



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

Summer 2026



Celebrating America's 250th and Marlow's 265th

2026 has been a year of celebrations honoring the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence and acknowledging Marlow's place in our nation's founding.

Marlow's festivities began with the Paul Revere Fun Run and cookout on April 18 with participants of all ages coming out despite the chilly weather. Marlow's America 250 celebration took place the weekend of June 6 and 7 as a way to recognize the founding of our nation, honor the Marlow militiamen who took part in the Revolutionary War, and reflect on the history of the town. It was a fantastic weekend with a parade and many other fun, interesting, and informative activities enjoyed by all. On July 4, Marlow's Jones Hall float made its second appearance in the Monadnock 250 parade in Keene. Then on July 25, the exploration of our state's Revolutionary story continued with a New Hampshire Humanities presentation, *Redcoats & Rebels*, in Jones Hall (followed by an ice-cream social!).

These activities were made possible by the hard work and dedication of many volunteers, including members of the Marlow Historical Society, Library Trustees, Parks and Recreation Committee, and more. Historical Society Secretary, Patty Little, shared her thoughts after the June events:

The Marlow Historical Society extends its heartfelt thanks to everyone who attended and supported the America 250 - Marlow, NH celebration over the weekend of June 6 and 7, 2026.

Our village was filled with the spirit of an old-fashioned Old Home Day with families gathering across generations, former residents returning to their hometown, descendants reconnecting with their roots, and visitors sharing in the rich history of our community.

When the Historical Society agreed to host this celebration, our goal was not simply to commemorate an anniversary. We wanted to bring history to the community in an engaging and meaningful way. Through living history demonstrations, military reenactments, historical presentations, music, and a community gathering, we sought to connect the current day with the people and events that shaped Marlow and our nation.

History truly came alive as visitors encountered Revolutionary and Civil War soldiers, listened to stories of local Patriots and Loyalists, and met President Calvin Coolidge, General John Stark, Dr. Moses Carr, and Abigail Adams.

We offer special thanks to the Sons of the American Revolution, the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, the Infantry of the Foot, the 1st New Hampshire Regiment, our presenters, performers, sponsors, volunteers, and community partners. Your dedication and enthusiasm helped create a memorable experience for all who attended.

Most importantly, thank you to the community. Your participation reminded us that history is not just about dates and events. It is about people, families, traditions, and the stories that connect us across generations.

We plan to add more Marlow America 250 photos to the Historical Society website at: marlownhhistoricalsociety.org. Please look for an announcement about a forthcoming commemorative photo book planned to be available in time for the holidays.



★ REDCOATS & REBELS

New Hampshire and the American Revolution

A New Hampshire Humanities Program

Presented by **Mary Adams**
Hosted by the Marlow Library Trustees

★
Saturday, July 25, 2026
1:00 p.m.

Jones Hall
Downstairs in the
Marlow Town Library

New Hampshire often gets overlooked in the story of the American Revolution, yet its people played a vital role in America's fight for independence.

DISCOVER:

- ★ Paul Revere's first ride to Portsmouth in 1774
- ★ The raid on Fort William and Mary
- ★ New Hampshire's role at Bunker Hill
- ★ The first independent state constitution in America
- ★ The state's unique contributions to the Revolutionary cause

Join us for an engaging look at the people, events, and decisions that helped shape a new nation.

★ **ICE CREAM SOCIAL** ★

Immediately Following the Program

Hosted by the
Marlow Parks &
Recreation Committee

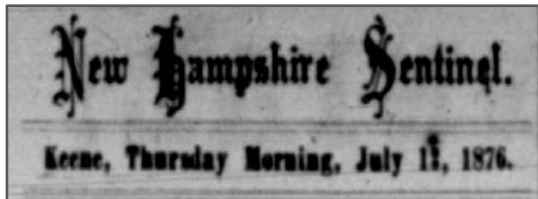
FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Part of Marlow's continuing observance of
America's 250th Anniversary and exploration
of New Hampshire's Revolutionary story.

America's Anniversaries in Marlow

Towns and cities across America have been honoring our country's semiquincentennial in 2026 with festivities of many kinds. Looking back at past anniversaries, while we were not able to find stories in *The Keene Sentinel* archives of activities in Marlow for the 1826 jubilee (50th) or the 1926 sesquicentennial (150th), we did find a short article in the **July 13, 1876 edition about Marlow's centennial observance:**

The "Glorious Fourth" was celebrated here in good style. In the morning there was a parade of Antiques and Horribles through the principal streets of the village, led by the Marlow Cornet Band, which that day made its debut.** The band wagon was one of Burnap's team wagons drawn by eight horses with "Strickland" at the ribbons. The masquerading part of the celebration was followed by songs, speeches, toasts, &c., and last but not least, by a dinner on the basket picnic plan. The whole was under the direction of the Reform Club. In the evening there was a brilliant display of fireworks. Thus ended our one hundredth birthday.*



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Undated photo of the Marlow Cornet Band in front of the Methodist Church.

* According to the Woodstock, VT History Center, "Antiques and Horribles" parades emerged in the mid-19th century as a satirical reaction to Boston's socially elite Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company and their "increasingly gaudy and embellished" uniforms worn in Independence Day parades.

** Read more about the Marlow Cornet band in the Winter 2018 newsletter.

Information is readily available about the Marlow's special events and programs to celebrate **America's bicentennial in 1976**. The Marlow American Bicentennial Committee provided this summary for the 1976 Town Report:

Thanks to broad support from the townspeople, the American Bicentennial year was celebrated in Marlow with festivities and with projects which will have lasting value for the town. The year was begun with a winter carnival on February 14 with winter sports competitions and a dance. Arbor Day, May 1, marked the planting of trees and shrubs on the grounds around the town buildings; and, on June 12, a special flag and certificate were presented to the town by David Proper, a member of the State Bicentennial Commission. Also attending the flag presentation ceremony were: Representative Virginia Turner, County Commissioner Richard Louis, Senator "Junie" Blaisdell and Congressman James Cleveland.

In addition to the tree planting, several other projects which were begun this year will have lasting value to the town. The Marlow Historical Society was formed; several work days were spent by people cleaning up the old town cemeteries; many old pictures of the town were collected and duplicated and a pictorial history of the town was compiled from among the best; and work is well under way on a picnic area which will be located on the site of the old Marlow Town Common on Marlow Hill. The park will be completed and dedicated in the spring. Federal matching funds were obtained to help with the work on the pictures and the park.

Even though it poured on August 7, Ye Olde Heartie Happening managed to be a success. Monadnock Music filled the Church for a concert Friday night. On Saturday the colonial craft demonstrations, a slide show, displays, and sales all moved indoors, and the rain let up only long enough for the parade, awards, and a concert by the Manchester Pipe Band. The rain then proceeded to pour on the hay rides, on the chicken barbecue which was successful nevertheless, and on the log rolling, which didn't really make much difference to the contestants. The day was ended with a concert of colonial music and a dance with the Southern Vermont Old Time Fiddlers. Sunday followed in character with a colonial style church service.

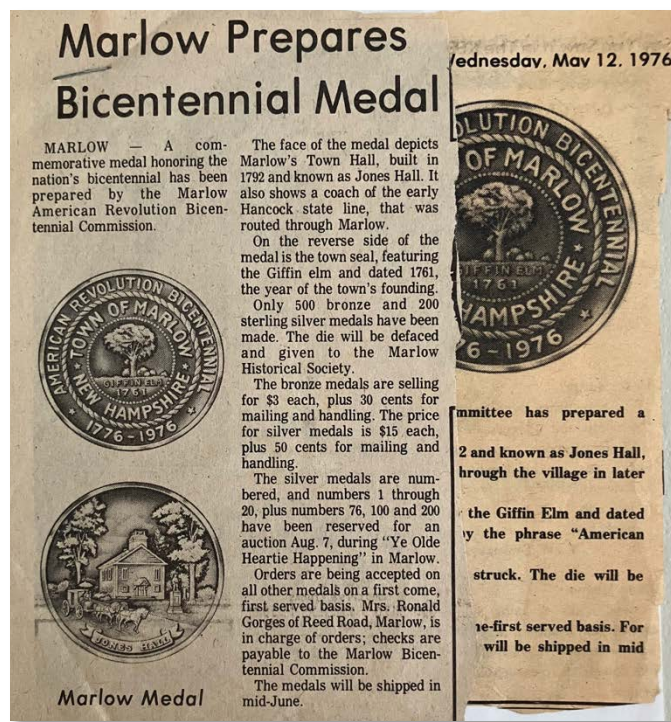
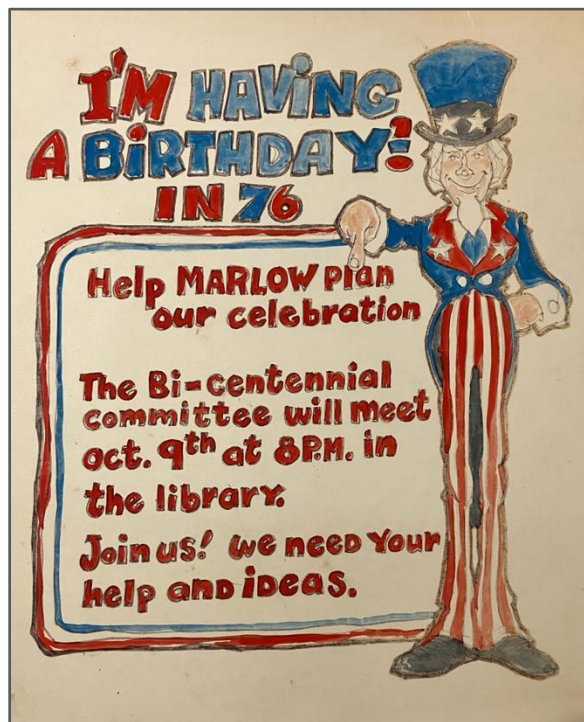
Marlow participated in some area and national events as well as sponsoring its own. As already mentioned, Marlow participated in the Bicentennial Committees program. We also sent a rededication scroll with townspeople's signatures along with the National Wagon Train Pilgrimage to Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. The Monadnock region's quilt, put together by the Antrim Quilters, includes a square from Marlow.

The Marlow puzzle with its seal, the pictorial history of Marlow, and the bronze and silver medals will be lasting reminders of 1976.

Fifteen women embroidered squares for a Bicentennial quilt with scenes and motifs associated with Marlow, and the American Revolution Bicentennial Committee created a commemorative medal with Jones Hall on one side and the town seal on the other. Only 500 bronze, and 200 sterling silver medals were struck. *

On January 1, 1977, the New Hampshire American Revolution Bicentennial Commission awarded a Certificate of Appreciation to the Marlow American Revolution Bicentennial Committee "For Outstanding Contribution to Our State's Bicentennial Commemoration And, Thereby, to Our Nation's Two Hundredth Birthday Observances in 1976."

** You can view the medals and look through a bicentennial scrapbook with more documents and photos in the Murray Hall museum.*



Rain Fails To Stop Marlow

The Keene Sentinel reported on August 9, 1976: "Rain Fails To Stop Marlow - The weather deities didn't look kindly on Marlow Saturday. The date of the town's bicentennial celebration dawned gray and wet, and intermittent rains continued throughout the day to place a damper on the festivities . . . Despite the rain, the show went on."

During the weekend of August 7 and 8 Marlow held its culminating Bicentennial event, Ye Olde Heartie Happening. As the Marlow American Bicentennial Committee described in the 1976 Town Report, despite the unpleasant weather, the weekend was filled with a parade, music, exhibits, food, and a log roll in the Village Pond.



In front of the Marlow Store waiting for the parade to start

The Keene Sentinel

177TH YEAR NO. 186

ESTABLISHED 1799

MONDAY, AUG. 9, 1976

KEENE, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03431

Rain Fails To Stop Marlow

By KIP WEEKS
Sentinel Staff Writer

MARLOW — The weather deities didn't look kindly on Marlow Saturday.

The date of the town's bicentennial celebration dawned gray and wet, and intermittent rains continued throughout the day to place a damper on the festivities.

Despite the rain, the show went on. The chicken barbecue took cover under a canvas tarp, and the crafts exhibits and food sale went inside, but participants in the parade defied the drizzle and marched on Marlow's main street for a half-hour. Later some even took to the water for a log-rolling contest.

Organizers of the Marlow bicentennial chose the date for the festivities about nine months ago and then hoped that the sun would shine on that day, according to Elizabeth T. Church, chairman of the town bicentennial committee.

Old Standby

"We even checked with the Old Farmer's Almanac to see if the weather was going to be good," she recalled Sunday.

Although the weather undoubtedly cut participation in the activities, Mrs. Church said she was nevertheless pleased at the turnout.



Birthday Cake for Marlow

Driver eyes the road ahead and his passenger looks at the crowd as tractor-pulled float rolls along in the Marlow bicentennial parade Saturday. (Sentinel Photo—Weeks)

After watching the parade, spectators flocked to the warm Grange hall where craftsmen were displaying their skills. A food sale at the church and an exhibit of historical artifacts in Jones Hall also attracted plenty of persons who wanted refuge from the rain.

Charlestown

The rain also hit Charlestown's bicentennial parade, but spectators and

participants alike braved the wetness for almost an hour in the town's largest procession ever.

As in Marlow, some of the activities and sales that were supposed to take place outside were forced to take cover in tents.

Judges issued a number of prizes to entries in the Marlow parade.

In the float category, many of which were swathed

in plastic for protection from the rain, the Marlow Grange won first prize for its colonial work scene, pulled by a tractor. Second prize went to the Marlow Parent-Teacher Association, and Penny St. Lawrence captured third place.

In the costume category, Marsha Davis and Kenneth St. Lawrence won the prize

(See RAIN—page 2)

Rain Fails To Stop Marlow

Continued from Page One

for those 12 and under, and Joyce St. Lawrence and David Davis took the prize for adult costumes.

Eddie and Tracy Pahl won a ribbon for their decorated bicycles, and Michelle Davis was awarded a prize for her doll carriage.

In the animal category, Melody and Michelle Morse received an award for the horse they were riding, and Guy Elliot received a ribbon for his sulky and pony.

Awards were also given to two Marlow men who braved the cold and the rain to participate in the log-rolling contest in the Village Pond.

In the under-18 category, Charlie Champney was able to stay on the slippery log longer than anyone else, and Richard Bascom won the prize for those over 18.



In front of the Marlow Store waiting for the parade to start



Joseph Feuer, Mabel Champney, Janice Feuer, and Jean Chambers



Dave Davis Ed White



Ronnie Champney, Mark Champney



Ivan Huntley and the Excelsior Grange float



Barbara Briggs Eva Paquette

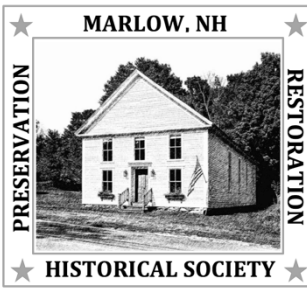


Eddie and Tracy Pahl



Violet Cathers, Audrey Benson, Betsy Church, Marriel Killmeyer, Arlene Rhoades, Eva Donatelli, Eva Paquette, Beatrice Andrews.

Marlow's Quilters with the Bicentennial Quilt



Marlow Historical Society

Founded in 1976

President: Peter Kinson

Vice President: Pam Little

Treasurer: Pat Strickland

Secretary: Patty Little

Directors

Scott Frazier

Gail Rowe

Stephanie Tickner

Newsletter Editor

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PO Box 12, Marlow, NH 03456

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



Bicentennial Log Rolling Contest - Baptism Beach - August 7, 1976

"Awards were also given to two Marlow men who braved the cold and the rain to participate in the log-rolling contest in the Village Pond. In the under-18 category, Charlie Champney was able to stay on the slippery log longer than anyone else, and Richard Bascom won the prize for those over 18."

The Keene Sentinel, August 9, 1976



Rich Weaver, Sue Pockett, Tiger Blanchard



Sue Pockett, Rich Weaver, Tiger Blanchard