



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

Fall 2021

FROM TEMPERANCE HALL TO METHODIST CHAPEL

by Tracy Messer

The Marlow Temperance Union was formed May 6, 1890 by a group of citizens who promoted abstinence from the use of intoxicating drinks. On November 13, 1890, Perley Edmund Fox deeded a piece of land adjoining his tinshop to the association, with the condition that they must erect a building. The structure was evidently fashioned after the Jones Store building which stood just west of Dr. Perkins' brick house further up on the Forest Road. The Temperance Hall must have been built in 1891, as it appears on the 1892 village map.

Previously, a small meat and provision shop stood on this site, owned by Gardner Huntley as early as 1854/55. It appears as an unmarked building on the 1858 village map. Soon afterwards (before 1877), this shop was removed to the rear of the Fiske (Perkins Brothers) store on the corner of Mill and Main Streets.

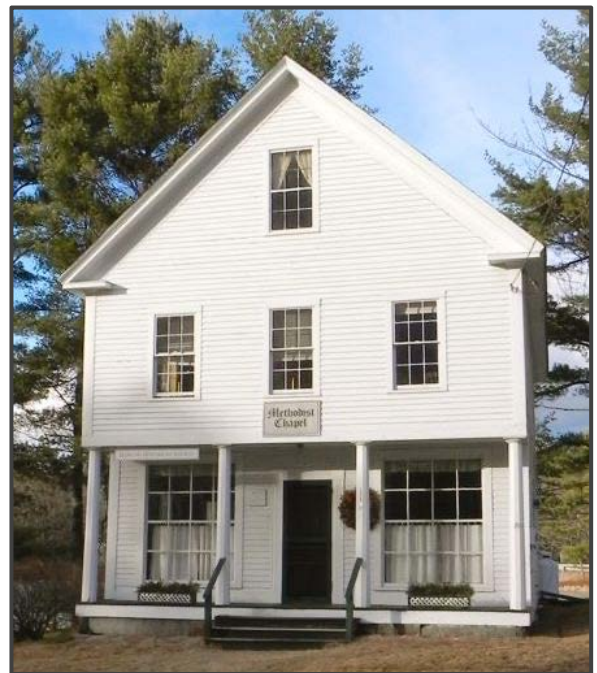
Relatively little is known about the Temperance Union's activities. However, a newspaper clipping (circa 1904) reports that among that year's Old Home Days activities, "The Women's Club," with Carrie Nation [the famous hatchet-swinging saloon wrecker] prominently in their midst, attracted much attention." Perhaps because their ideals were not shared by the younger generation, the Marlow Temperance Union conveyed their land and building to the Ladies Aid Society of the Marlow Methodist-Episcopal Church on October 21, 1909.

About 4:00am on August 20, 1916, Harry Lewis, proprietor of the Marlow Inn, was awakened by the barking of his dog. A fire, of questionable origin, started in the shed of the hotel and spread in both directions. Though there was no loss of life, eight structures were destroyed, including the Ladies Aid Society building. The Society's loss was upward of \$1,000, and there was no insurance.

In light of their loss, Elgin A. Jones deeded to the Ladies Aid Society his previously mentioned store building on November 7, 1916. He did so in consideration "of the fact that my wife, Sarah Boynton Jones, was long an active member, and sometimes president of said Society, and also on the condition that the building herein conveyed shall always be kept insured." According to the minutes book of the Ladies Aid Society (given to the MHS by Nelda Gorges), the store building was removed to the site of the old Temperance Hall later that month. The minutes mention something about L.D. Tinker removing the ell from the Jones Store building.

The "Jones Store" building was erected in 1859 by John Q. Jones, father of Elgin, and Benjamin Coolidge, an experienced storekeeper. It was established for the convenience of those who lived in the west end of the village. The store was operated by Mr. Coolidge until 1864, when Amos Glidden became a partner; subsequently, Mr. Jones becoming sole owner. After being vacant for a short period of time, the store was stocked by John H. Fuller of Keene and George D. Joslin of Marlow. Operating as "George D. Joslin & Co.," the partnership remained here for three years when they relocated to the store at the lower end of the village (most familiarly known as the Newton & Nichols store).

The building was then occupied by John Nelson, a successful Stoddard merchant, who eventually auctioned off his goods. From 1869 until 1880, George W. Clyde and Benjamin F. Knight conducted business here under the name of "Clyde and Knight." In 1880, the interest in the store was purchased by Elgin Jones. He retained Mr. Clyde as assistant until 1892 when, due to the demise of the tannery and competition from the two larger stores in town, the business was closed and the goods were auctioned off by C.L. Goodwin. At one point, the basement had been fitted up as a market by a man from Stoddard who had for several years supplied the people of that town with meat by cart. The second story, which was only partially finished, was once occupied by Orin C. Cross and, in 1874, by a Mr. Whipple, for use as a tailoring room. Later on, the rooms were made suitable for use of the Grand Army of the Republic, which occupied it for years. At one time the space may have been used by L.D. Tinker as a casket shop.

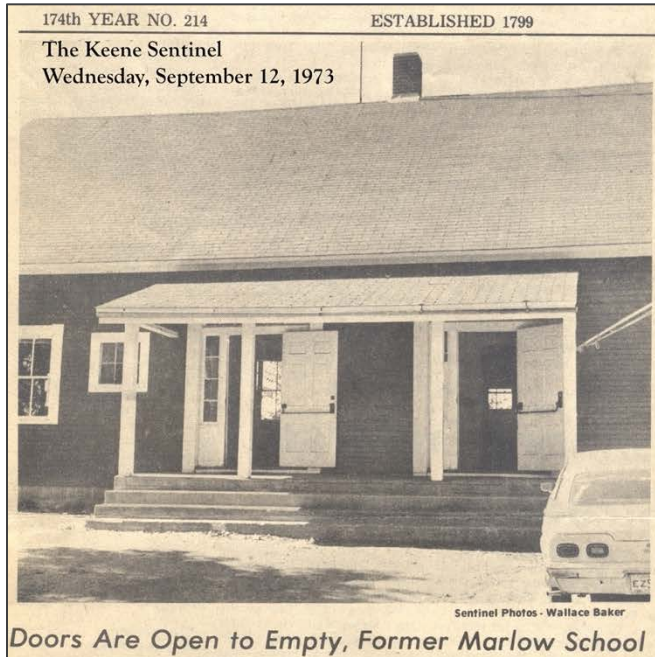


According to a Keene Sentinel article for Wednesday December 29, 1926: "A steel ceiling has been placed in the chapel through the efforts of 'The Girls' club, and the work of installing was contributed by Irving Sawyer, Ivan Huntley, Henry Dodge, and Archie Corey and others. It is expected the Boys' club will use the upper hall for their meetings."

The building is identified by an old black-and-white sign mounted on the front gable end reading "Methodist Chapel." The Women's Fellowship of Christian Service, a group that evolved from the original Ladies Aid Society, has used it for various events and functions, including the Gathering Place, where you can "meet your friends and neighbors, enjoy a hot beverage, chat, catch up, munch something tasty, read the paper, warm up and enjoy Marlow-style Saturday mornings"; and the Food Pantry which served residents during the COVID pandemic. The Marlow Historical Society's museum used to be located upstairs until it was moved to Murray Hall; and PC Connection, Inc. rented it during the late 1980s for its weekly sales meetings until space became available in the Christmas Trees Inn.

Although smaller than the three iconic buildings that overlook Tin Shop Pond, the Chapel stands in harmony with them and is an important part of the Marlow landscape.

Fall Means Back to School - From Old to New - 1973



Doors Are Open to Empty, Former Marlow School

*School House #4 - Built 1852
In Session 1852-1973*



Pupils Enter New Marlow School on Route 10

John D. Perkins, Sr. Elementary School - Built 1973 - In Session 1973-present (renamed John D. Perkins, Sr. Academy in 2015)

**A CHILLING DISCOVERY
by Kenneth R. Dassau***

Members of Marlow's Odd Fellows Lodge were doing some cleaning on a Sunday morning in April, when they uncovered what appeared to be a folding table behind the safe in the upstairs anteroom. When unfolded and set up, they read the words spelled out by the perforated holes on the top of the table: "**BF Gleason. Brockport, NY, PATD. April 12 1881 Sept 7 1886.**" What was it? A quick Google search revealed the answer. It was a cooling board, informally called a "corpse cooler."

B. F. Gleason was a well-known company that produced and sold these types of cooling tables all over the country. They were a favorite of Civil war medics, who used them for battlefield amputations due to their light weight, portability and drainage. (Information from Imponderabilia, May 2012.)

Wikipedia tells us: "A cooling board was a perforated wooden platform on which a dead body would be temporarily stored and prepared for a funeral. Ice was placed beneath it to keep the body chilled, slowing the decomposition process. Holes in the cooling board, which could be made of cane latticework rather than a solid wooden plank, allowed blood and other fluids to drain from the body. It could also be used to display the body for a viewing if the casket was not delivered in time. Later on, metal embalming tables replaced cooling boards as modern refrigeration became available."



Such an item is not associated with Odd Fellowship. The Marlow Odd Fellowship. The Marlow Odd Fellows purchased the building in 1892. We



can only speculate that it was originally brought there by earlier owners, or local residents, who might have used the lodge to set the deceased person for public viewing prior to interment. Why was it only discovered now? The answer is that it was folded and placed directly behind the safe (no valuables and no lock) which no human can move. And there it sat, sandwiched between the safe, a pile of window screens, and the wall. When open it is 6'4" long, 2' high, and 1'6" wide. When folded, however, it looks like a folded card table, not much longer or higher than the safe.

We can only guess how long it has been in the lodge. But using the date 1886, and reading that the first self-contained refrigerator for home use was built in 1915, (Kelvinator, an early type of refrigerator, was built in 1923 and held 80% of the market at the time) 100 years or more is likely.

The Odd Fellows have donated the Corpse Cooler to the Marlow Historical Society, where it is on display. Visitors to the museum will have a great conversation starter - or stopper - when they casually tell their friends: "I chilled with the Marlow Corpse Cooler."

*Kenneth R, Dassau is the Recording Secretary for Forest Lodge No. 69

SERENDIPITY by Maria M. Baril

Many of the items in our archives and museum have been donated through the years by present or past Marlow residents, and have a connection to their family history. Once in a while, however, a valuable addition to our collection comes to us through the thoughtfulness and generosity of strangers.

Such is the case of the little booklet entitled GENEALOGY OF THE BUSS FAMILY AND THEIR DESCENDANTS written by Daniel Buss in 1888. It was sent to us by Carrie Homann of Port Byron, Illinois. This is what she wrote: *"My friends, Aaron and Vicky Buss, who live in East Moline, IL, received the booklet from Aaron's cousin. He bought the book on eBay. Neither his cousin nor Aaron knew if it was part of their family history. I did research and the Buss family in the book are not their ancestors."* {Their Buss ancestors migrated from Germany to Iowa.}

"I then asked my friends if they wanted me to find an appropriate new home for the book. I was hoping to find a descendant, so that is how I messaged Tracy Messer because he was the author of the Buss family tree on Ancestry."

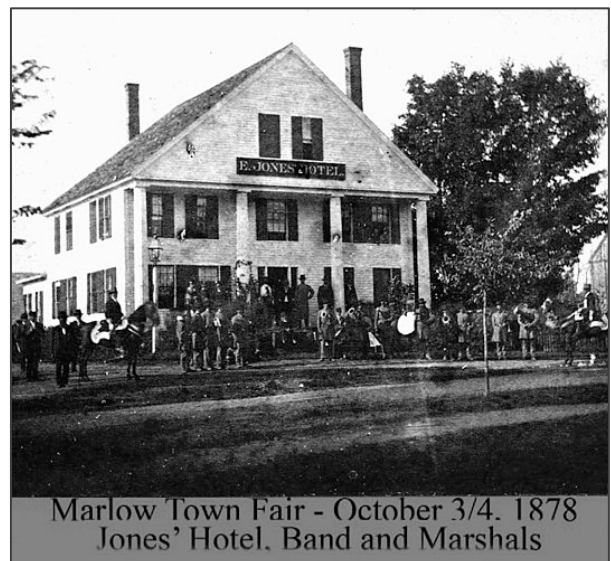
Thus, through a fortuitous chain of events, the Buss family booklet has come home to become a treasured part of our collection.

The narrative starts just like an old folk tale: *"In the year 1775 there lived in Fitchburg, Mass one JOHN BUSS (who was born in Lancaster Mass Jan 3, 1739, and died at the age of 56 years in Marlboro, NH in 1795).... He brought up a family of six children as well as could be expected in those days, giving them what little schooling was available at that period, which was not much; and when they became of age they looked out for themselves."*

One of the sons, **David, married Anna Jones of Dublin**, and after the birth of a daughter, he moved to Marlow, going through Keene, Surry and Alstead, **"drawing his goods with a yoke of oxen which took two days"**. He raised a family of eight children, four sons and four daughters. In the farm **"the boys had the flax to get out, the wood pile to chop, the wood for the sugar-place to get up.... and the girls had the tow and flax to card, spin and weave and to make the girls' dresses and the boys' shirts and trowsers which we used to color with sweet fern...."**

The narrator, **Daniel Buss**, was the 3rd son of David Buss and Anna Jones Buss. He was a surveyor, a teacher, and had a brilliant military career, rising to Colonel of the 28th NH Regiment. He worked as a carpenter, building a church in Goshen, and two glass factories in Stoddard. With J.Q. Jones he made sashes, doors and blinds. He built a house for himself, another for J.Q. Jones and a hotel for Edmund Jones (photo right - now #149 Forest Road).

He was representative to the General Court in Concord; was Notary Public and Justice of the Peace, and held many other distinguished positions. In Keene he served as chief engineer of the fire department, and also built many important dwellings, as well as the old Keene High School, which was a wonderful Victorian structure located on Winter Street.



Samuel Buss, the eldest son of David Buss and Anna Jones Buss, was born in Marlow on March 19, 1806. He married Lucinda Tubbs and they had one daughter, Lydia. And this is where Marlow's Buss and Jones families blend. Lydia married Edward L. Jones* and they had two children, Berthe Maud, and Guy Edward.



Berthe Maud Jones



Edward L. Jones



Lydia Buss Jones



Guy Edward Jones

Berthe Maud Jones** was a teacher at Marlow Schools #3 and #4. We have several photographs of her, the document that certifies that she is "qualified to teach Reading, Spelling, Writing, English Grammar, Arithmetic, History, and Hygiene", and even the school bell she used to summon her students. We also have a letter from her fiance Bonner Dale Mason (1873-1951), and photos of her brother Guy Edward, her mother Lydia Buss Jones, and other members of her family.

The end of the story is tinged with sadness. After David and Anna Jones Buss died, **"as none of the children seemed to want the homestead.... the farm was divided and sold in lots. The nice maple sugar orchard was sold and the timber made into chairs; the buildings were moved away or fell into ruin; the road was thrown up; and the farm once so productive has gone back to a condition worse than the primitive wilderness, and good for nothing but a poor old pasture. Thus it is seen how by his persistent energy the pioneer in 39 years turned a barren wilderness into a fruitful field; and in 39 years after his death a fruitful field was turned into a barren waste."**

***Edward Lyman Jones was a cousin of Elgin A. Jones; son of Gilman, an older brother to Elgin's father John Quincy Jones. Berthe Maud and Guy Edward thus are Elgin's first cousins once removed.**

****Berthe Maud is probably buried in Attleboro, MA where she died in 1927.**

American War Cemetery in Margraten, the Netherlands



The American War Cemetery and Memorial in Margraten is the only US military cemetery in the Netherlands, and the final resting place of 8,289 US soldiers who died during WWII. The names of 1,722 missing soldiers are recorded in the Walls of the Missing.

The "Faces of Margraten" project aims to find a photo of each soldier commemorated or buried in the cemetery. Every other year they hold an event during which photos of the soldiers are placed next to the white crosses.

We learned that one of the soldiers who did not have a photo was **T/Sgt. John Henry Marcotte**, (1907-1945) who died at the Battle of Remagen. Fortunately, John Henry's nephew is Marlow's own Joe Marcotte, and he was able to provide photos, which we sent to Carla Mans, a volunteer with Faces of Margraten.

You can learn more about Faces of Margraten and the Dutch non-profit *Fields of Honor Foundation* whose mission is to give a face to the names of the U.S. WWII soldiers buried in Belgium, France, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands at their website: www.fieldsofhoror-database.com.



Museum Donations from Former Board Member Rhonda Lake



The Downing Homestead

Rhonda also passed on to us Odd Fellows and Rebekah paraphernalia, including dainty handkerchiefs with Rebekah symbols.** Both Rhonda's grandmother Nelda, and her mother Jean Lake were very active in the Rebekahs, an international service-oriented organization and a branch of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

**See our Winter 2021 newsletter. James Downing Jr. (1815-1895) bought the property and lived there with his wife Electa Foster and their children Albert, George, Herbert and Ellen.*

***The beehive, the moon and seven stars, the dove, and the white lily represent industriousness at home, order and the laws of nature, and innocence, gentleness and purity.*



Personal War Sketches

In previous newsletters we have written about the book *Personal War Sketches*, which was donated in 1893 by the Honorable James Burnap to the Henry Stevens Post #86, local affiliate of the Grand Army of the Republic. Inside are handwritten sketches about eighteen Civil War veterans, most of whom were from Marlow. The sketches have been transcribed by Tracy Messer to make them legible and available to all without handling the book itself. We will proceed with the remaining sketches as space allows.

Personal Sketch of Comrade J. Langdon Reed

Who was born the Thirteenth day of November, Anno Domini 1842, in Stoddard, County of Cheshire, State of New Hampshire.

Comrade Reed entered the service at Concord, NH having enlisted at Stoddard August 13th 1862 in Company G, 14th Regiment, New Hampshire Volunteers, as a private. On March 1st 1865 was promoted to Sergeant. The first battle in which he was engaged was the Battle of Winchester, Virginia, September 19th 1864, made memorable by Sheridan's famous ride. He also participated in the Battles of Fisher's Hill, VA, September 22, 1864; Cedar Creek, October 19, 1864; besides several other skirmishes in the Shenandoah Valley, VA.

Comrade Reed was wounded at the Battle of Cedar Creek by the bursting of a shell, being rendered senseless. Sergeant Reed was for a short time at the hospital in New York City and at Stephenson's Depot, VA. One of the most important events in his service was the guarding of Jeff Davis through the streets of Augusta, GA soon after his capture to board a gunboat laying at the wharf. At the Battle of Cedar Creek, Sergeant Reed became somewhat enthusiastic - he stepped in front of his company shouting, "Come on boys. We'll clean them out this time." The boys gave him the name of the "Reckless Fighter."

Sergeant Reed was discharged at Savannah, GA July 8th 1865 by reason of the close of the war, having served 2 years, 10 months, 25 days. His most intimate companions were James H. Hunt of Nashua and James H. Scott of Munsonville.

We certify that Comrade J. Langdon Reed joined Henry H. Stevens Post No. 86, Department of New Hampshire, December 12th 1861*. Held offices of Quartermaster.

Ezra G. Huntley, Adjutant

**Year must have been 1885 or afterwards as the Post was chartered on November 11th 1885.*

KEEPING UP WITH THE JONESES
by Maria M. Baril and Patricia McMahon Clark

This is a story of deep friendship and gratitude that spans four generations. It came to us from Mrs. Patricia McMahon Clark, who at the same time entrusted us with papers and photographs related to Milan and Sarah Jones.



This is what Mrs. Clark shared:

"In their later years Milan Jones and his wife Sarah lived at 115 Roxbury Street, Keene. They had no children and remained close to friends in East Sullivan, especially the family of Asahel N. Holt, my great-grandfather.

When Asahel's granddaughter Edna A. McClure wanted to attend Keene High School, Milan and Sarah invited her to have a room at their house, an easy walk to the high school. On weekends she often went home to East Sullivan to replenish supplies, do laundry, and prepare for the next week. And she spent summers at home. But largely through the generosity of the Joneses, she was able to graduate from Keene H.S. at a time when many young people in rural areas ended their education after 8th grade. Edna was my mother.

*Edna married John H. McMahon on June 27, 1925. They lived in East Sullivan all their lives but maintained contact with "Auntie Jones" by letters and visits. Milan died in 1930. Sarah died on March 16, 1934, which also happened to be Edna's birthday. I was born on Feb. 3, 1933, but do not remember my mother saying anything about Mrs. Jones seeing me. She had battled breast cancer for many years, and she may have been terminally ill when I was born.**

When Sarah died her will stipulated that my mother was to inherit the furnishings of their home. My childhood was lived among the marble top tables and many assorted items from the Joneses' home. They remained a part of our home until they were sold at auction in June 1995, after my mother's death, and in preparation for selling the property. As I was cleaning out the house I found in my parents' bedroom, on a shelf, inside a washstand that held a Victorian pitcher and wash bowl, papers and a family Bible from the Joneses. I kept them in our home in Stoddard for over 20 years; then brought them with us to our apartment in Peterborough when we downsized and moved to a lifecare community, because like the Joneses, we do not have children.

I have tried to deliver the material to historical societies in Antrim, Marlow and Keene. After 85 years I hope to dispose of them in a respectful manner that honors their lives and their kindness to my mother".

We have assured Mrs. Clark that the papers and photographs will be a treasured part of our Murray Hall museum. They are safely nestled inside a "clamshell box" made from the front and back covers of the Jones family Bible, inside one of the glass cabinets in our museum. A complete set of copies, in a binder on top of the cabinet, is available for visitors to read.

Milan Franklin Jones - born June 5, 1846 in Marlow; died Oct. 9, 1930, age 84 yrs., 4 mos. 4 days, in Keene NH
Sarah Isabella Dodge Jones - born Sept. 11, 1851 in Antrim; died March 16, 1934, age 82 yrs., 6 mos. 5 days, in Keene NH.

They were married on February 27, 1872 in Marlow, by Rev. William N. Nason

Milan and Sarah lived at what is now #28 Church St. (house owned by Tom Fuschetto); he was a farmer and owned 100 acres. The Keene Business Directory dated 1899 lists Milan as Superintendent of Cemeteries, residing at 115 Roxbury St.

They are buried in the Marlow Village Cemetery

** Bills related to her illness are included among the papers.*



Beaver Pond at Kroka Expeditions in Marlow - Fall 2020

IN TIME FOR HOLIDAY GIFT-GIVING

Introducing our new Marlow Cookbook with a historic theme: **Past, Present, and Future**, and our new lovely, sturdy apron adorned with the Giffin Elm logo.



Marlow, NH Recipes Past, Present, and Future



Cookbook \$15 • Giffin Elm apron \$20 •
Set of both cookbook and apron \$30
(plus shipping if mailed)

Available at **Marlow's Christmas on the Pond**
Marlow Village • November 20, 2021

Or contact Pat Strickland •
603-446-7566 • jpstrick@myfairpoint.net



Dan Reed explains the efforts of the Marlow Cemetery Trustees to members of the New Hampshire Old Graveyard Association at their fall meeting held in Murray Hall on September 18th. To date, all of the gravestones in the Marlow Village Cemetery have had an initial cleaning, and the results are dramatic.



Marlow Historical Society
Founded in 1976

President - Chuck Mosher
Vice President - Ed Reardon
Secretary - Patty Little
Treasurer - Pat Strickland

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

PO Box 12, Marlow, NH 03456

Help preserve local history
for future generations.
Please consider including
the Marlow Historical
Society in your legacy
planning.



LITTLE TOWN OF MARLOW

The late **Ronnie Lake** made faithful replicas of homes and buildings in Marlow Village. The Marlow Historical Society sponsored an exhibit of the models at the Methodist Chapel during the 2008 Harvest Festival, and they appeared in holiday displays.

Through the years several homeowners have donated their little houses to the Historical Society, and they are displayed prominently at our Murray Hall museum. If anyone else would like to contribute to our collection by donating - or lending - their "model home", please be sure that it would be cherished and cared for - and admired by all our visitors. Please email us at mhsnewhampshire@gmail.com if you have a "home" and are interested. Thank you.

