

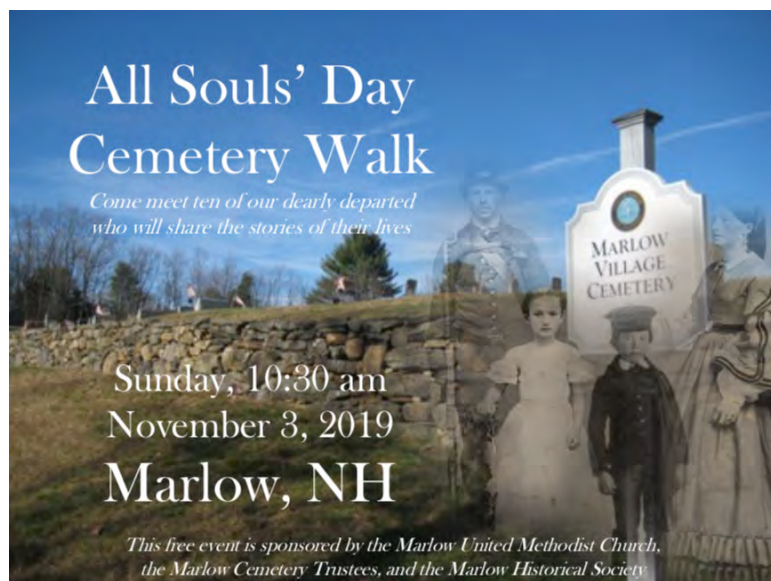
MHS Newsletter

The Marlow Historical Society's mission is to preserve and illuminate Marlow's History

Winter 2020

Marlow's Village Cemetery is 200 Years Old!

We could not think of a more appropriate way to celebrate the bicentennial of our historic Village Cemetery than an **ALL SOULS' DAY CEMETERY WALK**. It was held on November 3, and it was co-sponsored by the Marlow United Methodist Church, the Marlow Historical Society, and the Marlow Cemetery Trustees.*



During the walk, guests met with ten of our “dearly departed” in the oldest section of the cemetery, which is on land that was purchased by the town from the Washburn family in 1819. We featured ten costumed reenactors who portrayed:

- **Abigail (Pratt) Knight (1791-1844)**, a mother grieving the death of her one year old daughter - portrayed by Barbara White;
- **Gilman Tenney (1810-1856)**, who built the house where Dave and Sharon Davis live - portrayed by former Marlow resident Peter Eisenstadter;
- **Bethiah Washburn (1760-1849)**, daughter of Josiah Washburn, who owned the land where the cemetery is located - portrayed by Kate McNally;
- **Martin Huntley (1779-1859)**, the mill owner who became the grandfather of famous opera singer Calista Huntley Piccioli - portrayed by John Franklin from Peterborough;
- **Susannah (Pierce) Farley (1809 -1881)**, cousin of Franklin Pierce, 14th President of the United States - portrayed by Meg Kupiec from Walpole;
- **Horace Gee (1815-1908)**, whose family worked the Gee Mill at the junction of Sand Pond Rd. and Rt. 10, and gave the Gee Brook its name - portrayed by Bucky White;
- **Sally Brigham (1776-1863)**, a maiden aunt “whose tongue was sharper than a needle” - portrayed by Beth Willey;
- **Ezra Huntley (1825-1902)**, a Civil War corporal who guarded the Lincoln conspirators - portrayed by Dick Dunning from Peterborough;
- **Fanny (Howard) Baker (1796-1862)**, Dr. Isaac Baker’s wife - portrayed by Pat Hersom
- **Joseph Dupuis (1838-1912)**, an early immigrant from Canada who died in an almshouse - portrayed by Tom Willey.

In addition to sharing remarkable stories about some of our earliest residents, and bringing life and personality to historical facts, the Cemetery Walk gave our Society a chance to stress the importance of preserving the gravestones, and of making the Village Cemetery more accessible to visitors in person and online. There are approximately 500 graves in the original section of the cemetery, and more than 1,900 in total.

From 2017 to 2019 the Cemetery Trustees* have had 581 monuments in the 1856 and southwest side of the 1905 sections cleaned. The hope is to continue cleaning about 300 monuments per year until all stones have been done. They also work to repair broken, leaning, and fallen monuments.

To date over 1,000 memorials have been added to Find-A-Grave (findagrave.com), the free online database that allows you to “find cemeteries near you and locate grave sites of your loved ones through a simple search, add headstone photos and GPS coordinates, and create memorials with bios and photos.” Historian Tracy Messer has been using the free app, and our goal is to incorporate memorials for every grave in town into the Find-A-Grave database. (Continued on Page 2)

(Continued from Page 1) It is a huge task, but with the help of volunteers we are confident that it can be achieved. As Marlow historian Tracy Messer stated: "Hopefully this Cemetery Walk will be the first of more to come as we continue creating first-person narratives. There are literally hundreds of stories in Marlow just waiting to be told".

Pages 28 - 29 of the Marlow History, re-edited in 2002 by the Marlow Historical Society, contain a full history of the Village Cemetery from 1819 to 1904. In a land trade with Timothy and Carol Jones, the town added more property to it in 1976. The cemetery contains 4 sections: 1819, 1856, 1905, and Perpetual Care (Northside) Section. As Betty Batchelder says in the new edition of the Marlow History, "A more beautiful spot for the resting place of our dead cannot be found than this Village Cemetery. Nature's picture on the North, West and South is one we can never forget."

**Present Cemetery Trustees are Dan Reed, Wendy Durant, Edward White, and Scott Chase (alternate).*



See more photos from the walk on the insert!

Personal War Sketches

This is the third transcription by local historian Tracy W. Messer

Personal Sketch of Hon. James Burnap

Mr. Burnap was born in the town of Nelson, N.H. in 1816 being the ninth son of Pious U. Burnap and grandson of John Burnap, one of the first settlers of the town. At the age of 11 years he was left fatherless. At 17 years of age he was apprenticed to his uncle Asa Spaulding, a tanner and currier, with whom he remained four years.

After spending some time in Massachusetts and Charlestown, N.H., he came to Marlow, and in 1838 in company with Wells H. Way, bought the small tannery of Lumen Huntley. Way soon retired when Josiah, a brother, became a partner. The brothers continued in company until 1856 when Josiah retired. James M. Howard became a partner in 1862, retiring in 1869. In 1859, steam was instituted as a motive power. The tannery was burnt in 1864, but a new one, enlarged and improved, was at once erected. In 1877 it was again destroyed by fire, but only a few weeks elapsed before it was rebuilt and fully equipped and, as then constructed, was scarcely equaled by any in the state. The tannery continued to do an extensive business until 1891 when the parties for whom Mr. Burnap tanned retired from business which, together with his advanced age, necessitated the closing of the tannery.



In 1868, he purchased the Symondsville property consisting of the tannery, dwelling houses, and real estate. The tannery building has been converted into a saw and planing mill, and for the manufactory of chair stock.

Mr. Burnap is interested in the pottery manufactory at Keene, N.H. being a member of the firm of J.S. Taft and Company. He is a large owner of real estate in Keene and Nashua. He is also owner of property in Unity and, besides his large farm in Marlow and 13 tenements in the village, owns large tracts of lumber and pasture lands in Washington and Stoddard. He is an extensive and enthusiastic farmer. His farms being under a high state of cultivation, cutting large crops of hay and grain, keeping large flocks of sheep, has a fine dairy, several yokes of oxen, and many horses.

In 1885, he purchased the Farley estate.* Here he built a large and commodious barn, remodeling and building additions to the house, fitting it up with all the modern improvements making it a spacious and elegant residence and an ornament to the village where he now resides. (Continued on Page 3)

(Continued from Page 2)

He is an active member of the Patrons of Husbandry. He was a charter member of Excelsior Grange and its first worthy master, serving as such for two years. He is also a member of Cheshire County Pomona Grange, serving as its worthy master two years, visiting every grange in the county.

At the breaking out of the Rebellion, Mr. Burnap was past the age for enlistment, but his heart, hand, and purse were ever ready to assist the soldier and maintain the Union. He was appointed by the town an agent to procure substitutes to help fill their quota. Mr. Burnap is a valuable citizen and takes pride in, and is ready to assist in, any movement that will benefit or improve the town. He has held many offices of trust with credit to himself and to his constituents. He has been Selectman, represented the town in the State Legislature in 1861 and 1862, and was State Senator in 1876 and 1877. In 1879, he was elected a member of the Governor's Council, serving two years; has been a State Justice many years. He has been a director of the Citizens National bank since its formation; is president of the Granite Savings Bank. He is an active member and liberal supporter of the Methodist Church and has been a steward for the past 33 years. He was for many years leader of the choir.

In 1840, he married Miss Mary Cordelia, daughter of Emerson Gilman of Lowell, Massachusetts by whom he has one daughter, S. Abbie. Mrs. Burnap died in 1890. Mr. Burnap is emphatically a self-made man. Thrown upon his own resources in early life with no chance for procuring an education only by what could be obtained from the common schools of his native town, and starting in life a poor boy, he has by his untiring energy, frugality, good judgment and Industry, acquired to himself an honorable position among his fellow citizens and an ample competency of this world's goods.

**now Christmas Trees Inn*

The Huntleys of Marlow

Sometime prior to 1647, John Huntley emigrated from the British Isles, eventually settling in Old Lyme, Connecticut. In the 300+ years that followed, his descendants have scattered around the country. Some went west, as did Chet Huntley's branch.* Others somehow found tiny Marlow, New Hampshire.

The first Huntley to come to Marlow was Nathan. When New Hampshire Governor Benning Wentworth first granted land for a township in 1755 no settlement was ever established. Then a new grant was made on October 7, 1761 to a group of Lyme, Connecticut residents, including Nathan Huntley.

Nathan Huntley built the first house on Marlow Hill in 1767 on 100 acres. It was located on the Marlow-Lempster line and the land remained in the family for 180 years. Nathan was one of the first Marlow Selectmen, and he was always active in town affairs. He also served in the Revolutionary War. Nathan (1726-1798) and his wife, Lucy Smith Huntley (1729-1802) both died in Marlow. Seven children were born to them in Lyme, but how many came with them to Marlow requires more research. As six of them were sons, the Huntley name would continue.

At one time these Marlow Hills were filled with Huntleys. Today we have only one family with that surname. At the same time, however, there is Huntley DNA running through quite a few townspeople.



Mehitable Porter Huntley and Alton Freeman Huntley, with their son, Frank Henry Huntley, Pat Strickland's grandfather.

I am one of those. This is the story my grandfather told me. I know it might be hard to believe but I know it to be so. My grandfather, Frank Henry Huntley, lived here as a little boy, but in 1907 he was forced to move away to live with relatives. He and his younger brother Ira were made orphans by the flu epidemic. He was just 10 years old. His mother, Mehitable Judkins (Jane) Porter Huntley died on January 17, 1907 and her husband, Alton Freeman Huntley passed away three days later, as well as their baby daughter Ethel. They are buried in the village cemetery. Years ago I heard that, as sick as she was on her last day, Mehitable (Hitty) had prepared soup to feed her family.

The story goes that my grandfather Frank walked into town for the doctor or help from relatives. Knee deep in snow, it must have taken him some time from Baker's Corner. When they got back to the house it was too late. At least the two boys were spared, but they had to be separated.

Grandpa was considered old enough (at 10!!!) to help on an uncle's farm in Walpole Valley. Uncle Ike (Ira) was only 7, too

young, so he was adopted by a family in Keene. Luckily, throughout their lives they remained in contact, often visiting between Keene and South Charlestown. Ira kept the Huntley family name alive. Maybe Mehitable and Alton would be pleased to know that two of their great grandchildren have now found their way back to Marlow. Frank was my grandfather and Ira was Dan Huntley's grandfather.

The day I moved into my house in Marlow, Ivan Huntley (Alton's brother), probably in his 90s by then, came walking down the road with a portrait of my grandfather and his parents taken before the tragedy. This picture was a cherished gift, and it saddens me that such misfortune happened to such a lovely young family.

Many stories of the Huntley family float around Marlow, too many to tell here. We do have Huntley Mountain overlooking Sand Pond, Huntley Road, and many Huntleys resting in peace in our cemeteries, plus that DNA running through many descendants.

There is a Huntley National Association. Their second reunion was held in Marlow in 1948. The first weekend in August 2020 the organization plans to meet in Keene, NH. Our Marlow Historical Society hopes to be involved in some way, such as a tour of Huntley sites. Anyone with ideas or stories should contact me or other members of the Society. We would welcome your input.

Pat Huntley Strickland

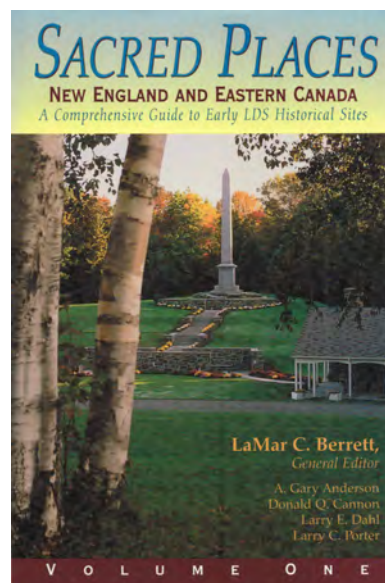
**Chet Huntley was NBC's co-anchor with David Brinkley in a news program that ran from 1956-1970. Some years ago the Huntley National Association reunion was held in Montana, where his branch of the family settled. Pat remembers that as kids they would say "Goodnight, Uncle Chet" at the end of the news program.*

Marlow and the Mormons

Did you know that our town is a venerated site in the historical tradition of the Church of the Latter Day Saints. It was, after all, the home of Solomon Mack (1732-1820), Marlow's first settler; and Solomon, through his daughter Lucy (1775-1856) was the maternal grandfather of the Prophet Joseph Smith, founder of the Latter Day Saints movement.

Solomon and his wife Lydia Gates, a school teacher, traveled from Granville, NY to the "wilderness" in 1761. Their house, the first ever built in Marlow, was located near the northeast corner of the old part of the present Village Cemetery. The couple had seven children, and 18 grandchildren.

LaMar C. Berrett, in his book *Sacred Places - New England and Eastern Canada - A Comprehensive Guide to Early LDS Historical Sites*, writes about Marlow and includes photos of the village; of the area that is now the cemetery, marking the site of Solomon's home; and of Mack Mountain, which serves as a bucolic backdrop to the burial ground.



The Wonder of Words



It's fascinating to learn where words originate - like West **YARD** Cemetery in Marlow, and Prison Street **YARD** in Keene.

According to Alan Rumrill, an unimpeachable source that we often rely on: The word **YARD** derives from an ancient word meaning garden, and a garden, obviously, was located around a house. The area around an English church was known as the **churchyard**; and the portion of the churchyard set aside for burials was called the **graveyard**! So technically a graveyard should be beside a church, and a cemetery not necessarily so.

The term **CEMETERY**, by the way, comes from the Greek word for "sleeping place" or "dormitory". Today the two words, graveyard and cemetery, are used interchangeably regardless of location.



All Souls' Day Bicentennial Cemetery Walk 1819 ➡ MARLOW VILLAGE CEMETERY ➡ 2019



Photos by Ed Thomas (ET) and Stephanie Tickner (ST)



Elgin Jones
(Tracy Messer)



Abigail (Pratt) Knight
(Barbara White)



Gilman Tenney
(Peter Eisenstadter)



Bethiah Washburn
(Kate McNally)



Martin Huntley
(John Franklin)



Susannah (Pierce) Farley
(Meg Kupiec)



Horace Gee
(Bucky White)



Sally Brigham
(Beth Willey)



Ezra Huntley
(Dick Dunning)



Fanny (Howard) Baker
(Pat Hersom)



Joseph Dupuis
(Tom Willey)



Annual Report

2019 was a pivotal year for our Historical Society: for the first time our fully refurbished museum was open to the public every month from May to October, and we were able to devote more time to our mission itself.

Highlights of the 2019 Season:

Our collection has been enriched by the acquisition of a rare Farley Ink bottle, and all artifacts in the great hall are now protected from light damage by solar screen shades on all the windows. The inventorying and cataloguing work by archivist Chris Pratt continued all summer and now includes not just the contents of the museum, but also the paper archives and administrative records of the Society.

In collaboration with the Walpole Historical Society we held a major event featuring our 1876 album bridal quilt, and an 1879 wedding gown from their museum. Flowers on every table.... a splendid wedding cake.... regular tableware and cutlery. Our guests —over 50 of them — thought it was quite special.

Tracy Messer gave a first-person portrayal of President Calvin Coolidge on October 26, entitled “ Calvin Coolidge: The Monadnock Region As I’ve Known It”. It was held at the Church, since Jones Hall is undergoing restoration.

On November 3, to celebrate the bicentennial of our Village Cemetery, we partnered with the Marlow United Methodist Church and the Marlow Cemetery Trustees to hold a Cemetery Walk featuring ten graves in the oldest section of the graveyard.

We published three newsletters, and we hope you enjoyed them as much as we enjoyed putting them together. Our newsletter angels are: Charlie Strickland with his remarkable memory; Tracy Messer and Alan Rumrill, who are never too busy to answer questions; and Stephanie Tickner, advisor and formatting whiz.

There is new Historical Society merchandise for sale: navy fleece vests with embroidered Giffin Elm emblem; and a fine compilation of our newsletters from 2012 through 2019, which perfectly complements the official Marlow History. Other items for sale: Marlow By Heart poetry books, Marlow Histories, note cards, and caps and long-sleeve T-shirts with the Giffin Elm symbol.

With an old building to maintain, we always need extra funds. This year we were fortunate to garner \$7,000 from Charitable Gaming, which will be set aside for urgent repairs and restoration needs. Membership dues and donations are indispensable for normal operating expenses.

Plans for 2020:

We are collecting Marlow T-shirts from the past for a special display (maybe a fashion show????). We already have 25! The last two came from Tim Symonds of Audio Accessories.

To celebrate the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution giving women the right to vote, we will host a special speaker through the NH Humanities Council.

We are planning an exhibit of lumberjack tools and will enlist the help of local woodsmen and loggers.

A second Cemetery Walk will take place, featuring another ten graves. There are many ways this could develop in the future: a tribute to veterans, one war at a time; children; immigrants; women... We welcome suggestions.

As we share with you fond memories of 2019, and exciting goals for 2020, we thank you for your unfailing support, and send best wishes for the holidays and the new year.



**Marlow Historical Society
Founded in 1976**

**President - Maria M. Baril
Vice President - Joanne Thomas
Secretary - Patty Little
Treasurer - Pat Strickland**

**Directors
Rhonda Lake
Sharon Spalluto
Ed Thomas**

mhsnewhampshire@gmail.com

*www.marlownewhampshire.org/
marlow-historical-society.php*

**PO Box 12
Marlow, New Hampshire 03456**

Main and Mill Streets

This house, sadly stripped of its beautiful porches, still stands on the corner of Main and Mill Streets. It was originally built in 1835 by Russell and Martin Huntley, father and grandfather of Marlow's famous operatic diva, Calista Huntley Piccioli, who was born in the house.



The structure was originally much larger, and served as a tavern and hotel. Its east wing was removed in 1843 to make way for the construction of Mill Street, where it became the home of Perley Fox; it was torn down about 20 years ago. The west wing was moved 15 feet to the right and became the home of Frank Lowell; it burned in 1920.

The central structure that we see today had a series of owners from the late 1800s on - including Lucian and Addie Tinker, thus it was often called "the Tinker House". This photo was taken during the Marlow Town Fair, Sept. 1881. At the time the owners were Augustine Goodhue, and his wife Melissa who ran a millinery and dressmaking establishment. The front sign reads Millinery and Fancy Goods.