



# LAHS Moments in History

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JANUARY – DECEMBER 2022

Authored by Andrea Fitzgerald

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JANUARY 2022

## JAMAICA GLOVE COMPANY

Jamaica Glove Company was founded in 1903 in the small town of Jamaica in the middle of southern Vermont, but the company found it had difficulty filling positions. In 1913, the Lisbon Board of Trade was instrumental in bringing Jamaica Glove Company to the bustling mill town of Lisbon, which had an eager workforce and population of 2,400.

The glove company purchased from Lisbon Savings Bank & Trust Company the c. 1901 former Granite State Wire factory building at the top of Whitcher Street, and in December of 1913, the company began fitting the building with twenty sewing machines, equipment, cloth, and other goods for manufacturing cotton gloves, mittens, and postage delivery bags. The items were made with what was then known as Canton flannel, a heavy cotton material with a thick fleece nap on one side, and the wrist bands of the gloves and mittens were made of knitted material.

The company needed employees, mainly women. In the spring of 1914, Jamaica Glove placed a want ad in the newspaper for 50 “girls” to work at the factory. The ad also asked for 50 men to work in a woodworking plant (unnamed), but before any man would be hired at the woodworking plant, he had to “furnish” one woman to work in the glove factory!



This is an early photo of the former wire factory building at the top of Whitcher Street. The glove company purchased the old house in the foreground as a dwelling for its foreman and night watchman. The location of the factory was perfect, beside the railroad tracks and the B & M freight house.

H. B. Moulton, President

G. H. Hollenbeck, Vice Pres. and Treasurer

J. S. Buchanan, Sec. and Sales Manager

# THE JAMAICA GLOVE CO.,

MANUFACTURERS & WHOLESALE DEALERS

COTTON GLOVES and  
MITTENS



LISBON, N. H.

The company's letterhead advertised "BEST MADE" cotton gloves and mittens and "EVER READY MAILING BAGS." Lisbon businessman Herbert B. Moulton was the company's President. George Hollenbeck served as Vice President and Treasurer, and James Buchanan was Secretary and Sales Manager. Hollenbeck and Buchanan moved from Jamaica to Lisbon with the company, as did some of the former factory workers from Jamaica. Buchanan made the newspaper in the spring of 1915 when he purchased a new automobile. Seth Titus, who operated the general store that used to stand on the corner of School Street and Meadow Lane in Lisbon, was hired as the glove factory's traveling salesman. He later became a deputy sheriff, and one of the glove factory workers boarded at his home. Glove factory workers boarded at many homes in Lisbon.



The company enjoyed success and spruced up the outside of its factory and the house it had purchased for its foreman and night watchman, but by the late 1920s business had become very slow.



This photograph of the factory and workers was taken in 1932 after business had picked up again after the company secured contracts from three large chain stores, two of which were J. J. Newbury and Grant.

In the second half of 1933, the company was advertising that it needed “10 girls from ages 16 to 30 to run four machines.” Then, in July of 1934, Jamaica Glove Factory filed for bankruptcy and closed. The building sat empty until 1946 when it was purchased by International Shoe Corporation, then Rosita Shoe, and finally by White Mountain/Connors Footwear. Shoe manufacturing continued in the building by the different companies until 1995. At one point, White Mountain/Connors employed 300 at the factory, and in 1995 it was the last company in New Hampshire to manufacture leather footwear. The building is now office space for operations and warehouse for White Mountain Footwear Group.

## THE AMMONOOSUC GOLF CLUB



Lisbon was once known for its scenic 9-hole public golf course with its landmark farmhouse/inn and large gambrel-style white barn along Bishop Road. Small greens, narrow fairways, and commanding views made the course famously challenging and especially beautiful. The golf course's upper and lower holes were divided by Bishop Road, and the course had a little bit of everything: steep wooded pathways where roots became steps, ledges, woods, a brook with a little crossing bridge, a gully which once had a crossing bridge, a swamp, the Ammonoosuc River, a tub of cold spring drinking water, and that long, steep walk up the hill from the lowers. The golf course was known as Lisbon Village Country Club when it closed permanently in 2010, ending an 81-year run.

When the golf course opened for play in 1929 as The Ammonoosuc Golf Club, there was already a golf course in Sugar Hill, which was then part of the Town of Lisbon. The Town of Lisbon was enjoying an all-time peak in prosperity, and it was time for Lisbon to have its own golf course in the village. There was a large core group of businessmen and eager youth in Lisbon who were ready to hit their own village links after playing individually and as a successful competitive town team and caddying at other golf courses in the area.

Enos Ralph Bishop (1884-1968) was born on his family's farm on Bishop Road, and he went on to a successful banking career in Massachusetts. It was his idea to turn the family homestead into a golf course, and part of his plan was to cater to the wealthy families who sent their children to the exclusive Ogontz White Mountain Camp for girls in Lyman. Enos was the fifth generation to live on the property. His great-great grandfather, Josiah Bishop, settled on the property in 1770 and built a cabin near the river. The Bishops built and rebuilt after being flooded out, and the final and fifth home is part of the big white house pictured above.

Golf course architect, Ralph Barton was hired to lay out the course. Barton designed other golf courses, including the Mountain View Grand in Whitefield, Waumbek in Jefferson, the Eames's short-lived "busy man's" course in Littleton, and courses in Laconia, North Conway, Newport, and Greenfield, New Hampshire, one in Connecticut, and one in Bermuda. Lisbon's course was named The Ammonoosuc Golf Club and was often referred to as The 'Noosuc.

Work began on the course in 1928, and locals helped with the labor and clearing trees, especially along the river. By July 25, 1929, the course could be played by the public. The farmhouse had been renovated into an inn with

a dining room for fifty, and dinners were served by appointment. A beautiful porch and guest rooms had also been made. Lisbon resident, Duncan Wright, was groundskeeper for the first five seasons.

The course officially opened on July 3, 1930, with William Price hitting the ball off the first tee. One of the founders of New England Wire, Price was also President of The Ammonoosuc Golf Club and involved in the leadership of the Lisbon community. Seventy members enjoyed a celebration banquet, and it was voted to allow out of town guests to play for free two days a week. The course was tough, and few players scored under 40 for 9 holes. Vic Snell of Lisbon was the first club champion that year, winning with a score of 79 for 18 holes. Snell won many club championships over the years.

The original clubhouse was a small cottage (which eventually became a small home used by the last golf course owners). Work continued on the course especially in the first years, even while it was open to the public during regular season play. Many large rocks were removed from the fairways and greens were constantly improved. Drives off the fifth tee (which later became the first tee) were hit over Bishop Road to the fairway (or green, hopefully) on the other side. In the early years, wooden stairs were built on the hill that came down from the tee to the road.

By 1930, many area towns had their own golf course: Bethlehem, Lancaster, Whitefield, Crawford Notch, Jefferson, Franconia, Pike, Bretton Woods, and Wells River, Vermont. Stores in Littleton and Lisbon advertised every type of golf-related item of the day, including golf balls, bags, clubs, clothing, shoes, caps, and gloves. At that time, a set of calf-skin gripped, steel shafted golf clubs with chromium plated heads could be purchased for \$16.75 at the Littleton Hardware Store.



The Ammonoosuc Golf Club Team c. 1932: Front (L-R): Vic Snell, William Price. 2<sup>nd</sup> row: Stearns Graham (black sweater), Jerry Fox (bowtie), Dr. Frank Godfrey, Ted Hastings, Kenneth Jesseman (bowtie). 3<sup>rd</sup> row:

Eugene McGregor (white cap), Bill Rayburn, Wensley Smith (white hat), George McGregor. Back row: George E. Clark, Mel Chamberlain, Lionel Mullavey, George Morgan.





The golf team is pictured in 1932 on the ninth green just below Bishop Road. In the distance is the Ammonoosuc River, and behind the group are the fairways for the 6<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 9<sup>th</sup> holes. Back (L-R) George E. Clark, Mel Chamberlain, Lionel Mullavey, Wensley Smith, Ted Hastings, George McGregor, Eugene McGregor, William Price, Sterling Graham, Kenneth Jesseman. Front: Jerry Fox, Dr. Frank Godfrey, Vic Snell, Bill Rayburn, and George Morgan tending the flag for Vic Snell, a perennial club champion in the men's division.

Gene McGregor was a Lisbon native and started playing The Ammonoosuc at the age of ten. When he was thirteen, he started caddying for William Price and was paid 35 cents for nine holes. Gene caddied at the Lisbon course for five summers. Gene attended Dartmouth College and Dartmouth Medical School and started his medical practice in Lisbon in 1948 and retired in 1985. "Doc" was an excellent golfer, winning the men's division of the club championship multiple times.



This c. 1929 Ammonoosuc Golf Club score card has a front-page ad for Jesseman & Swinyer Garage which was on Lisbon's North Main Street. The back featured an advertisement for a fine a fine whiskey.

In 1940, Lisbon's golf course picked up on a popular innovation and started its own twilight league. In 1941, the Club voted that members of the armed services could play for free. By 1947, the cost of a single season ticket was \$12, husband and wife was \$15, and day play was \$1. In 1948 the season ticket costs were \$15 for single and \$25 for "man and wife," and a free day of golf on the first Sunday of opening season. When the season opened in 1949, anyone could play for free for five days. The day rates stayed the same for many years.

By 1968, the club had gas golf carts available and had joined the New Hampshire Golf Association. It had been advertising the sportiest golf course in the area for years, and it became more modernized.

Enos Bishop died in June of 1968, and in 1972 his wife and daughter deeded the golf course and buildings to the course manager, Ford "Cub" Leach and his wife, Fran. The Leaches made improvements, including turning the large white barn into a clubhouse with a pro shop, bar and snack bar with its convenient hotdogs rolling around in the steamer all day long. The Leaches sold the property in 1979, and it was sold and changed owners again in 1982 and in 1985. The golf course, barn and inn were then divided into separate properties. A new clubhouse was built, the barn was renovated into condominiums, and the inn was sold and is now a private home. The newest owners of the golf course chose to close it in 2010. The fairways and greens quickly disappeared into rough, brush, and small trees.

There was a swampy area on the lower holes, and at one time it sported a funny alligator sign. It was a common sight to see local golfers with tall rubber boots passing their off-time hunting for lost golf balls in the "alligators." There are many good memories of Lisbon's golf course, as well as all the fun tournaments: Scotch Foursome, Metropolitan, Member-Member, Club Championship, Husband and Wife, Jack and Jill, Member-Guest, an Annual Lions Club Tournament, Bishop Memorial, inter-club matches, and other special tournaments and pick-up games over the years.

MAY 2022

## MEMORIAL DAY ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO



One hundred years ago, Memorial Day was a huge celebration in downtown Lisbon. The day was set aside by everyone to participate in the celebration of honoring and remembering those who gave their lives in service to their country.

The grand scale of the Memorial Day celebration one hundred years ago was expected, since at that time all townspeople took pride in community and took an active part in community by showing up to watch or participate in all goings on. It was a way of life. Also, other than the local Lisbon newspaper and homes lucky enough to have a radio, congregating in the village, at the railroad depot, and at events was a way to connect with one another and stay informed about current events at the local, state, and national level.

On Memorial Day of 1922, in Lyman a fishing trip and picnic was held at John Young Pond (now Ogontz Pond), and children from the Lyman one-room schools performed at the Lyman Grange Hall.

In Landaff, Memorial Day of 1922 was observed at the Landaff Methodist Church where school children sang, recited, and performed drills. Then everyone marched to the Landaff Center Cemetery to decorate graves.

Lisbon celebrated Memorial Day of 1922 with a town wide gathering and program. No doubt, residents of Lyman and Landaff, who were members of the different organizations involved in the Lisbon celebration, also participated. The Lisbon Military Band, Timothy F. Dickinson Post of the American Legion, schoolchildren, the Col, Emery Post of the GAR, and its Women's Relief Corps, joined in a procession numbering 225 people who marched to the Lisbon Town Hall where the band gave a concert. Patriotic singing and speeches were given. After the ceremony at the town hall, everyone marched up to Grove Hill Cemetery where more singing was done, and the graves of veterans were decorated. Taps was played, and a firing squad salute concluded the ceremony.



Timothy Felt Dickinson was born in Lisbon on June 21, 1890, and died in France on November 2, 1918, from wounds suffered while serving in WWI. He was the only Lisbon soldier who died during WWI as a result of being wounded in action. In August of 1919, the first meeting of the Timothy F. Dickinson Post of the American Legion was held in Lisbon, and the organization was active until the early 1980s. (In 1947, the name of Lisbon's American Legion Post was changed from Dickinson Post #14 to Dickinson-Sweet Post #14 after two Lisbon brothers, Allen and John Sweet, gave their lives while serving their country during WWII. They were two of three Sweet brothers, Allen, John, and Morris who grew up in Lisbon and served at the same time during WWII.)

A street in Lisbon was named for Timothy Dickinson as well as other Lisbon soldiers who died while serving during WWI: PFC Percy Bergin, Co. L. 103<sup>rd</sup> Division, age 23, died of pneumonia in France on June 12, 1918; PVT Clark Goudie, Co. A, 29<sup>th</sup> Engineers, died at the age of 22 in France, August 5, 1918 of ulcerative colitis; Pvt. William Barrett, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion 2<sup>nd</sup> Co. of the Infantry died at age 23 of pneumonia at Camp Devens, MA, September 27, 1918; Howard Towle, Co. B. 36<sup>th</sup> Machine Gun Battalion died at age 27 of pneumonia at Camp Devens, September 27, 1918; Merrill Clough 2<sup>nd</sup> Co. Depot Brigade died at age 26 at Camp Devens of pneumonia Sept. 20, 1918.



Lisbon's Col. Emery Post No. 23 of the Grand Army of the Republic was formed in 1886 and named for Lisbon native, Harvey Webster Emery a Lieutenant Colonel in the Fifth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, who came home to die in 1862 at age 35 after a relapse of malaria while fighting at the Second Battle of Bull Run.

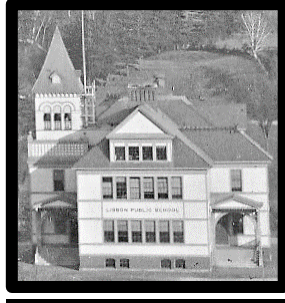
The earliest document we have for the celebrating of Memorial Day in Lisbon is from May 18, 1886. Titled Memorial Day 1886, "The Festal Day of Our Dead." It was sponsored by Lisbon's Col. Emery Post #23 of the GAR and included Lisbon, Landaff, Lyman, and Bath. Post members were expected to be present, clad in a dark suit and soft black hat with arm and waist belts to be furnished as possible. All townspeople were to meet at the Lisbon Town Hall and follow a band, and Post members and participating veterans as they marched along Main Street, up Central Street, and into Grove Hill Cemetery to follow the program of music, prayer, reading of orders, addresses, benediction, strewing graves with flowers, and firing three volleys over the graves. People were encouraged to drop off beforehand at the town hall flowers or wreaths, and a specific name could be put on the decoration so it would be properly placed. It was a serious ceremony with the reminder of promptness and military precision to insure the proper and successful observance of the "Day so fraught with tender memories to Comrades and Friends, and so significant to all good citizens."



The Lisbon Military Band which played at the Memorial Day celebration one hundred years ago, is pictured in 1920. The band was the pride of Lisbon, was funded by the Town, and played in Lisbon and surrounding towns. Front (L-R): John Burke, Fred Holmes, H. Lee Parker. Second row: Frank Kincaid, Ed McDonald, George McGregor, Bandleader Lee Kincaid, Joe Norton, George M. Goudie. Third row: George Kincaid, \_\_Bayes, George Bailey, Clayton Stevens, Cleve Presby, Victor Clark. Top row: Roy Forbes, Ralph Ramsey, Earl Davison, Jim Pennock, Arthur Hudson, Clarence Douglas.

JUNE 2022

## LISBON ALUMNI ASSOCIATION – THE EARLY YEARS



Lisbon Regional School is ready to have its every-five-year alumni reunion, after having to postpone it in 2020 and 2021 due to the pandemic. The Lisbon Regional School Alumni Reunion Committee has planned activities for this coming June 17, 18 and 19. Lisbon Area Historical Society will also be participating in the reunion on June 18 (details are at the end of this article).

Lisbon's public school has played a huge part in the history of our three towns. Students from Lisbon, Lyman and Landaff came to Lisbon Public High School from their respective one-room schools after they finished the 8<sup>th</sup> grade and joined the students from Lisbon Village. Students and their families from all three towns became even more connected, once they all participated in the same high school functions and went on to share their alumni status and lifelong friendships.

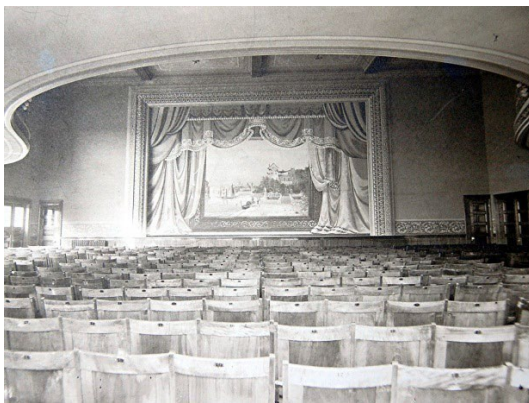


Founder of the Lisbon Alumni Association, Professor Charles Wallace, was the Lisbon Public School Principal and Superintendent from 1889-1907. He was from Sandwich, New Hampshire and graduated from Bates College, Class of 1888. Professor Wallace was active in the Lisbon community and served as a Deacon in the Lisbon Congregational Church. In 1896, he was elected President of the New Hampshire State Teachers Association. After leaving Lisbon, Wallace continued his career as a principal and teacher in Plymouth and Strafford, N.H.

By the late 1800s, all area towns had very active alumni associations that honored graduates in one way or another. The Lisbon Alumni Association was founded around 1902 with the purpose of furnishing part of the program for the week of graduation, including the invitation only graduation reception/dance at the Lisbon Opera House. The event quickly became popular, and the townspeople looked forward to this festivity as the biggest social event of the whole year. The hall was packed with up to 400 or more in attendance. The Lisbon Opera House was decorated with fresh flowers, and a local orchestra was hired for the evening. Alumni, graduating seniors, and guests were invited. In the early years a baseball game was played between the graduating seniors and alumni. The alumni team always won, and the annual baseball game was a big competition with interesting commentary in the sports pages of the newspaper, one year describing the pitcher for the alumni team throwing “smoke balls that couldn’t be hit with a snowshoe,” and seven bats broken.



The first record of Lisbon Alumni Association activity is the invitation for a reception given in honor of the Class of 1902, which is pictured above. Graduates were (Classical Course): George Pike, Robert Richardson, Emily Wells, (Latin-Scientific Course): Myrtle Coates, Ray McGrath, (English-Scientific Course): Earl Davison, (English Course): Julia Allbee, Enos Bishop, Ida Coburn, Josephine Dexter, Myra Hanno, Ada McKown, Corenna Weston, (Special Course): Wyllian Outler.



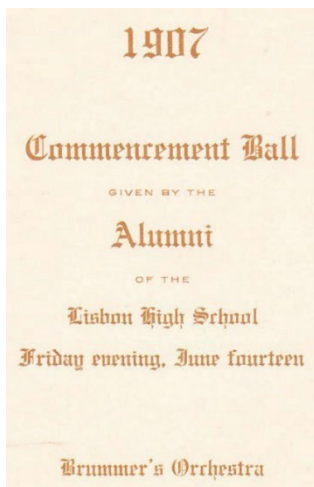
The brand new Lisbon Opera House must have been a beautiful venue for the Alumni Association celebrations. The stage had a beautiful painted grand drape. The view at right is from the stage out to the floor and balcony.

In 1922, the Lisbon Alumni Association departed from the tradition of a celebration reception and dance at the Opera House and instead decided to hold a smaller celebration for graduates at other venues in the area, such as the Mountain View in Whitefield where guests enjoyed golf, tennis, cards, dancing, and a banquet. Years later, alumni reunions were held at the town hall again, as well as Lisbon Public School. In later years, the town pool was opened for some of the reunions and specific classes started enjoying additional get-togethers hosted at a classmate's home.



At the Alumni Reunion of 1903, graduate and Class of 1903 President, George Morgan, gave an interesting speech about himself and his fellow classmates, all women. In his speech entitled "Six Peas in a Pod," Morgan asked, "Have you ever seen five handsomer peas and one poorer pea than the six plucked from the Lisbon educational garden this year. There have been other peas, no doubt, in years passed, but none like the six peas presented by Professor Wallace for graduation at the present time. For four years I've been like a black sheep in a pasture but have gladly gambled about on the school green with the five lambs now presented for slaughter. During

these four years, my classmates have called upon me to carry through their studies, and I trust that as we separate they will be able to get along without me better than I can without them. May the sunshine of happiness shine ever across their paths and may the wreath of success crown their brows." George Morgan is pictured with his five female classmates and Principal Wallace. Lisbon High School Class of 1903: (English Course): Minnie Bertrand, Ethel Coburn, Mary Lemay, George Morgan, Flora Wells, (Special Course): Grace Little.



A Commencement Ball was given by the Alumni for the Class of 1907, with Brummer's Orchestra of Lisbon playing.



During this year's Alumni Reunion on June 18 at the school, Lisbon Area Historical Society will have a slide show playing on the history of the school and will also sponsor a history trivia contest with a gift basket for the winner (or winning team). LAHS will also be providing a slide show of Lisbon railroad history which can be viewed at the Lisbon Historic Railroad Station and Museum Open House on June 18. John Northrop IV, a LAHS Trustee, will be the host at the station. LAHS will also be giving tours of its new home, the historic former Lisbon Congregational Parish House, which is now on the New Hampshire State Register of Historic Places. The Parish House is not open to the public yet, since we are awaiting renovations to make it handicap-accessible and prepare cosmetic improvements. LAHS has provided school archives for the Alumni Committee to display at the school. Hours for the Railroad Station and Parish House tours will be posted at the Alumni Reunion registration.

## LYMAN'S HISTORIC PAINTED CURTAINS ARE CONSERVED



We must preface this special Moments in History by thanking the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts, a division of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, for awarding a Conservation License Plate Grant (Moose Plate Grant) to the Lisbon Area Historical Society in the amount of \$14,867, for conservation of three historic painted stage curtains owned by the Town of Lyman.

The Moose Plate Grant funds preservation of publicly owned artistic and cultural resources. The Town of Lyman gave permission to the Lisbon Area Historical Society to apply for the grant and coordinate all the work necessary for conservation and subsequent public display of the historic painted curtains. This is an excellent example of how our nonprofit organization works to meet its mission to serve Lisbon, Lyman, and Landaff and help preserve and promote each town's history.

We also give a huge thank you to the talented conservation team at Curtains Without Borders, a Burlington, Vermont nonprofit that has found and restored all known painted curtains in Vermont, 190 of them. The organization is trying to do the same in New Hampshire, Maine, and across the country.

New England Wire Technologies provided their truck and employees to help remove two of the curtains from the upstairs of the Lyman Grange Hall and the curtain stored with our collection in Lisbon and transport them to the Lisbon Town Hall and then help set up tables. The Lisbon Lions Club supplied additional tables. The Town of Lisbon gave free use of the Lisbon Town Hall, a perfect space to work on the huge curtains. Volunteers from Lisbon, Lyman, and Landaff provided snacks and water and helped the conservation team set up, work on the curtains, and clean up the town hall.

A little background will explain the significance of painted stage curtains. Near the end of the 1880s and until about 1940, town and Grange halls decorated their stages with curtains painted by scenic artists. Themes were romantic or bucolic landscapes, and others had scenes with advertisements. These beautiful works of 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.

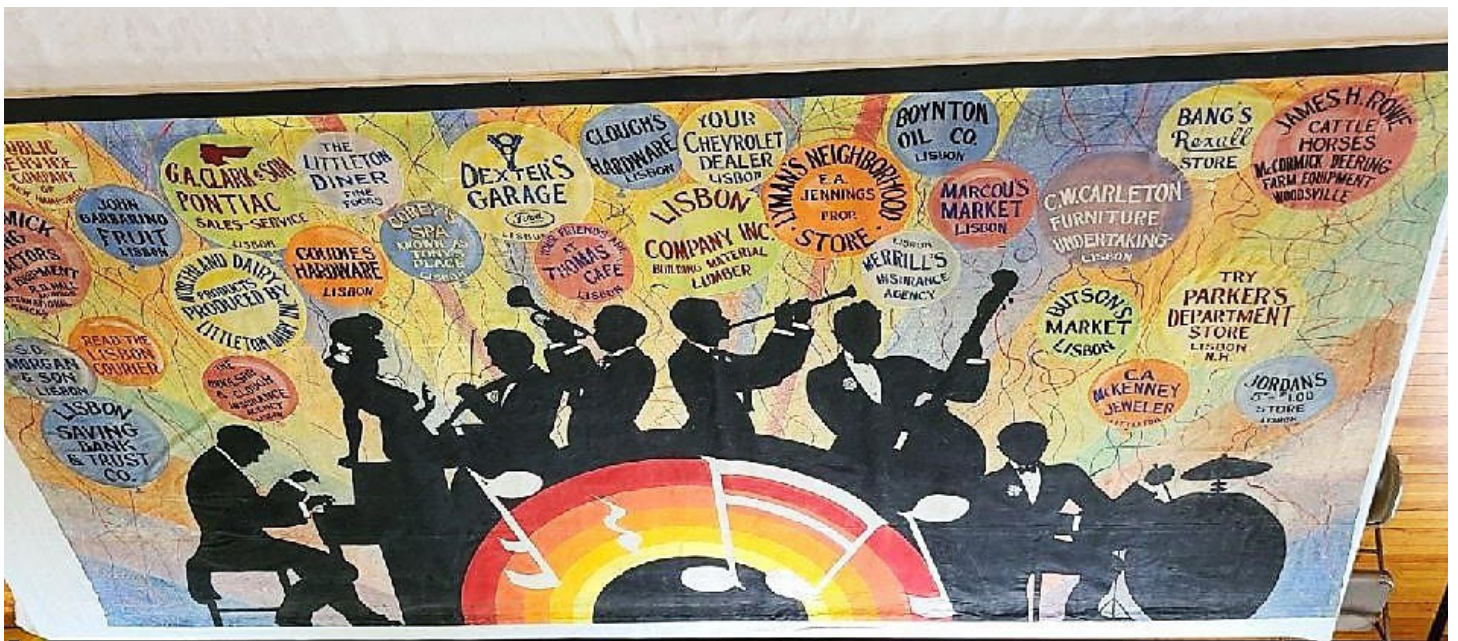
Lyman Grange #237 was formed in 1900, and the Lyman Grange Hall was built in 1901 across from the Lyman Town Hall. Three painted stage curtains had been hanging in the upstairs of the Lyman Grange Hall since the 1930s. The Grange organization was vital to community, and the Lyman Grange Hall was frequently used for a variety of purposes. Due to lifestyle changes over the years, the Lyman Grange, like many others, eventually became inactive and dissolved. The building has sat unused due to its lack of indoor plumbing and accessibility.

The building is listed on the New Hampshire State Register of Historic Places, and there is hope that there can be a purpose for the historic building in the future.

The painted curtains were in poor condition and vulnerable due to the environment in the old building. In 2010, Lisbon Area Historical Society volunteers and Chris Hadsel, Founder and Director of Curtains Without Borders received permission from the Town of Lyman to “rescue” the curtains. They were removed from their pulleys and hardware, vacuumed, and archivally wrapped and stored in hopes of receiving a grant for future conservation. One of the curtains, named the Musicians Curtain, has colorful balloons that advertise twenty-one Lisbon businesses, and that curtain is on permanent loan with the Lisbon Area Historical Society. These painted curtains are remembered by many who attended functions at the Lyman Grange Hall.

In 2019, Lisbon Area Historical Society applied for the Moose Plate Grant and was awarded the funds to restore the three publicly owned artifacts. Due to Covid, the work was delayed until June of 2022.

The grant requires that the conserved curtains be available to the public. Lyman does not have a space large enough, and neither did Lisbon at the time. We did not have an ideal plan at first, but we had the funds and were at the point where we decided we would have a temporary frame on which to display each curtain in a large public space during special occasions. Then everything changed, when the Lisbon Area Historical Society purchased the historic former Lisbon Congregational Church Parish House at 9 Depot Street. There would be room in our new museum to display all three curtains, and now was the time to start the project.



The Musicians Curtain is pictured above after its recent restoration. A 10’ ladder was used to capture the 16’x8’ curtain as it was out on the workspace at the Lisbon Town Hall. The Musicians Curtain has advertisements for 21 Lisbon businesses. Part of that curtain was badly damaged with tears and even shredding and loss of fabric, because it had been exposed to the elements due to a broken window behind the stage in the Lyman Grange Hall. It was still very colorful and is even more vibrant now, after being patched and thoughtfully in-painted by conservators. It is difficult to detect where the brilliant conservation work was done on the curtain.

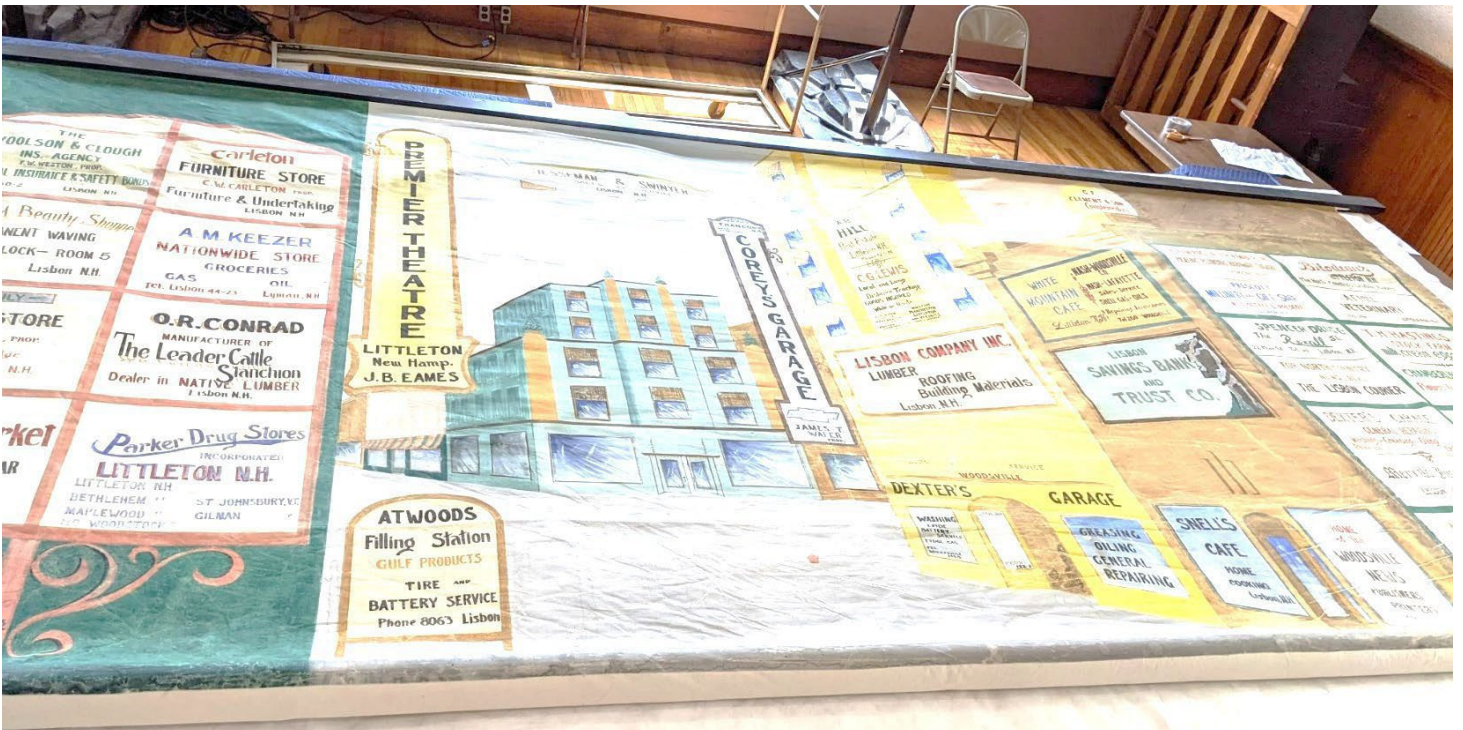
The curtain was painted by Lucretia Rogers (1910-1977) in her Granite State Studio in Plymouth, N.H., c. 1935 based on the businesses advertised: S. D. Morgan & Son, John Garbarino Fruit, G. A. Clark & Son Pontiac, Goudie’s Hardware, Dexter’s Garage, Corey’s Spa, Thomas Café, Lisbon Company, Clough’s Hardware, Butson’s Market, Merrill’s Insurance, Parker’s Department Store, Jordan’s 5 & 10 Store, Carleton Furniture and

Undertaking, Marcou's Market, Bang's Rexall Store, The Lisbon Courier, Boynton Oil Company, Your Chevrolet Dealer, Woolson & Clough Insurance, and Lisbon Savings Bank & Trust Co. Other businesses are Lyman's

Neighborhood Store, C. A. McKenney Jeweler, Littleton. and James Rowe, Cattle, Horses, Farm Equip., Woodsville.



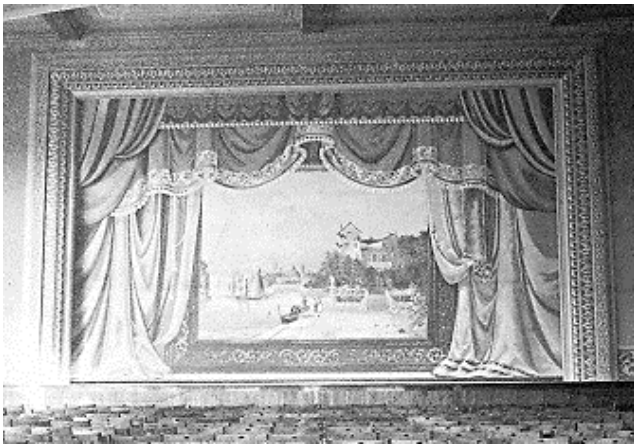
Another great photo taken from 10' above the workspace at Lisbon Town Hall, shows a member of the conservation team working on Lyman's Grand Drape. The drape is 16'x8' and depicts a romantic European scene bordered with painted billowing green and gold drapes. It was painted c. 1930s by Marion Fracher (1911-1972) in her stage scenery studio in Wentworth, New Hampshire. Of the three curtains conserved, this was the least damaged.



The conserved Advertising Curtain was also photographed on its workspace at Lisbon Town Hall. It 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; and 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: Parkers 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. The blimp at the top of the curtain advertises Jesseman & Swinyer in Lisbon, the precursor to Jesseman Chevrolet. Blimps were often featured on advertising curtains, and sometimes milk bottles were drawn to advertise dairies.

When the curtains are ready for viewing, there will be a reception for the grand reveal. The Musicians Curtain will hang on the wall of the Jesseman Room in our new museum in the Parish House. The other two curtains will be displayed in the same room on each side of a large, custom-made frame that can be rolled into place as needed. This will fulfill the grant's requirement that there is access to the public artifacts. The Town of Lyman is in agreement that the curtains will be displayed in our new museum, where there is ample room. At any time in the future, should Lyman have space for the Advertising Curtain and Grand Drape, they can be rolled up and moved to Lyman with the display frame.



We do not know what became of the beautiful grand drape (pictured at left) that once adorned the stage in the Lisbon Town Hall and Opera House. The drape was painted with a scene of Venice and bordered by paintings of billowing drapes. It was painted in 1902 by a scenic artist in Manchester, N.H., and purchased by the Town of Lisbon for \$486, a very large expenditure at that time.



The Grand Drape in the Landaff Town Hall/ 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). It is painted with a generic country scene, probably meant to portray the Connecticut River. This grand drape was restored in 2008 by Curtains Without Borders for \$2,000 through grant funding from New Hampshire Electric Co-op, the

fee for application given in memory of Landaff native and longtime Mount Hope Grange member, Pauline Allbee Eaton (1918-2007).

You can learn more about Curtains Without Borders on their website [www.curtainswithoutborders.org](http://www.curtainswithoutborders.org) and view a United States map with all the curtains the group has found and/or conserved. You can click on any state on the map and see the locations of curtains in the state, click on the dots, and view the curtains.

In our area, other curtains conserved by Curtains Without Borders are an advertising curtain hanging in the Monroe Historical Society/Grange Hall, a curtain with a harbor scene hanging in Pike Hall, a grand drape depicting the Old North Bridge in Concord, MA hanging in Alumni Hall in Haverhill, an advertising curtain hanging in the Orford Town Hall, and a grand drape depicting a scene off Boston Light hanging in the Lyme Academy Building in Lyme Center. The only two curtains to our north are advertising curtains in the Tillotson Center in Colebrook and the Aurora Grange in Pittsburg.

Do you know of any painted stage curtains that still exist and are in need of conservation? If so, please let us know! Email us at [lisbonareahistoricalociety@gmail.com](mailto:lisbonareahistoricalociety@gmail.com) or give us a call at 603-838-2003.



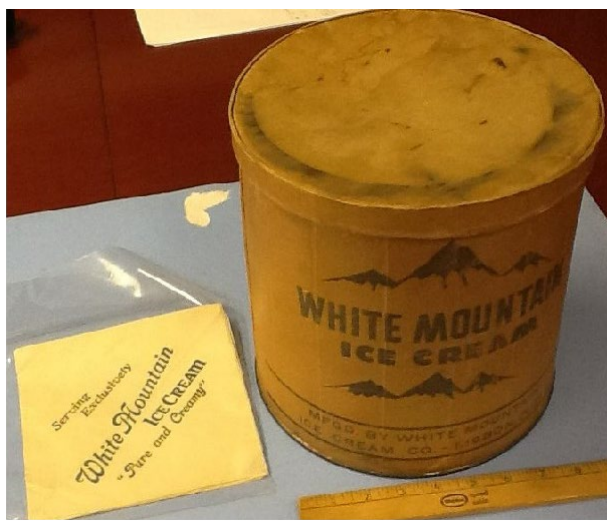
AUGUST 2022

## GLOVER'S WHITE MOUNTAIN ICE CREAM

Lisbon had its own ice cream factory one hundred years ago. The White Mountain Ice Cream Company was founded in Lisbon around 1923 by Lisbon businessman Truman Glover, who was involved with his friend and business partner, Fred Hibbard, in the ice cream business and the Ammonoosuc Confectionary Company candy business. In 1924, Glover sold his interest in the candy business to Hibbard. Both the ice cream and candy products were made in the old creamery and carriage shop building that used to stand in back of today's Lisbon Public Library. Previous to operating his ice cream company, Glover managed Lisbon's Hotel Moulton and livery stable and for a short time owned a busy automobile garage on Lisbon's North Main Street.



Truman Glover (1859-1948)



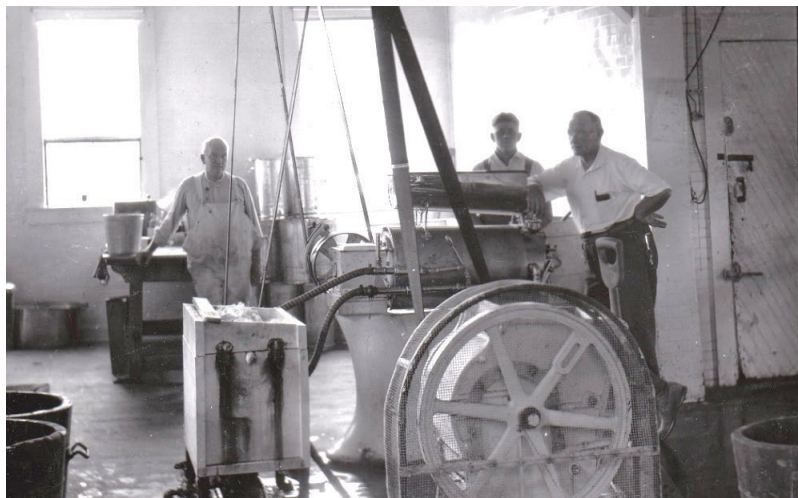
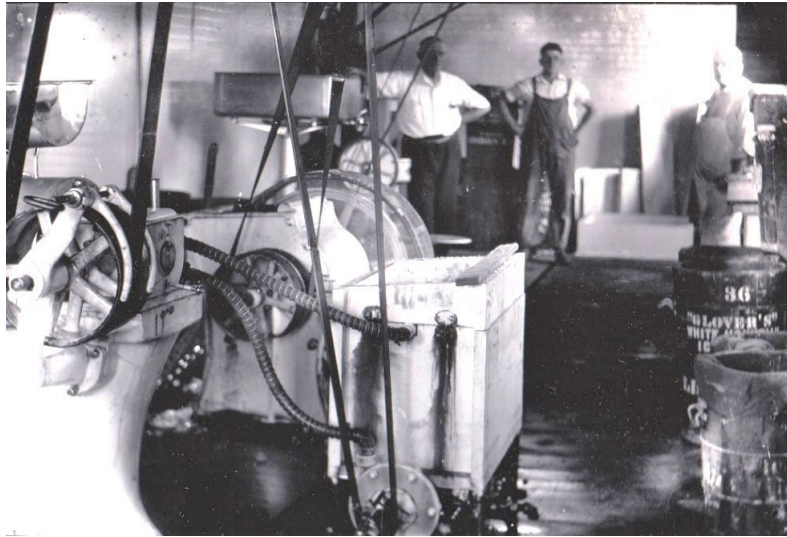
A napkin and container from White Mountain Ice Cream

White Mountain Ice Cream operated year-round and supplied area resorts, restaurants, and local establishments with its famous ice cream. The factory was especially busy during the summer months, when area resorts were full of city folk who stayed as guests for the whole season. One of White Mountain Ice Cream's customers was Family Drug Store in Lisbon, which was owned by George and Ruth Marshall. The drug store's soda fountain was always very popular, and George Marshall claimed it was because they used White Mountain Ice Cream which had 20% butterfat instead of the required 12%.

George worked at the ice cream factory in his youth and once accidentally locked himself in the freezer. He pounded on the door until someone heard him and let him out. Another Lisbon youth who helped at the factory was Lillian Snell Finley, whose family lived next door to the ice cream factory. Even at the age of 87, Lil could remember the flavors of ice cream made there: orange-pineapple, coffee, strawberry, maple walnut, banana, chocolate, and vanilla. Lil helped hull the fresh strawberries for the ice cream and crack and chop the walnuts for the ice cream and for

Hibbard's fudge. The factory also made ice cream bars. The vanilla bars were dipped in chocolate and fastened to a wire to drip and dry. Lil enjoyed sampling the ice cream right from the mixer, and she remembered that employees were told not to lick their fingers when making the ice cream.

Glover was generous with his ice cream. He gave away ice cream to the locals and was known to go by Lisbon homes in his delivery truck and throw containers of ice cream towards the front doors. Glover also supplied ice cream cones for church youth events.



Glover (in white overalls) is pictured in his factory in the mid-1920s. Glover had sold his business to H. P. Hood before he passed away in 1948. The old building burned down in 1969.

OUR SEPTEMBER HURRICANE - THE HURRICANE OF 1938

A Category 3 hurricane that made landfall on Long Island, New York around 2:30pm on Wednesday, September 21, 1938, quickly made its way up the Connecticut River Valley to our area. By late afternoon, the winds were picking up in our three towns, and people hurrying to walk home had to fight the wind. For the previous three days, heavy rain had dumped up to 5 inches in our area, which made the effects of the storm worse due to the already saturated ground and swollen bodies of water. The highest winds from the hurricane began locally in the early evening of September 21 and were sustained for several hours before the storm continued into Canada. In its path through Lisbon, Lyman, and Landaff, the raging storm left flooding, damaged structures, landslides, washouts, roads clogged with fallen trees, snapped off utility poles, and downed power and telephone wires.

After the storm hit, part of Lisbon's Main Street was three feet under water, and the river was close to going over the deck of the School Street Bridge. Windows were blown in, doors, chimneys, and roofs were blown off or damaged, beautiful shade trees were uprooted, and most of the timber stands on the surrounding hills were completely leveled. The landscape changed in a matter of hours.



The view from North Main Street, just below today's New England Wire parking lots towards the center of Lisbon shows the beginning of clean up. The large white building in the upper left background is the shoe factory building at the top of Whitcher Street.



The intersection of School Street, West Street, and the hill going up Grafton Street shows a sample of how beautiful shade trees in Lisbon were toppled during the hurricane.



This picture shows broken and uprooted trees in front of the Lisbon Methodist Church on South Main Street. This church is now part of The Lisbon-Landaff Shared Ministry and known as The White Church.

In Lisbon, Bishop's Overnight Cabins on the farm of William Bishop at Salmon Hole had one cabin moved over seven feet during the storm. The Ammonoosuc Golf Course was damaged and littered with fallen trees.

The Lisbon Company, a successor of Parker Young Manufacturing, estimated a loss of 12 million feet of timber in New Hampshire and half that in Vermont. The Lisbon Company immediately placed in the newspaper a large ad for roofing and building materials for emergency building repairs.

Lyman and Landaff suffered the same destruction as windows were blown out and barn roofs flew off and some barns blew over. Stands of timber in Lyman and Landaff were also mostly blown over.



One of the houses in "The Acre" in Landaff had its porch roof blown off.

After the hurricane, the view from the Allbee Farm at the end of Allbee Road off Landaff Center, was clear all the way over to the Ireland District up on Gale Chandler Road, and there were only one or two trees left standing.

Almost all power was restored quickly, and by the first week in October, almost all telephone service had been restored. On October 2, the Lisbon Playhouse advertised a timely showing of the 1937 film, *The Hurricane*, starring Jon Hall and Dorothy Lamour.

Charles Chandler of Landaff, Ralph Varney of Lisbon, and Leonard Welch of Lyman were part of a committee that met in Woodsville with the State Forestry and Lumbering Committee representative to discuss what to do about the area timberland that was devastated. The U.S. Forest Service, backed by federal assistance, worked with landowners to salvage the blowdowns rather

than lose profit. Recommendations were that mills begin sawing the fallen trees, or the logs needed to be submerged in a body of water by July 1, 1939, for preservation purposes.

Safety rules for cleaning up timber were published in newspapers. New Hampshire woodland owners could deliver timber to designated sites and sell it to the federal government for 90% of the cash value.

The Littleton Courier reported that Perch Pond in Lisbon was the first pond in the State of New Hampshire to be used for wet storage of logs and that the pond already had 2 million feet submerged, and the plan was to have 6 million feet deposited there. Sawmills were erected everywhere. One was built at Streeter Pond in Lisbon and at what is now Chandler Pond in Landaff.

The Allbees used to hay the land where Chandler Pond is now located when it was just a field with a brook going through it. After the hurricane, the brook was dammed up to make a pond to store logs, and the government built a sawmill at the pond. After the logs had been sawed up, the mill was dismantled but the pond remained. Lisbon Company owned timberland in the Jericho area above the pond, and they were busy, too, at their camp named Red Door Inn.

Fairbanks Company of St. Johnsbury had a sawmill erected on a 1,200-acre lot they owned on Under the Mountain Road in Lyman. Eleven Russian immigrants worked with Lyman farmer and logger, Prope Dusik, to clean up the tangled mess of timber blown down in the hurricane. All they had available to cut the logs with were crosscut saws. About 6 million feet of lumber was cut off and sawed into boards at the mill.

The night of the hurricane, Laura Woolley, the wife of Lisbon photographer, Carleton Woolley, gave birth to their baby boy at Cottage Hospital in Woodsville. Lisbon physician Dr. Eckels attended her delivery by railroad lantern light.

No fatalities occurred in our three towns during the hurricane, but at the end of November, Walter Butson of Landaff was killed on his farm while felling a tree damaged by the hurricane. He was 65 years old and a well-known blacksmith and farmer, who operated a milk route out of his farm at the top of Butson Road, where he and his wife, Ella had settled in 1912.

New England and our region had little warning that the hurricane was on its way. Wind gusts of 100 mph were recorded in parts of southern New Hampshire during the storm, and thirteen deaths were recorded in the state. Other parts of New York and New England suffered more damage and loss of life. The National Weather Service statistics state that the highest gust was 186 in Massachusetts, and the highest sustained wind was 121 in Massachusetts. Hurricanes were not named at that time, but the Hurricane of 1938 did earn some nicknames, such as The Yankee Clipper, Long Island Express, and The Great New England Hurricane.

THE 1913 “CLASS PICTURE”

*\*Every month we send out a Moments in History on a variety of topics relative to Lisbon, Lyman, and Landaff. To read all the past Moments, please go to [www.lisbonareahistory.org](http://www.lisbonareahistory.org) and choose Moments in History from the dropdown list on the home page. Scroll through the titles and see what’s there. Enjoy.*



In 1913, Lisbon photographer, Irving James, compiled a “class picture” of the large core group of 91 businessmen who were responsible for the tremendous growth of Lisbon from the mid-1800s up to 1913. Most of the men had wives and families who also contributed to the success of our towns. The women, as was the tradition of that time, ran the household, raised their children, and participated in church and social, service, and civic groups in town, while supporting their husband’s career. The man was listed as the head of the household on the census, followed by the names of his wife, children, and other family members, boarders, and servants. Houses of the time were usually large, and it was expected that extended generations of the same family would live together and help and be helped as they aged, especially on farms.

In 1913, when the businessmen “class picture,” was made, the population of Lisbon was almost 2,500, and there were over 250 houses. Lisbon boasted a new \$50,000 public school building on

Highland Avenue, with ten teachers and 300 pupils, a prosperous bank with a capital of \$50,000, a surplus of \$56,000, and deposits of \$750,000, a new opera house, two busy railroad depots, a thriving main street with an abundance of stores and shops, small factories, two gold crushing mills, art studios, a printing office, a dentist, a district nursing association, architects, doctors, lawyers, insurance agents, barbers, undertakers, six churches, a modern post office, a fire department, tarred roads, concrete sidewalks, town water and sewerage, two power plants, street lights, two of the four shoe peg mills in the United States, the very successful industries of New England Electrical Works (today's New England Wire Technologies) and Parker Young Company (now the site of DCI), and flourishing organizations such as the Masons, Odd Fellows, Order of the Eastern Star, Rebekahs, Grange, Board of Trade, YMCA, Grand Army of the Republic, women's auxiliaries, and the Friends in Council women's club.

Of all the organizations in 1913, the only one still in existence is Friends in Council, which was founded in 1897. And, as we know, our business landscape has changed drastically, due to the loss of professional and retail businesses, services, dairy farming, and the railroad. New England Wire, founded in 1898, is the oldest surviving business, the largest employer, and the anchor of Main Street and our business community.

In 1913, Lyman (population approx. 374) and Landaff (population approx. 526), were primarily farming communities with early mills and an early general store in each town. Residents patronized and traded with Lisbon businesses and used the services in Lisbon, many earned a living working in Lisbon, attended Lisbon High School, and joined or participated in Lisbon-based organizations and events. Lyman and Landaff had their own one-room schools, churches, and Grange, as well. The three towns benefited each other, back and forth, in many ways and had family connections and close, personal ties throughout.

Many of the businessmen in the "class picture" were descended from families that came to Lisbon, Lyman, and Landaff, some as early as the 1770s. The earliest families, such as the Bishops, Shermans, Jessemans, Bowleses, Parkers, Moultons, and Woolsons, came to our towns mainly from southern New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island, after arriving there from England, Ireland, and Scotland years before. Later in the mid-1800s and early 1900s, more people from Italy, Germany, Russia, Canada, Finland, and other countries settled in our three towns. Descendants from some of the first and second wave of immigration still live in our three towns.

**Top row: Augustus A. Woolson** (Woolson & Clough insurance, merchant, Breezy Hill House owner, politician), **Seth F. Hoskins** (Sunset Hill House owner), **George Brummer** (tailor), **Herbert B. Moulton** (philanthropist, The Moulton hotel owner, president of Parker Young and Jamaica Glove), **F. E. Thorpe** (supt. at Parker- Young Mfg.), **Dudley Moulton** (blacksmith), **Fred Hibbard** (blacksmith), **W. W. Oliver** (insurance agent), **Ned English** (general store owner), **H. C. Marston** (pharmacist), **Rev. J. E. Simpson**, **Rev. W. H. Hayes**.

**Second row: Edgar Davison** (RR station agent), **Sylvanus D. Morgan** (architect, builder), **Lawrence W. Goudie** (contractor), **William Nelson** (shoe peg mill owner), **Walter May** (Lisbon Public School Principal), **J. S. Gilman**, **Dr. Harry H. Boynton** (physician), **Dr. F. E. Speare**



(physician), **Dr. George W. Shattuck** (physician), **Dr. J. E. Collins** (dentist), **E. Carl Oakes** (attorney), **George W. Pike** (attorney), **Frank B. Oakes** (attorney).

**Third row: Ernest Hallett** (banker), **Henry Suttie** (barber), **Ben Webb** (wire mill owner), **William Price** (wire mill owner), **Edward Gates** (grist mill operator), **Fred Moore** (shoe peg mill owner), **William Merrill** (pharmacist), **Henry Fisher** (painter), **Fred Heath** (painter), **Gib Dodge** (engineer in shoe peg mill), **Horace Moore** (merchant), **William Pike** (grocery store owner), **E. R. Forbush** (jeweler).

**Fourth row: Karl Brummer** (tailor, musician), **G. Conrad Brummer** (tailor), **Arthur Gowing** (hardware, plumbing), **William E. Chamberlin** (hardware, plumbing), **Fred Bangs** (pharmacist), **Fred Parker** (general store owner), **William Moore** (shoe peg mill owner), **George Moulton** (general store owner), **J. Leroy Thorpe** (banker, merchant), **Arthur Sherman** (grocery store owner), **John Pearman** (tailor), **Joe Norton** (tailor), **Chester Kent** (express agent).

**Fifth row: Will Deming** (lumber dealer), **Seth Titus** (general store owner), **Arthur Buffington** (newspaper publisher), **Charles Sanborn** (teamster), **Russell Bishop** (teamster), **J. K. Stephens**, **Truman Glover** (hotelkeeper), **Harve Corey** (Lisbon Police Chief), **Irving James** (photographer), **A. C. Clough** (insurance company), **Earl Webster** (merchant), **James English** (general store worker), **Leslie Jesseman** (blacksmith).

**Sixth row: Eugene Clark** (insurance company), **George A. Clark** (auto dealer), **Carl Lucas**, **Arthur Reed** (post office employee), **Harvey Meaker**, **Bart Garland** (hardware store owner), **Richard Conner** (undertaker), **Fred Jones** (jeweler), **George Morgan** (merchant, dry goods and paper store owner), **Eugene Bowles** (feed store owners), **Carl Carleton** (undertaker), **Charles Vintinner** (harness and shoemaker), **Alden Martin** (electrician).

**Seventh row: William Donnelly** (barber), **George Hunt** (barber), **Bernard Naas** (builder), **Harvey Aldrich** (farmer), **Joe Puglisi** (shoe and clothing store owner), **Fred Valley** (shoemaker), **Joe Roman** (fruit store owner), **H. N. Dresser** (butter maker), **John Wood**, **William Parker** (general store owner), **Rollo Smith** (livery owner), **Ernest Hayes** (shoemaker), **J. G. Wadleigh** (electrician).

THE ERA OF LISBON'S MOVIE THEATER



The photo above was taken c. 1973 when Lisbon's movie theater was in an abandoned state after decades of being a popular gathering place and entertainment center in the town. The theater was located on the east side of North Main Street on what is now a large gravel lot between Whitcher Street and the Sunoco gas station. Many can remember enjoying the movies at Lisbon's theater when admission and candy cost only small pocket change.

Lisbon's theater had many lives over a span of 60 years, most of it as a very active movie theater business. Regularly congregating and socializing with others while enjoying the same entertainment together, whether at the town hall, Grange, or church, was a way of small-town life during those years, and the local movie theater was another popular option.

When the first theater was built in Lisbon in 1914, the town was thriving and offered a large variety of businesses to fill all the needs of the locals. A silent movie house was one thing the town did not have, and Lisbon businessman Truman Glover took care of that by building his own movie house, and he named it Empress Theatre.

When Empress Theatre opened in December of 1914, 700 hundred people came to attend the two shows, 350 people at each showing of the silent film drama, *The Port of Missing Men*. The theater had a wood dance floor and a stage that was 14' deep with a removable picture screen. The interior was gold, green, and red. During WWI, the theater showed fewer movies, and the building was used more as a space for performances, lectures, a dance school, and organizational meetings and benefits. Some of those events also featured a movie, though.

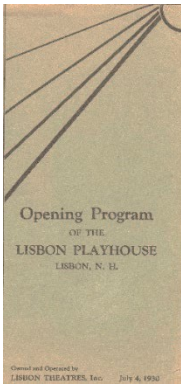
In April of 1920, the theater was purchased by Groveton businessman, Milton Wilkinson. That same month, there was a special public concert and reading at the theater with proceeds benefiting the theater's sick employees during the Influenza epidemic. Several months later, Empress Theatre was one of the area theaters purchased by John B. "Jack" Eames' Interstate Amusement Company of Barre, Vermont. Eames, who was a forerunner in the moving picture business, came from Barre to Littleton, New Hampshire, at that time and laid the foundation for his area theater, real estate, and business holdings.

**Special Attraction**  
**YOU**  
 are cordially invited to attend a special attraction offered  
 by the Lisbon Board of Trade at the  
**EMPRESS THEATRE**  
**Friday Eve., May 6**  
 at 7:30 o'clock

Speakers from State Board of Health  
 will give interesting talks on a sub-  
 ject in which we are all vitally  
 interested, and there'll also be

**MOVING PICTURES**  
 Everything Free!  
**COME!**

The Empress kept a full weekly schedule, but in February of 1930 it closed temporarily because of movie delivery issues. In March, Lisbon's American Legion Timothy F. Dickinson Post #14 Auxiliary held a "Poverty Dance" at the theater to raise money for those in need. It was advertised that the cost of a ticket was 50 cents for the husband and 25 cents for his wife, and a prize would be given for the attendee who dressed the worst. Extra money would be raised by placing a "fine" on every piece of jewelry or fancy item an attendee wore. Other events were held at the theater, such as a talk by the State Board of Health, followed by moving pictures for free.



In May of 1930, renovations began to make the theater into a sound moving picture theater. On the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, the new Lisbon Theatres, Inc., opened under the new ownership of a group of Lisbon businessmen. It was then named Lisbon Playhouse. There was a new sound system, projectors, and 400 cushioned opera seats were added along with structural improvements and redecorating. The old barn behind the building was torn down to make room for a parking lot. The first picture shown was *The Lost Zeppelin*, a talking movie about flying a zeppelin to the South Pole. Evening shows were 25 cents and 35 cents and Wednesday and Saturday matinees were 10 cents and 25 cents. The Playhouse advertised it would provide "All That's Best in Filmiland."



The theater was a big part of Lisbon, and locals were still investing in 1939, such as Lyman farmer Archie Birch, who had in August purchased two shares of capital stock, the certificate signed by Lisbon Attorney George W. Pike, President and Lisbon businessman George E. Clark, Treasurer.



The Playhouse suffered damage on December 1, 1939, after a fire was started by a defective wire on the stage.

Work began immediately on a new 36'x70' theater under the direction George Pike. Lisbon contractor, Pliny "Bert" B. Goudie, was in charge of the project. From the stage there was a 20% incline to the back row. The new theater was reported to be the first in New Hampshire to install a certain type of special projection lighting that enhanced color pictures. The new theater was also reported to be the first in New England to install Western Electric's new microphone system.

In just six weeks, Lisbon Playhouse opened again with a showing on January 23, 1940, of *Swanee River*, a dramatization of the life of American composer Stephen Foster. An adult ticket was advertised as 33 cents plus 3 cents tax, children under 12 years old paid 18 cents plus 2 cents tax. A matinee ticket for an adult was 22 cents plus 3 cents tax and children under 12 years old paid 10 cents plus 2 cents tax. At Christmas time the theatre held a free movie to thank customers for their business during the year.

The Playhouse continued a weekly schedule of movies, as well as supporting different causes through benefits and the War effort with a free show for patrons for which they were asked to make a pledge towards Lisbon's War Bond quota.



In May of 1950 Carl Richmond and his wife, who were from Maine, purchased Lisbon Playhouse. The broadsides above are from the time the Richmonds owned the Playhouse and were salvaged probably from telephone poles in town. Local youth were hired to put posters up around town and then allowed to attend movies for free. The Richmonds moved back to Maine in July, and the theater closed.



In October of 1956, Lisbon businessman, Tony Corey, purchased the theater property from the Lisbon Savings Bank & Trust Company. The reopening was driven by public demand.

That December, a Christmas party was held at the Playhouse with free movies, candy, and fruit. The tradition continued to be sponsored by the Lisbon Lions Club.

The tradition of the theater was more than just the movies in Lisbon. In the early years, Lisbon barber, Orel Bedard, had a barber shop in the lobby of Empress Theatre. When Glover needed the

space for his office, a building was erected to the south of the theater for Bedard's new barber shop. There was also at one time a pool room in one side of the theater building.

It was exciting to go to the movies, and there was a real social get together before and after the movies. Generally, there were two showings a night on Sunday and Monday in the 1950s featuring MGM color musicals. Tuesday and Wednesday night movies were usually black and white dramas or romances. Thursday and Friday nights were adventure, action, and western movies. Saturday was usually a low-budget black and white western or comedy. Kids bought their tickets, chose popcorn or something from the candy counters, and took a seat. The sale of candy and popcorn was a good source of revenue for the theater and supplemented ticket sales, which helped pay for the movies that were ordered. There was usually a pre-show cartoon and then a serial that had as many as 15 episodes strung out over weeks, each episode having a cliffhanger to tease moviegoers to come to the next week's show to see what would happen.

The movie theater was very socially structured for the youth attending during a certain span of time, say in the 1950s. It was just a given that students would know their place and sit together with their classmates in specific sections. Younger children sat in the very front seats. High school seniors and upperclassmen sat in the left rear corner, and no one from a younger class dared to try to sit in that section. There was a dark balcony, but student moviegoers sitting there, especially as a couple, were seen as being out of line.

The projection box was in the middle of the balcony. Movies came on numerous reels. When the theater operations were improved, there was more than one projector. Both projectors were kept loaded, so when the operator was queued by a mark on the screen towards the end of a reel, he would get the other projector ready to go to make a seamless continuation of the movie. The projectionist position was an especially important job.

Lifestyles were changing by the late 1950s. Television offered a new form of entertainment, and people didn't have to leave home. While local television reception and program choices were limited, the habit of staying home became more of a trend. That, coupled with the movie theater building aging, resulted in a decline in the theater's business.

The Playhouse started closing during the winter months, and in the spring of 1963 opened with a lighter schedule. That same year, Playhouse owner, Tony Corey, donated the use of the theater for church events and Lisbon's Bicentennial programs. By January of 1964, churches were using the theater building for meetings and sometimes the showing of a movie.

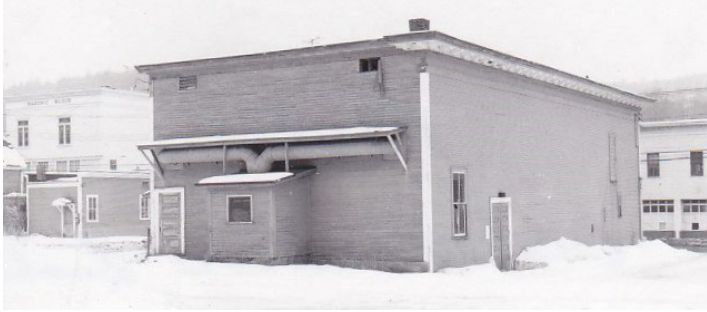
The following photos show the Playhouse when it was abandoned after its heyday. Owner Tony Corey passed away in 1970. In 1973, the abandoned theater building and other buildings on the lot were purchased from Tony Corey's estate by Jesseman's Garage, and the theater and other buildings were torn down in 1974.



Picture far left, looking down South Main St.

And the other looks up

North  
Main St.



The back of the movie theater had a spacious parking lot.



DECEMBER 2022

“LISBON’S FIVE OLD MEN”



This photograph by Lisbon photographer, Irving James, has been dubbed “Lisbon’s five old men” since it was taken c. 1905. Beards were in fashion during the era, and men and women dressed for public appearance and wore a hat. The men are pictured sitting on a bench at the corner of Main Street and Depot Street. The site is near the steps that go to the Depot Street door of The Shared Ministry’s Brick Church, which was built in 1914-1915. The men pictured are (L-R): Samuel Ford, age 72; Ira B. Gould, age 83; William Merrill Kelsea, age 79; Frank Savage, age 66; and Richard Dodge age 72.

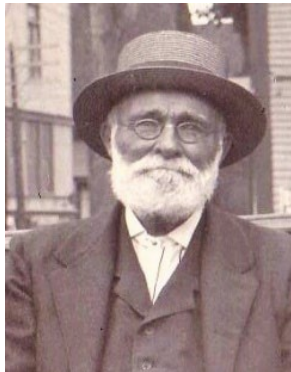
The image is a valuable and historic snapshot of what part of our town and some of the people who lived in it looked like 117 years ago. All the buildings in the background are now gone, either destroyed by fire or demolition.



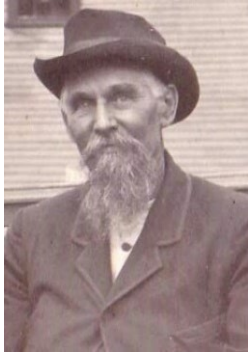
Samuel Perun Ford (1833-1910) was born in Haverhill, New Hampshire and had been a Lisbon resident for about ten years. He was a farmer. He was married to Jane Kelsea, and their son, Lawrence, was a conductor on the B&M Railroad.



Ira Bedell Gould (1822-1915) was born in Haverhill, New Hampshire and had been a Lisbon resident for 55 years when he passed away. He was a brick mason and carriage driver. When he died, he was the oldest man in Lisbon. He served in the Civil War as a musician. His grandfather was a Lexington Minuteman, and his father served in the War of 1812. Following a family tradition, Ira Gould also served in the military. In August of 1862, he enlisted in the Civil War. He served in Company G, NH 11th Infantry. Enlisting as a musician, he was transferred to the U.S. Army Band in the 9th Infantry, 2nd Brigade, 2nd Division and promoted to Musician 3rd class where he was a drum major in the fife and drum corps. 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. He was also a drummer in the Lisbon Cornet Band, which played in Lisbon and surrounding towns. He was a skilled violinist and harmonica player, as well. At the age of 89, he held the position of Commander in Lisbon's Col. Emery Post of the GAR



William Merrill Kelsea (1826-1906) was born in Landaff and was a lifelong resident of Lisbon. He worked as a carpenter. William also served as Town Clerk and Tax Collector. He was married to Betsey Kimball. Their daughter, Nettie, was the Lisbon librarian for 48 years. William Merrill Kelsea and Samuel Ford were brothers-in-law. Samuel was married to Kelsea's sister, Jane Elizabeth.



George "Frank" Savage (1839-1912) was born in Lisbon and was a lifelong resident. He was a farmer on the Savage family farm in Savageville and served as Tax Collector. He was also a prominent 32<sup>nd</sup> Degree Mason. George "Frank" Savage was the grandson of Rev. Ozias Savage who settled in Savageville in 1801.



Richard Dodge (1833-1921) was born in Lyman and lived most of his life in Lisbon as a farmer. In October of 1862, he enlisted in the Civil War as a drummer in Company C, 15<sup>th</sup> Regiment New Hampshire Volunteers and mustered out in October of 1863. He was with his company serving in the New Orleans, Louisiana area for the entirety of his service. His daily life as a soldier is profiled in *The Diary of Civil War Private Richard Dodge 15<sup>th</sup> Regiment New Hampshire Volunteers*, a book compiled and annotated by Dr. Leonard J. Nyberg Jr. and published in 2009.

This is not the first time some of these men were referred to as "old men." In 1904, Ira Gould, William Kelsea, and Frank Savage were three of four Lisbon men profiled as "vigorous old men" and "well-known temperance men of high standing" in a Georgia newspaper advertisement for Duffy's Pure Malt Whiskey "the true elixir of life." In the advertisement, the men 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. Gould, Kelsea, and Savage were quoted that the whiskey was a soothing influence on the body and prolonged life, that it had a soothing influence on the system, and that it kept the wheels of body machinery in motion. The Moments in History for March 2019 tells about the men and their testimonials on behalf of the whiskey. You can read it on our website.