



LAHS Moments in History

JANUARY – DECEMBER 2020

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JANUARY 2020

ONE CENTURY MARK FOR TOWN-OWNED LISBON PUBLIC LIBRARY

One of Lisbon's oldest institutions became the property of the Town of Lisbon when the Lisbon Village Library Association legally dissolved on January 1, 1920. The Library Association was formed in 1864, a successor to the Lisbon Moral Society which was formed in the 1850s to offer townspeople reading choices of almost 200 books of nonfiction on the subjects of history, religion, biographies, and travel. The books were first housed in one of the stores in the Hutchins Block, which was located in Lisbon Square on the present site of the park and gazebo.



Hutchin's Block, Lisbon Square c. 1886 – location of Lisbon's first library collection in the 1850s

The library collection was moved around 1860 to a cupboard in the old railroad depot at the top of Depot Street, the precursor to today's c. 1870 Lisbon Historic Railroad Station and Museum on Central Street. Station Agent George Pearsons was the custodian of the book collection when it was kept at the old depot.



Old Lisbon Depot c. 1865, at the top of Depot Street

By the early 1860s, some of the leading Lisbon businessmen gathered a group of citizens to form a larger library. The leaders were Augustus Woolson, founder not only of the library but of the town's water works, 1891 public school, bank, and owner of Breezy Hill House, Woolson and Wells general store, a peg mill, real estate and insurance agencies, and Speaker of the NH House of Representatives; Attorney Edward Rand; Greenleaf Cummings, peg mill owner; Rev. Lewis Howard; and H. Baxter Savage, farmer and Grafton County Register of Deeds.

In 1864, Augustus Woolson, age 30, rode his horse around town to obtain signatures for a petition. A Lisbon Village Library Association Constitution was prepared and signed by men and women - a who's who of Lisbon, area towns and some from Washington, DC, Cambridge, MA, and New York City who had a connection to Lisbon. Officers elected were expected to hold their office for life, which some did. Attorney Rand was elected the first president and served until his death in 1885, and Augustus Woolson succeeded him and served until his death in 1918. The sum of \$300 was raised through subscriptions of \$1 to become a member and .50 cents per year. Money was also raised through a popular annual masquerade ball, winter lecture courses, and a children's group named Busy Bee Society.

The first Library Association collection was housed at Stark Fisk's Jewelry Shop on South Main Street. That building still stands just to the south of the empty lot below the Lisbon Inn.



S. K. Fisk's jewelry shop on South Main Street, site of first Lisbon Village Library Association Collection

CATALOGUE.

HISTORY.

- Ferdinand and Isabella. 3 vols. *Prescott.*
Life of Charles 5th. *Robertson.*
Philip Second. 3 vols. *Prescott.*
Conquest of Mexico. 3 vols. *Prescott.*
Conquest of Peru. 2 vols. *Prescott.*
Rise of the Dutch Republic. 3 vols. *Motley.*
The United Netherlands. 2 vols. *Motley.*
Macaulay's History of England. 5 vols.
Carlyle's Frederick the Great. 5 vols.
Carlyle's French Revolution. 2 vols.
Girondists. 3 vols. *Lamartine.*
Restoration of the Monarchy. 4 vols. *Lamartine.*
Abbott's Napoleon. 2 vols.
Goodwin's History of France. Vol 1st.
Therlwall's History of Greece. 2 vols.
Kirk's Charles the Bold. 2 vols.
Bancroft's United States. 8 vols.
Hallam's Middle Ages.
Irving's Life of Washington. 5 vols.
Irving's Life of Columbus.
Irving's Conquest of Granada.

JUVENILE HISTORY.

- Abbott's* Richard I.
Richard II.
Richard III.
Charles I.
Charles II.
William the Conqueror.
Henry IV.
King Philip.
Peter the Great.
Queen Elizabeth.
Mary Queen of Scots.

The 1866 Lisbon Village Library Catalog listed 10 pages of books in its collection

The Library Association collection was then housed at the office of Oren H. Boynton, MD at the corner of Main and Central Streets. Dr. Boynton's sister-in-law, Rebecca Hollister, was librarian.



Dr. Oren H. Boynton's home, South Main Street, another site of the Library Association collection

In 1884, a new library building was built on North Main Street through the efforts of Christiana Moore, who raised monies through subscription. She was the daughter of Lisbon Advent minister Isaiah Shipman and the wife of Lisbon peg mill and pulp manufacturer James G. Moore.



The c. 1884 Lisbon Library built on North Main Street is shaded by a tree in the center of this picture, between the Carleton Block, which is still standing (the former Lisbon Health Clinic) and Lisbon Auto Garage. The library and garage lots are now a large parking lot.

In 1898, when the State of New Hampshire offered \$100 worth of books to any town offering its residents a free public library, the Lisbon Village Library Association offered its building and its 2000 books and equipment for the establishment of a public library which was opened in January of 1899. The Library Association entered into a contract with the Town of Lisbon under which the Town agreed to pay the needed upgrades and maintain the library expenses. The contract was renewed every five years.

At the end of 1919, Nettie Kelsea reported that the library had a busy year loaning out books and periodicals, rebinding books, and issuing 102 new patron cards. The library collected 170 books which were shipped to soldiers and sailors. The library was closed for eight days in 1919 due to influenza. Nettie Kelsea was the Lisbon Librarian from 1886-1936, serving in the old building and new. She began her service to the library at the age of 24 and retired at age 74.

On January 1, 1920, the Lisbon Village Library Association was dissolved, and all its property reverted to the Town of Lisbon in trust until a new library building was built. In 1926, a new town library building was built on the riverbank across from the Lisbon Town Hall on School Street. The Town voted to accept the new library building and to tear down the old Andross general store which stood right beside it at the corner of School and Meadow Streets. The new library was built through the generosity of Landaff native and Los Angeles Times President and Publisher Harry Chandler, and the land was given by Lisbon businessman and philanthropist Herbert Moulton. The library building was designed by Lisbon-born architect Chase Roy Whitcher.



Harry Chandler (1864-1944)



Herbert Moulton (1846-1928)

The cost of construction of the library was \$44,277.22 which included the architect fee of \$2,112.03 and Rowe Construction Company's fee of \$31,553.86. Harry Chandler gave \$30,000, Herbert Moulton gave the building lot which was valued at \$14,168.12, and rental income from the old Andross store to the town amounted to \$109.40. The Chandler gift of the library was in memory of Harry's Chandler's mother, Emma Little Chandler.

In the photo below at left, the old Andross store can be seen almost touching the side of the new library. The people in the photo are not identified. Perhaps the woman is Librarian Nettie Kelsea, and Harry Chandler may be in the center, because he did visit the library in April of 1926. A man is doing sitework with a shovel on the side of the library. The color postcard at right shows the beautiful new Lisbon Public Library after the Andross store was torn down. The old carriage shop pictured behind the library stood until it burned down in 1969.



In 1964, the Chandler family continued its legacy of generosity by transferring \$10,000 worth of stock in their Chandis Corporation to the newly-formed Lisbon Area Historical Society to finish off and renovate the basement of the Lisbon Public Library for the purposes of a dedicated historical society meeting room and museum, separate public meeting/function room, and storage rooms. The Society moved its museum in 2012 out of the basement of the library to a "temporary" home in a larger and more accessible space in the Parker

Block on South Main Street.

The Lisbon Public Library is still flourishing today and has always served Lisbon, Lyman, and Landaff residents. It has a collection of over 11,000 books and offers public programs and partners with Friends in Council to provide a summer reading program for children and with the Lisbon Lions Club to provide new books to children at Christmas. The library holds an annual plant and bake sale and receives memorial donations of books and memorial and general financial donations toward the Handicapped Accessibility Fund. The library has been working toward modernizing, expanding, and becoming ADA accessible, and the Board of Trustees is seeking updated architectural drawings for same through recently-received grant funding.

FEBRUARY 2020

MEET SOME EARLY SHOPKEEPERS

Moses Bailey Wheelock (1856-1936) was born in Littleton, N.H. and had moved to the lower end of Parker Hill in Lyman by the age of four with his parents, Isaac and Ethelinda (Bailey) Wheelock. His father was a farmer, and Moses worked on the family farm as a youth. In 1877, at the age of 21, Moses was appointed Lyman Postmaster. He may have already started operating his own general store on Parker Hill by that time or earlier, as the wonderful ad pictured below was published in the *Lisbon Globe* newspaper in 1878.

TEA! TEA!! TEA!!!

Choice new Japan Tea at 47c per lb.

Dry Goods, Groceries,
Hats, Caps, Boots, Shoes,
CONFECTIONERY,
Tobacco and Segars.

M. B. WHEELOCK'S,
LYMAN, N. H.

Give me a call and convince yourself that I sell cheap for cash. Country produce taken in exchange.

By 1882, Moses Wheelock was in business in Lisbon, probably in the Woolson Block which was later the home of Marston's Gilt Edge Pharmacy owned by Harry Marston and then Family Drug Store, owned first by Jesse Noyes, then Jerry Fox, and lastly by George and Ruth Marshall.

Moses B. Wheelock started his Lisbon store with a stock of drugs and chemicals, the largest store of the kind north of Concord, N.H. Harry C. Marston, a pharmacist from Bangor, Maine was hired by Wheelock to work in the Lisbon store. He came with his wife Emma (Clark) and their one child. The store carried patent medicines and fancy goods including candies, cigars, tobacco, stationery, and a special tooth powder manufactured by Wheelock. By 1888, Marston became sole proprietor of the drug store which he operated until his death in 1918.



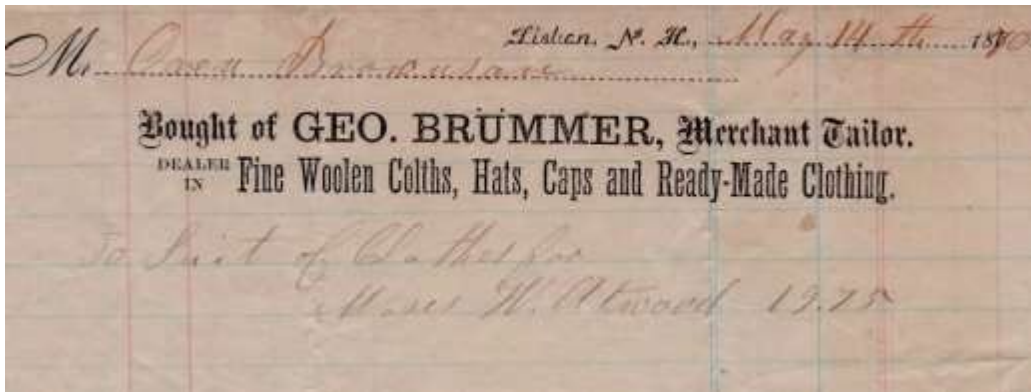
Harry C. Marston (1855-1918) and an ad showing the inside of the old Lisbon pharmacy

Moses Wheelock married Ida Nye of Vt., and they started a family. They moved to Haverhill, N.H. by 1900 where he worked as a traveling salesman. The family then moved to Manchester, N.H. The couple had four children. Wheelock continued to earn a living as a traveling salesman. His obituary states that he was one of the most widely known and popular commercial travelers in New Hampshire. It also states that he was a direct descendant of Eleazar Wheelock, founder of Dartmouth College.

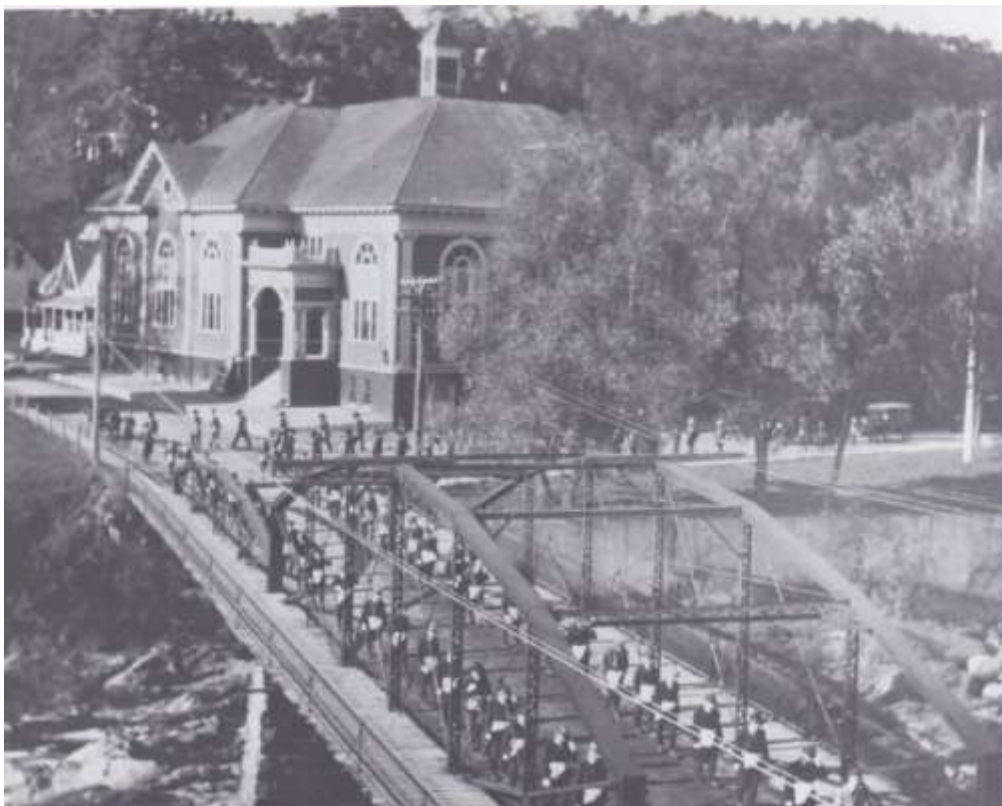


George Brummer (1835-1924) was a German immigrant who came to Lisbon in 1859 and became one of the most prominent and respected residents of Lisbon. He was born in Waldenhausen, Germany and in October of 1854 left his homeland with his parents and four siblings for Greenfield, Massachusetts to join German cousins there. They had a difficult 35-day trip sailing across the ocean from France. Over 200 people were on board and responsible for preparing their own meals. Stoves were provided on the ship, and the ship caught fire three times during the voyage. When they arrived in New York, George's father was the victim of a pick pocket. Luckily, he had other cash hidden inside his clothing. George met Lovina Smith, who was from the Sugar Hill District of Lisbon and working in Greenfield. They married in

town of Lisbon two years later. George immediately set up his tailoring shop in Lisbon Square. He soon became an American citizen. As his business grew, he moved around the corner to a North Main Street block he purchased. The couple had two boys who joined their father in the tailoring business. The family lived above the shop. Continuing to prosper, in 1889 George Brummer bought the former Young mansion on the bluff above the present Lisbon Town Hall. The road they lived on was later named Brummer Road. George employed tailors in his shop as well as tailors who worked from their own homes. George became very involved in his new town and was one of the founders of the Lisbon Savings Bank & Trust Company and the Lisbon Electric Company and served on the school board, was a cemetery trustee, and an active member and congregant of the Lisbon Methodist Church.



In May of 1870, George Brummer made a suit of clothes costing \$19.75 for Moses Atwood, Oren Brownson's farm hand in Landaff.



George Brummer's Masonic funeral procession on October 9, 1924 is shown crossing the School Street Bridge.

Henry Franklin "Frank" Hibbard (1847-1935) was born in Bath, N.H. to Horatio and Joanna (Moulton) Hibbard. Horatio was a miller in Bath, and the family moved to Lisbon by 1860 where Horatio worked in a Lisbon bobbin factory. Frank ran away from home when he was 15 years old after being told he was too young to serve in the Civil War. He managed to get as far as New Bedford, Massachusetts where he joined the crew of a whaling ship. He was on a whaler in the South Seas for four years. He returned to Lisbon in 1867 and started his own blacksmith shop which he operated until 1920. In 1877 he married Nettie Sanborn of Lisbon. The couple never had children of their own but adopted a daughter.



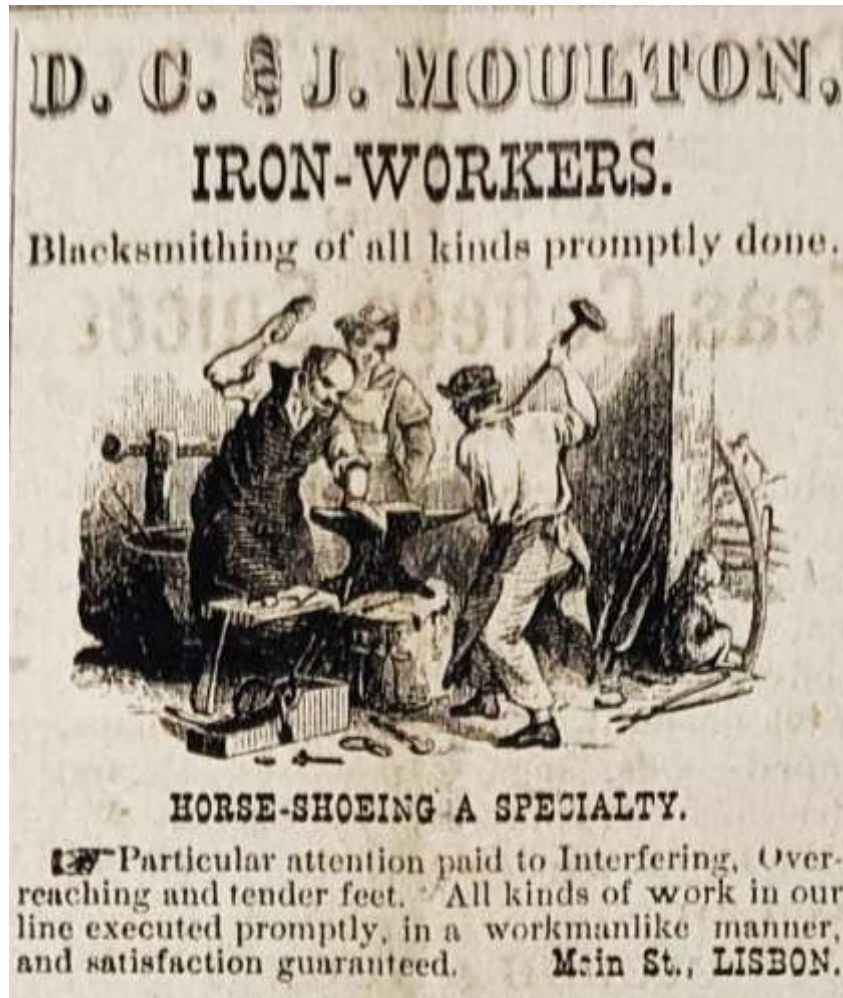
H. F. Hibbard's blacksmith shop was located on Lisbon's North Main Street near the site of the parking lot across from New England Wire Technologies' main office.



Hibbard's shop is pictured after years of business and accumulated salvage. Hibbard is standing at left.



Frank Hibbard in his later years with daughter Fanny Forbes Chamberlin



Dudley Moulton also kept a blacksmith shop on North Main Street. His shop was located in the area of the parking lot between the former Lisbon Health Clinic (Carleton Block) and the Du-Ez store and gas station.



Dudley Child Moulton (1848-1918) was born in Bath to Smith and Mary (Child) Moulton. The Moultons were early settlers of Lyman, and the Child family early settlers of West Bath. Dudley Moulton moved to Lisbon in 1860 and learned blacksmithing from Edward Blodgett. Moulton then carried on his own blacksmith business for 48 years. Moulton was a charter member of Lisbon's Concordia Lodge of the Odd Fellows and at his death the oldest founding member. He is pictured at left with his wife, Mary (George). The couple had one child.



The English Block at the corner of Main and School Streets, (now the park and gazebo) was built in 1820 by merchant John Smith and sold 20 years later to C. B. Hutchins of Bath. Ned English purchased the block in 1883 and kept a general store there until the building burned in 1929.



Ned Goodell English (1860-1932) was born in Lisbon. His parents Lewis and Emily (Page) English were from Lyme and Whitefield, N.H. Ned first worked as a store clerk in Woodsville and then boarded at the old Abram hotel in Lisbon where he worked as a clerk. In 1883 he married Annie Clark of Newbury, Vt., and purchased the former Hutchins Block where he kept a popular general store and rented space for other shops and apartments. English was appointed Lisbon Postmaster in 1883, and the Lisbon Post Office was once housed in his block as well as the first Lisbon bank. English also owned a Lisbon grist mill with which he ran a large grain business connected with his store. The grist mill was lost in the great fire of 1901. Ned and Annie English had one child. Annie died in 1917, and in 1919 Ned married Daisy Howe, a Lisbon schoolteacher. Ned was an active member of the Democratic party, the Sons of the American Revolution, a Mason, a village commissioner, school board member, President of the Lisbon Light and Power Company, and a congregant of the Lisbon United Congregational Church. His landmark general store was known to be the anchor of Lisbon Square, and it was greatly missed after burning down.



Moffett's Carriage Shop c. 1880

Charles Moffett (1839-1902) was born in Littleton, N.H. and moved to Lisbon in 1863. He first owned a Lisbon meat market, grocery store, and lumber business. He then owned the carriage shop and creamery (which he organized) and carriage dashboard mill - all operated in his building pictured above. He also served as a deputy sheriff and Lisbon Police Chief and was a member of the Lisbon School Board and involved in other town committees. Moffett was one of the most prominent and popular Lisbon businessmen of his time. He was married to Belle Hibbard, the sister of Lisbon blacksmith H. Frank Hibbard, and they had no children. The old shop burned in 1969, and the site is now a parking space behind the Lisbon Public Library.

MARCH 2020

JONATHAN KIMBALL ATWOOD A LIFETIME OF MARRYING AND MAKING BOBBINS



Jonathan Kimball (J. K.) Atwood (1828-1911) was born in Landaff, New Hampshire to Moses and Mary Ann Hall Atwood. J. K. was the oldest of a large family and had seven brothers and one sister. Their Atwood ancestors arrived in Landaff by the 1780s. By 1840, Moses Atwood had moved his family to Lisbon. Moses died in 1847, probably from tuberculosis, and his son J. K. became head of the farming household. J. K. first learned the jeweler trade. His brother, Stephen, was a jeweler in Lisbon for a short time. By 1851, J. K. was working as a night watchman in a Lisbon peg mill. He then started making bobbins in a Lisbon shop with just one lathe. By 1860, J.K. was in the bobbin business in a big way in Lisbon and was wealthy enough to build a mansion along a bluff rising up from the main downtown Lisbon area. The street he used to access his home was then named Atwood Street. It is now named Grafton Street. J. K. was also involved in shoe peg manufacturing in Lisbon by 1870 but switched completely to the more lucrative bobbin manufacturing. J. K. was a pioneer in New Hampshire bobbin manufacturing. By 1896, his Lisbon factory was the largest producer of rough bobbins in the United States and required 25 employees.

J. K. also built and assisted with saw mills in Lisbon and in Jericho and Colebrook, N.H. He is credited with building anywhere from 10 to 30 houses in Lisbon, according to different sources. He was very involved in the Lisbon community and was a founder and owner of the first Lisbon electric light company, and he was a member of the Congregational Church in Lisbon and known as a staunch Democrat. J. K. always wore his signature stovepipe hat which he is holding in the photo above.



An 1865 view of Lisbon from the east side of Lisbon across Main Street and the river to the west side shows J. K. Atwood had taken his place with other Lisbon manufacturers who built mansions on the bluff above Lisbon's downtown. It is circled in red above. Today it is the home of Karl Herzig and Karen Romlein. J. K. Atwood's name appears on the same site on the 1860 map of Lisbon, but the real estate was only valued at \$800 in the 1860 Census, so the mansion may not have been built or finished that early. The 1860 Census also lists a maid and boarder who made harnesses were living in the Atwood household. In 1870, J. K.'s real estate is valued at \$8,000. A red arrow points to the old covered bridge where the School Street Bridge now spans the Ammonoosuc River.

J. K. first manufactured bobbins while occupying a steam mill and store house near the intersection of what is now Atwood Street and Landaff Road. The site is now a large gravel parking lot abutting the restored railroad station. In June of 1878, that bobbin operation burned down. Five months later, after entering into a partnership with a Manchester, N.H. firm, J. K. Atwood & Co., had built a three-story building 45' wide x 50' long on the same site. 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 railroad car load of bobbins every week. Wood was delivered to the mill by teams of horses and by the B.C.&M. Railroad which had laid a siding from their main track past the mill enabling the mill to load cars directly from their dryers with only one handling. The mill was warmed throughout and the bobbins dried by steam.



J. K. Atwood's bobbin mill is pictured in the late 1800s with some of the employees. J. K. is wearing a suit and standing in the back left with his hands on his hips. He built a row of houses, pictured behind him on Atwood Street, for his employees. The new street also opened up another way to access Savageville and Pearl Lake Road. This mill burned down on September 6, 1904.

J. K. wasted no time making a name for himself, not only as a pioneer in bobbin manufacturing but as a very kind man and a leading and respected businessman in Lisbon. He wasted no time marrying either - a total of six times in his life, and he outlived all his wives. Had J. K. found another bride before he passed away in 1911, he was open to marrying again. J. K. first married on January 1, 1851 to Lydia Harris, a woman from Whitefield, N.H. He was 22 years old, and she was 20. Lydia died in March of 1852. There is no official record of her death or cause that we can find.



In February of 1855, J. K. married Rebecca Pingree of Littleton, pictured at left. They had one child, Clara, before Rebecca died in July of 1858 from tuberculosis. Wife number three was 27-year-old Sarah Hibbard who married J. K. in February of 1859 and helped raise his daughter, Clara. This marriage lasted the longest of any of J. K.'s marriages. Sarah was the daughter of Horatio and Joanna Moulton Hibbard of Bath, New Hampshire. J. K. and Sarah had two children, Henry and Mary Ellen. It was during this marriage that J. K. started really

establishing himself as a local businessman and displaying his wealth by having that stately mansion with a cupola built overlooking Lisbon. Sarah passed away in March of 1881 from brain inflammation.



The next year, J. K. married Elizabeth Vance Parker, pictured at left, a 43-year-old widow from Barton, Vermont. J. K. was 54 years old. Elizabeth died 12 years later, at the beginning of 1894 from a perforated intestine.

The next year, in the spring of 1895, J. K. married Clara Richardson Morse, a 43-year-old widow from Barnet, Vermont who was a dressmaker. J. K. was 66 years old. Nine years later, Clara died from a blood infection. J. K. was 76 years old and a widower once again. An old newspaper article told about J. K. and his wives, and his advice was shared in the article. He said all his wives had been excellent women and that unhappy marriages are always the fault of the husband. He attributed his success at marriage to his good nature, sobriety, and judicious flattery. He admitted that he had been fortunate, but there was a remarkable story connected with his sixth marriage.

On October 22, 1904, nine months after J. K.'s fifth wife, Clara, passed away, J. K. was married for the sixth and final time to a widow named Maria White who had been living in Massachusetts. Her maiden name was Goodnow, and she was raised in the Sugar Hill District of Lisbon. She and J. K. had been sweethearts in their younger years and had planned to marry one day. For whatever reason, they went their separate ways instead and did not see each other for over 50 years. Maria and J. K. rekindled their romance after losing their spouses. He was 75, and she was 68 when they were finally married. J. K. considered that final marriage ideal and perfect. They were married for 3-1/2 years when Maria passed away in 1908 from kidney disease.

J. K. liked being married and considered himself to be very popular with the ladies. He was 83 years old and still looking for another wife when he passed away of kidney disease. He had been living in Plymouth, N.H. with his daughter, Clara, due to several months of failing health. His body was returned to Lisbon where he rests in Grove Hill Cemetery with four of his wives: Clara, Rebecca, Sarah, and Elizabeth. They each have a small, modest stone in the Atwood family lot. J. K.'s own gravestone was erected by his daughter, Clara Atwood Baker. J. K.'s wife, Maria, rests in a Foxboro, Massachusetts cemetery with her first husband. The grave for J. K.'s first wife, Lydia, is not of record. Since she died in 1852, she may have been buried in the old cemetery that was behind the Lisbon Methodist Episcopal Church on South Main Street. The "residents" of that cemetery were moved up to the new Grove Hill Cemetery before the railroad tracks were built in 1853. She may be in the Atwood lot in Grove Hill in an unmarked grave.

APRIL 2020

RESEARCH AT HOME

While we are at home during this historic time of self-isolation and social distancing, and libraries, museums, town, state, and national archives are closed, we can still look back at history and work on genealogy research from the comfort of our own homes by using some informative and FREE websites. Here are several of our favorites.

One free site is www.familysearch.org. Unfortunately, right now some records are not available due to archive closures, but there is still a huge amount that is accessible. Even though the FamilySearch site is free, an account still has to be created. All that is required is a username and password. That's all you have to do. This is a great resource, as members of the Church of Jesus Christ Latter-Day Saints have made a practice of microfilming vital statistics for years and years and sharing them with the world for free and without any obligation. Images of original documents with vital information, all the U. S. Censuses from 1790 to 1940 (except for 1890 which was lost to fire), public family trees (and options to view private trees), probate records going back to the 1700s for some states and counties, military records from the Revolutionary through Vietnam Wars, various other categories and collections, and ideas for home activities, are just some of the possibilities on the site. You can also make your own family tree and collaborate with others. Family tree statistics on this site can be edited (with a submitted explanation) by anyone, so there are some errors. It's still a good baseline for information, though, especially if you make it a rule to only rely on the actual images of primary sources. The old estate inventories are especially interesting to read. There is no general index of all the probate records, but they are chronological, and it's interesting to go through until you see a familiar surname or see a town in which you are interested. Here are some examples of Grafton County Probate Records included in the FamilySearch collection:

John Young was an original grantee of Lisbon, where his sons settled in 1775. An image of the transcription of John Young's will dated November 10, 1784 is in the Grafton County Probate Records Collection. Young signed his will in Hanover where he was living at the time with his second wife, Theodora, the daughter of Dartmouth College founder, Eleazar Wheelock. He left his wife all of his buildings and land, his cow, house furnishings, and funds to purchase a handsome mourning ring. The rest, residue, and remainder was to be equally divided between his eight sons. He left to his six daughters half the shares he left his sons.

The Inventory of the Estate of Robert Barkley/Berkeley of Lyman who died September of 1804 lists all his worldly possessions which included 33 tons of hay, wheat, oats, flour, rye, peas, Indian corn, potatoes, 49(0) lbs. of cheese, sheep, hogs, cattle, a horse, saddle, pitch forks, hoes, a sleigh, feather bed, a lantern, wool, leather boots, a loom, a looking glass, and many other items for a total amount of over \$800. The hay was valued at \$115, the cheese at \$25, and his seven cows were valued at \$13 each. Berkeley emigrated from Scotland and came to Lyman as a young man. He was a Revolutionary War soldier, and according to his pension affidavit, he served in New Hampshire's Northern Department of the Continental Army in the famous Benjamin Whitcomb's Independent Corps of Rangers. Berkeley was with Major Benjamin Whitcomb in Canada when Whitcomb killed British General Patrick Gordon. Berkeley died at the age of 48 after falling off the first village bridge in Lisbon while he was helping build it.

The 1801 Inventory of Moses Noyes of Landaff listed his land holdings at 83 acres valued at over \$500 as well as five tons of hay (\$22), 12 bushels of unthreshed oats (\$60), oxen, a cow, calf, 8 sheep, 1 pair of shoes, 1 hat, 4 pair of britches, 4 coats, 7 shirts, linen items, 25 skeins of woolen yarn, 9-1/2 pounds of wool, and many other items. The land, hay, and unthreshed oats were the most valuable items in the inventory. His total inventory was \$807.

If you want to look for specific graves, you can do that for free, too. Visit www.findagrave.com. There is an option to register or sign in, but you don't have to do that. You can still search the site. Choose from options, and fill in the blanks. A picture of a gravestone will most often come up with information, and sometimes there is a bit of genealogy included. You can contact via email the person who posted the information since the contact information is listed as well. There are links as you scroll down where you can look for more graves with the same last name, as well.

Another free site is www.usgenweb.org. It is a free genealogy website for the whole United States. Go to the site, and click on the state you want to search and fill in the blanks. It goes by county, and if you're lucky there will be a list of links and maybe a person on the town list who will do free look-ups. Our Society used to be on the list as a host for Lisbon, Lyman, and Landaff, and for some reason it has been deleted. We are working on getting the information updated, so we can be listed as a resource again.

If you want to access a free, online library, a good site is www.archive.org. To the right of the library icon on the home page is the search field. Above that is a line of icons. Choose the book icon, which is a text version of what you want if you're looking for a book. Search for any subject or a specific book. Images of books that fit the search field choices will come up, and you can choose one. Then once the book is displayed, you can search and find a name or word you are looking for within the whole book, or you can turn the pages and read it. One example is *Historical Sketches of Lyman, New Hampshire*. After typing that in the search field, images of books that match in some way will be displayed on your screen, and you can pick the one you want. In this case, the image shown at left was chosen, just as it appeared on the screen. Click on the image, then the whole book comes up on the screen (as shown below, right), and you can search within it or read it page by page.



The *Gazetteer of Grafton County* is another excellent book for researching all the towns in the county. There are other county gazetteers at archive.org as well.



Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps are really interesting, and you can view the New Hampshire maps at <https://www.dartmouth.edu/~library/digital/collections/maps/sanbornmaps/> for free. Click on the option to view the maps, then scroll down to choose the town you want to look at, or fill in the search field. You can download the very detailed and interesting maps and enlarge them for study. The oldest Lisbon maps are from 1896. Below is view 2 of the 1896 map.



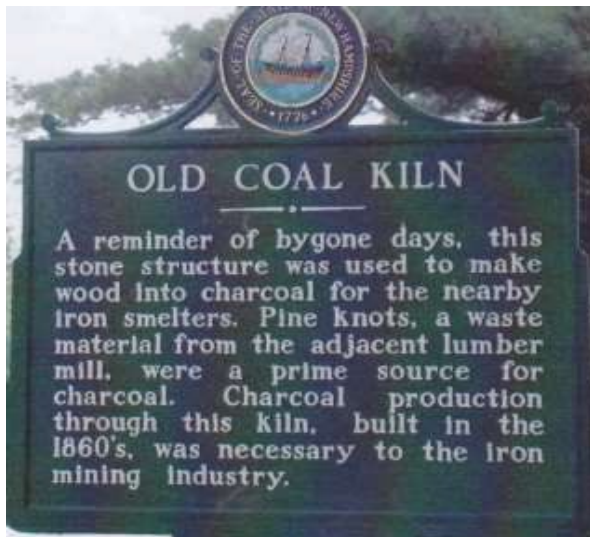
While the next site isn't a totally free site if you choose to purchase an old map, <http://old-maps.com/new-hampshire.htm>, it is still fun to look through and see what is available. You can look at the maps first then decide whether you want to purchase one for your collection. Some of the maps on the site can be accessed and easily read for free. Included on the site are NH maps from 1816, 1860, and 1892 as well as Bird's Eye maps, topographical maps, and more.

For 50 options for free research sites, you can visit <https://familyhistorydaily.com/genealogy-resources/50-free-genealogy-sites/>.

Good luck, and feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

LISBON COAL KILN

The historic coal kiln beside Route 302 in Lisbon is commemorated by a New Hampshire Historical Highway Marker. It was designated a historical site in 1965 through efforts of the Lisbon Area Historical Society which was organized in 1964.



The historical society's 1965 project was to have the State mark the historic kiln and have a society-maintained public picnic area nearby. Many can probably remember the picnic tables there, but what it did was draw some careless people to the site who littered and caused damage, so the picnic area project was eventually abandoned and the site let to go back to its natural state. The once majestic kiln is only a fraction of its original size, as it has suffered over the years due to the elements of nature, but mostly from people taking the kiln's flat stones for landscaping, hearths, etc. The kiln is and always has been on private property, and the view of it is now obstructed by field growth, which is probably a good thing.

In 2006, the historical society received permission from the Higgins family, owners of the property, to look into cleaning up around the kiln and prevent it from further deterioration. The historical society sought advice from Victor Rolando, a well-known industrial archaeologist from Vermont. Rolando came for a site visit, and his recommendation was to fill what was left of the kiln with sand to keep it from caving in more, or just leave it alone. The kiln was surrounded by poison ivy and filled with poison ivy and saplings, so it was decided it was best to leave it alone and not disturb the stones by removing the saplings, and also not clear everything around it, thereby drawing more attention to it in its vulnerable state.

Rolando was very impressed, as it was the only coal kiln existing in New Hampshire that he knew about at the time he visited. Originally, Lisbon's kiln was in the shape of a perfect, tall beehive made completely of fieldstones and a long, flat stone used for the lintel of the opening. In his book *200 Years of Soot and Sweat, The History of Archaeology of Vermont's Iron, Charcoal and Lime Industries* c. 1992, Revised 2006, Rolando explains that charcoal making (also called coaling) was made by the reduction of timber. Charcoal was made by controlled burning of the wood, and the burning was not allowed to progress beyond active smoldering which burned off all the spirits and pitch in the wood resulting in nearly 100 percent carbon remaining as charcoal. Sugar maple yielded the most pounds of coal per bushel (19 lbs.), which decreased stands of sugar maple used for production of maple syrup. Other yields of coal per bushel were followed by yellow birch (18 lbs.), beech (17 lbs.), and in less-varying increments by white and black ash, hemlock, poplar, spruce, basswood, and white pine being the lowest with 9.8 lbs. per bushel. Charcoal was cheap to make and light-weight for easier transportation. The coal which burned much cleaner and hotter than wood was used in smelting furnaces. The coal made in Lisbon was probably used at the Franconia Iron Works. For more information, click on the following link: http://whitemountainhistory.org/Franconia_Iron_Works.html.



The Lisbon coal kiln in 2006



The Lisbon coal kiln c. early 1900s is pictured after its top dome stones had been removed. The original kiln was in the shape of a complete beehive.

In recent years, the mystery of the exact date of construction of the kiln may have been answered. Looking through the diaries of the Minot family of Bath, New Hampshire, an entry was found on July 29, 1868 that states, "Martin Powers (a West Bath farmer) is framing a smelting furnace at Lisbon." Powers must have helped build the coal kiln, as there was no smelting furnace in Lisbon in or after 1868. Perhaps the diarist used the term loosely. (*The Minot Diaries, Life on a New England Farm 1830-1888*, Annotated by Andrea M. Fitzgerald and Illustrated by Craig Pursley on Behalf of the Bath Historical Society c. 2015.)



A photo from 1965 shows Lisbon Area Historical Society Treasurer Charlie Besaw (L) and President Martha Conrad looking over the inside of the remains of the coal kiln.

JULY/AUGUST 2020

POND CEMETERY IN LYMAN



Lyman has four cemeteries: Parker Hill, Moulton Hill, Center, and Pond. Pond Cemetery is a beautiful little cemetery on a knoll fronted by a stone retaining wall along a sharp corner on Lyman Road between Ogontz and Quebec Roads. Pond Cemetery is bordered on three sides by pine trees and granite posts with a single line of chain in between. It overlooks Ogontz Pond, or it would if trees didn't block the view. When the shoreline was clear of trees, there must have been a beautiful view over the pond from the cemetery. The front of Pond Cemetery has granite steps that lead up to and through a white fence into the yard. Ogontz Pond was originally named John Young Pond until Ogontz Camp was built on its shores in 1923 as an elite girls' camp.



As one enters the cemetery, the first gravestone on the right marks the resting place of John Young (1791-1861). His stone is broken and embedded in the ground. The next stone is for his wife, Pamela Eastman Young (1796-1874).

John Young married Pamela Eastman of Lyman in 1812 and soon after moved to the head of the pond named for him and operated a farm. He built a dam and used the waterpower to operate a grist mill and also did various kinds of mechanical work. He died of a spinal complaint on December 24, 1861 at the age of 70. He was born in Lisbon (then known as Gunthwaite), the son of Revolutionary War soldier and early Lisbon settler, John Young and Jane Webb Young.



The third gravestone on the right, entering through the front gate, is the oldest stone in Pond Cemetery and marks the resting place of 17-year-old Brackett Young (1826-1843) son of John and Pamela Eastman Young. Brackett died after being caught in a belt in his father's mill. The next gravestone is for John and Pamela's other son, John A. S. Young, born in 1823, who died in 1846 of typhoid fever. His stone is also embedded in the ground. John and Pamela had four other children who moved away.

*Stop, traveller, as you pass by,
As you are now, so once was I,
As I am now, soon you must be,
Prepare for death, and follow me.*

In 1950, Dr. Harold Pickwick and his wife, Hazel Ash Pickwick, inventoried Pond Cemetery and copied down the inscriptions on the stones. They listed 97 stones and 118 burials. Probably their incentive to inventory the cemetery was that Hazel's Ash ancestors rest there. In 2010, Vermont historian, Phil Somers, updated the inventory of Pond Cemetery and inventoried the other cemeteries in Lyman as well as Landaff Center Cemetery. His work is a very useful resource as there is an index, descriptions of stones as well as their inscriptions, and maps of each cemetery. Somers updated the Pickwicks' work at Pond Cemetery with over 30 changes, many stones having been broken or fallen down since 1950.

In the second row behind the Young plot there are four Ash gravestones. Going left to right, are the stones for Phineas Ash and his wife, Hannah Cowing Ash, and Phineas Ash Jr., and his wife, Lucinda Richardson Ash. They were all descendants of some of the earliest settlers of Lisbon and Lyman. The Cowing name is also spelled "Cowen," and there is a little pond between Dodge and Ogontz Ponds that bears the Cowen name after Hannah's brother, Rev. Charles Cowen, who lived there. Phineas Ash cleared and settled the opposite shore of John Young Pond from the cemetery.

To the far, left front is the plot for the James and Mercy Stickney Garland family. They had four very young daughters, Mary, Elizabeth, Luvia, and Huldy, die in one month in 1860. The cause of death was listed as unknown on the death certificates. Another child, Seth, 17 years old, died three years later, and Mercy passed away three years after that, when she was thirty-eight. Her stone is broken and embedded in the ground. In 1871, James and Mercy's son, Daniel, died at the age of eighteen. His stone is broken diagonally.

The Pickwicks recorded that in 1950 the stones for the young Garland children were deep in the ground. They are not visible now. James was a farmer and a Civil War veteran who enlisted at Jefferson, NH for a term of nine months and served as a Private in Co. C, 15th NH Infantry. He enlisted in September 1862 and mustered out in August 1863 and died two months later in Lyman at the age of thirty-nine. Typhoid and scarlet fever were prevalent during those times, and maybe that is what took the lives of the Garland family.

Every stone has a story to go with it, and some are lost to time. One that has an interesting history is the grave of Lyman native and Quebec Road farmer, William Martin (1790-1882), who lived to be a spry 92-year-old and died of "old age." His wife, Betsey Noyes Martin lived to be 96 and also died of "old age." They never had children. William Martin is the grandson of Samuel Martin (1720-1806) who was born in Connecticut, served in the French and Indian and Revolutionary Wars and is believed to have been the first white settler in Lisbon. Samuel's son, William born in 1744 in Connecticut, also served in the Revolutionary War. They must have had some great family stories.



The stone for William Martin (1790-1882) is still broken and imbedded in the ground as it was in 1950 when the Pickwicks inventoried the cemetery. His wife Betsey rests beside him, and her stone is broken and leaning on its base. Notations in a Martin family abstract and other places suggest that William's father, William Sr. (1744-1842) rests beside him in an unmarked grave. If that is true, then that would be the earliest burial in Pond Cemetery.

Taking a stroll through our old and wonderful cemeteries is a lesson in history. The stones and inscriptions are very interesting, and Phil Somers' work makes it very easy to find graves. His inventories of Lyman and Landaff cemeteries are at the Lisbon, Lyman, and Landaff Town Clerk offices as well as the Lisbon Area Historical Society.

SEPTEMBER 2020

NORTH LISBON and BARRETT'S CROSSING

North Lisbon was once a bustling section of Lisbon and in its history had a general store, post office, train station, saw and lumber mills, boarding houses, a one-room school, prosperous farms, an exclusive resort, seasonal playhouse, coal kiln, whetstone factory, blacksmith shop, and bobbin mill. In the older newspaper brevities, North Lisbon included everything from just above Salmon Hole, including Walker Hill, up to the Littleton line. The center of North Lisbon is Barrett's Crossing near the half-way point on the main road between Lisbon and Littleton. It was named for Lorenzo "Loni" Barrett (1857-1941) who in 1895 purchased a house there where he and his wife, Addie (Hall) lived, raised a family, farmed, and kept a general store for 46 years.

Their property was located along the bank of the west side of the Ammonoosuc River near the bridge crossing over the river to Mt. Eustis Road and access to Streeter Pond Road. John Townsend was operating a store and post office at the same site as shown on an 1892 map of North Lisbon, and Townsend was appointed North Lisbon Postmaster in 1894, shortly before he died. Barrett also kept a post office on his property and was North Lisbon Postmaster from 1895-1904. His compensation in 1901 was \$95.01. Barrett was also a fish dealer and took his horse and wagon or sleigh around the area peddling fish shipped by train to North Lisbon weekly. While living at the crossing, Barrett served on the Lisbon School Board for 20 years and in 1907 represented Lisbon in the NH Legislature.

Today, Route 302 goes behind the old Barrett house, but the main road used to dip down and go in front of the Barrett house, where the road was once lined with street lamps. A watering tub was kept on the porch of the store. In 1931-32, a new cement highway was built between Lisbon and Littleton, and the main road no longer went in front of Barrett's store but went close behind it as it does today. The driveway to the old Barrett house is now right off Route 302, before the turn to the bridge. The picture below shows when the main road passed in front of the property.



A railroad station was necessary in North Lisbon because of the Littleton Lumber Company mill in the sawmill community of Willowdale in South Littleton, North Lisbon's Andrews' box mill near Barrett's Crossing, and the grain shipments for the horses used in those mill operations. The train also picked up and dropped off mail for the North Lisbon Post Office. The 1860 and 1892 maps of North Lisbon both show "station" and "sta.," respectively, on the same spot on the east side of the river along the railroad tracks just north of Barrett's Crossing. The Boston and Maine Railroad White Mountain Division lists North Lisbon on its June, 26 1899 timetable for daily Boston night express for passengers at 11:31pm, Sunday passengers at 6:50pm, Monday stock freight at 8:02am, daily local freight (except Sun.) at 8:40 and 8:55am, and daily through freight (except Sun.) at 2:55 and 3:22pm.

In February of 1896, heavy rains raised the Ammonoosuc River so high that much of the property along the river in North Lisbon was destroyed. Ice, timber, and logs from mills above North Lisbon came downriver and took out the low wooden bridge at Barrett's Crossing. Flood waters peaked around midnight, and Loni and Addie Barrett sat up all night expecting they and their two young children, Earl and Naomi, might have to leave their home on the riverbank. Loss of the bridge cut off access to the railroad station, so Barrett carried mail over from his house to the station in a boat. A temporary foot bridge was built and connected to what was left of the old bridge to accommodate mail delivery and many others needing to cross. A new bridge was soon built, and eighteen of the workers boarded at the Barrett home.



Work begins on building a new bridge at Barrett's Crossing after the flood of February 1896



Progress



The new bridge at Barrett's Crossing cost the Town of Lisbon \$4,998.86 (\$3,149.82 for stone work, \$1,700 for the iron bridge, \$78.11 for plank, and \$70.93 for the foot bridge). The Town sold salvageable lumber from the old bridge for \$15.73. We could make a guess that the little boy on top of the bridge is Earl Barrett, and Loni Barret is holding his daughter, Naomi's hand, and Addie Barrett is leaning on the bridge beam.



Waiting for the train on the platform on the east side of Barrett's Crossing soon after the new bridge was built in 1896



At one time, the Andrews' mill on the east side of the river in North Lisbon (pictured above c. 1900) employed 300 men, including millhands, woodsmen, and teamsters. There was a company store, boarding house, and large horse sheds on the east side, and a footbridge, built by neighborhood men, crossed the river leading to a boarding house on the west side of the river. Andrews also owned land on the west side of the river where there were two large barns (no longer standing, but the high drives can be seen), and he also owned the farm that today is the Carvers'

home and Ammonoosuc River Auction Company barn. Most North Lisbon men who weren't farming full-time worked at Andrews' mill. Working a 60-hour week there and earning \$9 was considered a good wage.



Andrews' mill employees c. 1908



In October of 1891, Andrews' mill began grading land for a side track near their log landing. This photo taken sometime before 1915, shows a Shay steam locomotive with a load of logs at Andrews' mill. A Shay locomotive was powerful and able to operate on poor track conditions. The caption reads that the boy pictured is "probably Jimmy Henry." It's possible this boy was related to the famous Lincoln lumber baron, James E. Henry, who was born in 1831.



This picture shows the Andrews' mill horse shed and other outbuildings and a load of logs. A teamster can be seen with a pair of horses at center right.

A September 10, 1915 fire destroyed the Andrews' mill. A night watchman discovered the fire at 8pm. It was believed to have started in a hot box on top of one of the machines in the box shop. The fire which spread through the mill and boiler room, put the fire pump out of commission. A bucket brigade using river water soon formed and saved the nearby lumber piles and further spread to the mill's east-side boarding house. The main road on the west side of the river was lined with over 100 automobiles with passengers watching the fire as it completely burned the mill to the ground. A boxcar filled with boxes that was on the track siding near the mill also burned. At the time, there were about 50 men employed at the mill. They lost their jobs, and the mill was never rebuilt. The mill was partially covered by insurance. The loss was estimated to be \$50,000.

In 1909 the railroad station at North Lisbon was named Barrett's Station because of the confusion in naming railroad stations North, South, and East which had resulted in at least one train wreck. The Barrett Station building was eventually moved across the river to a field beside the North Lisbon schoolhouse. In 1946, the station building was moved again to its present location up on a knoll across from Barrett's Crossing, where it is part of a private home. In 1995 the railroad tracks were removed, and the railroad bed became part of the Ammonoosuc Recreational Rail Trail.



The North Lisbon one-room schoolhouse stood just before today's Varney-Smith Lumber property and was built in 1909 on land purchased for \$5. It was closed in 1959.



Students at North Lisbon School September 1933 (Top row L-R) Ola Ainsworth, Nelson Higgins, Margaret and Bob Wakefield, Raymond Smith, Irene Elliot, Velma Demick, Ruth Morse, (2nd row L-R) Annie Bristol, Jimmy Morrison, Ida Byron, Doris Elliott, David Burgess, Clifford Varney, Teacher Alice Croteau, (bottom row L-R) Chester Proulx, Arthur Dodge, Mary Byron, Susan Dodge, Mary Morrison, John Welch, Dorothy Bristol, Clarice Schoff.

David Burgess (1926-2013) spent some of his childhood years living near the Barrett's Crossing section of North Lisbon. He remembered that Barrett always wore black pants held up by suspenders over a long-sleeved, striped blue shirt. He wore gold-rimmed glasses and a black derby hat through the hottest days of summer. When the weather was cooler, Barrett would wear a black vest with gold buttons. He kept a gold watch with a chain in his vest pocket.

In the early 1930s, Loni Barrett's store had a hand-cranked gas pump which delivered gas at 11 cents a gallon. There was a 50-gallon drum of kerosene with a small faucet for those needing it for

fuel. There was also a large barrel of motor oil with a spout. The store was stocked with a small supply of groceries, candy, tobacco and everyday necessities. The store had a kerosene heater in the winter months, as year-round it was a gathering place for discussion and for listening to the radio. All the candy was stored inside a glass case, and there was also an assortment of soda pop. A penny could buy a tootsie roll, licorice stick, or sucker. A candy bar cost a nickel. Another glass case contained cigarettes, chewing tobacco and tins of smoking tobacco along with assorted pipes. The store also stocked pocket watches, jack knives, boots, gloves, clothing, lamp globes, lanterns, wooden matches and other essentials.

Burgess also remembered the North Lisbon railroad station as being 10'x16', and it had a woodstove inside, a corner desk or office, and benches. It was located on the road between the tracks and the river. There was also a section house for the section crew. The siding was a spur where the trains could pull over and let others go by, and it was on the left of the main railroad track between the track and the river.

Rock Pool Club was a short-lived resort along the South Branch of the Gale River just up the road from Barrett's Crossing. The Gale River flows into the Ammonoosuc River below Barrett's Crossing. The North Lisbon property that became Rock Pool Club was purchased in 1931 by the Collins family of Littleton, originally from Boston. Their plan was to build an exclusive resort for the area's wealthy summer folk. The main attraction was Rock Pool, a 20' deep pool of water (advertised as a balmy 68 degrees) in the Gale River between high ledges known locally as the narrows or Gale River Gorge. A diving board was installed, and a lifeguard was provided. A short distance down the river was a smaller and shallower pool named "Peaceful Pool." Both pools had sandy beaches for tanning, picnicking, games, etc. The resort also had a horse stable, bridle paths, nature trails, a weave shed with handmade gifts, and a gingerbread house, or witch house. Tea was served there and herbs from the garden were available for sale. Famous visitors to the resort were Eleanor Roosevelt and Bette Davis. The Collins's dream to have an exclusive resort did not last due to financial and health reasons, and in the 1950s, the property was sold to a Massachusetts family who lived on the property and built cottages rented by some Franconia College faculty and students. The property was sold again in 1994 and is a private home.

At some point in history, there was a playhouse in a barn before Barrett's Crossing. The property was owned by the Kay family, Smith family, and then the Boutin family for many years. The barn on the property has been gone for a long time, but the house is still standing and is just north of Varney-Smith Lumber, which was originally a mill started by Fred Smith on his land. The business has grown over the years under the ownership of the Carbonneau family and has been an anchor of North Lisbon as a well-respected and thriving business.

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2020

OGONTZ CAMP



Ogontz Camp is located around the shores of Ogontz Lake in Lyman. It was founded and built in 1923 by Abby Sutherland and her husband William Furby Brown after they purchased 700 acres around Young Pond, the original name of the lake before it was changed by the State after the founding of the camp. Sutherland at the time owned and led Ogontz School and Junior College in Pennsylvania. Ogontz Camp has had several lives, first as an elite all-girls' camp, then as a horsemanship camp, and lastly as a center for specialized music and performance camps and as a venue for retreats, weddings, and other events.



Abby Sutherland (1871-1961) was born on Cape Breton Island in Nova Scotia and emigrated to Massachusetts with her family when she was a child. She graduated from teacher's college in Salem and began her teaching career, receiving a further degree from Radcliffe College in 1899, an honorary PhD from Temple University in 1950, and a PhD from the University of Pennsylvania in 1957 when she was 86 years old. Sutherland accepted a teaching position at Ogontz School in Elkins Park, Pennsylvania in 1902, and there she stayed becoming the owner and leader in 1909 and until the school was turned over to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in 1950. In 1917, she married William Brown, a cowboy from Colorado who she met on vacation. He passed away from a brain disease in 1927, four years after they started building Ogontz Camp.



On the new land in Lyman, construction of 12 sleeping cabins, a pavilion, and other buildings began immediately after purchase, and application to the camp began. That first year there were 20 campers and 10 counselors. At first, only students from Ogontz School could apply, then as word of mouth spread about the camp, students' friends were allowed to apply. The camp was open in July and August for ages seven to 18, and in the 1920s tuition was \$375 (equivalent to \$5,674 in 2020 according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics) or \$350 if the camper chose not to participate in horseback riding. There was an extra charge of 90 cents a week if a camper chose to have her laundry done locally. Some campers sent their laundry home. While the camp was very exclusive, expensive, and available mostly to the daughters of wealthy families, campers were discouraged from bringing with them expensive items or victrolas, so all

campers would feel equal.



Campers arrived by train at the Sugar Hill Station near Salmon Hole in Lisbon. A camp bus would fetch the girls and their trunks, and for two months the girls would live in a cabin and enjoy the country life and a multitude of activities. At the beginning of their country adventure, they had to go through the covered bridge at Salmon Hole, since it was standing until 1927.

Along with the original 12 sleeping cabins, there was a 13th cabin called the “jinx,” which was the bathroom cabin. Rows of cabins, another “jinx,” and other buildings were erected over the years. There was a little camp store with a post office and there was also an infirmary with registered nurses on call. Lisbon’s Dr. Pickwick was the camp doctor for decades.



Ogontz White Mountain Camp was a very serious endeavor, and much emphasis was put on good health, hygiene, physical activity, appreciation of nature, responsibility, self-confidence, posture, and so much more. One of the camp’s early brochures stated that it was real camp life for girls in the pines in the heart of the White Mountains. “Working with nature, we develop Health, Poise and Self-Control.” The camp also focused on camaraderie and the specific objectives communicated by offerings included archery, arts and crafts, boating, waterskiing, aquaplaning, dramas, writing (some for the camp paper “The Fagot”) and poetry, field hockey, golf (the camp had a 6-hole course), music, dance, hiking, horseback riding, riflery, tennis (there were 3 courts), excursions, and more. Most counselors were female academic contacts of Miss Sutherland’s. There were some male counselors, and almost all the younger male counselors were from Ivy League schools. All counselors were held to a very high standard.



Ogontz horse barn



boathouse and canoes



Woodcraft circle



Local families took in campers' laundry, which included the bright white uniform blouses. Local farms supplied milk, butter, eggs, meat, and produce to the camp. Some area residents also worked at different jobs at the camp.



Emphasis was made on wholesome foods and good nutrition, and Ogontz has always been known for its excellent food and baked goods, and there was always a talented chef on staff. By the 1930s, Ogontz had its own milk pasteurizing plant. Fifty-seven chickens were needed for each Sunday dinner, and every day 500 raised rolls were consumed by campers along with 200 quarts of milk.

Campers were weighed on a regular basis, and families were asked not to mail sweets and other food treats to their girls at camp. The camp in later times occasionally had its own greenhouse, vegetable garden, hens, and raised some pigs for meat.

There were many traditions followed by the campers from season to season. There was a daily flag raising and lowering. Sunday morning services of song and inspiration were held on a camp hilltop. Catholic campers could be driven into Lisbon for worship. Once a season, a lobster dinner with all the fixings and dessert could be earned by campers who were able to swim from the beach, across the lake, and back. There were many other traditions, one of the most solemn at the end of the season when each camper would set her own little candlelit boat adrift on the lake and make a wish for herself, a dear friend, and the camp. Reunions and fond reminiscing by campers and staff continue to this day.

The island in Ogontz Lake was named Oak Knoll, and the cove it is in was named Hunter Cove. A little cabin was built on the island so campers could enjoy a primitive experience if desired. The cabin and its furnishings were all made by Ogontz staff and campers, and as many as six campers could stay at a time. When Taps was played at the main camp, those on the island would yell, "good night" back to the camp.

In 1931, Sutherland began taking campers to the ocean, and that experience was known as Seagontz. The first year, Seagontz was in Rye, New Hampshire, and after that it was in Cape Small Point, Maine. Tuition to Seagontz for a two-week visit was an extra \$50.



Abby Sutherland (left) and Mary Frances “Frannie” Josey are pictured at one of the weekly Woodcraft gatherings of campers and staff held to help foster the camp spirit by singing, telling stories and having nature talks. After Abby’s passing in 1961, Frannie, who was a former Ogontz School student and Abby’s close associate for over 40 years, became director of Ogontz Camp until her passing in 1965, when the camp was sold by Abby’s brother and heir, Donald Sutherland.

Campers came from almost every state in the U.S., as well as from Canada, South America, Europe, and the Middle East. Girls from rich and famous families were no strangers to Ogontz Camp. JFK’s sisters, Eunice, Jean and Kathleen were campers in the 1930s, as were Walt Disney’s daughters. Famous composers, doctors, and major league athletes also sent their daughters to Ogontz. Anna Elizabeth Huber of Pennsylvania, and her sisters, attended Ogontz School and were also among the campers at Ogontz. They were the granddaughters of Charles Sumner Woolworth, who with his brother Frank Winfield Woolworth, founded the F. W. Woolworth Company. It only seems fitting that one of the campers from wealthy backgrounds would one day own the camp, and that is what happened. The person Abby Sutherland’s brother and heir, Donald Sutherland, sold the camp to in 1965 was former six-season Ogontz camper, Anna Elizabeth Huber (1921-1999), who became known at the camp and locally as “Miss Bette.”



Miss Bette was a lover of opera and traveled all over the world to hear her close friend, Luciano Pavarotti perform. She also loved horses and incorporated that passion by making Ogontz into more of a horsemanship camp. New stalls were built in the barn at Ogontz, and an equestrian center was built up the road from the camp. At one point, Ogontz had as many as 40 horses. During the camping season, Miss Bette and her Ogontz horses and their accomplished riders were fixtures at all area horse show competitions. In 1970, Miss Bette built her own home “the White House” on a hill overlooking the camp. To those who did not personally know Miss Bette, she and Ogontz Camp had a certain mystique.

Those who did have a closer relationship with her, knew Miss Bette was very generous and kind. She took local youth on trips to special dream destinations where the children were allowed to pick out gifts for themselves, and Miss Bette also hired many to work at the camp or attend camp for free. Her generosity inspired some of the youngsters to emulate her kindness and give back when they became adults.

During Miss Bette’s tenure, The Chorus of Westerly from Westerly, Rhode Island, began renting Ogontz. The Chorus was founded by George Kent in 1959 and made up of students from the New England Conservatory. The Chorus has traveled all over the world and is now 196-members strong, including children as young as eight years old, the only chorus in the U.S. that includes

children year-round. The Chorus's performance home is the George Kent Performance Hall, the former Immaculate Conception Church in Westerly (www.chorusofwesterly.org).



George Kent and his wife, Lynn, eventually entered into a formal lease with Miss Bette through which the camp was opened up to other choral groups and camps for specialties such as dancers, storytellers, horn players, and Suzuki camps where children as young as three years old came to play string instruments under teachers who were world-class musicians. In 1993, the Kents purchased Ogontz Camp from Miss Bette, and

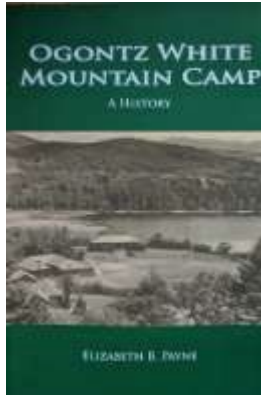
the Kents have worked to develop it into a summer destination for campers and artistic groups. Others, including locals, began renting the premises for weddings, reunions, special meetings, retreats, etc.

In the summer of 2009, for the occasion of the Chorus's 50th anniversary, a special gala was held for Ogontz's annual choral symposia. Six scholars from Trinity College in Cambridge, England were invited to accompany their director, Dr. Richard Marlow to the event. Also in attendance was Sir Richard Willcocks, one of England's most famous organists and chorale conductors. The event featured chorale music, acrobatic dancers, fireworks, and much reminiscing. The centerpiece of the gathering was the gigantic feast prepared on site in the camp bakery under the direction of Ogontz Chef and then Director, Andrew Lidestri, who had also been a member of the Chorus and an Ogontz Chorus camper since he was seven years old.



The newest structure at Ogontz is the massive pavilion named "Ogontz Hall." It is on the shore of the lake on the site of the original pavilion, which was razed in 1987 by Miss Bette. Throughout the typical "summer" season from Memorial Day to Columbus Day, Ogontz is a flurry of activity. Campers have also taken part in the day-to-day operation along with the regular staff of Ogontz. Even though the special camps for 2020 were canceled due to COVID, there were still some vacationers renting cabins throughout the summer, and as usual the campus grounds were well- manicured and there were flowers in gardens, boxes, and barrels.

So, why is the camp named Ogontz? According to the camp's website, www.campogontz.com, Chief Ogontz was a Sandusky Indian who had taught Jay Cooke, a banker in Elkins Park, Pennsylvania, wilderness skills when Cooke was a child. Cook leased his mansion to a female seminary from Philadelphia that needed more space. The new campus was named Ogontz School after Chief Ogontz. That was the school that Abby Sutherland led, and she named her beloved girls' camp in Lyman the same.



Information and images for this Moments in History comes from our collection and from *Ogontz White Mountain Camp, A History*, by Elizabeth

B. Payne © 2013. Elizabeth "Libbie" Payne was herself an Ogontz camper, counselor, and assistant director and continues an active involvement in the camp today. Libbie is also a member and supporter of the Lisbon Area Historical Society, and her 223-page book with over 350 pictures is available for purchase locally and through the Society.

DECEMBER 2020

FRED FOSTER'S SUPERB ACT OF HEROISM

Fred Foster (1856-1938) was born in Bath, New Hampshire, and as a young man moved to Lisbon where he worked as a blacksmith with Frank Hibbard on North Main Street. Both he and Hibbard boarded at the Chamberlins' home on West Street before the corner of Armstrong Avenue. Hibbard was related to the Chamberlins. On December 1, 1938, Fred Foster passed away from pneumonia and heart disease at the age of 82 at the Grafton County Hospital in North Haverhill where he had been a patient for four days. That was the second time he had been in that hospital for a serious ailment. The first time was when he was near death after a heroic act at the Grafton County Jail.



Fred Foster was a popular resident of Lisbon and very involved in the town. In his later years, probably when the blacksmith trade was no longer as active, Foster became a policeman in Lisbon, where he eventually served as Chief of Police and night officer. He was 70 years old when he started working as a turnkey at the Grafton County Jail. Foster had only been working a few months as a turnkey when on the night of October 21, 1926, a dangerous and self-proclaimed "bad man" from Plymouth, New Hampshire was brought to the jail to await trial for assault. According to a newspaper article, the prisoner was a wrestler and boxer with a bad reputation. Following procedure, Foster allowed the prisoner to use the jail office telephone so the prisoner could call his wife.

When Foster began escorting the prisoner back to his cell, the prisoner attacked Foster and punched him in the chin. Foster wasn't knocked down, but it did paralyze his right side, and Foster was unable to grab his pistol. He pulled the prisoner towards him in self-defense, and the prisoner then used his knee to give a terrible blow to Foster's stomach and grab Foster's pistol. He threatened to shoot Foster if he didn't give him the jail key. Foster refused, so the prisoner shot Foster in the stomach. Foster fell to floor, hit his head and was knocked unconscious. The prisoner then went into the jail keeper's room and grabbed a rifle. By that time, the jail superintendent was already running toward the office after hearing the shot. The prisoner shot at the superintendent but missed him. The shot awakened Foster, who managed to crawl to another room where there was a combination rifle/shot gun and ammunition. While the prisoner waited for another chance to shoot at the superintendent, Foster managed to load the gun, sneak up on the prisoner, shoot and kill him.

Jail attendants who heard the shots came running and almost shot Foster, who yelled to them that the prisoner was down. The county hospital was located next to the jail then, and Foster insisted on walking to

it and made it to the stairs of the hospital. He underwent surgery and wasn't expected to live. In three weeks, Foster was up and walking, and he lived for another 12 years. He was disabled enough that he was never able to do a full day's work again. He lived with relatives in Lisbon, and he always kept in his pocket the bullet that was retrieved from his body.

Authorities found that the prisoner had stuffed cigarettes and food in his clothing, which proved he had been planning his escape. Foster's heroic act prevented many other possible deaths at the hands of the prisoner had he succeeded with his escape.

In 1927, a delegation of Grafton County representatives in the State Legislature appropriated the sum of \$3,000 (which would be over \$40,000 today) to be awarded to Foster for his heroism. The money was kept in a trust at the Lisbon Savings Bank and Trust Company. He received the interest on the account every six months. At the discretion of the Bank Treasurer, Foster also received sums from the principal to secure and comfort him in his declining years and after his death for funeral expenses and a marker. He rests in the town of his birth, his grave marked by a modest gravestone in the Bath Village Cemetery.



A collection of Fred Foster's badges, police club, whistle, handcuffs, and Masonic veteran medal is part of the Lisbon Area Historical Society museum collection. The items came from Norma Titus of Landaff, NH. Her husband, Herman, whose aunt married into the Foster line, eventually came into the possession of the priceless artifacts.



Frank Hibbard is pictured at left in front of his blacksmith shop on North Main Street in Lisbon in the early 1900s. The man beside him could be Fred Foster during his blacksmithing years. Whether it is or not, this picture shows where Fred Foster worked into his late 60s before becoming part of the Lisbon Police Department and working special duty as a turnkey at the Grafton County Jail.