



The Lisbon Quarterly

A Newsletter for Lisbon Residents



Lisbon's Resident Trooper Retiring

By Thomas Sparkman, First Selectman

In September of 1995 the Town of Lisbon welcomed Connecticut State Trooper Kenneth Washburn as our newest resident state trooper. Seventeen years later, on September 1st 2012 we bid him farewell as he retires, not only as our resident state trooper, but from the Connecticut State Police as well.

As a retired Connecticut State Trooper myself, I know full well the level of dedication, discretion and demeanor required to be a successful resident state trooper. Although the Town has been fortunate to have some very good resident state troopers in the past, Trooper Washburn has set the bar high for his replacement.

Being a successful resident state trooper requires a certain personality. On one hand the trooper must become familiar with the demographics of the Town, friendly and familiar with the residents, yet be able to interact with those same residents during times of extreme stress or sadness, and yes, sometimes arresting those who have come to call you by your first name. Trooper Washburn, for seventeen years, did just that with a great degree of professionalism.

Trooper Washburn immediately went to work immersing himself in the community, meeting residents, business leaders, public and school officials and most importantly, introducing himself to the next generation of Town residents, our students. He became DARE certified and has, in my opinion, run one of the best DARE programs in the State. His commitment to the children of our

community has gone beyond the Lisbon Central School DARE program, as evidenced by his commitment to recreational programs and services that have proliferated during his tenure as a member and Chairman of the Recreation Committee.

For seventeen years Trooper Washburn has been a familiar sight walking the halls of the town hall, school, at municipal and social functions and has been the face of public safety here in the Town of Lisbon. Although we will miss him in that capacity, I am quite sure he will continue to be a presence in Town. While we will not be able to greet our next resident state trooper with that familiar "hey Johnny," I trust he will have the same credentials as Trooper Washburn.

On behalf of the Board of Selectmen, members of all our boards and commission, as well as the residents of the Town of Lisbon, we thank you for your years of services to our community and wish you and your entire family well as you embark on your next career.

Town officials, staff and employees will be hosting a retirement luncheon for Trooper Washburn in the town hall conference room beginning at noon on September 12th. Residents are invited and encouraged to stop in to wish him well.

Fall Festival 2012

As of this writing, Fall Festival 2012 will kick-off on September 7th with Bingo. A dance will take place on September 14th with the Annual Road Race, Chowder & Fritters, and a Horseshoe Tournament taking place on

September 15th. Hearth cooking along with music, exhibits and tours at the Bishop House will take place all day on the 15th.

Visit the Fall Festival website at lisbonfallfestival.org for more detailed information and the road race entry form.

Hoydila Property

By Thomas Sparkman, First Selectman

On July 26, 2012 the residents of the Town of Lisbon voted at a Special Town Meeting to purchase the property of the Estate of George Hoydila, located at 223 North Burnham Highway. The parcel included 131 acres of land and a 17th century house. What some of you may not know is that same house is the one depicted in the large painting that hangs in the Town Hall meeting room. The painting depicts a gathering of Revolutionary soldiers and officers gathering in what was then known as the Burnham Tavern. Rumor has it that the artist painted some of the officers and soldiers with the likeness of past First Selectman Jeremiah Shea and James Wright, as well as past Board of Finance Chairman Stephen Woodruff. I do not know if that is true, but at times when I stare at the painting, their faces do look familiar.

In a recent conversation with State of Connecticut Archaeologist Nicholas Bellantoni and State of Connecticut Historian Walter Woodward, I was reminded of the historical significance in preserving and protecting the Burnham Tavern. It is said that the tavern was a stopping place for stagecoaches that carried mail and passengers between

Norwich and Providence. Having been inside the house and seeing the vaulted ceiling of the great room on the second floor, I can imagine passengers sitting by the fire conversing and listening to music. History also suggests that in September 1774, during the Revolutionary War, soldiers under the command of Major John Durkee while headed to Boston, after receiving information that it had been attacked, arrived at what was then known as the Captain Burnham Inn where they received word that the attack on Boston had not actually happened.

As our community continues to grow, so does the potential need for additional land. While I do not profess to know what will happen in the future, I do know that we need to insure that the needs of the Town are protected and that includes land. Whether it be for recreation, municipal expansion or just plain open and protected space, it is important for the Town to have available that 131 acres of farm and forest land located on our scenic highway.

All this does come at a price and I'm happy to say that at the special meeting held on August 30th the residents voted to approve a resolution authorizing an appropriation to fund the cost of purchasing the property. While we will be looking to purchase the property through bonds, notes and temporary notes, I can assure you that the process has already begun to identify grants to offset the cost of the purchase of the parcel and renovation of the house. I will keep you updated as we move through the process.

I have already made contact with our State Senator and State Representative voicing interest in funding through the State of Connecticut Bond Commission. The Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation has assigned a "circuit rider" to this purchase to help identify what funds might be available through them. Communication with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation

Services for farm and ranchland preservation, as well as the State of Connecticut Department of Community and Economic Development and Department of Energy and Environmental Protection has been initiated. There are also private non-profit organizations that are being identified and contacted regarding their possible interest.

Lisbon Fall Quarterly

By Marcia Shafer, Town Historian

My article in the spring left off with the Post Office and their means of delivering the mail, especially to the rural areas. Previously, those living in the rural area needed to go to the Post Office to obtain their mail. Then Rural Free Delivery (RFD) came into existence and depending on the area the mail delivery person covered, you were assigned a five digit number which was to be used as part of your address. Then they developed the zip codes for cities and towns. In addition to this, they were further divided into an additional 4 numbers indicating the location of the address similar to the RFD system.

Until recently, 50 years or so, the United States Post Office was the only means to get a letter or package to someone anywhere in the world. Now we have many kinds of courier services, overnight express companies as well as FEDEX, UPS, and several others.

Telephones have gone from the Morse code system by telegraph to phones in homes on a party line with several neighbors all sharing the same "line" and were designated a number of rings to each person so they knew who the phone call was intended to receive the call. We have gone the way of crank phones, rotary dial phones, push button number phones to cell phones that now you can read your email on and have anything imaginable to locate a person, place, or object. You can text, twitter, tweet, face book and many other incredible features that would absolutely amaze our ancestors.

If you were traveling in the mid to late 1900's, you would have stopped at a gas station to ask for directions and tried to remember all the twists and turns they told you about to get to your destination. Then you might have used a walkie talkie, graduated to a CB radio, used a cell phone to call someone for help (remember how big they used to be), used a new item called On Star, and now probably use a GPS system or your cell phone GPS.

Remember typewriters that were manual, then electric, then word processors, a machine called a computer, and now a cell phone to text messages so that you are always in communication with all the necessary people to round out your life. You can make videos on your cell phone, take and send photos without even using a camera anymore.

Radio was the next means of getting social information locally if you didn't get the newspaper. Television came into existence as black and white with 3 main broadcasting companies. Now there are more than we can count. If you want to see a movie first you can go to the theater or buy it when it comes out or if you are patient you can wait until it comes on your cable tv system. Now you can even watch a movie on a DVD player anywhere as long as it is electrically charged. You might not even need a DVD player because now many vehicles have players built into the car to keep the kids entertained while you drive with your GPS or On Star, talk to your steering wheel that can make phone calls for you, and listen to any station by just telling it what you want to listen to while you drive.

What will the world be like in another 50 years? Will we recognize these antiques from the "past"?

If you would like to share any Lisbon, CT history with the community please contact me at lisboncthistorian@yahoo.com.

Lisbon Historical Society Quarterly Notes

By Kim Sperry, Member

Last June's Spring Fling was a wonderful showing of community spirit and participation. Kudos to the committee for their hard work and thanks to everyone in town who turned out for a fun day making this event a success. The John Bishop House was a beehive of activity presenting the house to folks who had not visited before, interactive open hearth cooking and sampling as well as croquet on the lawn and period games for children.

The next shindig will take place during Fall Festival on September 15. Once again, hearth cooking will take center stage, along with music, a farm implement and beekeeping exhibit in the carriage shed, museum tours and new member sign-up. Check our web and face book pages for updates.

The Last Green Valley Walktober events take place in October, new this year is a tour of the generating plant on the Quinebaug River, which is just across from the historic railroad tunnel. Newent Woods Trail, Old Lee Road, the John Bishop House, and Anshei Israel Synagogue are also on the tour schedule. The entire Walktober calendar will be published on the Last Green Valley webpage, www.tlgv.org.

During what is so far the hottest days of the summer, Society President Paula Adams, with the help of Dave, Blake and Max Wawrzynowicz, Chris and Zach Stevens, Michael Neville and Ryan Tirrochi from Troop 73 reconstructed and replanted the JBH herb garden. The beautiful stone we used around the garden was saved from the original foundation of the carriage shed and recycled as our new stone edging.

Herbs are generally described in terms of three categories, medicinal, culinary and aromatic. Our garden features specimens from all three. Bee balm, described in a 1574 book by

Nicolas Monardes about plants found in the New World, is endemic to the United States. Because it has a strong antiseptic action, poultices of the plant were used for skin infections and minor wounds. Lavender, found in two categories, is used as a culinary herb in baking and as an aromatic in cosmetics. Certain varieties of yarrow are native and others introduced. The plant has a long history as a powerful healing herb used topically for wounds, cuts and abrasions.

In the middle Ages, yarrow was part of an herbal mixture known as gruit used in the flavoring of beer prior to the use of hops. Other garden specimens include Siberian iris, hardy geranium, tall garden phlox, purple coneflowers, and marigolds and daylilies of which there are thousands of cultivars. Native to Eurasia, the plant was imported from England to America in the 17th century. There are 28 species of coreopsis, native to North America; our garden includes the flower that is also known as tickseed. Winter savory, thyme, oregano, chive and Egyptian onion are all culinary plants we use in open hearth cooking.

After the annual furnace inspection, it was decided that JBH heating system had reached the end of its lifespan. Replacement includes a much more efficient burner and furnace, new ducks & flanges and foundation. While a major capital expense, we expect to realize a savings in fuel consumption as the old system burned oil at a rate of about 1.7 gallons per hour. The new system will burn at a rate of .75 gallons per hour.

Once again, thank you to everyone for the can and bottle donations. Our regular contributors know we have had to change the way we sort and redeem glass bottles and we finally have gotten the hang of the new system. It is extremely helpful and much appreciated that our contributors drop off their donations in the original boxes/packaging.

For information on Lisbon history and L H S events go to www.99main.com/~chill/Historic.html or our new Facebook page by typing Lisbon

Historical Society in the "find friends" bar and check out videos on You Tube. The Society meets on the second Friday of each month in the town hall, come join us.

Thinking of Purchasing an Outdoor Wood-burning Furnace?

OWFs installed after July 8, 2005 must:

- Be installed not less than 200 feet from the nearest residence not served by the furnace.
- The stack must be higher than the roof peak of any residence within 500 feet of the furnace but not more than 55 feet high.

For all OWFs, the visible smoke must not:

- Cross property lines at ground level in any way that could diminish the health, safety, or enjoyment of people using a building.
- Exceed 20% opacity for more than 6 minutes or exceed 40% opacity for more than 1 minute.
- Create nuisance odors that cross the property line.

If you choose to purchase an OWF:

- Consider purchasing an OWF that qualifies under EPA's voluntary Hydronic Heaters Program. OWFs that qualify under this program are up to 90% cleaner burning than standard unity. More information on the program is available on EPA's website at www.epa.gov/woodheaters.

The above information is taken from a DEEP pamphlet which is available in the office of the Building Inspector/ZEO.



32th Annual
LISBON FALL FESTIVAL ROAD RACE
SATURDAY – SEPTEMBER 15, 2012



RACE STARTS IN FRONT OF THE TOWN HALL; FINISHES IN FRONT OF THE COMMUNITY CENTER

Course: 3.2 miles (Route 169 – Mell Road – Ames Road – Route 169)

Start Time: 10:00AM, Meet Community Center.

Entries: \$10.00 Registering before the day of the race, non-refundable
\$15.00 Registering the day of the race.

T-shirts: For the first 25 entries

Awards: 1st Place Overall Winner – Male & Female

To Enter: **Make checks Payable to:** Lisbon Fall Festival
and Mail to: Lisbon Fall Festival
c/o Ellen Joly
18 Ross Hill Road Ext.
Lisbon, CT 06351
Tel. # (860) 376-4381, edjoly01@snet.net, www.LisbonFallFestival.org

OFFICIAL APPLICATION – ALL INFORMATION MUST BE COMPLETE

PLEASE PRINT!

(check one): **SHIRT SIZE:** S ☐ M ☐ L ☐ XL ☐ XXL ☐

LAST NAME _____ FIRST NAME _____

MALE _____ FEMALE _____ E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

STREET _____ CITY/TOWN _____

STATE/ZIP _____ PHONE NUMBER _____

DATE OF BIRTH _____ AGE – **DAY OF RACE** _____

CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☐ JUNIOR OPEN 13 & UNDER | ☐ MASTER 40 – 49 |
| ☐ HIGH SCHOOL 14 – 18 | ☐ SENIOR 50 – 59 |
| ☐ OPEN 19 – 29 | ☐ SUPER SENIOR..... 60 – 69 |
| ☐ SUBMASTER 30 – 39 | ☐ CLASSIC 70 & OVER |

I hereby release the Town of Lisbon, Lisbon Fall Festival Committee and any other person(s) or organization(s) connected with this race from any claim of damage or injury from my participation in or traveling to and from the Lisbon Road Race on Saturday, September ??, 2009. I also give my permission to use my likeness and publish my name in the news media. Race numbers are non-transferable and the Race Committee reserves the right to offer or reject entries. I have read and understand the above.

SIGNATURE _____

PARENT'S SIGNATURE (IF UNDER 18) _____

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

ENTRY NO _____

RACE NO _____