

A Chronology of Events in Leeds History

- 1779: First visits to the area by settlers from New Gloucester, Maine.
- 1780: First settlement.
- 1794: Baptist and Methodist religious revivals.
- 1795: Methodist class formed.
- 1800: Baptist Church organized.
- 1801: Leeds incorporated. First town meeting.
- 1806: Baptist meeting house built on Meeting House Hill.
- 1807: Quaker meeting house built on Quaker Ridge.
- 1822: Town gets first post-office (at Leeds Center).
- 1829: Freewill Baptist Church organized.
- 1830: Universalist Society organized.
- 1831: First town appropriation for poor relief.
- 1850: Town population peaks (1,652).
- 1852: Androscoggin Railroad Company runs first train to Leeds.
- 1864: Androscoggin Railroad Company switches gauges in defiance of Maine Supreme Court.

- 1875: Leeds Grange established, briefly
- 1885: Leeds Grange reopens.
- 1887: Grange hall built.
- 1887-88: Cornshop at Leeds Center burns. New cornshop built.
- 1890: Leeds elects first woman to public office.
- 1893: State abolishes school districts, centralizing control of Leeds schools in local committee of three.

- 1899: Town population falling fast (999).
- 1901: Leeds Centennial Celebration held.
- 1906: D.F.D. Russell starts medical practice in Leeds.
- 1909: First town appropriation for fire-fighting.
- 1910: Leeds Telephone Association established.
- 1911: Town buys first snow roller.
- 1911-12: Doc Russell buys first car in town.
- 1912-ish: Cheese Factory shuts down.
- 1914: Ladies Circle of the Universalist Church established.
- 1915: Maine Sand and Gravel Company established in Leeds Plains.
- 1916: Swain's Mill shuts down.
- 1918: State mandates formation of Leeds-Greene-Turner school union.
- 1921: V.A. Deane High School opens.
- 1922: Walter Trider buys first radio in town.
- 1926: Route 106 sinks.
Construction of Gulf Island Dam in Lewiston-Auburn.

- 1930: Town population at all-time low (729).
- 1931: Town buys first snow plow.
- 1932: Route 106 sinks again.
- 1933: Central Maine Power brings first electric lines to Leeds.
Town switchboard moves to the bedroom of Flora "Central" Hewins, where it will remain for twenty-five years.

- 1936: Federal Works Projects Administration funds and jobs come to town.
- 1940: Bancroft-Martin culvert plant opens.
- 1946: Edgar Lane builds town's first broiler houses.
- 1947: Central Maine Power completes electrification of Leeds.
- 1949: Church of the Nazarene established at Keen's Corner.
Town stops publishing vital statistics.
Town purchases Stinchfield Point for public beach.

- 1952: Cornshop closes.
Leeds Community Church established.
Town stops publishing names of poor relief recipients.
- 1953: Leeds Central Elementary School opens.
- 1954: Last passenger train to Leeds.
- 1955: Town meeting moves to Saturday and adopts secret ballot.
- 1960: Leeds Telephone Assn. sells holdings to Lewiston, Greene and Monmouth Telephone Company, which replaces crank phones with dial phones.
- 1964: Surplus Food Program started.
- 1966: Organization of Leavitt High School and School Admin. District 52.
- 1967: Self-Help Housing Program started.
- 1970: Rural Community Action Ministry established.
- 1981: Broiler industry collapses.

Excerpt from the book "Taken From the Ground" by Elizabeth M. Lynn