

MHS Newsletter

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

Personal War Sketches

Spring/Summer 2019

This is the first in a series of articles written and transcribed by local historian Tracy W. Messer

On a fall evening in 1893, the Civil War veterans from the local chapter of the Grand Army of the Republic received an extraordinary gift, intended for the benefit of future generations. The details of this event were published in the *Cold River Journal*:

A special evening was held by Henry H. Stevens Post 86 G.A.R. at Jones' hall on Saturday evening, September 30. The meeting was called for the purpose of receiving from Hon. James Burnap the gift of a beautiful memorial or "Personal Service Book." The meeting was public and well attended, Commander Hosea Towne in the chair. The exercises consisted of a prayer by the chaplain, music by the band, recitation by Miss Lucy Howe, song by the quartet, recitation by Miss Jessie Perkins, music by the band. In a few well chosen and appropriate remarks, Hon. James Burnap presented the Post with an elegant Personal Service Book. Commander Towne in accepting the book on behalf of the Post, very ably replied, thanking the donor for this beautiful gift. Comrade Perkins introduced the following resolutions:

Whereas, our highly esteemed fellow citizen, Hon. James Burnap, has presented to Henry H. Stevens Post 86 G.A.R. a beautiful and costly "Personal Service Book" in which is to be recorded the name and brief military sketch of each member, therefore:

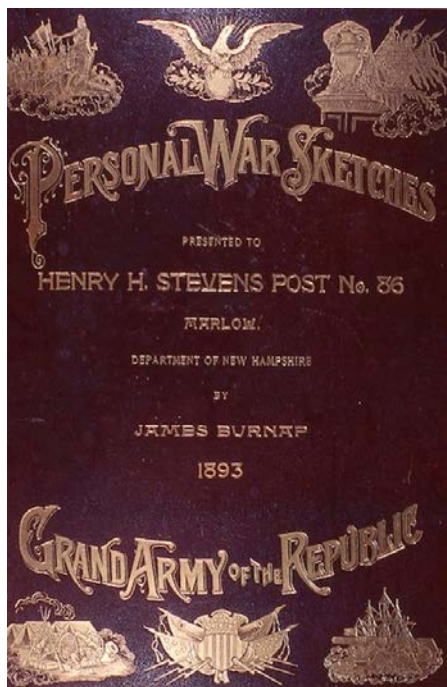
Resolved, that we highly appreciate his generosity and kindly feeling towards us and tender him our sincere and heartfelt thanks for this very appropriate gift and assure him that this act of his will be cherished by us as the most pleasing event in the history of the Post.

Resolved, that we will preserve this Book with the most scrupulous care, faithfully fulfilling all the intentions of the giver, and in the end, when the record is complete, deposit it with the town records for preservation and future reference.

Resolved, that a copy of these Resolutions be presented to Mr. Burnap and also recorded in the Personal Service Book and the minute book of the Post.

Comrade Perkins in an eloquent speech moved the adoption of these resolutions. Comrade Howe very ably seconded the motion and they were unanimously adopted. Recitation by Mrs. Catherine Putnam, song by the quartet, recitation by Miss Katie Perkins. A vote of thanks was tendered to the young ladies, to the quartet and to the band for their valuable assistance. Closed by all singing America.

The "Personal War Sketches" contains priceless details told by eighteen veterans, and the book itself is truly a work of art. It is in mint condition and is among the most remarkable artifacts in the Marlow Historical Society's museum, Murray Hall. The hand-tooled leather volume measures 17 1/2 x 13 inches and consists of 254 pages edged in gold leaf. It was published by Louis H. Everts, Philadelphia, 1890. His preface reads as follows:



This Volume is designed to contain the record of the war services (1861-1865) of the living and deceased members of this Post; the living to certify to the statement of their services, and the facts relating to the dead to be certified by the Post Historian.

The supplementary part of the Volume is for a continuance of the personal sketches as occasion may require in the opinion of the Post Historian, also for the preservation of the names, and record of other soldiers or sailor who enlisted from the immediate locality.

Resolution pages are provided for containing the resolutions passed by the Post upon the death of a member.

Record of burial pages are intended for the comrades of the Post and also for the names of all soldiers & sailors whose graves the Post may decorate from year to year.

Record of presentation page is designed to contain the action of the Post upon receipt of the Volume.

The Post shall obtain permission of the donors for the insertion of a personal sketch, blank pages being provided for that purpose. A sketch of the person after whom the Post is named should also be prepared.

When the Post shall have surrendered its charter, this Volume can be preserved by the local municipality, if a suitable depository for safe keeping is provided, or it can be preserved in the archives of the State. (Continued on Page 2)

The Volume is respectfully dedicated to the last surviving comrade of the Post by the Author.

The next article in this series will be a transcription of the page entitled "Historical Sketch of the Post." Future articles will feature transcriptions of the Personal War Sketches and Resolutions for each of the eighteen members of the Henry H. Stevens Post 86 G.A.R as well as for the donor, Hon. James Burnap:

William H. Bates	Lewis C. Hudson	Marshall Perkins
Charles R. Bingham	Ezra G. Huntley	J. Langdon Reed
Ellis Copeland	Cyrus G. McClure	Lensie R. Sayles
Moses A. Cragin	Franklin G. Nevers	David P. Sheldon
Horace W. Howard	Charles F. Nims	Hosea Towne
Daniel W. Howe	Leslie K. Osborne	Charles H. Wilson

Time Travel with Charlie by Maria B.



William Wallace Hall

When Charlie Strickland reminisces, I jot everything down. He has a remarkable memory and a wealth of information; and he inspires me to do further research and build upon his recollections. Our recent article about WWI veterans reminded him of persons he once knew. They were part of the Marlow community, just as we are now, and they should be remembered.

William Wallace Hall (1838-1935) fought in the Civil War - Company I, 16th Regiment, NH Volunteers, Infantry - when in his 20s. He was born and lived in Sullivan County, but moved to Marlow when he was in his early 90s. Gayla Langdon took him in as a boarder, probably because he lived alone (he became a widower three times and outlived all but one of his children) and needed care. Charlie was only 5 or 6 years old at the time, but he remembers Mr. Hall proudly wearing his formal uniform - black with yellow trim - on Memorial Day. He died in Marlow on November 21, 1935 at the age of 97, and is buried in the town of Washington.

Horatio William Hatch (1868-1947) was a veteran of the 1898 Spanish-American War - the conflict that resulted in Spain granting Cuba its independence, and ceding Guam and Puerto Rico to the United States. He was born in Vermont, and became a Marlow resident in 1917 when he was 48. He lived at 31 Church St. ("Twin Cedars") from 1917 - 1946. It is now Bucky and Barbara White's home.

Various censuses list him as farmer and nightwatchman at a lumber mill, but he also served the town of Marlow in various capacities, including Health Officer, Treasurer, and Town Clerk, from the 1920s to 1945. He died on July 11, 1947 at the age of 78, and is buried in the Marlow Village Cemetery {1905-074 on cemetery map}.

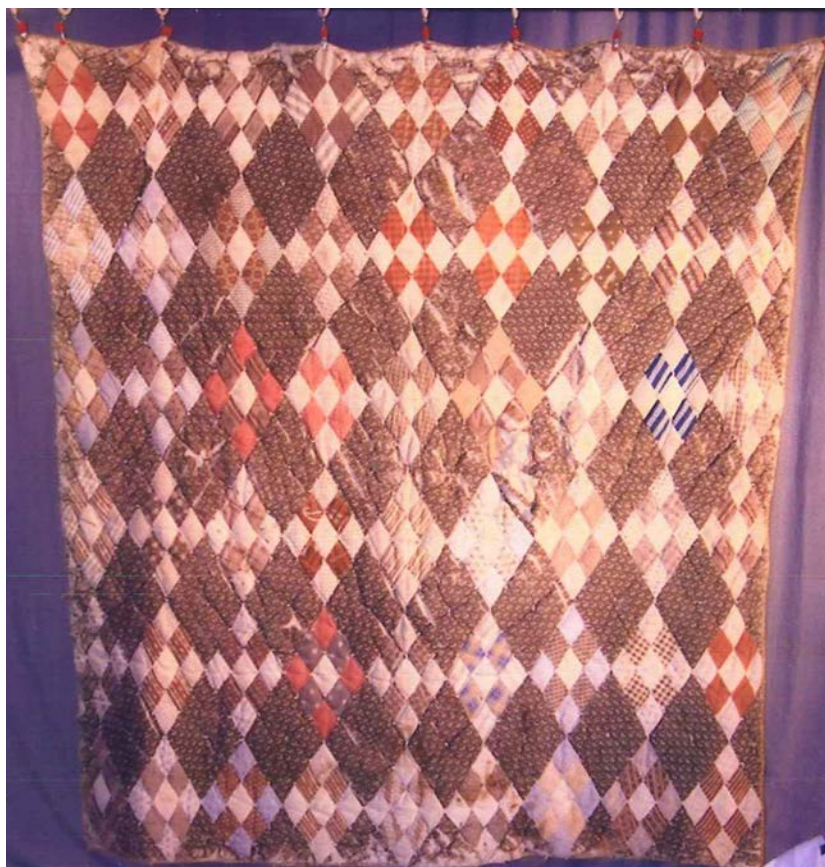
Gayla Iola (Gee) Langdon (1889-1976) was married to Woodbury Tobias Langdon, who predeceased her by 45 years, and had one adopted daughter, Mildred Harriet (Pollard) Kinson. Her house stood opposite the dam, next to the maroon planked frame house on Route 10. She took in boarders, probably to make ends meet, Lucian Webster {see our Fall 2014 newsletter}, and William W. Hall among others. Strong and independent, Mrs. Langdon was one of only a handful of women who knew how to drive a car. Her house was torn down in the mid 1980s. Gayla and Woodbury Langdon are buried in the Village Cemetery {1905-061 on cemetery map}.

Mabel D. Hatch (1874-1956), wife of Horatio W. Hatch, was born in Maine. She was Marlow librarian from the late 1920s to 1955. She also took over her husband's job as Town Clerk after his death. She died in Keene on May 9, 1956 at the age of 82, and is buried in the Marlow Village Cemetery {1905-074 on cemetery map}. Don Winham recalls that Horatio and Mabel Hatch were very well respected in town.

Marlow's Bride's Album Quilt

One of our Historical Society's most precious possessions is an album quilt made by Marlow church ladies in 1876. Originally assumed to be a centennial quilt because of the date, further research determined that it was made for Frances Dodge just before her 1877 wedding to Jerome Reed*, and the names of parents, grandparents, relatives and friends of the engaged couple appear on it.

We find farmers, sawyers, grocers, housekeepers, and merchants - old Marlow names such as Huntley and Lewis; as well as Elgin A. Jones, author of our Marlow history. Ages of the persons range from a few months (Emma Fox) to over 80 years (Mrs. Eunice Hall, who was born while George Washington was still president!).



Robert Nichols of Keene (whose grandfather owned the Nichols & Newton store on Lower Main Street) researched the names on the quilt and discovered a wealth of information about the signatures, and the interrelationships among the signers. Marlow historian Loisanne Foster wrote extensively about the quilt on the 2006 Historical Society Forum pages, noting that: "It is not in perfect condition. The backing is rather damaged, but for a lady of 130 years, she is doing well."

The Historical Society Board at the time, under the direction of President Mary Blank, deliberated on how best to preserve the quilt. On the advice of several experts they opted for "conservation without repair". Thanks to generous donations, a new backing was put on, and the whole was covered with tulle in such a way that the signatures are readable. As Loisanne stated: "Covering it with tulle would stabilize the quilt without altering it, thereby maintaining its historic authenticity."

The Historical Society brought the 1876 Signature Quilt, as well as our 1976 Bicentennial Quilt, to a Quilt Documentation Day sponsored by the Lempster Historical Society in May of 2006, as part of the New Hampshire Quilt Documentation Project.

**Jerome Reed died in 1879. Frances later married Melvin Huntley, whose name is on the quilt.*

1876 Marlow Wedding Signature Quilt Diagram

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
A	Alice M. Baker	Johnny L. Hariss	Nettie Reed	Emma Reed	Leon J. Hardy	Maria R. Hardy	Arvin G. Baker	Loren W. Hardy	John H. Hardy
B	Hattie F. Perkins	Flora B. Baker	Ida P. Hale	Mrs. Susan Foster	Hattie F. Fox	Perley W. Fox	Grandmother (Cordelia Messinger)	Arthur Joslin	Lizzie E. Huntley
C	Milan Jones	Elgin A. Jones	Sarah W. Powers	Emma Fox	Father (Rufus Dodge)	Mother (Sarah Bradford Dodge)	George H. Towne	Emma Symonds	George H. Lewis
D	Sarah I. Jones	Mrs. Eunice Hall	Annie Perkins	Jerome Reed (Groom)	Elmer D. Dodge	Abbie A. Dodge	Francina B. Towne	Mina J. Symonds	Zilla J. Powers
E	Olive H. Baker	Edgar Shepardson	Melvin Huntley	Wellman Powers	Willie A. Dodge	Bertha E. Dodge	Emma J. Towne	Henry Symonds	Cora F. Baker
F	Amanda Gee	Myra Curtis	Etta A. Howe	Daniel Hariss	Ellen M. Hariss	Fred A. Lewis	James M. Perkins	Rebecca Symonds	Johnny Symonds

- **1A Alice M. Baker, 2B Flora Bell Baker & 9E Cora Frances Baker** are daughters of **7A Arvin Gunnison Baker** and **1E Olive Hester Baker**, and granddaughters of **2D Mrs. Eunice (Brown) Hall** who died 1878 at the age of 86. Eunice was also the grandmother of **3E Melvin Huntley** (later to marry the widow of **4D Jerome Reed** who died in 1879, Frances Dodge Reed, recipient of this quilt), and his sister **9B Lizzie E. Huntley**.
- **3A Nettie (Annette) Reed & 4A Emma Reed**, daughters of Elisha Reed and Marietta Dinsmore Hubbard, were nieces of the groom **4D Jerome Reed**.
- **5A Leon J. Hardy & 8A Loren Willard Hardy** were sons of **9A John Henry Hardy & 6A Maria R. (Foster) Hardy**, and grandsons of **4B Mrs. Susan Foster**.
- **1B Hattie Flagg Perkins, 3D Annie Elizabeth Perkins, & 7F James M. Perkins** (later called "Fiske") were children of Dr. Marshall Perkins.
- **3B Ida P. Hale**, friend, later married a Hastings and moved to Sullivan.
- **5B Hattie Francis (Towne) Fox** was the wife of **6B Perley Willard Fox** and the daughter of **7C George Harvey Towne** and **7D Francina Bradford Towne**, and sister of **7E Emma Josephine Towne**. Their daughter **4C Emma Jean Fox** was born June 1876.
- **8B Arthur Joslin**, friend, was the son Steven C. Joslin, butcher, and Hannah (Towne) Joslin.
- **1C Milan Jones** was the husband of **1D Sarah I. (Dodge) Jones**.
- **2C Elgin Jones**, friend, was the son of Quincy and Sarah (Gould) Jones. Elgin would later write The History of Marlow and become Marlow's benefactor.
- **3C Sarah W. Powers** was the wife of **4E Wellman Powers**. They became the stepparents of **9D Zilla J. Powers**, daughter of **6F Fred Albee Lewis**, brother of **9C George H. Lewis**.
- **5D Elmer D. Dodge** was the husband of **6D Abbie A. Dodge**, and father of **6E Bertha E. Dodge**, and the brother of **5E Willie A. Dodge** and **Frances Dodge**.
- **2E Edgar Shepardson**, friend, ran the grocery store above Joslin's butcher shop.
- **8E Henry Symonds** was the husband of **8F Rebecca L. (Blood) Symonds** and father of **8D Minnetta J. Symonds**, music teach teacher, **8C Emma L. Symonds**, and **9F Johnny L. Symonds**.
- **1F Amanda Gee** was married to Horace Gee.
- **2F Myra Curtis** was the daughter of Andrew Curtis and friend of Frances Dodge. She later married Francis D. Tinker.
- **3F Etta A. Howe**, friend, was the daughter of George and Sarah Howe.
- Note 1: It is interesting that the daughter of **2D Eunice Hall**, Aurellia Maria Baker Huntley, is not a signer even though her two sons, **3E Melvin Huntley** and **7A Arvin Baker**, and 1 daughter, **9B Lizzie E. Huntley** are signers⁴

A Store of Marlow Memories

by Tracy Messer and Maria Baril



During the nineteenth century and first half of the twentieth century, Marlow's Lower Main Street was a bustling part of town. It was, in fact, a section of present-day Route 10, which crossed the river and joined the village via the Farley Bridge. Among the thriving businesses was the "Perkins Brothers' Store" located at the corner of Main and Mill Streets, at the house now owned by Al and Mary Blank.

The original store on the premises was built by **Rufus Moor Huntley in 1839**, after purchasing three quarters of an acre from his father and brother. According to local historian Elgin Jones, Rufus ran the business along with Imla Sheed, Joel Tenney, Edward Hartwell Savage, and Samuel Alonzo Wright.

In 1842 Rufus sold the property to **Isaac Baker, MD**. Dr. Baker leased the house and store to **Amos Flagg Fiske**, who relocated his business from Marlow Hill. In 1851 Mr. Fiske bought the

property outright from the doctor's son, Isaac Kidder Baker. Elgin Jones writes: "*Here Mr. Fiske prospered, conducting the most extensive merchandise business ever done in town.*"

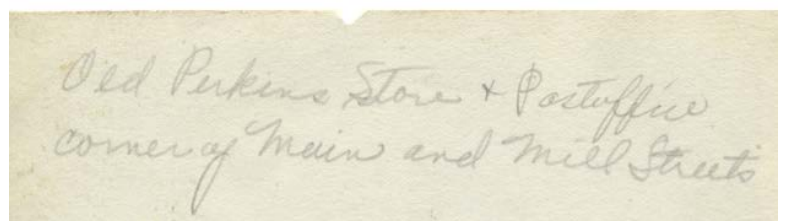
Amos Fiske's eldest son, **Arthur W. Fiske**, joined the business in 1851, followed by his youngest son Henry in 1864. Elgin Jones relates a humorous story that took place at the store regarding "Squire" Fisk and his brother-in-law Captain Selden Brown, a veteran of the war of 1812 who had a reputation for practical jokes.

"One day, Brown, being short of cash, asked credit for a pound of saleratus (baking soda). Fiske refused it. Brown took a hammer and pinchers and went to Fiske's barn, took the shoes off Fiske's horse, and carried them to the store, receiving saleratus in exchange, as the barter system was still somewhat in vogue."

In 1869 the store became "Towne & Winch," as Mr. Fiske sold the store to **Hosea Towne** and his nephew **Thomas Daniel Winch**. The latter sold his share after two years and moved to Peterborough, where he operated a store that is now Harlow's Pub. Towne enlarged the establishment by moving the Huntley store to the back and erecting a much larger two-story front. The post office was kept in this store for many years, first by the Fiskes, and afterward by Mr. Towne.

In 1892 Hosea Towne sold the store to **James Marshall Perkins** and **Waldo Henry Perkins**, who were A.F. Fiske's grandsons. *The Keene Sentinel* of Feb 16, 1898 reported: "Perkins Brothers have enlarged and remodeled their front store, adding 14 feet to its length.... They have now a room 33' x 34', commodious and convenient in every respect. It is sheathed overhead with North Carolina pine, has a new hard wood floor and has one new counter." The article adds: "In tearing out a counter, during the recent repairs, in a crevice, near the old post office box, a card was found written by Mrs. E.B. Gee to her brother in Vermont. It bore no date, but judging by some information it contained, it must have been written at least twenty years ago".

The store remained in the Perkins family until 1965. During the following thirty years it became the home of **John Messervey Gendron**, who operated the former Marlow Grocery on the new Route 10 bypass. In 1994 the Gendron family sold the property to Kenneth Thompson and Edwin Evans, who after four years sold it to the current owners, Al and Mary Blank.





**Marlow Historical Society
Founded in 1976**

**President - Maria M. Baril
Vice President - Barry Corriveau
Secretary - Patty Little
Treasurer - Pat Strickland**

**Directors
Rhonda Lake
Ed Thomas
Joanne Thomas**

mhsnewhampshire@gmail.com

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

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

Remembering Virgil Huntley

by Pat Huntley Strickland



Virgil Huntley passed away in 2018 at 101. Good genes, although he said the secret was to “eat plenty of sweets, don’t smoke and keep moving.” Virgil was a valuable source of genealogical information for the Huntley family and the Huntley National Association. He, in fact, wrote a set of books about the Huntley Family which are available at the Marlow Town Library. He was also very much interested in the Huntleys who were some of the first Marlow settlers. As a young man he attended the 2nd annual Huntley Reunion in 1948 in Marlow. Royce Huntley was President and the reunion was held at Ivan Huntley’s home on Forest Road. Hosts were Roy D. and Anna Huntley and Fred and Irene Huntley. Notes from the day: “The first reunion booklet was printed by Royce Huntley this year. The genealogy of the Marlow Huntleys was explained. Several of the men served in the Revolutionary War, including Nathan b. 1726 (descendant of John, Aaron I and Aaron II) and his sons, Rufus, Elisha, and Russell. As was the norm at that time, dinner was prepared by a women’s church group and served in a public hall.”* These reunions have been ongoing since 1947 when the organization was established.

There are many Huntley descendants in our area, from those early Marlow settlers. You may be interested in the Virgil Huntley books available at the Marlow Town

Library, or in joining The Huntley National Association at huntleynationalassn.org. Besides the annual reunion and genealogy information, the organization also has a college scholarship set up in Virgil’s memory. You can read the full obituary by visiting the Marlow Historical Society webpage at www.marlownewhampshire.org/marlow-historical-society.php and clicking on the Newsletter link to see the Spring/Summer 2019 newsletter.

*taken from a chart of the annual reunions since 1947 on the Huntley website