was a good trader, too, as most had to be at the time. He traded hearthstones and wheat for goods at the Franconia Iron Works Company. He contracted to deliver 900 bushels of good potatoes to Samuel Eastman’s Landaff distillery cellar for one shilling a bushel in cash, country produce and whiskey. Jonathan II and his brother received 30 sheep weighing 2,214 pounds in return for giving back one pound of sheared wool from the sheep for the next two years. He also purchased in December of 1833 pew number 28 on the floor and pew number 29 in the gallery of Landaff’s Free Will Baptist Church.

Jonathan II and Hannah’s son, Orrin operated a cement factory near the Landaff-Lisbon line in the vicinity of Pearl Lake. Limestone used in his factory was mined from a nearby Lisbon ledge. He also sold casks of lime up and down the Connecticut and Ammonoosuc River valleys. Another of Jonathan II and Hannah’s sons, Jonathan III was a physician who practiced in the area and in Vermont. Jonathan III had three sons who served in the Civil War. There is a family story that one of the sons was under age and didn’t want to lie when enlisting, so he wrote the number 16 on the bottom of his shoe so he could say he was over sixteen.

At the homestead near the corner of Pearl Lake and Jim Noyes Roads, Jonathan II’s brother David was continuing to prosper. David’s son Stephen (1815-1898) carried on the farm and was the one who changed the spelling of the name to Bronson. Stephen married Fannie Eastman of Landaff, and they had three children: Myron, Sarah, and Mary. Stephen and Fanny died in the spring of 1898 within one week of each other. He of old age, and she of weakness after fracturing her femur eight weeks earlier.

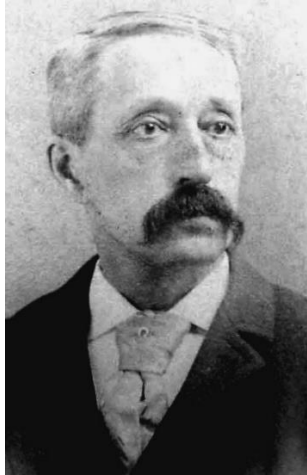


Stephen Bronson (1815-1898)



Fanny (Eastman) Bronson (1819-1898)

Stephen and Fanny’s son, Myron was the next generation to take over the Bronson homestead. He married Rachel Ball of Sutton, Vermont. They had one child, Harley, before Rachel died in 1865. He then married Clara Rich of Lisbon, and they had three children: Mabel, William, and Lawrence. Harley was a Lisbon harness maker and dealer in sleighs and carriages and at one time a foreman of the livery at Lisbon’s Hotel Moulton.

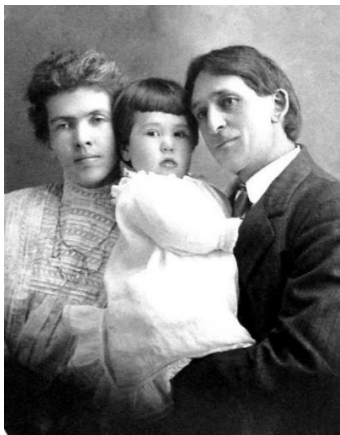


Myron Bronson (1841-1903)



Clara (Rich) Bronson (1848-1928)

After Myron's death, the farm was carried on by his and Clara's son, William Morris "Mon" (1871-1955). William married Kate Atwood (1873-1949) whose family had a farm in Lisbon at the beginning of Pearl Lake Road on a hill overlooking the town.

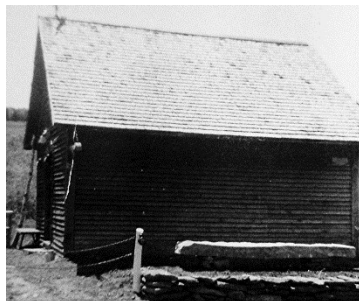


William Morris "Mon" and Kate (Atwood) Bronson with Howard, their first child b. 1907



"Mon" Bronson standing beside his milk wagon

William Morris "Mon" was a very successful farmer, and the farm had telephone service as early as 1905 at a cost of \$18 per year, and he purchased a car in 1915. William and Kate had three children: Howard, Ethel, and Kathryn.



William made butter in a 12'x12' red building (at left) the family called "the creamery" across the road from the farmhouse. A one-lung engine turned the shaft that went the whole length of the creamery. Belts on the shaft were moved to run the churn or press. The churn was 4' square and made of wood. William possibly made two hundred pounds of butter a week and sold it around Landaff and Lisbon. He stopped making butter when his son, Howard started shipping milk.

While the Bronson family tree has countless allied families that over the generations have been connected to Landaff and the area, William and Kate's children and the families they married into and their descendants are still very well-known today.



Howard Bronson (1907-1986) married in 1931 Alice Blodgett (1910-1973) whose family home was just a few minutes up the road at the corner of Jim Noyes and Merrill Mountain Roads. Howard and Alice (pictured in their later years at left) continued to farm the Bronson homestead where they raised their five children: Stephen, Betty, Richard (who was recently honored by the Grange and is pictured at the beginning of this story), Stanley, and Bradley. Richard Bronson was born upstairs in the house that used to be attached to the farmhouse. That house was later moved across the road, rented and sold.



The children of Howard and Alice Blodgett Bronson:
Standing (L-R): Stephen and Betty, sitting: Richard, Bradley, Stanley

The children of Howard and Alice Bronson learned all about the workings of a farm and household just as did generations of children before them. They all learned to milk cows by hand when they were strong enough. They learned all the practical skills such as driving horses, plowing, planting and harvesting as well as cider making, logging and splitting firewood (the woodshed at the farm could hold 28 cord of wood), and sugaring, to name a few. Summer picnics and family meals were special as were evenings spent around the lantern, which Richard recalls was the magnet of the family. He and his siblings attended the one-room Scotland School up the road from their farm. Sometimes the teacher boarded with them. At the height of farming, the Bronsons had 55 cows, 6 horses, a few pigs, and 50 chickens. Earlier there were sheep on the farm, and the farm had kept bees and made and sold butter. Howard and Alice were active behind

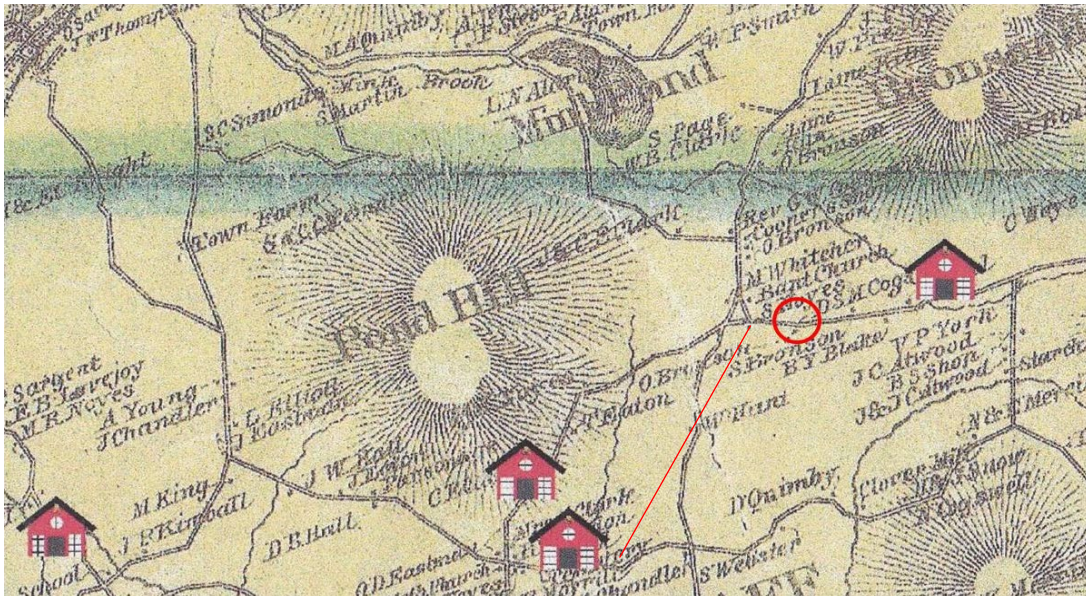
the scenes in their town and supported the Grange in many ways. Alice was a wonderful cook and worked on Grange suppers, and the family raised the beans for the suppers.



William and Kate's second child, Ethel (1910-1992) married in 1934 George Clement (1908-1985) whose family owned Jockey Hill Farm in Landaff – a marriage between members of the Scotland School District and Blue School District, respectively. Ethel received a teaching degree from Plymouth Normal School and taught two years in a one-room schoolhouse in Thornton, N.H., but after marrying devoted her life to her family and Jockey Hill Farm, working very hard as a wife, mother, business partner, and farmer as well as cooking for boarders who lived and worked on their farm. George and Ethel Clement worked together, and the Clement name became quite famous for its successful maple syrup, auctioneering, retail milk and dairy operation.

George was Landaff Town Moderator, a Grafton County Commissioner and a State Legislator. Ethel and George also participated in 4H, the Grange, and all activities in town. George was at one time elected Master of the New Hampshire State Grange, and Ethel was elected the high degree of State Ceres. George and Ethel's descendants continue to live on Jockey Hill Farm.

William and Kate's third child, Kathryn (1912-1976) married Clifton Poore (1912-2009) who grew up in a large family on a farm on Allbee Road in Landaff, four miles from the Bronson farm by road but half that by shortcut. That made a marriage between members of the Scotland School District and Center School District. Clifton and Kathryn made their home in Norwich, Vermont where Clifton worked in the area.



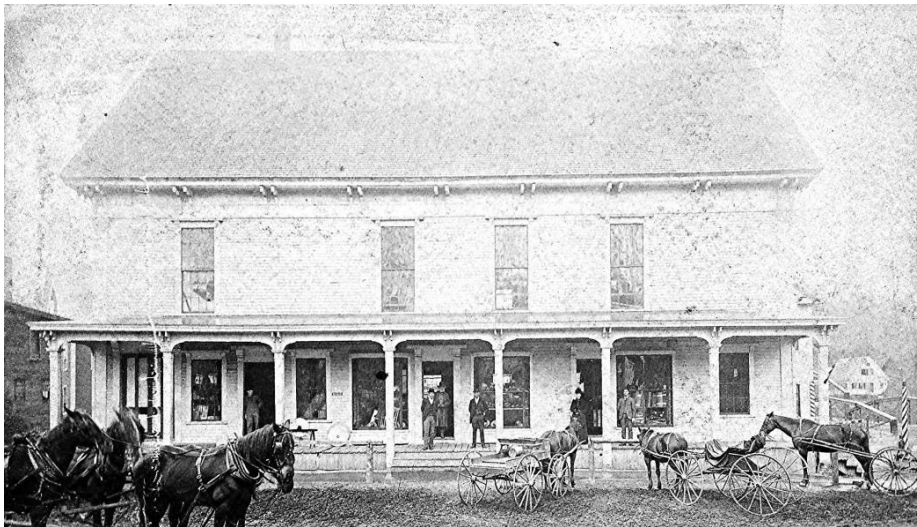
Above is a portion of the 1860 map of Landaff showing the Lisbon town line and Mink Pond (Pearl Lake). The red circle shows where David Brunson built the c. 1800 farmhouse where his descendants lived and farmed. Left of the circle, near the intersection of Pearl Lake and Barrett Hill Roads, is believed to be the site of the log home built in 1782 by the family of Jonathan and Susanna Judd Bronson, the first Bronsons to settle in Landaff. The red line shows where young David walked twice a day to milk and feed the family's cow the first winter of settlement. The red buildings designate one-room schools by district left to right: Blue School, Center School on Allbee Road, and the first Center School which once stood where the new section of the Landaff Cemetery is located today. Last is the Scotland School where the Bronsons attended. Above the red circle are the words "Bapt. Church" designating where the former Free Will Baptist Church was located and where Richard and Angie Bronson now live in their caboose.

MAY 2019

THE LISBON WEEKLY GLOBE 140 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH



The Lisbon Weekly Globe was a newspaper printed and published in Lisbon from the 1860s- 1880s. Harry E. Parker took over the business in the early 1870s and continued its operation out of the old town hall building which once stood on the site of today's Parker Block in Lisbon Square. The paper, which billed itself as devoted to temperance and local intelligence, was issued every Saturday morning at a subscription of \$1 per year for those in Grafton County or \$1.10 for those out of the county. Annual advertising rates ranged from \$3 per year to \$49 per year. The Globe also offered all types of job printing executed promptly at the lowest prices. Harry E. Parker was a printer by the age of 20 and was soon publishing the weekly newspaper. He was the son of Charles and Amelia Weston Parker, the Parkers of Parker Young Company which had a large presence in Lisbon from 1870 to the late 1920s. Harry E. Parker moved from Lisbon and was in the printing business in Bradford, Vermont by 1900.



This Lisbon Weekly Globe was printed and published out of the Wells & Woolson building in Lisbon Square. The Town Hall was upstairs. The building burned in the fire of 1901.

Looking back 140 years ago to May of 1879, the Lisbon Weekly Globe's articles, advertisements and town news snippets give an interesting and sometimes humorous view of Lisbon, Lyman and Landaff. The newspaper started off in May of 1879 with a series on Lisbon businesses. The first one profiled was J. K. Atwood & Co., Bobbin Manufacturers.

In June of 1878 an old steam mill and store house, below the beginning of what is now Atwood Street and opposite the railroad station, burned to the ground. Jonathan Kimball Atwood, who had occupied the mill and store house, built another building on the site after entering into a partnership with a Manchester (NH) firm. In five months, J. K. Atwood & Co., had built a three-story building 45' wide x 50' long. The mill was equipped with a 55-horsepower engine, saws, lathes, and machinery to manufacture bobbins for the textile industry. Within half a year the mill employed sixteen men and had worked 100 cords of white birch and rock maple per month to make all types and sizes of bobbins.

The mill easily dried and shipped a car load of bobbins per week. Wood was delivered by teams and by the B.C.&M. Railroad Company which had laid a siding from their main track past the mill enabling the mill to load cars direct from their dryers with only one handling. The mill was warmed throughout and the bobbins dried by steam.



J. K. Atwood's bobbin mill in Lisbon was the largest rough bobbin manufacturer in the United States at one time and handled 2,000 cords of wood annually. Atwood built four houses on Atwood Street for his mill workers. This mill burned on September 6, 1904. The site is now part of a large gravel parking lot off Central Street between the railroad station and Atwood Street. J. K. Atwood is standing at far left wearing a suit. J. K. Atwood's other claim to fame is that he was married six times, outliving all his wives – a story for another Moments in History!



By 1865, J. K. Atwood had taken his place among the other wealthy Lisbon businessmen who built mansions on the bluff above School Street. Atwood's mansion is at far left and is now owned by the Herzig family. The street leading to the former Atwood home is now Grafton Street, but then it was named Atwood Street. The other mansions to the right are also still standing and are off Woolson Avenue and include the Parker mansion at far right where printer and publisher Harry E. Parker lived with his parents.

Pictured below are a few of the interesting advertisements published in the May 1879 Lisbon Weekly Globe.

\$50.00

Any ordinary family can save Fifty Dollars annually by buying their Groceries for Cash or Ready Pay, at

"THE LISBON RED TEA STORE."

Things are hard and wages low, but

GOODS ARE CHEAP!

If you know where to buy them. We keep a full stock of

W. I. GOODS & GROCERIES!

Including pure beef Lard in bulk, Sugars, Flour, Graham, Buckwheat, Salt and Pickled Pork, fine Salt, Soap, Tobacco, and in size **PORECO RICO**

Molasses at 60 cts. a Gallon

As can be found in Lisbon. Our stock of Fancy Groceries is complete, consisting in part of Figs, Prunes, Currants, Sardenes, Shadenes, Pickles in bottles and barrels, Chow-chow, Halfed Sauces, Ketchup, French Mustard, pure fruit Jellies, desiccated Cocoanut, Chocolate, Gelatin, Cocoa, choice flavoring Extracts, a full line canned goods such as Apperots, Apples, Peaches, Pears, Pine Apples, Tomatoes, Strawberries, Green Corn.

Succotash, Green Peas, String Beans, Pumpkin, Squash, Salmon, Lobster, Corned Beef, Baked Beans, Codfish Balls, Blueberries, &c. Dried Peaches, Apples, &c.

Pure Spices in Bulk:

Black Pepper 8c quarter, Cassia 12c, Pimento 10c, Ginger 9c, Cloves 15c, Cream Tartar 15c, Nutmegs 5c each when you come to

Teas and Coffees!

We can and will give you the BEST in Lisbon, at the lowest prices. We sell for CASH or ready pay and don't allow any one to under sell us in any kind of goods of equal quality, and we keep the near in the market. Give us a call and be convinced.

Very Respectfully Yours

L. A. YOUNG & CO.,
The Grocers,

HUTCHINS' BLOCK, LISBON, N. H.
Goods delivered to any part of the village FREE.

L. A. Young Grocers, the Lisbon Red Tea Store, was located in the Hutchins Block, the building that was located on what is now the park at the corner of Main and School Streets. Available groceries included *lard in bulk, sugars, flours, fine salt, soaps, tobaccos, pickled fish and nice Porto Rico molasses at .60 cents a gallon, figs, prunes, currants, sardenes, shadenes, pickles in barrels and bottles, sauces, fruit jellies, dessicated cocoanut, chocolate, gelatin, extracts, canned aprecots, apples, peaches, pears, pine apples, tomatoes, strawberries, green corn, succotash, green peas, string beans, pumpkin, squash, salmon, lobster, corned beef, baked beans, codfish balls, blueberries, dried fruit....black pepper, cassia, pimento, ginger, cloves, cream tarter, nutmegs, and teas and coffees. Free delivery in any part of the village.*

Quack! Quack!! Quack!!!

AYLESBURY DUCKS.

Having procured these pure-blooded ducks from the best stock in Massachusetts, I am prepared to furnish fresh eggs for hatching, at \$1. per 9. This fine variety of ducks is very large, plumage perfectly white, with light yellow bills and dark yellow legs, and are extra layers. One trio of my ducks took the first premium at the Lisbon Poultry Exhibition. J. H. ALLEN.

MINING!

Persons having ores to be tested for GOLD, SILVER and LEAD, will do well to call on J. H. ALLEN, who will make tests free of expense.

J. Henry Allen, known as Professor, lived to the south of the Methodist Church on Main Street in Lisbon. His father, James, was an early merchant in Lisbon. The Allen family had a nice homestead and kept a variety of waterfowl including peacocks. In May of 1879 Allen was selling his fresh duck eggs for \$1 for 9 eggs. A trio of his ducks had taken first premium at the Lisbon Poultry Exhibition. J. Henry Allen was also very involved in the local gold rush of the 1860s- 1880s and placed a small ad in the May 1879 paper. *Mining! Persons having ores to be tested for GOLD, SILVER and LEAD, will do well to call on J. H. Allen, who will make tests free of expense.* The Allen home was torn down in 1945 and a new house was built on the lot. The carriage house had been moved across the road years earlier and renovated into a private home which sits to the north of today's information booth.

In the Lisbon Weekly Globe's May 1879 paper there were also town brevities. *In Landaff, people were done making sugar. Not quite as much had been made as the past spring. There is a paper being circulated to be sent to the legislature to reduce the high rate of railroad fares. It may be we shall have a death or marriage to give you in the course of the season, though those items are scarce in this community, the air is so very pure and invigorating, one can hardly get sick, and the young folks are not old enough for the marriage state.*

In Lyman there was a large amount of building being done that spring: a gold mill, two large barns, two smaller barns, two horse barns, a shed, and a house. Wm. D. Stevens had built a spruce oil distillery and working it with good success. He was also running two meat wagons that spring. Geo. W. Cowing had a goose that laid 24 eggs without any outward signs of setting. *Mr. Cowing may not be able to furnish the market with fat goslings as downy pillows for the weary, yet we judge he must have the satisfaction of believing that the public will consider his goose a good layer.*

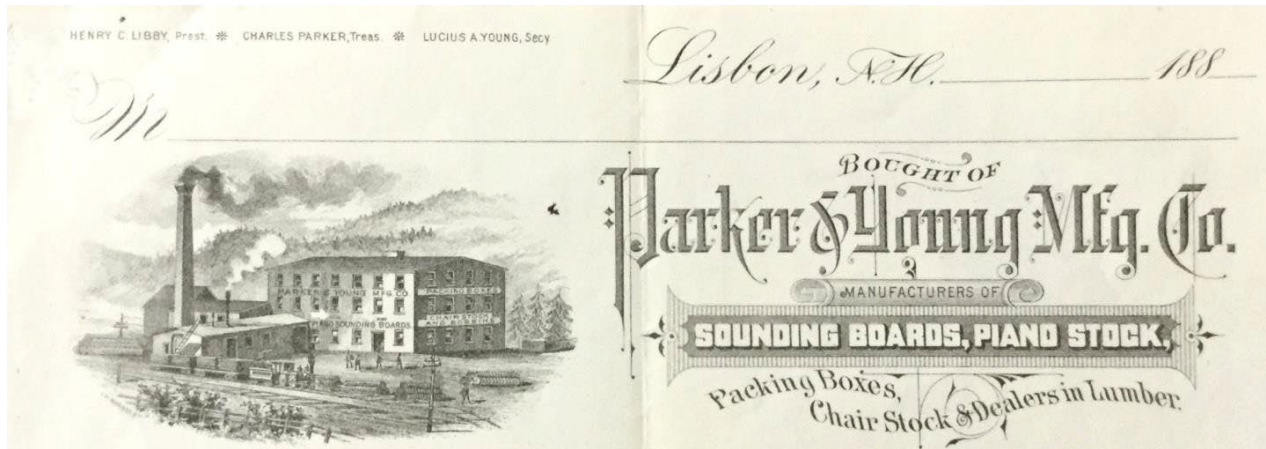
In Lisbon *the season of broken fingers and barked shins will be auspiciously opened this afternoon on the school house common at 5 o'clock by a game of base ball. Stars v. Picked nine. All lovers of Artillery practice should be present as rare fun is promised. This being the first game it is expected that many accidents will occur, and a representative of this paper will be present to take them "on the fly" and then make a home run.*

The inventory of the Town of Lisbon was listed in the May 1879 edition: 564 horses, 1,436 cattle, 2,395 sheep, and 8 hogs. Real estate \$582,425, carriages \$3,775, mills, etc., valued at \$24,850. The rate of taxation \$1.20 on \$100. 91 dogs.

The B.C.&M. Railroad time table for May 1879. *Trains south: Mail, 9:18am, Portland & Burlington Express, 1:30pm; Express Passenger 2:52pm. Trains north: Express Passenger 10:30am, Portland & Burlington Express 2:35pm, mail 4:34pm. Masonic meetings were Wednesday of the week of a full moon.*

JUNE 2019

THE PARKER-YOUNG FIRE OF JUNE 1, 1891



It was 128 years ago on the first day of June when the whole town of Lisbon was threatened after a fire started at the Parker Young Manufacturing Company facility on South Main Street. A Parker Young Mfg. Co. billhead from the 1880s (pictured above) shows what the trackside of the South Main Street facility in Lisbon looked like before all of its buildings burned in a great fire on June 1, 1891. There were three signs on the building. On one side there were two signs: PACKING BOXES and CHAIR STOCK AND BOBBINS. The sign on the back was PARKER YOUNG MFG. CO. and PIANO SOUNDING BOARDS. The square smokestack pictured on the letterhead was the only thing left standing after the fire.



The Northern Herald newspaper which was published in Lisbon featured the story “SWEPT AWAY BY FIRE” on the front page of its June 3, 1891 paper. At 2pm a fire believed to have originated in the sawmill area the Parker Young Mfg. Co. quickly engulfed its whole campus. As soon as it was determined to be such a dangerous fire, a telegram was sent to Superintendent Cummings of the Concord & Montreal Railroad who promptly sent a special train from Woodsville, NH, 10 miles south of Lisbon, carrying all the Woodsville firemen and available railroad men, as well as a special train from Littleton, 10 miles north of Lisbon, with its fire

company. However, in a few short hours the fire devoured all the Parker Young buildings, an estimated 1 million board feet of piled boards, storehouses, drying houses, offices, nine dwellings and their contents, barns, outhouses, and more. The town water at the time came from Pearl Lake. The Parker Young factory had fire sprinklers which could not be shut off, so all the water went to the sprinkler system, and there wasn't enough to save the houses which did catch fire. Private homes as well as tenements owned by Parker Young were all on fire at the same time, and none could be saved. Everything was dry and burned quickly. The Concord and Montreal Railroad Company lost four cars to the fire, as well.



The smoking ruins of the South Main Street, Parker Young Mfg. Co. fire of June 1891

High wind carried burning cinders across Lisbon's Ammonoosuc River causing sixteen house roofs on the west side of town to catch fire. Roofs of several stately mansions on today's Park Ridge caught fire as did barns and houses on School Street and Moore's Peg Mill along the river behind today's Boynton Block. Everyone in town was wetting their house roof. Eighty barrels of flour safely taken out of a store house ended up being burned, and a hose carriage and part of a hose burned, too. At one time it was feared that the whole town would catch on fire. The fire was fought from one end of town to the other.

Every available person was busy saving contents from burned structures, and every available horse-drawn wagon was used. People were exhausted, and some fainted. The lawn of the Methodist Episcopal Church on Main Street was stacked with rescued furniture, bedding and clothing. Porches of homes thought to be out of reach of the fire were also stacked with contents taken from burning homes. People wandered the streets until late at night trying to collect their possessions, and many homeowners opened their doors to the less fortunate.

Not only did Parker Young lose everything, but its employees lost their personal tools, money and watches that they had left in their clothing which was hanging in the factory. One man lost \$100 and a gold watch. One hundred employees were left without a job.

After the fire, discussion around town focused on a hot area in the saw mill as well as sparks from a locomotive that had been switching cars in that area earlier in the day. A large amount of wood stored below the mill was not touched by fire, and that probably was the impetus to immediately rebuild the facility on the same site, which Parker Young did accomplish within six months. By the middle of July of 1891 frames for three buildings had already been built, and 18 men had been hired.

Started in the 1840s in Lyman as a starch mill, the Parker Young Manufacturing Company owned by Charles Parker and James Riley Young had moved to the large field along the west side of the Ammonoosuc River in Lisbon by 1869 and began a saw mill and manufacturing facility. As early as 1862, there was a Parker Young store selling dry goods, clothing, hardware, furniture, West India goods and groceries in Lisbon.



Above is an image of a Nov. 1, 1862 coupon redeemable at the Parker & Young Store in Lisbon. The location of the store is still being researched.

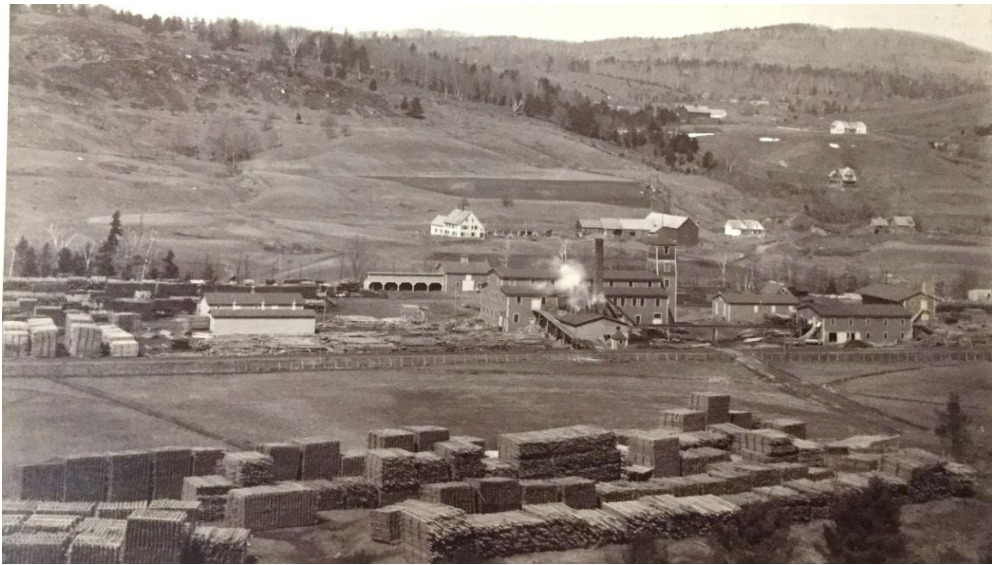
The 1869 Parker Young mill on the west side of town was destroyed by fire in 1876 and rebuilt on the same site.



Company site at the north end of the present-day Lisbon Lions Community Field. There are piles of boards stacked and ready for the manufacturing of piano sounding boards, boxes,

and chair stock. The mill was accessed by a road going down to the field from Meadow Street which branched off School Street as it does today by the Lisbon Public Library. Note the covered bridge at center right where today's School Street Bridge is located.

The mill was destroyed by fire for the second time after being depicted in the 1883 Bird's Eye View. The mill was soon rebuilt on the other side of the river at the end of South Main Street. It was that new mill that burned in June of 1891.



After the fire of 1891, Parker Young Mfg. Co. immediately rebuilt on the same site. This is a view of the trackside looking west across the Ammonoosuc River.



A c. 1893 view of the front side of the rebuilt Parker Young Mfg. Co. at far right center, looking up the Ammonoosuc River from the west side of town.



About one-third of the employees of the Parker Young Mfg. Co. posed for the c. 1895 picture above. At one time the company employed 300 men and was the largest manufacturer of piano sounding boards in the world. The mill also made butter tubs, butter boxes, box shooks, hardwood flooring, custom mill work and manufactured lumber. In the mill's heyday, teams of logging horses with loads of logs would line Main Street. The mill's blacksmith shop and horse barn stood on the riverbank across South Main Street from the mill.

Ironically, the Parker Young factory whistle was used to sound the town fire alarm as late as 1922.

In the late 1920s the Parker Young company was reorganized under the name Lisbon Company. Plymwood Furniture later used the factory to make its popular Sugar Hill Pine. The site is now home to contract furniture manufacturer Design Contempo, Inc.

JULY 2019

LISBON, LYMAN, and LANDAFF HEROES OF INDEPENDENCE



We should honor and never forget our towns' residents who took part in the American War of Independence. Though it was only the men who left home to serve after enlisting, their wives and other family members served, too, just in another way. There are 60 graves of veterans of the American Revolution in the cemeteries of Lisbon, Lyman, and Landaff: 18 in Lisbon, 17 in Lyman, and 25 in Landaff. The number could increase with ongoing research. In the 1920s and 1930s Lisbon native and DAR member Mary Carleton Brummer (1872-1948) compiled an archive of graves of local soldiers of the American Revolution by requesting records from Washington, DC, inventorying cemeteries, and researching family histories. Her work has proven to be an invaluable resource.

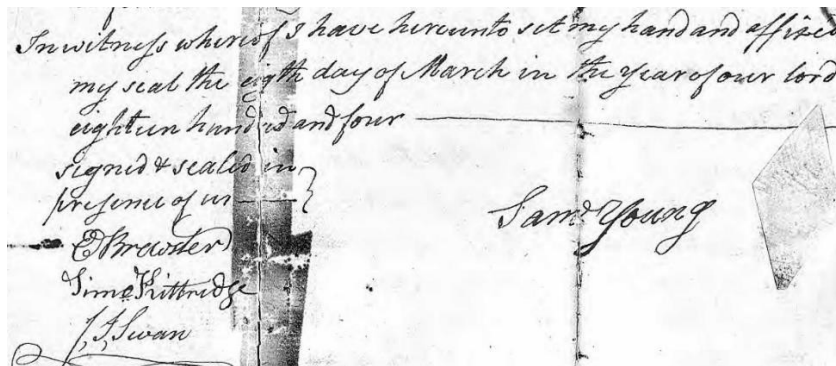
Some of the soldiers were living in Lisbon, Lyman, and Landaff when they enlisted, but many were from other states and New Hampshire towns and came to settle in our three towns after the war. In the 1800s Lisbon historian Samuel Emery interviewed many residents of our three towns, including descendants of those soldiers.

Settlers who served and those who moved to our towns after the war built up farms and mills and became contributing citizens. One of the most remarkable was Samuel Young. In 1848, historian Samuel Emery interviewed Moses Young of Lisbon. Moses was born in 1769 in Haverhill, Massachusetts to Samuel and Hannah Emerson Young. Moses remembered hearing the cannon from the Battle of Bunker Hill and claimed that his father and six of his father's brothers took part in the battle, their ages ranging from 16 to 28. Moses came to Lisbon on July 17, 1775, just one month after that battle, with his parents Samuel and Hannah Young. They settled on part of the lot Moses' grandfather, Major John Young had been granted, which included the area where the present Young-Cobleigh Tavern sits in the fields just to the north of Lisbon. Some of Samuel Young's brothers came to Lisbon as well. They were natural leaders of the new settlement and together with others built a fort where the old tavern now sits.

Samuel Young (1747-1805) joined the Continental Army right after he arrived in Lisbon and served with Col. Timothy Bedel's Rangers and was the Captain of Samuel Young's Company. Young was among those captured during battle at The Cedars near Montreal. He led a group back to Lisbon after escaping, subsisting on "roots and herbs." His brothers John, Jesse, Joseph, Caleb and Nathaniel also served in the war.

After the war, Samuel Young lived in the blockhouse of the Lisbon fort and kept a tavern there, eventually enlarging it. He cultivated his land, growing crops that he shared with his neighbors or charged a minimal fee other than the going price for out-of-town sales.

Samuel Young had prospered greatly and helped his fellow townspeople while becoming one of the most prominent men in Lisbon. By the time of his death in August of 1805, he had amassed great wealth. He and his first wife, Hannah, had three children before she died in July of 1784 in Lisbon. By September of 1784, Samuel was married to Abigail Thompson of Lisbon, and they had nine children.

A snippet of a handwritten document in cursive script. The text reads: "In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal the eighth day of March in the year of our lord eighteen hundred and four". Below this, it says "Signed & sealed in presence of us" followed by three names: "O. Proctor", "Sime. Britton", and "J. Swan". To the right of the text is a large, stylized signature that reads "Samuel Young".

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal the eighth day of March in the year of our lord eighteen hundred and four

Signed & sealed in presence of us

O. Proctor
Sime. Britton
J. Swan

Samuel Young



Samuel Young signed his last will and testament on March 8, 1804, a year and a half before he died on August 20, 1805 in his 57th year. Major Samuel Young rests in Salmon Hole Cemetery in Lisbon, and the epitaph on his gravestone is "Alas, the brittle day."

The Inventory of Samuel Young's estate lists his homestead which included buildings and 400 acres valued at \$5,664. He also owned many other lots in Lisbon. That acreage increased his total personal real estate to \$7,784.68. He owned 11 cows, seven heifers, nine calves, two yokes of fat bulls, a yoke of oxen, 34 sheep, eight old hogs, 19 small shoats (young pigs), 11 horses, two colts, and a black bull. He owned bundled flax and hemp, 15 bushels each of unthreshed wheat and rye, 18 bushels of flax seed, and clover seed and grass seed. He had 80 bushes of apples, 200 bushels of corn, 75 tons of hay, 100 bushels of potatoes, and three bushels of peas. He owned all kinds of farm implements and tools, sleds, sleighs, and a winnowing mill. His wearing apparel was valued at \$35. His great Bible was valued at \$6 and a law book valued at \$1. He owned many beds and other furniture including a clock, looking glasses, a loom and trimmings, a desk, candlesticks and stands, pewter, silver teaspoons and tablespoons, 80 pounds of wool, 3 side saddles, 1 man's saddle, 1 pair of saddlebags, barrels, etc. That part of his personal estate totaled \$2,360. He was also owed another \$952 for cattle he had sold. The long list of men who owed the "deceased" money for cattle purchased is a who's who of early Lisbon and area settlers.

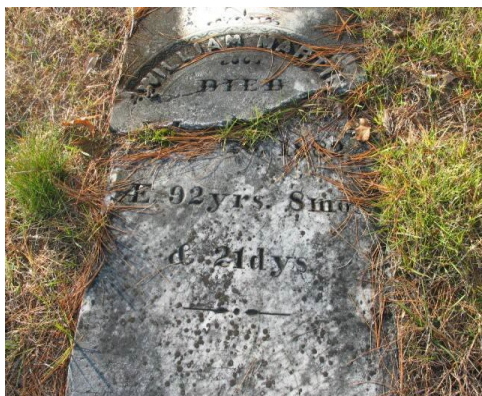


The Young-Cobleigh Tavern on Route 302 just to the north of Lisbon is pictured above in the early 1900s when it was owned by Samuel Ross. It is on the site of the fort built by the Youngs and other Lisbon settlers at the onset of the American Revolution. After the war, the blockhouse from the fort was used by Samuel Young as his home and tavern. Levi Cobleigh later owned the tavern. The blockhouse was incorporated into the structure when it was enlarged by Levi Cobleigh. The two wings of the present structure were once one building, and that is what Young's Tavern looked like before Cobleigh enlarged it. The fields around the tavern were the site of musters by local militia from the time of settlement and well into the 1850s. The barn blew down in a wind storm on June 7, 1932. *The Nancy Flyer* by Ernest Poole is a novel based on the famous Young-Cobleigh Tavern. In the book it is called The Bull Moose Tavern. The property is now a private home.

In 1880, historian Samuel Emery interviewed William Martin of Lyman who was a spry 90 years old, the grandson of Samuel Martin (1720-1806) who was born in Connecticut and is believed to have been the first white settler in Lisbon. Samuel Martin was also a veteran of the French and Indian War. Samuel Martin enlisted in the army at Young's Tavern during the American Revolution. Samuel's son, William born in 1744 in Connecticut, also enlisted at Young's Tavern in 1776 and was involved in scouting expeditions in Vermont. William b. 1744 eventually moved from his original farm near the Salmon Hole area of Lisbon to the lower end of Quebec Road in Lyman where he died in 1842.



Replica of the Samuel Marten (sic) powder horn, made at Crown Point Nov. 20, 1759



Samuel Martin's grandson, William (1790-1882) is buried in Lyman's Pond Cemetery. His stone is pictured above. Notations in a Martin family abstract and other places suggest that William's father William Sr. (1744-1842), who was a soldier in the American Revolution, rests beside him in an unmarked grave.

Samuel Parker (1755-1834) was born in Massachusetts and settled in Lyman after the war. He enlisted in New York in 1776 and was at the Battles of Bemis Heights, Stillwater, and Bennington. Parker was at the battle in Saratoga when Burgoyne surrendered. After that his company went to Albany where he contracted smallpox and then went on to Valley Forge. Samuel Parker served until the end of the war and settled in Lyman. He rests in Moulton Hill Cemetery in Lyman.



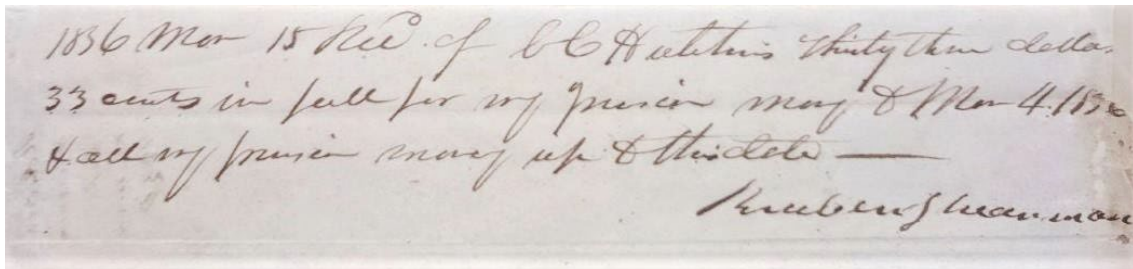
The Moulton Hill Cemetery grave of Samuel and Candace Hand Parker

Samuel's brother, Solomon Parker Jr., (1753-1798) settled in Lyman after the war as well. He enlisted in 1776 and was at the Battle of Bennington and at Saratoga where he assisted with the capture of Burgoyne. Solomon swore in his Affidavit of Service that he lived in Haverhill, N.H. when he enlisted in 1776 and served as a scout in several companies marching to Connecticut, New York, Vermont and parts of New Hampshire. Both the Parker brothers were born in Massachusetts, sons of Solomon and Hepzibah (Douglas) Parker, the first settlers of Lyman. Solomon Parker Jr. rests in Center Cemetery in Lyman. Four Moulton brothers from Lyman served: Jonathan (1756-1846) enlisted in Haverhill, NH in August of 1776 where he was stationed for one year. He later escorted prisoners from Lake Champlain to Fort Number Four in Charlestown, NH. Daniel (1763-1836) enlisted in Lyman in

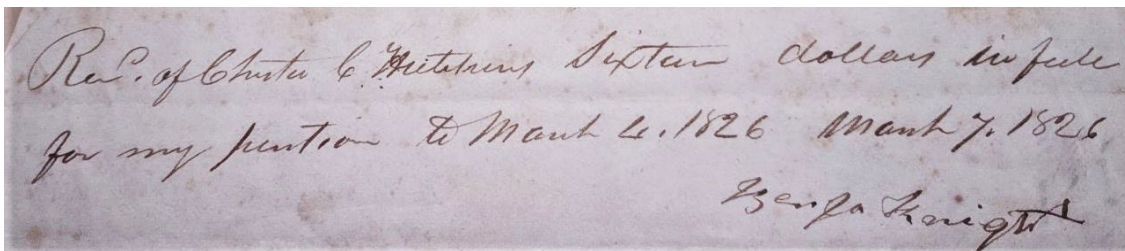
1782 and was stationed in Haverhill to guard stores and later scouted toward Canada “to keep the Tories and Indians from distressing the inhabitants.” Job (1752-1838) enlisted in July of 1775 and served in Bedel’s Regiment and was at the taking of St. John’s and the Battles of Montreal and Chambly. Noah Moulton Jr. (1759-1850) enlisted in 1778 and was a scout. The four brothers were sons of Noah and Patience Moulton who settled on Moulton Hill in Lyman in 1770. Jonathan, Daniel, Job and Noah Jr. rest in Moulton Hill Cemetery in Lyman.



Reuben Sherman (1763-1843) lived in Gloucester, R.I. when he enlisted in the army in 1779. He was two months shy of turning 16 years old. He was watching over Newport when the British attacked the guard. Sherman ran through a cornfield firing five rounds. The British took all the guards except for Sherman. He then served in a regiment in Vermont until 1781 when he settled in Lisbon. He rests in Salmon Hole Cemetery in Lisbon

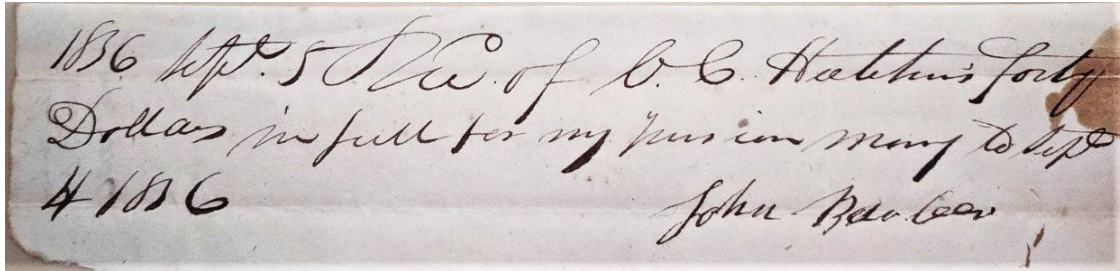


Reuben Sherman signed the pension receipt above on March 15, 1836 for receiving of C. C. Hutchins thirty-three dollars and 33 cents in full for his pension money to March 4, 1836 and “all my pension money up to this date”



Benjamin Knight (1754-1851) was living in Plaistow, N.H. when he enlisted in December of 1775. March 7, 1826, he signed the pension receipt above for receiving of Chester C. Hutchins sixteen

dollars in full for his pension to March 4, 1826. This is the signature of a man who fought at the Battle of Hubbardton in Vermont in July of 1777 where he lost a finger on his right hand and was wounded in one of his thighs. He was taken prisoner there and later exchanged and returned home. He moved to Landaff with his wife Sarah Jackman in 1787, and they had eleven children. He was an excellent farmer and reluctant to ask his country for money. Benjamin Knight rests in Landaff Center Cemetery.



1836 Sep. 5 Recd of O. C. Hazen's forty
Dollars in full for my pension money to Sep
4 1836 John Barber

John Barber (1761-1843) has a very different story. His pension receipt above was signed on September 5, 1836. He received \$40 of pension money. He was born in Germany and was a Hessian soldier for the British Army who jumped ship in New York Harbor and deserted. He was living in Maryland when he joined the Continental Army in May of 1782 and was a private in Moses White's Company of Col. Hazen's Regiment. He served until the end of the war and moved to Lyman. In 1784 he married Meriam Eastman of Haverhill, NH and they moved to Lyman in 1785 and built a home off Quebec Road at the end of Birch Road. John Barber rests in Center Cemetery in Lyman. There are more stories and statistics to go with all the heroes of independence from our three towns, and anyone is welcome to visit our museum and look through the collection.

SEPTEMBER 2019

CONRAD'S MILL



At the intersection of Lyman Road, Cole Plain Road, and Plains Road in Lisbon there once stood Conrad's Mill on the waterfall in Burnham's Brook. The picture above was taken before the flood of November 1927 during which the mill was partly washed away. The mill was rebuilt on a smaller scale, and customers continued bringing their corn to be ground into chicken feed and their logs to be sawed. They also backed their trucks into the mill to purchase sawdust. There was a mill pond above the mill where logs floated while awaiting their turn. One local remembers a millhand with spiked boots rolled logs on the pond.

The first mill on the site was a grist mill built by Capt. Leonard Whiting around 1790. Whiting was one of the grantees in the second charter of Lisbon in 1768 known as Gunthwaite after the first charter of Concord had been forfeited for lack of settlement. Whiting at some point moved to Cavendish, Vermont where he died in 1811.

Capt. Thomas Dodge who built a farmhouse c. 1790 on Hodge Hill in Lisbon was the next owner of the mill. Dodge died at the age of 73 after he was injured during a carriage accident while traveling home from the mill in October of 1815. His son Thomas inherited the mill, millhouse and appurtenances.

Over the years the mill was used as a starch, grist, and saw mill and was also owned and operated under the names of Young, Burnham, Smith, Cobleigh, and Jackman. The last owner was Oscar

Conrad who lived in the family's mill house on a hill across from the mill. Conrad family members had previously operated the mill.

The mill collapsed for good due to old age and high water in 1969. The natural waterfall, which is along the

Ammonoosuc Fault, is a local landmark and can be quite impressive when part of it freezes in winter and during the spring runoff and other times when the water is high. Below the waterfall are cement abutments and other traces that a structure was once on the site. According to stories passed down through the years, a hermit named Burnham lived at the mouth of the brook and kept moving as population increased. The brook is also known as Mill Brook and Ogontz Brook.

OCTOBER 2019

G. A. CLARK – THE MAN AND HIS CAR

George Austin Clark (G. A.) was born in Topsham, Vermont in 1864 to Ira and Susan (Smith) Clark. The family was living in Benton, New Hampshire by 1870 where Ira worked as a farmer. By 1880, the family had moved to Center Haverhill, New Hampshire where Ira operated his own farm. By that time, G. A. was 16 years old and working as a laborer, probably on his parents' farm. He was the oldest of five sons, ages 16, 15, 12, 9, and 4, born to Ira and Susan. There were also two daughters who died early in childhood.

G. A. moved to Bath, New Hampshire where he married Nella Whitcomb in 1888. He operated a horse farm near the site of the present-day Twin River Campground at the intersection of Rte. 112 and 302. According to the family's oral tradition, G. A.'s farm was burned to the ground by a disgruntled hired hand in 1892. A six-horse team that G. A. was training for delivery to Mt. Washington was lost in the fire. G. A. immediately purchased the former Bartlett's School for Girls in Lisbon located at the end of North Main Street, before the railroad tracks and along the bend of the Ammonoosuc River.



The former Bartlett School for Girls, the G. A. Clark property, North Main Street, Lisbon Standing: G. A. Clark and daughter Marion, Frank Clark Sr. in car. Sitting with the dog is Louise Hanno.

The 15-acre Lisbon property consisted of a large barn, two-story carriage house, and a three-story, 19-room house-built c. 1860. The family kept 10 cows for milk and meat, and they kept hens. G. A. operated his business as a horse and carriage dealer on the property. The business was named G. A. Clark, and later when son Frank Sr. joined, the name was changed to G. A. Clark & Son. A 1910 advertisement states "all kinds of horses and prices to fit." Wild horses right off the range were shipped from Detroit by stock cars to the Lisbon Depot where the horses were unloaded into pens. G. A. broke the horses to drive, pull, etc. He sold Cortland Company carriages and sleighs as well as blankets and buffalo robes.

By 1915, G. A. was in the automobile business. The dealership was assigned the number 199 (the dealer license plate number used until the business closed in 1993). Automobiles were shipped in boxcars to the Lisbon Depot, four automobiles to a box car, two cars over two, and chain falls were used to lower and

remove the cars. Some of the early models G. A. sold were Whippett, Marmon, Duryea, and Stutz Bearcat. In 1925 the garage started selling Pontiacs.



G. A. Clark's magnificent 1908 Stevens-Duryea

Frank Clark, Sr. is at the steering wheel, and beside him is neighbor Louise Hanno. G. A. Clark and his wife Nella are in the back seat, and at the rear is their daughter, Marion. The magnificent automobile pictured is a 1908 Stevens-Duryea Model U "Light Six." The Stevens-Duryea Company was based in Chicopee Falls, Massachusetts and made high-end, high-quality, powerful motor cars from 1901 to 1927. G. A.'s was a six-cylinder car with 35hp, a 114-inch wheelbase, and cost \$3,500, or \$3,650 with "Cape Top." The windshield was an accessory not offered by the manufacturer. As a comparison, a four-cylinder two-passenger Buick Model 10 Roadster cost \$850 in 1908, and a similar Ford Model N Roadster cost \$750. Stevens-Duryea competed with the Pierce-Arrow Company in Buffalo, NY. Stevens-Duryea also made a bigger model that year, the six-cylinder Model S "Big Six" – a massive automobile that cost \$6,000. (Thank you to architect and antique car buff Jay Barrett of Fairlee, Vermont for help with this description.) The purchase of the car for \$3,500 in 1908 would be equivalent to about \$52,000 today.

G. A. was also busy as a director of the Parker Young Company, and he bought and sold real estate. He had rental properties in Lisbon, and every Saturday was rent collection day. A clever businessman, G. A. went to a Lisbon tailor shop to buy an overcoat but found the asking price too high. Instead, he purchased an overcoat from a horse blanket salesman and another 25 overcoats to sell out in front of his business.

The coats sold out immediately. His success at trading enabled his home to have electricity, plumbing and kitchen facilities on all three floors. A copper hot water heater was purchased and installed behind the main kitchen stove and was always kept polished. It had a lifetime warranty, and when G. A. was 90 years old, it sprang a leak. He tried to get it fixed for free, but the company said he had lived too long and the warranty no longer applied.

G.A. enjoyed maple syrup and went through about 10 gallons a year. On G. A.'s birthday it was an annual tradition for G. A. and his four brothers to gather for a lobster dinner and then weigh themselves. Their combined weights were always well over 1,000 lbs. Sundays were spent taking a special drive somewhere and stopping to feast on a picnic lunch of fried chicken and sandwiches. G. A. always took the family to Old Orchard Beach, Maine every summer for a one-week vacation. For those special trips, G. A. used a seven-passenger Hudson.

Frank Clark Jr. joined the family business after his father, Frank Sr. passed away in 1952. G. A. died in 1957 at the age of 93. He was living in the Knapp Nursing Home in Lisbon at the time of his death.

Frank Jr. incorporated the family business. The garage started selling Moto-Ski snowmobiles in 1964. In 1969, another generation joined the company as Frank Jr.'s son, Robert began working at the garage. Frank Jr.'s son Donald also worked there for a short time. By 1983, the garage started selling GMC trucks instead of International Harvester.



Clark's Garage in 1975 – Frank Clark Jr. stands between his sons Donald (L) and Robert

Clark's Garage had been in business in Lisbon for over 100 years when it was sold in 1993 to New England Wire Technologies to be used as storage and metal fabrication. None of the original buildings from G. A. Clark's first Lisbon farmstead and business exist. There is a cinderblock building left from the more modern-day Clark's Garage.

NOVEMBER 2019

LISBON'S GREAT FIRE OF NOVEMBER 3, 1901

On the night of November 3, 1901, the landscape and business center of Lisbon was changed forever by a fire that leveled everything on the west side of South Main Street and along the Ammonoosuc River starting below the School Street bridge through the lot where the Lisbon Inn now stands. Several abutting homes were slightly damaged, as well. It is supposed the fire began in the chips and sawdust in the J. G. Moore Peg Mill located along the riverbank behind what is now the Boynton Block.



J. G. Moore Peg Mill employees outside the riverbank mill c. 1890

The shoe peg business began as early as 1865 in Lisbon, and the town became the shoe peg capital of the country. The shoe pegs were made to order from yellow and white birch and shipped mostly to Europe for the manufacturing of shoes and toys. Townspeople considered Moore's Peg Mill a fire trap, and they had feared it would one day cause a devastating fire. That peg mill had been on fire a dozen times before in the daytime and was quickly noticed and extinguished. Its high-pitched roof was once destroyed by fire and had been replaced with a low, flat roof covered with iron. Still, by the time a fire was discovered in the wee hours of November 3, 1901, it was a powerful mass of flames which easily spread consuming all the wooden buildings in its path.

The fire was discovered Sunday at 1:15am by Lisbon resident Charles Young as he was returning from a racoon hunt. He quickly pulled the fire alarm at Atwood's Bobbin Mill in the lot behind the railroad station on Central Street. Dr. Harry H. Boynton whose home was at the corner of Main and Central Streets also saw the flames, and he and others helped wake the village with ringing bells and cries of fire. Charles Young, Dr. Boynton and others ran out the hose cart from its North Main Street hose house, and members of the fire department were soon on the scene. Dr. Boynton was credited with doing the work to save his family's home where his parents Dr. Oren and Alice Hollister Boynton also lived. Woodsville was summoned, and thirty firefighters came on the fire train to help. Seven streams of water were poured on adjoining buildings as Moore's Peg Mill was ready to fall. Ben Webb, founder of New England Electrical Works, took charge of the work on the west side of town across the river.

The fire lit up the town so greatly, it was reported that the hands on the steeple clock of the Methodist Episcopal Church on South Main Street could be seen from the Young-Cobleigh Tavern

a mile away. The heat from the fire was so terrible that the firemen could not stand it. Plate glass windows burst out, gunpowder and chemicals exploded, and stored oil was in flames. The deck of the town's liberty pole in the square burned for hours like a huge candle. By 5am the best business district in Lisbon was practically in ashes. Only chimneys and foundations remained. Coal and hundreds of bushels of grain that had been stored in the destroyed buildings continued to burn for days. Due to the hard work of firefighters and a light wind in the opposite direction, the buildings on North Main Street were spared from the fire.



Looking from the School Street Bridge down South Main Street. The steeple of the Methodist the west side of the river. The white house Episcopal Church (now The White Church) at right center is where The Brick Church can be seen in the distance.

Now stands English's Grist Mill, the town hall, Fred Parker's general store, Forbush Jewelers, J. G. Moore Peg Mill, Cogswell and Oliver general store, the Bank Block, Fuller's Grist Mill, and Brigham's Hotel were all destroyed. Within those buildings were tenements and other businesses: a drug store, several photography studios, law offices and law libraries, the central telephone office of New England Telegraph and Telephone, insurance companies, a tailor, the Odd Fellows and Rebekahs hall, a livery, a harness maker, a barber shop, a meat market, and the old gold crushing mill that had been turned into a grist mill. Four thousand pounds of wool stored in the basement of the town hall was a total loss. Most of the buildings destroyed were built in the 1860s and 1870s, but several were much older, and the abutting homes threatened were also old, such as the Boynton home, part of which was built c. 1800.

Wires along the street were also mixed up and presented danger. One man was thrown from his wagon by a falling wire which caught him under his chin. He was lucky to have survived, especially since his horse was going at a fast gait.

Townspeople and property owners went into the buildings to save what they could before the fire consumed the buildings. It seems a miracle that no one was badly injured or died. The bank safe, cashier's desk, and a typewriter were saved. Merrill's Drug Store clerk and apprentice druggist, 22-year-old Irving Garvin, was considered a true hero. He rushed into the drug store and removed items from the safe as well as showcases with their contents. More importantly, he went into the cellar and successfully removed stored dynamite to a safe place. The hotel livery's carriages and horses were all saved. The telegraph and telephone office was a total loss, including its brand-new switchboard. One man was carrying a trunk from his tenement when chemicals in a photography studio exploded and sent plaster down on top of him. The trunk saved his life. Houses on the east side of South Main Street were saved by the brave women who kept throwing water on the front of the homes. Somehow in all the chaos, Dr. Oren Boynton's wife, Alice, managed to serve donuts and coffee from her home to the firemen during the night.



Lisbon Town Hall and Fred Parker's general store



Cogswell & Oliver general store



The Bank Block and Merrill's Drug Store



Brigham's Hotel

Before the bricks were hardly cooled, people were sifting through the ruins for their belongings and for relics. Cogswell and Oliver had a large crockery department with fine China, and at least 100 women were seen going through the rubble there on the day after the fire. Out-of-towners also came to see the aftermath of the fire from morning to night which clogged Lisbon's Main Street with carriages. Trains also brought sightseers to town. It was estimated that several thousand had viewed the ruins in the immediate days after the fire.



One of many wagons and carriages that brought sightseers in the days after the fire is pictured. The Lisbon Public School can be seen across the river over what appears to be a lunch wagon.

While the ruins were still smoldering, the town was planning to rebuild with nice brick blocks. The foundation of the present Lisbon Town Hall on School Street had already been built before the fire. A vote was taken on whether to stop that construction and have the town hall in one of the new brick buildings. It was voted that construction would continue on the new town hall on School Street.

Moore's Peg Mill had no insurance, but most of the other businesses and tenants did. Burned out businesses continued to operate in different locations around town. Fred Parker stocked the old blacksmith shop, which used to be on the riverbank at the corner of School and Water Streets, to continue his general store business. A long-distance telephone and switchboard were immediately installed in one of the stores on North Main Street. The bank resumed business in the old library building on North Main Street. The Odd Fellows safe was damaged and could not be opened by using the combination knob, so the door was blown open with gunpowder. The Lisbon Selectmen had an office and vault in the basement of the bank building, and none of the town books in the vault were damaged.

Another loss suffered in the fire was that of the homes of the "doves." They lived in the mill buildings and flew up in droves as the fire spread. A letter from the birds was published in *The Courier* asking for sympathy because they had lost their homes, companions, and little ones. The doves explained they were cold and hungry and dependent on townspeople to give them shelter and food. Charles Hibbard made comfortable quarters in the attic of his large building, the old creamery building that once stood in back of today's Lisbon Public Library. He had to sprinkle grain in the attic to attract the shy birds.

The loss of property was estimated at between \$100,000 and \$300,000. Lisbon quickly rebuilt, and within a year the street was widened and three new brick blocks helped anchor Lisbon Square, and a new hotel was built where Brigham's Hotel had burned.



The new brick Bank, Boynton and Parker Blocks c. 1905

Lisbon architect, Sylvanus D. Morgan, built the Bank Block which replaced the c. 1888 block built by the YMCA and purchased by Lisbon Savings Bank & Trust Company in 1895. Morgan also built the Boynton Block for the Lisbon Business Association funded by Dr. Charles H. Boynton. That replaced the Cogswell & Oliver Block which was built in the late 1860s and funded by Dr. Charles H. Boynton, William H. Cummings and his recently-widowed sister-in-law, Mrs. Greenleaf (Hannah) Cummings. The Bank Block and Boynton Block are solid brick and separated by a fire wall. The Parker Block replaced the c. 1860 Lisbon Town Hall building and was built by Lisbon contractor, Lawrence Goudie for Fred Parker and William Moore. That block is wood with brick veneer.



The Moulton c. 1930s, now the Lisbon Inn, is on the National Register of Historic Places

The Moulton was built by Lisbon businessman Herbert B. Moulton for \$10,000 and replaced Brigham's Hotel which had been built in 1883. Brigham's was considered one of the finest hotels in northern New Hampshire, and losing it in the fire was a great loss. The Moulton opened the day after Christmas in 1902. The Moulton is now The Lisbon Inn, a subsidized, independent-living facility with 19 apartments operated by Affordable Housing Education and Development (AHEAD) in Littleton, New Hampshire. AHEAD facilitated a 2.3 million-dollar renovation of the property in 2012 through grant funding to bring it back to its former glory.

Lisbon was known for its tenacity with a population in 1901 that was almost double what it is today. The town had a solid core group of 100 businessmen at the beginning of the 1900s, who along with the women in town, were very involved in businesses, churches, and civic, social and service organizations. The town hardly skipped a beat and kept prospering and doing business as usual after the fire. All three of the new, three-story brick blocks were soon fully occupied with stores, specialty shops, a variety of professional businesses, and apartments. Some of the mills along the river that used water power and were destroyed by the fire relocated along the railroad tracks where they operated using electricity. (Some of the information about the fire is taken from articles in the November 1901 issues of *The Courier*.)

DECEMBER 2019

CHRISTMAS IN LISBON 100 YEARS AGO

As we shared in the October 2018 Moments in History, there once was a time when everything you needed was available right in town. In the mid-1800s, the centers of Lisbon, Lyman, and Landaff were set up to provide necessities, and by the late 1800s Lisbon had become the downtown shopping and services center for all three towns. Christmas shopping was easily done on Lisbon's Main Street in 1919. There were many stores and specialty shops. Just around Lisbon Square there were 15 stores. Two of the stores were George Brummer's Sons Company and Goudie's Hardware, both just above Lisbon Square on the west side of North Main Street.

Your Christmas Shopping
DO IT NOW
Don't Wait Until December 24th
BEGIN TODAY

Gifts That Men Like and Can Use
SELECT WHERE MEN DO

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>NECKWEAR Neckties of rare beauty, in a fancy box if you wish it. Largest and best selected stock in town.</p> <hr/> <p>GLOVES AND MITTENS For dress, street and motoring.</p> <hr/> <p>HOSIERY For dress and for work.</p> <hr/> <p>UNDERWEAR Union Suits, MUNSING and Yale brand.</p> <hr/> <p>SHIRTS For dress and for work, Bates Street and all the other good brands.</p> | <p>Pajamas and Night Shirts</p> <hr/> <p>SWEATERS Many of the famous Yale make.</p> <hr/> <p>UMBRELLAS</p> <hr/> <p>Hats and Caps, Boys' Suits, Boys' Knee Pants, Daniel Green's Comfy Slippers.</p> <hr/> <p>HANDKERCHIEFS Give him a dozen or half dozen in plain or initial. Pure linen ones, also Sealpac-kkerchief.</p> <hr/> <p>Suit Cases, Club Bags, Suspenders in Xmas boxes, Belts, and a lot of Fancy Arm Bands. Shinola Home Polishing Sets.</p> |
|--|---|

You don't have to "hope he'll like his Christmas gift." You can know that he'll like it because everything that comes from here must satisfy; we make it right if it doesn't.

GEO. BRUMMER'S SONS CO.
Established 1859
The home of Hart Schaffner & Marx clothes

Brummer's December 1919 ad



The Geo. Brummer's Sons Co. store is pictured c. early 1900s with its tailors and George Brummer's small grandson, Reginald

The Brummer family was in business on Lisbon's Main Street for seventy-seven years. George Brummer's grandson, Edward, b. 1909 was an only child of a wealthy merchant tailor, his father, Karl, having followed in the tailoring business. Edward liked to share his delightful memories of a perfect childhood in Lisbon. Christmas of his youth was much different than today and more focused on religion and quietly spent at home. Ten days to a week before Christmas, people would stroll around Lisbon to look at the homes that had "illuminations," decorated windows backlit with lanterns.

Christmas Will Soon Be Here

Why Not Try Useful Things
For Presents.

We have a large stock on hand. When shopping, Don't Forget to drop in at

Goudie's Hardware

You will be surprised what a number of articles carried here will make some one of the family happy this
---CHRISTMAS---

IF IT'S A PRESENT FOR YOUR WIFE

How about a Kleankwick Hand or Electric Washer, Bench Wringer, O-Cedar Mop and Polish, Mop Wringer, Wash Boiler, Clothes Bars, Basket, Set of Flat Irons, Pair Shears, a Good Broom, Tea Kettles, both aluminum and copper nickel Plated; Pyrex Ware, Enameled Ware, a Russwin Food Chopper, Bread and Cake Boxes, Nickel-plated Tea and Coffee Pots, all kinds of Kitchen Utensils too numerous to mention. All these are useful and are always acceptable.

BUY HUBBY

a Jack Knife, Razor, Thermos Kit. If he is inclined mechanically, buy him a Hammer, Saw, Plane, Rule; what about a Socket Wrench Set. All kinds of Hardware at prices that are right.

BUY THE BOY OR GIRL

a Flexible Flyer Sled, Pair of Skates, Boys' Axe; or better still, why not buy together a

New Glenwood, Crawford or Fairmount Range or Heater

GEORGE M. GOUDIE Masonic Block **LISBON, N. H.**

HARDWARE, HEATING AND PLUMBING



Goudie's Hardware c. 1920. George Goudie is at center.

Lisbon native, George Goudie b. 1886 worked at different jobs until opening his own hardware store in 1919. George's son, Robert, purchased the hardware store in 1954 and continued the family business until merging into Clark-Goudie Hardware. The business was sold out of the family in the 1970s.

If you were in the market for diamonds or a "talking machine," they were available, too. The Family Drug Store beside the School Street Bridge, the location of different drug stores from 1888-1997, had four different brands of talking machines for sale.



Family Drug Store ad December 1919

Christmas Offerings

A Word About DIAMONDS

It's an actual fact that we sell diamonds at less than we can buy them for today at wholesale, for the reason that I bought them before the advance in price.

A large diamond merchant in Providence, R. I., offered to buy all I had at my retail price. What would be the object? I am not going out of business and I would surely have to buy again at the advance.

I would rather give my customers the benefit.

Bargains in everything for Christmas usually found in a jewelry store.

E. R. FORBUSH
JEWELER TO THE PEOPLE
LISBON, N. H.

Forbush Jewelers advertised a bargain on diamonds as Lisbon's "Jeweler to the People" in December of 1919. The first Forbush jewelry store in the Bank Block was destroyed in the fire of 1901. Forbush reopened in the new block and continued into the early 1940s.

Throughout our three towns, Christmas was celebrated during the season in our schools, churches and by different organizations such as the Grange and Friends in Council. One anticipated event was the annual two-day-long Dorcas Christmas Fair put on by the ladies of the Lisbon Congregational Church. There was a dinner, a sale, and entertainment. The dinner had twelve tables featuring decorations for each month of the year including the Christmas table which had a decorated tree and wreaths. Each table had waitresses dressed to match the table's theme. The Dorcas dinner of December 1919 was noted as "one of the best."