



The Lisbon Quarterly

A Newsletter for Lisbon Residents



Historic Sign Restoration

By Kim Sperry, for the Lisbon Historical Society



During the 1970s and 1980s, the Connecticut Historical Society placed signs in Connecticut's 169 municipalities to help tell a little something about each town's founding, important events and its people. These white lettering on blue background signs are located throughout the state at town halls, greens, or other significant places in each town.

Lisbon's own historical marker, at the town hall, was showing its age after nearly 30 years. Working with Greg Bouchard, John Mather and Mike Civardi from the town crew, Ken Mahler undertook the removal and transportation of our historic town sign for restoration and repainting. Fresh with new paint, new posts and new concrete, the sign should stand tall another 50 years. The Historical Society also took the opportunity to restore and repaint the hand carved John Bishop House Museum sign to its original colors.

Most striking of all the paint jobs this season are the John Bishop House and Newent Congregation Church entry doors. Throughout the 19th century house paint tended to blend with the local environment, "natural"

colors produced from natural pigments. For years, many historians assumed that historic house colors were serious and subdued. However, modern paint research reveals that historic paints were much more vibrant before they faded with time. The Historical Society chose Stage Coach Red, and the church chose T ory Blue for our doors from the *Historic New England* color chart. The palette features historically accurate interior and exterior paint colors used during the colonial period through 20th century eclecticism. There are plethoras of web pages from *This Old House*, to *ehow*, to paint manufactures that have information to guide homeowners, just Google "historic paint colors" or go to www.historicnewengland.org. Let us know what you think about the new looks by posting a comment on our Facebook page.

The bathroom under the stairs, which had long seen better days, finally got a complete makeover with new cabinetry, a real soapstone sink, and fresh paint on the walls, floor and ceiling.

This fall, the Community outreach programs included Fall Festival in September and a very successful Last Green Valley, Walktober event. Under spectacular fall skies, co-Leaders Ken Mahler and Sharon Gabiga led twenty-three adventurers to the Tunnel Hydro Plant in Preston. The walk also included a tour of the John Bishop House and a hike down Old Lee Road with Kim Sperry. Town Historian Marcia Shafer was on hand to provide additional history notes.

On Saturday, December 1st, the John Bishop House will be open for the annual Holiday Open House fundraiser. An

apple pie bake sale, handmade ornaments and holiday cookies, and open hearth cooking makes for a festive holiday season kick-off. Traditionally, the open house is the same day as the Newent Church gingerbread house sale.

As our faithful donors know members of the Historical Society have been collecting, sorting and redeeming recyclable cans and bottles for years. This activity is an important revenue stream, which is why someone is in the shed nearly every day of the week, in all kinds of weather. Over time the redemption requirements that we must adhere to have become stricter. We sort and box bottles by color, amount and distributor; beer cans are bagged by distributor; and plastic is sorted and bagged by size. Bags we have plenty, appropriate boxes, not enough. Bottle donations in original packaging or cardboard boxes are extremely helpful and as always, the Lisbon Historical Society is grateful for your donations no matter how they come.

For information on Lisbon history and LHS events go to www.99main.com/~chill/Historic.html or our Facebook page by typing Lisbon Historical Society in the "find friends" bar and check out videos on You Tube. We hope potential members are enticed by what they see, the Society meets on the second Friday of each month in the town hall, come join us.

Lisbon's Farmers' Market

By John Magnus, FMC Member

The Lisbon Farmers' Market closed its inaugural season on October 11th with a market event befitting the celebration

of the evening. There was a bonfire, music and, of course, food.

By all accounts, the season was a tremendous success. The feedback from customers and vendors was positive and we are looking at continued growth, progress and many improvements for 2013.

The market could not have been accomplished without the hard work and dedication of the Committee, however this success is not theirs alone. The committee would like to thank the Board of Selectmen, the entire office staff at Town Hall, the Recreation Committee, the Fall Festival Committee, the Planning and Zoning Commission and Town Planner, the Conservation Commission, the town crew and Lisbon Volunteer Fire Department for their guidance, support and assistance. It really does take a village to raise a market.

Finally, the LFMC would like to express our appreciation to Donna Harris, Market Master, our fantastic vendors that committed to the market and supported it throughout the season and, of course, our wonderful customers. See you in 2013.

The Hoydila Property

By Marcia Schafer, Town Historian

The Town of Lisbon is in the process of purchasing the George Hoydila property on North Burnham Highway. This historic property, also known as the Burnham Tavern can be traced back to the original settlers of the area and known as "The Crotche of ye Rivers," referring to the section closest to Norwich between the Shetucket and Quinnebaug rivers.

Benjamin Burnam, born in Ipswich, Essex, MA in 1696 was living in New London, CT and was a teacher at the First Grammar and Latin School. He and his wife Mary Kinsman Burnam

purchased from Jabez Perkins on December 12, 1723, 74.75 acres "lying in ye hill called Puppy Hill on the highway leading to Canterbury." He was approved for the purchase and moved to Newent in 1726 with his wife Mary and had 4 children; Benjamin, born in 1729 followed by Susannah, Joanna, and Esther. Benjamin Burnam died when in 1737 when his son Benjamin was about 8 years old.

While I do not have any records to determine who became of the owner of the property in 1737 when the father died, his son Benjamin was the oldest child and the only son. In the 1750's there was a land contract that indicated that Benjamin and his 3 sisters each had 1/5 of the property. Benjamin Burnam married Jemima Perkins, daughter of Jacob Perkins in 1750 and had 9 children. Records show that in the 1750's Benjamin purchased the property from his 3 sisters with language in the land contract quoting, "land that did belong formerly to my honored father."

There were two other land contracts indicating that he purchased 15 acres and 25 acres from John Bishop and his daughter Temperance Bishop with a section of the contract indicating that he had "the liberty to a cartway to pass between several land owners." Another land purchase of Benjamin Burnam from John Bishop was 20 acres of land situated in Newent with a dwelling house and barn standing on the premises.

Benjamin Burnam was the Captain of the 4th company or trainband in the town of Norwich, Reuben Bishop was appointed Ensign and Moses Stevens, grandfather of Aaron Dwight Stevens, was a Lieutenant. On Saturday September 3rd 1774, historians of our Revolutionary strife are on record as saying, "that during the early struggle in the Revolutionary war, at 4pm an express arrived in Norwich from Colonel Israel Putnam that Boston had been attacked the night before and six of the citizens killed. This was a rumor but it caused the greatest

consternation. The citizens of Norwich assembled about their liberty tree, then adjourned to the Court House and resolved to dispatch an express to Providence to learn the truth of the report. David Nevins volunteered on this service, as he had on many similar occasions, and departed at 8pm. On Sunday morning 464 men, well equipped and the greater part mounted on good horses, had already started for Boston, under the command of Major John Durkee, and rendezvoused at Captain Burnham's Inn seven miles from the Norwich Court House, where they at 11am were met by the return of Mr. Nevins with information that the report was not true whereupon they dispersed."

On September 1775 Jemima Burnham died while her husband Benjamin was in New York with Benedict Arnold near the Canadian border fighting. Reuben Bishop was with him and was also killed in action, "by a drunker soldier." When Benjamin returned to his home and family he did so to care for several of his children who were still living at home and all under the age of 16.

At the age of 55 Benjamin Burnam remarried to Hannah Bishop the daughter of Joshua and Deborah Bishop and the wife of Reuben Bishop as noted above. She had 4 sons and with Benjamin had two other children.

Benjamin Burnham died in 1799 and it was about this time that the toll gates on the turnpike road from Norwich to Woodstock were being instituted. This became part of the stagecoach route and is documented by Benjamin Burnham's grandson Henry F. Bishop who wrote that "Captain Burnham's Inn as a stage tavern or inn and at the time of the cholera scare in 1832 and 1833 was a busy place where daily 3 stages in each direction drew up their foaming, panting horses upon the front green, the post horn's mellow tones having hearded their arrival." At this time the property was owned by Hannah's first son Joshua Bishop.

Hannah Bishop Bishop Burnham,

died in 1835 at the age of 90 while living with her son Joshua, who also cared for her grandson Reuben Bishop, who lived south of the property on the opposite side of the road. The Burnham property was situated on both sides of the road and abutted the Reuben Bishop property. When Joshua Bishop died in 1845, Reuben moved to the property and lived there with his wife Lucy until he died in 1855. In the 1860's Lucy moved to Bozrah and the family left the Burnham/Bishop family line.

*Some excerpts were taken from "A Historical Sketch of Lisbon, Conn., From 1786 to 1900 by Henry Fitch Bishop".

Be an Angel..

Often it's the small gifts that are important, like baby diapers or toilet paper, which can't be purchased with food stamps. I hope you will take this opportunity to help others.

Salvation Army Angel Cards will be available as a way for residents to donate to friends and neighbors in need. You are invited to give a gift card which the Salvation Army can use in Bozrah, Franklin, Lisbon and Sprague. Cards can be left at the town hall or sent to: The Salvation Army Upper New London County Unit, P. O. Box 304, Versailles, CT 06383.

If you have questions, please call Dennison Allen at 860-884-3588.

FY2013/2014

BUDGET SCHEDULE

*All meetings are scheduled to take place at 7:00 p.m.

12/31/12 – General Government budgets are due to the Selectmen.

03/06/13 – General Government and Board of Education budgets are due to the Board of Finance

03/13/13 – (Town Hall) – General Government Budget Presentation and Discussion

03/14/13 – (Town Hall) – Board of Education Budget Presentation and Discussion

03/20/13 – (Town Hall) – Regular Board of Finance meeting – Discussion on budget if needed

03/27/13 – (Town Hall) – Additional discussion on the General Government and Board of Education budgets. Vote to send budgets to public hearing

04/03/13 – (LCS Cafeteria/Gymnasium) – Public Hearing on Proposed Budgets

04/10/13 – (Town Hall) – Final vote on the budgets (by the BoF) to send to the Selectmen for the call of the Annual Town Meeting

05/06/13 – (LCS Cafeteria/Gymnasium) – Annual Town Meeting

1. Per Ordinance, the Annual Town Meeting is scheduled for the first Monday in May.

2. The Town Aid Road and Capital & Non-recurring budgets will be voted on at this meeting.

3.The Board of Education and General Governments budgets will not be voted on at this meeting other than to send the budgets to referendum.

4.The referendum will take place approximately two weeks after the Annual Town Meeting.

Winter Recreation Schedule

Youth Basketball - Saturdays
January 12th - March 16th

Women's Volleyball League
Tuesdays

Men's Open Basketball
Wednesdays, 7 - 9 p.m.

Adult Co-Ed Open Volleyball
Thursdays, 7 - 9 p.m.

Winter Parking Ban

The winter parking ban is in effect for town-owned roads and is enforced when the weather is expected to be hazardous for vehicles. Any vehicle found parked on Lisbon town roads during the ban may be towed at the owner's expense.