

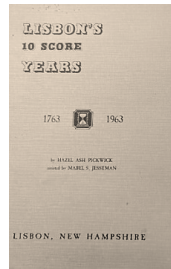
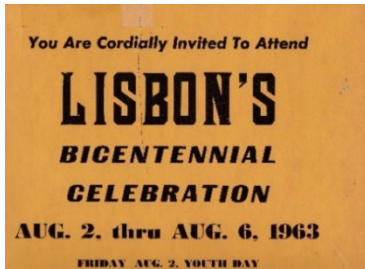
LISBON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MOMENTS IN HISTORY - JANUARY 2024

LISBON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S 60TH ANNIVERSARY

LISBON'S 260TH ANNIVERSARY

AND TIMELINE

This year, Lisbon Area Historical Society will celebrate its 60th anniversary. Last year the Town of Lisbon had its 260th anniversary.

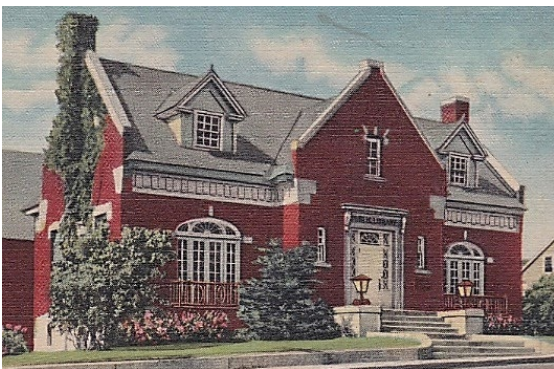


The consideration to form a historical society in Lisbon came about in August of 1963, after the town celebrated the 200th anniversary of its original charter. After a five-day bicentennial celebration, residents expressed an interest in giving the town items of historical significance. The committee that had planned the bicentennial celebration shifted its focus to receiving artifacts, photos, documents, etc., that pertained to Lisbon. Certainly, a book about

the history of the town, *Lisbon's 10 Score Years 1763-1963* by Hazel Ash Pickwick assisted by Mabel S. Jesseman, published in June of 1963 in celebration of the milestone, also added to the interest in preserving the town's history.

Lisbon was originally chartered in 1763 under the name of Concord. The Concord charter was unfulfilled due to a lack of settlement. In 1768 the town was again chartered, under the name of Gunthwaite. Samuel Martin, a hunter and trapper, built a cabin near Henry Pond that year and is credited as being the first white man to settle in town. In 1824, the town's name was changed to Lisbon after Lisbon, Portugal. New Hampshire Governor Levi Woodbury named the town Lisbon, because his friend, Col. William Jarvis had been a U.S. Consul to Lisbon, Portugal and was rather famous for exporting Merino sheep from Spain to Vermont, which started the early 1800s sheep craze. Officials from Lisbon, Portugal were invited to Lisbon's bicentennial celebration, but regrets were sent from Antonio Vitorino Franca Borges, Mayor of Lisbon, that they could not send a delegate, but they did send a book about Lisbon, Portugal and their best wishes.

Committee members chosen to accept items for a new historical society museum were Hazel Ash Pickwick, Town Clerk Norman Fox, Ethel Bishop, and Mabel Jesseman. The Ash, Bishop, and Jesseman families were all early Lisbon settlers. Within six months, a historical society was formed. The new historical society also included Lyman and Landaff, since those towns had been so closely associated with Lisbon through related families, Lisbon businesses, professional services, the shopping district, and the Lisbon Public Library, post office, high school, ski tow, swimming pool, and various organizations.



It was decided the best space for a new museum would be the basement of the Lisbon Public Library (postcard image at left). The Chandler family in California was contacted in hopes they would continue the legacy of their ancestor, Harry Chandler, a Landaff native who moved to Los Angeles and became the editor of the Los Angeles Times. Harry Chandler gifted the funds to have the Lisbon Public Library built in 1926 in memory of his mother. In 1964, Harry Chandler's son, Norman, responded to the LAHS request and gifted funds to renovate the basement of the Lisbon Public Library to make a public meeting room and a historical society room.



Hazel Ash Pickwick and her husband, longtime Lisbon physician and surgeon, Dr. Harold “Pick” Pickwick, were instrumental in the founding and early operation of LAHS. They also donated their genealogy research and inventories of local cemeteries that they had completed years before the founding of LAHS.

On March 30, 1965, the Lisbon Area Historical Society held the first meeting in its new room in the library basement. The group voted to be incorporated as a State of New Hampshire nonprofit and join the NH Association of Historical Societies. Hazel Pickwick was elected President, Rev. John Day, Vice President, Dorothy Presby, Secretary, Charles Besaw, Treasurer, Edgar Clement, Historian, Paul Rothenburger, Custodian, Wallace Clough, Auditor. Elected Directors were Dr. Harold Pickwick, Norman Gilbert, and Martha Conrad. The public was encouraged to donate items relating to the town’s history and attend the meetings.



The first items donated were a spinning wheel, flax wheel, and skeiner (pictured at left) belonging to the Enos Bishop family. Members of the Bishop family settled in Lisbon in 1770. Other antique household items were donated, as well as documents, photographs, and period clothing. Decades earlier, members of Lisbon’s Gunthwaite Chapter of the DAR had researched and compiled genealogies, information on old landmarks and cemeteries, and Revolutionary War records of soldiers from Lisbon, Lyman, Landaff, and other abutting towns. Their foresight and time-consuming work provided manuscripts, etc., that were added to the LAHS collection as a valuable resource.



When Hazel Pickwick passed away in 1979, the work of LAHS was continued by Lisbon natives, Wally and Mary Clough, pictured at left. Mary was an avid genealogist and local historian. Mary carried on the work of LAHS out of her home where she had her own prized possession, a photocopier, a rarity in households of the time. Mary volunteered to share her knowledge of genealogy and local history from her home launching pad and at public schools and other venues.

After the Cloughs passed away in 1996, the entire collection was thoroughly organized and inventoried. A plaque was made naming the library room the Pickwick-Clough Room in recognition of all the research and efforts of both couples. A survey was sent to all residents of Lisbon, Lyman, and Landaff to obtain input on reorganization of LAHS. In 2006 the historical society was reorganized and registered as a nonprofit with the State of New Hampshire. Incorporators were Wilbur Callender, Andrea Fitzgerald, George Paige, and Roger and Ruth Robar.

In 2007, LAHS became a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit and started raising funds for book publications and conservation of artifacts.



In 2012, it was decided to move from the basement of the library to a more accessible and central location to prepare for Lisbon's 250th anniversary in 2013. Everything was moved to the Parker Block on South Main Street into a street-level rental office space. LAHS held a ribbon cutting ceremony with Executive Councilor Raymond S. Burton to mark the grand opening of its new museum in the Parker Block in 2013. LAHS started its annual

fundraising/membership appeal and began actively promoting local history by hosting public programs, publishing books, planning projects and talks for organizations and Lisbon Regional School. Even though LAHS did not have a home of its own, people, organizations, and businesses supported LAHS with generous financial gifts, joining the membership, volunteering, and donating artifacts. Membership, the treasury, and the collection grew dramatically every year. The little space was becoming very crowded. That rental was to be for two years, but it took nine years of checking out properties that came on the market before a suitable home was found.



Finally, the c. 1915 historic former Lisbon Congregational Church Parish House became available. LAHS raised over \$253,000 in private donations to purchase the property in August 2021 and have the first floor renovated in preparation for opening to the public. The building was also accepted to the NH State Register of Historic Places. Wendell Jesseman, Chairman of the Board, New England Wire Technologies, did the honor of cutting the ribbon at the Grand Opening on June 3, 2023 (pictured at left). Wendell is a 7th generation Lisbon native, and the main room in the new museum is a gift from Wendell and Erline Jesseman and named the Jesseman Room. The Parish House was originally built as a church event center and recreation center. The Jesseman Room was originally a basketball court, and Wendell Jesseman remembers playing basketball there in his younger years.



The story of LAHS is one of perseverance and faith that one day the organization would be in a wonderful home and poised to make a difference in the communities it serves. The hard work and accomplishments of LAHS were recognized by the NH Community Development Finance Authority which awarded LAHS a \$322,500 CDFA Tax Credit Program Grant on June 21, 2023. When all the tax credits are sold and the grant fulfilled, the lower level of the building will be renovated and full-building handicap accessibility will be complete.

The story of the Town of Lisbon is also one of perseverance, from the first settlement of primitive log cabins, a Revolutionary War fort, the first mills, schoolhouse, and church to the c. 1920 height of prosperity. Many times

LAHS has shared the story of a once vital downtown which boasted countless stores, shops, mills, and professional services, two busy train stations, automobile dealerships, a movie theater, and the largest opera house north of Concord. There was a core group of 100 businessmen who contributed to the town's success at that time.

LAHS works hard to preserve the rich history of Lisbon, Lyman, and Landaff and is now poised to be a catalyst in benefiting our communities and collaborating with businesses, the school, and other nonprofits to bring positive outcomes in all aspects of our community life.

The Town of Lisbon is seeing positive changes with properties being renovated and new businesses opening. The Town still has the same potential it did 100 years ago. There is a good Master Plan and volunteers, town officers and employees who are serious about enhancing public education and benefiting youth, and promoting town growth, safety, and conservation of natural resources.

LISBON TIMELINE

1763 – The town is chartered as Concord.

1768 – The town is chartered as Gunthwaite. Samuel Martin, hunter and trapper, builds a log cabin by Henry Pond and is considered the first white settler. This site is near the granite Lisbon settlement marker on Route 302.

1775 – Some of the sons of Maj. John Young of Haverhill, Massachusetts, come to Lisbon to settle on their father's lot (the present fields along the Ammonoosuc River from Henry Pond and both sides of Rte. 302) one month after six of the sons (age 16-28) fought at the Battle of Bunker Hill. A fort was built in the field above Henry Pond.

1783 – The Revolutionary War ends, and the stockade around the fort's blockhouse is removed. Revolutionary War soldier, Samuel Young, makes the blockhouse his home and a tavern.

1790 – Leonard Whiting builds the first grist mill in town on Burnham's Brook (also known as Mill Brook). The site is now a waterfall at the junction of Lyman Road and Cole Plain Road.

1799 – Jesse Young builds a dam on the natural falls of the Ammonoosuc River (below the present School Street Bridge). The first business was established on the river, The Clothing Works, a carding mill that processed wool and put it into bolts for home spinning. The village center eventually grew around this available waterpower.

1800 – William Beane builds his home which is also used as a tavern, store, and post office at the south corner of Central and Main Streets. That structure is the oldest in Lisbon Village. An enlargement was added to the original part in 1831 and used as the home and office for many Lisbon physicians.

1804 – The first covered bridge is built in the village (now the site of School Street Bridge).

1807 – The first school is built on a knoll near Henry Pond.

1818 – The first church/meetinghouse is built on a knoll near Henry Pond.

1824 – The town's name is changed to Lisbon.

1824 – Young’s Tavern is sold by the heirs of Samuel Young to Levi Cobleigh, who enlarges it, incorporating the old fort’s blockhouse in part of the upper story.

1824 – The first post office is established in town.

1842 - The Methodist Episcopal Church is built on South Main Street (today’s White Church).

1853 – The first train comes through Lisbon.

c. pre-1860 – The first train depot and station agent’s house are built at the top of Depot Street.

1853 – Lisbon Academy is built at the corner of School and Grafton Streets.

1854 – There is a pearl rush at Mink Pond (now named Pearl Lake) after some boys find a freshwater pearl in a mussel at the lake.

1859 – A great flood changes the course of the Ammonoosuc River and cuts through the Emery Farm peninsula above the village dam.

1860 - Lisbon Town Hall is built on South Main Street down the street from the School Street Bridge. It burns in 1901.

1861 - Grove Hill Cemetery is established, and the graves from the cemetery behind the Methodist Episcopal Church on South Main Street are moved to the new cemetery.

1865 – Gold is found on the David Atwood farm (just past Savageville, off Pearl Lake Road.)

1868 – A coal kiln is built to make charcoal for the iron furnace in Franconia. The bottom section of the kiln is all that is left. It is along Rte. 302 on private property and marked by a NH State Highway Marker.

c. 1870 – The B & M Railroad Station is built on Central Street.

1874 - Messiah’s Church is built at the south corner of Whitcher and North Main Street.

1875 - Lisbon Golden Grange is founded.

1878 – Lisbon First Congregational Church is founded and holds services in Messiah’s Church.

1881 – The first public library is built on North Main Street.

1887 – Lisbon Volunteer Fire Department is organized.

1887 - The ground level of the Methodist Episcopal Church is raised and a lower level is built underneath.

1887 – The town starts bringing water from Pearl Lake to the village for fire hydrants, sanitary, and domestic use.

1889 – The first bank is established, the Lisbon Savings Bank & Trust Company.

1890 – The first electric company is established.

1891 – Lisbon Public School is built on Highland Avenue by architect and builder Sylvanus Dayton Morgan. The 1853 Lisbon Academy had been outgrown.

1893 – The Sugar Hill Railroad Station is built near Salmon Hole by the Boston, Concord & Montreal Railroad.

1895 – Telephone and telegraph poles are erected on Main Street.

1897 – Friends in Council is founded and becomes a member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs in 1898.

1898 – New England Electrical Works is founded and built in Lisbon in 1899. It is now known as New England Wire Technologies and is the longest surviving industry in Lisbon and the Ammonoosuc Region and employs over 400.

1899 – A suspension foot bridge is erected across the Ammonoosuc River connecting lower South Main Street and Moffettville (the area to the left of what is now Highland and Armstrong Avenues).

Late 1800s - J. K. Atwood's Bobbin Mill (corner of Atwood and Central Streets) is the largest rough bobbin mill in the United States.

Late 1800s – Parker Young Manufacturing is the largest manufacturer of piano sounding boards in the world.

Late 1800s - Lisbon becomes the shoe peg capital of the United States.

1901 – Fire destroys all the buildings on the west side of South Main Street, including the town hall, from the School Street Bridge through Brigham's Hotel. It started in the peg mill along the river.

1902 – The Parker Block, Boynton Block, Bank Block, and The Moulton (now Lisbon Inn) are built after the fire. Lisbon Town Hall is built on School Street.

1907 – Streetlights are erected in town.

1909 - Lisbon District Nursing Association is organized (early home health services).

1909 - St. Catherine of Siena Roman Catholic Church is built on Highland Avenue.

1910 – The first automobile garage, G. A. Clark, is opened on North Main Street near the railroad crossing.

1911 – Lisbon Board of Trade is organized.

1912 – U. S. President Howard Taft visits Lisbon.

1913 - Lisbon Church of the Epiphany is built on School Street.

1913 – Jamaica Glove Factory begins operation in the old Granite State Wire Company building at the top of Whitcher Street. The business closes in 1934.

1914 - A movie theater opens on the east side of North Main Street, near Witcher Street. It operated under different owners until c. 1963. The building was abandoned and razed in 1974. The site is now a gravel lot.

1915 – Lisbon Congregational Church is built at the corner of South Main and Depot Streets. It is deconsecrated in 2023 and sold for a future physical therapy clinic.

1915 – Lisbon Congregational Church Parish House is built at the top of Depot Street. It is sold in 1952 to the Assembly of God. It is now the home of LAHS.

1919 - Lisbon's American Legion Post #14 is founded and named for Lisbon native Cpl. Timothy F. Dickinson, who died in 1918 at age 28 while serving his country during WWI.

1925 - Cobleigh Airport is built between Henry Pond and the Young-Cobleigh Tavern. It operated until 1940.

1926 – Lisbon Public Library is built on School Street.

1927 – A public 9-hole golf course is constructed on the farm of Enos Bishop on Bishop Road. It closed in 2010.

1927 - The historic flood of 1927 hits Lisbon on November 3 and 4, and the Ammonoosuc River flows down Main Street. The raging waters take out Conrad's Mill on Lyman Road and also destroy the Salmon Hole Covered Bridge, the last covered bridge in Lisbon.

1928 - Parker Young Manufacturing reorganizes and forms The Lisbon Company.

1935 – The first ski rope tow in New Hampshire is built along Route 302 (across from the present Dale's Auto Body). It closed after two seasons.

1938 – Lisbon Lions Club is founded.

1938 – The September 21 hurricane blows through Lisbon and knocks down trees and takes off roofs of houses and barns.

1941 – Fire destroys The Advent Church at the corner of Witcher Street and all the buildings in a row on the east side of Main Street, including Butson's Market (now the site of Riverside Market). The fire stops before the brick Lisbon Congregational Church.

1942 – A public swimming pool is built on the community field.

1942 - Modern shoe manufacturing arrives in Lisbon when International Shoe Company of St. Louis, MO renovates the old Granite State Wire Company building at the top of Witcher Street.

1947 - The name of Lisbon's American Legion Unit is changed to Dickinson-Sweet Post #14 after two Lisbon brothers, Allen and John Sweet, give their lives in 1944 and 1945 at age 19 and 23 while serving their country during WWII.

1959 – The Lisbon Outing Club builds the Grafton Street Ski Tow. It officially closed in 1998.

1959 – An elementary wing and gymnasium are added to the Lisbon Public School. The elementary wing was later named the Rita K. Besaw Elementary Wing.

Early 1960 – The last passenger train goes through Lisbon.

1962 – The Sugar Hill District of Lisbon seceded from the Town of Lisbon and became the Town of Sugar Hill.

1962 – The brick U.S. Post Office is built on North Main Street.

1964 – Lisbon Area Historical Society is founded and starts collecting items to be housed in a dedicated room in the basement of the Lisbon Public Library.

1967 – The Lisbon Methodist, Landaff Methodist, and Lisbon Congregational Churches merge to form The Lisbon-Landaff Shared Ministry.

1967 – Lisbon Stump Jumpers is organized as one of the first snowmobile clubs in New Hampshire.

1969 - The Towns of Lisbon and Lyman join together to form Lisbon Regional School.

1974 - DCI (Design Contempo Inc.) starts production of furniture in Lisbon on the former campus of Parker Young Mfg., The Lisbon Company, and Plymwood Furniture.

1977 – Lisbon Life Squad is formed.

1980 – The town switches from the Pearl Lake water supply to well water and pump houses.

1982 – The first annual Lisbon Lilac Time Festival is held.

1983 – *Lisbon's Ten Score Years 1763-1963* by Hazel Ash Pickwick, Assisted by Mabel S. Jesseman *Plus One Score More 1963-1983* by Barbara Jesseman, Assisted by Friends In Council Civics Committee, Lisbon, New Hampshire is published.

1983 – Rock Cliff Farm on Brooks Road, owned by Frank and Lillian Brooks, is the last dairy farm to ship milk out of Lisbon.

1993 – The new Lisbon Regional School is built on Highland Avenue for \$3.9 million after the 3-story 1891 balloon-construction wooden school is torn down after reaching the end of its life and presenting safety concerns.

1992 – U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle visits Lisbon.

1995 - In March, the last freight train goes through Lisbon. In June, the rails and ties on the railroad tracks in Lisbon are torn up to allow for the recreational Ammonoosuc Rail Trail from Woodsville to Littleton, part of the NH Trail System.

1995 – The last leather shoes in New Hampshire are manufactured at the Witcher Street factory of Connors-White Mountain Footwear.

2005 - LAHS publishes its first book, *Personal Traces, A Historical Collection of Personal Accounts* by Andrea M. Fitzgerald.

2003 – Lisbon Main Street, Inc., becomes a registered nonprofit.

2008 – The Lisbon B&M Railroad Station & Museum restoration is completed after a five-year period, funded in excess of \$500,000 through federal and State grants and private donations.

2008 – LAHS publishes a second book, *Personal Traces, Book Two*, by Andrea M. Fitzgerald.

2012 – The Lisbon Lions Club Swimming Pool and pool house are built for \$415,000, replacing the c. 1942 pool. Funding is from a CDFA Tax Credit Program Grant and donations from individuals, businesses, and organizations.

2012 – LAHS moves out of the library and into a rented space in the Parker Block.

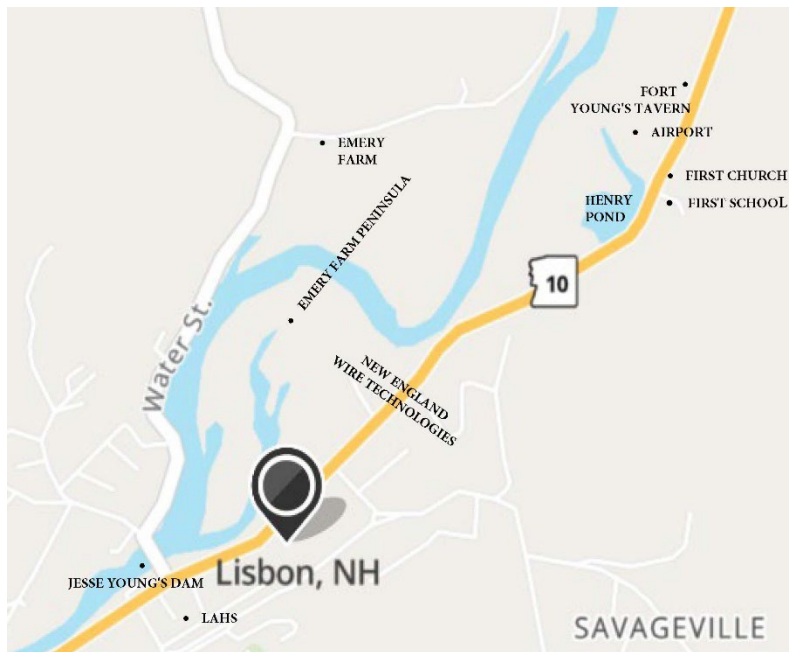
2013 - Lisbon celebrates its 250th anniversary. LAHS has a grand opening for its new museum in the Parker Block. LAHS and Lisbon Main Street coordinate on printing two pamphlets, a Walking Tour and GPS Tour of historic sites in Lisbon.

2013 - LAHS publishes a third book, *Celebrating 250 Years, a Pictorial History of Lisbon, Lyman and Landaff, New Hampshire* by Andrea M. Fitzgerald.

2018 - A new Lisbon Fire Station is built on South Main Street.

2023 – The new Lisbon Area Historical Society opens in the c. 1915 historic former Lisbon Congregational Church Parish House listed on the NH State Register of Historic Places.

2023 – LAHS is awarded \$322,500 through a NHCDFR Tax Credit Program Grant. The funding will pay for renovations to the lower level of the museum and provide full handicap accessibility to the building.



We hope you enjoy receiving our monthly Moments in History. We welcome your comments as well as suggestions for topics for the future. Please feel free to share any of our Moments in History with relatives and friends and have them email us at lisbonareahistory@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.