



The Lisbon Quarterly

A Newsletter for Lisbon Residents



The last installment of the Burnham Tavern tour...

By Marcia Shafer, Town Historian

This is the last installment for the Burnham Tavern aka George Hoydila property. The last section of the house is the basement. You enter the basement via the kitchen next to the bathroom door. This door is located under the staircase of the back entrance to the second floor.

Going down the stairs, which are very rickety, there is a rock wall on the left and a hand rail on the right. The stone wall on the left is part of the center chimney stack. As you get near the bottom of the stairs, you will note there is an opening that acts as a crawl space opening and has pipes coming from the north to the east side of the house. Under the stair case is a rocky ledge area with a flat surface that was used as a storage shelf. The rock ledge is about four feet high and four feet in depth to the chimney stack. Based on the surface area above ground, it extends underground quite deep.

The floor is a dirt floor and the walls are dry stacked stones. The posts, joists, and sills still have pieces of bark on them from when they were originally cut and used to build the basement structure. Most of them have moisture rot or insect rot. The chimney stack goes from the side of the staircase to the far north west wall. The chimney stack takes up half to two thirds of the basement. There is no furnace but there was a water heater.

We are in the process of accumulating information about the history of the Burnham family, the tavern-inn, and what place in history the people and the tavern might played before, during and after the Revolutionary war. What famous

heroes from that era might have stayed there or gone on the road past the house. How might this have affected the society of Newent or the town of Lisbon or the State of Connecticut.

Who traveled these dirt roads as a means of getting to Norwich, New London, New York or going north to Providence, Boston, Hartford, or Sturbridge and beyond?



Were they travelers who were well known in their time as military personnel, political or government officials, or were they common folks going to visit family, going to church, or "going to town" to get their mail or supplies? How did they travel: by foot, horseback, horse and cart, wagon, carriage or stagecoach?

In doing some research I found that taverns and inns were used to feed travelers, be a source of libation, a public place of entertainment, and a meeting house if no church was available. They read mail, newspapers, attended court hearings, and when available, had beds to sleep in. There might be few beds and many strangers sleeping together.

It was noted that the tavern/innkeeper had to be recommended by the selectman and civil authorities and constables. This person had to be a man of character, usually held public office, and a member of a militia. They had to be certified by local selectmen as men of good character before they could be licensed by county authorities.

Almost all colonial taverns were located on main highways or turnpikes. Tavern signs were essential and many people in colonial times could not read so it was essential to have the sign with pictures and usually the name of the owner. Tavern signs were often carved from wood. In the Revolutionary period the name of the tavern sometimes reflected the allegiance of the tavern keeper.

To this point in time we have no idea what the tavern sign for the Burnham Tavern/Inn might have looked like. We have found no reference yet as to its design and are searching for the licensure of Benjamin Burnham Tavern/Innkeeper.

If you have any information regarding the tavern/inn and would like to share it with me or members of the Lisbon Historical Society, please contact me at lisboncthistorian@yahoo.com or 860-376-8108. Thank you.

traveled route c. 1780. This particular example incorporates some late Georgian features as well, especially the pedimented two-storey Entry pavilion. The house was early known as Burnham's tavern. Owners in the early



Historical Society President, Paula Adams and First Selectman Thomas Sparkman are pictured above signing the 99 Year Lease Agreement for the 1775 structure and 1+/- acres of the approximately 131 acres at 223 North Burnham Highway.

According to the "Historical and Architectural Resource Survey of the Town of Lisbon, Connecticut by Geoffrey Rossano, Ph.D. "during colonial and early national eras, roughly 1750 - 1820, many of the Lisbon's more successful landowners lived in substantial two-storey New England Farmhouse-style dwellings characterized by timber-frame construction, gable roofs, central entries and chimneys, balanced facades, and double-hung small-pane sash. Such homes reflected the accumulated experience of several generations of vernacular building tradition. 223 North Burnham Highway was erected astride this heavily

nineteenth century included Capt. Daniel Rose, Bishop Burnham, and Ruben Bishop. An 1882 deed refers to the site as the Deacon Ruben Bishop Farm."

The purpose of the Historical Society as stated in the deed "is to foster historical appreciation and preservation of articles of historical importance such as the building and premises." If the restoration and preservation of the Bishop House located at 11 South Burnham Highway is an example of the Society's work, the Burnham Tavern is in very, very good hands.

It should be noted that the Historical Society raises the majority of the funds used for restoration from bottle collection/redemption, hearth cooking classes, plant sales just to name a few of their fund raising efforts. With the continued support of the community, their goals for the restoration and preservation of the Bishop Tavern will be reached.

TRACK RULES

THE TRACK IS FOR RUNNING & WALKING ONLY

NO

GUM OR TOBACCO PRODUCTS

PETS

WHEELED VEHICLES

ROLLER BLADES

ROLLER SKATES

SKATEBOARDS

SCOOTERS

BICYCLES

FOOD/GLASS BOTTLES

Lisbon Recreation Tennis Court
est. 2011

RULES & REGULATIONS

- Use tennis court at own risk.
- No food, glass or alcoholic beverages.
- No pets.
- No bicycles, roller blades or skate boards.
- Proper footwear required.
- Children under the age of 12 must be accompanied by an adult.
- Court for Lisbon residents & their guests only.
- Do not abuse net or other equipment.
- Court hours from sunrise to sunset.

Contact Lisbon Rec. Committee
with comments or concerns
860-376-9791.

**LISBON RECREATION
ANNUAL EGG
HUNT**

Saturday, April 12th

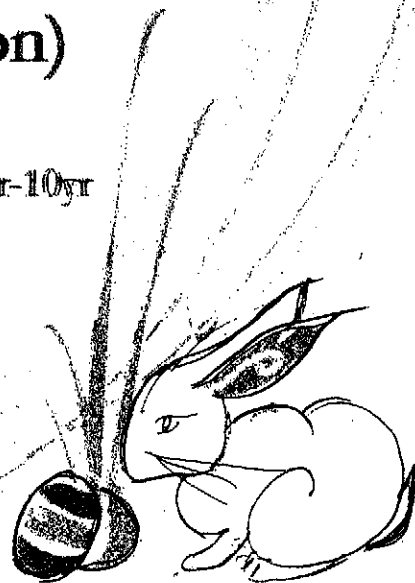
(Raindate Sunday, April 13 @10AM)

10AM SHARP!

**Lisbon Meadows Park
(near the pavilion)**

Age Groups: Under 4 4yr-6yr 7yr-10yr

**** Please bring your own basket ****



SPONSORED BY THE LISBON RECREATION
COMMITTEE



THE LISBON RECREATION COMMITTEE

**IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THE UNVEILING OF OUR
NEW ONLINE FIELD USE SCHEDULING WEBSITE...**



www.stadiumroar.com/LisbonRec

BENEFITS AND FEATURES OF THIS NEW POLICY INCLUDE.....

- **BOOK YOUR PROGRAM'S FIELD USE ONLINE WITH JUST A FEW CLICKS. (GONE IS THE OLD PAPER 'FIELD USE FORM' THAT SAT IN THE TOWN HALL FOR DAYS ON END BEFORE IT WAS APPROVED).**
- **KEEP TRACK OF THE DAYS AND TIMES YOUR PROGRAM IS SCHEDULED TO USE ONE OF THE TOWN FACILITIES**
- **POST YOUR PROGRAM'S SCHEDULE ON A GROUP CALENDER FOR OTHERS TO VIEW**
- **VIEW ALL BOOKINGS FOR EACH FACILITY IN TOWN BEFORE YOU SUBMIT YOUR REQUEST OR ANYTIME IN BETWEEN. NO MORE DOUBLE BOOKING!**
- **AUTOMATIC NOTIFICATION OF BOOKINGS, CANCELLATION, AND CHANGES TO ANYONE IN YOUR ORGANIZATION WHO SIGNS UP TO RECEIVE THEM.**

2014 PROCEDURE FOR BOOKING ATHLETIC FACILITIES IN THE TOWN OF LISBON

AS OF MARCH 1ST, 2014 THE PAPER FIELD USE FORM WILL NO LONGER BE USED TO BOOK ATHLETIC FIELDS IN THE TOWN OF LISBON. ANY ORGANIZATION WISHING TO SCHEDULE FIELD USE SHOULD FOLLOW THE FOLLOWING PROTOCOL.....

STEP 1: Go to <http://www.stadiumroar.com/LisbonRec>

STEP 2: On the left hand side of the homepage, click on "View Facility Schedules"

STEP 3: Click on the red Location Request button

STEP 4: Select the organization or program you are making the request for. If your program is not listed, select 'OTHER'.

STEP 5: Select the location(s) you wish to create a time slot for and then click 'next'.

STEP 6: Choose between the 'recurring days of the week' or 'free-style dates' option.

(The recurring days option is useful if you are requesting the same time slot for any entire season, the free-style dates option is for individual practice or event dates)

STEP 7: Click each date you wish to make a request on. When you are finished selecting dates, add start and ends times below the calendar. Click the green 'Done' button.

STEP 8: Enter your first and last name and the email you wish the Rec Committee to reply to. You may also add any additional information in the space provided and/or attach files including the Field Use Agreement Form.

STEP 9: Click the green 'Send' button. Your request has now been sent to the Recreation Committee members.

STEP 10: When your request is approved (or denied) you will receive an email from a Committee Member through the Stadium Roar website.

**ALSO PLEASE TAKE NOTE OF THE FOLLOWING
IMPORTANT INFORMATION:**

AT THIS TIME, ATHLETIC LEAGUE ORGANIZATION SCHEDULING SHOULD BE COMPLETED ONLY BY THE PRESIDENT OF SAID ORGANIZATION OR DESIGNATED OFFICIAL IN CHARGE OF SCHEDULING. *INDIVIDUAL TEAMS WITHIN A LEAGUE SHOULD NOT REQUEST FIELD USE.*

ALL ORGANIZATIONS MUST SUBMIT A SIGNED OR DIGITALLY SIGNED ELECTRONIC COPY OF THE '*FIELD USE RULES AND RESTRICTIONS FORM*' WITH THEIR INITIAL SCHEDULE REQUEST TO BE HELD ON FILE WITH THE LISBON RECREATION DEPARTMENT. THIS FORM IS AVAILABLE ONLINE AT THE STADIUM ROAR WEBSITE UNDER THE 'FORMS' TAB.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS REGARDING OUR NEW POLICY, OR IF YOU NEED ASSISTANCE USING ANY FEATURES OF THE STADIUM ROAR WEBSITE, INCLUDING ADDING YOUR PROGRAM TO THE STADIUM ROAR LIST, PLEASE CONTACT THE LISBON RECREATION SCHEDULING COORDINATOR, CHAD JOHNSON, AT (860)-617-1144 OR EMAIL: JOHNSONC@NFASCHOOL.ORG