

LISBON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MOMENTS IN HISTORY – MARCH 2024

A TRIP TO THE BARBER SHOP

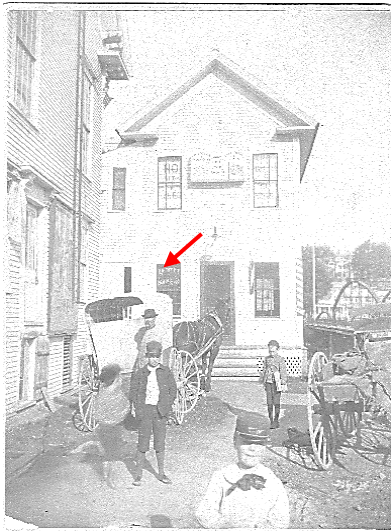


George Paige is pictured with customer Robert Daniels c. 1970 in his barber shop on Lisbon's North Main Street. After graduating from Lisbon High School and serving in the Navy, George went to barber school in Nashua. In 1964, George noticed a for sale sign in the former Orel Bedard's Barber Shop on North Main Street. At the time, a barber from Warren, N.H. was renting space there. George purchased that barber's equipment, opened shop, and continued renting the building from Tony Corey, a Lisbon businessman who owned many properties in town, including the movie theater next door.



The barber shop building was built c. 1903 by Truman Glover, the owner of the movie theater building at that time. Orel Bedard first operated a barber shop in the lobby of the movie theater, but Glover wanted the space for an office. Bedard continued his business in the new building into the 1950s, still working over 50 hours a week at the age of 65.

George Paige opened his new barber shop in June of 1964, charging \$1 for adults and 75 cents for children under 14 years old and advertising that his equipment was sterilized by Clean Ray ultraviolet. His shop was open six days a week, alternating daily hours of 8am to 8pm and 8am to 6pm. George purchased the building from the estate of Tony Corey in 1973. He continued barbering part-time after accepting a part-time position at the Lisbon Post Office and closed his barber shop in 1975, when he began working full time at the Lisbon Post Office, retiring as Postmaster in 1998. George rented the little building to Doris Gamlin for her floral shop and in 2000 sold the building to Nip Dalke, who kept a diner there and added a second story. The building is now a rental.



One of the earlier barbers in Lisbon was Henry Suttie, who came from Nova Scotia in 1889. He first shared a small building with a harness shop that was between the Wells & Woolson Store and the School Street Bridge. The building is pictured at left. The red arrow is pointing to a window that advertised “W.M. SUTTIE BARBER SHOP” in gold letters. After the fire of 1901 burned those buildings, Suttie set up shop in the newly-built Boynton Block where he stayed for almost 30 years. His shop was a popular local hangout with a pool table and personal shaving mugs for his regular customers. Suttie also cut the hair of summer guests at the Sunset Hill House in Sugar Hill for 25 summers. He sold his business in 1930.

Vinal Hersom was another Lisbon barber who operated his own shop below the street level of the Parker Block. He started barbering in Lisbon in 1930. In the 1960s, Walter St. Cyr kept a barber shop in a rented space in the Woolson Block, which was the home of the well-known Family Drug Store.



This early hair clipper is in our collection. It was one of the first artifacts donated in 1964, but there is no record of the donor.

We hope you appreciate receiving these monthly Moments in History. We welcome your comments as well as suggestions for topics for future Moments. Please feel free to share any of our Moments in History with relatives and friends, and have them email us at lisbonareahistoricalociety@gmail.com if they would like to receive them in the future. For more about us and to read past Moments in History, go to www.lisbonareahistory.org. We are also on Facebook. Thank you.

