

Documents from early Lisbon family donated to historical society

By The Bridge Weekly
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LISBON - The Lisbon Area Historical Society recently completed cataloging a sizeable donation made by descendants of one of the earliest settlers of Lisbon, Enos Bishop (1724-1778) who was deeded land in Lisbon in 1770. Enos was captured by Indians in 1754, taken to Canada, and escaped back to his home in Boscawen. His father, Josiah (1699-1746) was captured by Indians, killed, and thrown into the Merrimack River. Enos Bishop's oldest son was Josiah Bishop (1750-1824) who probably came to Lisbon with his father in 1770. The Bishop family built a cabin on the property that is now the Lisbon Village Country Club. The first cabin was located along the Ammonoosuc River in the vicinity of today's second green and third tee of the golf course. The family built replacement dwellings, the last in 1888 on a plateau above the location of the original cabin. **The 1888 structure is now the Ammonoosuc Inn.**

The oldest document donated to the Society is the original deed dated November 1, 1770 in which Enos Bishop is deeded 200 acres, a small island in the Ammonusuck (sic) River, and a small piece of land across the river. The amount paid for the property was 10 shillings.

Enos's son, Josiah, became prominent in the early settlement of Lisbon and was known as Squire Bishop. Among the Bishop papers is an appointment of 2nd Lieutenant of the 4th Co. in the 25th Regiment of Militia in New Hampshire to Josiah Bishop signed by John Langdon, President of New Hampshire at Portsmouth dated July 28, 1785, and an appointment of Justice of the Peace to Josiah Bishop from John Taylor Gilman, Governor of New Hampshire, in the year of our Lord 1801 and of American Independence the 25th.



Appointment of Josiah Bishop to the Hampshire Militia

Another document showing evidence of Josiah Bishop's prominence in early Lisbon is a bill of sale dated April 16, 1818 from the trustees of the Methodist meeting house and land on which it was erected, selling to Josiah Bishop a pew for \$20 in the east side of the meetinghouse designated as pew #20.

Josiah Bishop's son, Enos (1793-1852) kept a ledger starting in 1829 which details his trade as a shoemaker. Entries show that he made, mended, helled (sic), tapped, and capped thick and thin shoes and boots, he sewed and mended aprons, gloves, bootlegs, harnesses, halters, bridles, and ox slings. He tanned calfskin, horsehide, coltskin, kidskin, and dogskin. He also hired out his wagon, sleigh, buggy, and horse. He sold hair, potatoes, skins, oats, oil, and later on a more extensive inventory of items. As payment for his services, he received many different items such as hogskin, dogskin, calfskin, horsehide, sheepskin, cloth, tea, bark, cheese, cabbage, pumpkins, a hat, corn, beef, oats, rye, soap, potatoes, fish, wheat, apples, veal, butter, a goose, pork, wood, a watch, butternuts, hay, vinegar, and help with butchering and other labor.

Rev. William Berkley (spelled many different ways) was a minister and landowner in Lisbon and Lyman. His daughter, Selinda, married into the Bishop family, and there are many old documents from the Berkley family among the Bishop papers. The most interesting is an Indenture by Samuel Way, guardian of Cyrus Barkley of Lyman to "place and bind out himself (Cyrus) as an apprentice to William Barkley of Lyman, to learn the art and trade or mystery of agriculture." Under the terms of the indenture, Cyrus Barkley would dwell with and serve William Barkley for seven years starting on July 5, 1806. Cyrus Barkley was 13 years of age. He would also keep his master's secrets and readily obey his lawful commands everywhere at all times. He would do no damage to his master nor willfully suffer any to be done by others, and if he knew of any he should give his master reasonable notice. He would not waste his master's goods or lend them to any. He could not play cards, dice or any other unlawful game. Fornication was not to be committed nor matrimony. Taverns, ale houses or places of gaming were not to be frequented, and he could not be absent from the service of his master. In all things and at all times he was to carry and behave himself as a good and faithful apprentice ought. William Barkley's duties included teaching, instructing in the art of agriculture by the best way or means, teaching Cyrus Barkley to read and "wright" and cypher if the apprentice was capable to learn, provide his apprentice good and sufficient meat, drink, clothing, lodging and other necessaries fit and convenient for such an apprentice. At the expiration of the indenture, the master would give the apprentice two suits of "warring" apparel, one suitable for the Lord's day, and the other for working days.

