

# THIS Newsletter

*Marlow Historical Society's Mission is to preserve and illuminate Marlow's History*

*Winter 2018*

## TALES FROM THE MUSEUM

*This column will from now on become a permanent feature of our newsletters. It will highlight items in our museum, and tell you about their history. In this issue we are proud to present, with a drum roll:*

### THE MARLOW CORNET BAND

On July 4, 1876, Americans celebrated the nation's centennial. As reported in the New Hampshire Sentinel, "In Marlow, the 'Glorious Fourth' was celebrated here in good style. In the morning there was a parade of Antiques and Horribles [elaborately decorated floats] through the principal streets of the village, led by the Marlow Cornet Band, which that day made its debut."

Over the course of the next decade, membership grew. By 1885 the Marlow Cornet Band consisted of twenty pieces and was one of ten such musical groups in Cheshire County. For many years, Independence Day festivities were held in Edgewood Park, just north of the village at the base of Mack Mountain, where John Quincy Jones arranged construction of a platform for the Marlow Cornet Band. The musicians also participated in annual Memorial Day processions held in the Village Cemetery and gave concerts from the bandstand located in front of Jones Hall where the Doughboy Statue now stands.



In addition to patriotic holidays, the Marlow Cornet Band performed at political rallies and held festivals at Murray Hall that included dramatic productions and Lyceum entertainments. On occasion, the Marlow Cornet Band would perform together with other town bands, in Marlow and elsewhere. For years, an annual reunion of bands from all over the state took place each August at Lake Sunapee.

So far, we know little about the identities of individual members of the Marlow Cornet Band. As shown in the photo above, the group was led by Squires Forsaith at the time of the 1881 Marlow Town Fair. In March 1885, band leader Norris E. Edwards, who had worked for the Hon. James Burnap for the past two years, returned to his hometown of Springfield, VT, whereby Robert Holland was elected as Edwards' successor. Other musicians at that time included Lyman Cram, drum major, and Perrin Applin, clarinetist. On January 21, 1892, the Cold River Journal, published in the neighboring town of Alstead, reported the death of 35-year-old Lucius M. Dunn who at that time had been the leader of the band. Evidently, popularity in town bands was waning based upon a report in the same newspaper on March 31st of that year:

"It has been thought that the cornet band was a thing of the past, that it had played out; but those who heard it play at the entertainment on Thursday evening of last week know better. A few of the old players yet remain in town and the boys have taken hold of it with a determination to be musicians and have made rapid progress under the instruction of leader W. G. Booth."

While the Marlow Cornet Band is long gone, it is not forgotten. **Mementos of this once thriving musical group are appropriately on display in Murray Hall, home of the Marlow Historical Society, including uniforms, buttons, caps, and group photos.** We hope to learn more about the Marlow Cornet Band through further researching local newspapers and reaching out to descendants of past members. Please contact us if you can add to our present knowledge.

**Article written by Tracy Messer.-**



## MARLOW Police Department 1889-2017

Who enforced law and order in Marlow in the old times? Our town records are spotty in this sense until just prior to the start of the 20th century, but are better documented further on.

In the late 19th century, **Marlow Town Reports** list expenditures for street lamps, watering troughs, dependent soldiers, sheep killed by dogs, town and county paupers, and even burying dead horses found on the road, but there is no mention of police expenses. In fact, the word "police" hardly ever appears.

Since the NH State Police was not established until 1937, we can only surmise that, when needed, the town received support from the Cheshire County Sheriff's Office. In 1898, there's mention of a constable, H.F. Towne, who earned \$5.00 that year. In 1900 Constables Edward Fay and Charles W. Beard worked for a combined total of \$7.00.

One would think that action picked up during the first decade of the 20th century since the number of "police" and "constables" increased to as many as six in 1908 (for a total of \$21.50), and sometimes included an "agent to enforce the liquor law". It is likely, however, that individuals were recruited only as needed, and that they performed various jobs in town beside police work. In 1911, for example, W.W. Howe did police duty, but was also in charge of "perambulating town lines, moving electric poles, and providing dinners for election officials."

The 1914 Town Report lists H.C. Mosher and W.H. Perkins as "Special Police"; but since police reports were not yet published, we have no way of knowing what their special duties were.

A *Police Department* section debuted under the heading *Protection of Persons and Property* in the 1916 Town Report. Starting in 1918, such work came to include the care of tramps, many of whom came looking for work in the woolen mills of Cheshire County. The law dictated that the town feed them, put them up for one night, and then escort them to the town line. In 1922, for example, the town paid:

W.H.Campbell, police	\$20.00
Care of 43 tramps	15.90
1/2 cord of wood for tramp house	4.00
Repairs on tramp house	2.25

By 1930 the number of tramps had grown to 144, and the town paid the Nichols & Newton store \$57.60 for feeding them. The following year Nichols & Newton fed 265 tramps for a total of \$106.00. The tramp house was located on Rt. 123 north of the village, where the old Town Pound used to be - sadly now housing stray people instead of stray animals. It burned down in the fire of 1941.

Charles R. (Roddy) Andrews joined the police department in 1926. He would be Marlow's Police Chief until the mid 1960s; he was also fire warden and the town blacksmith. Don Winham has this to say about Roddy and his time: *"He looked like what you would expect a blacksmith to look: big, strong and honest. He spoke in a slow manner and had a laid back personality. It was easy to misjudge just how smart he really was. The population of Marlow was around 350 back then and there was little or no crime; no television to teach you how to do terrible things. If Roddy had to go talk to someone he had just the right touch. Every Halloween he would be out looking things over and if he saw a bunch of kids he would stop and ask if we were doing anything bad. It was very effective. He was the right man for the job in quiet little Marlow".*

Needless to say Roddy Andrews was reelected year after year, and was certainly a tough act to follow. Working under him at various times were George Corey, Ralph Winham, J.F. Perkins, Leon Davis, Fred Corey, Stan Sawyer, and Charlie Strickland.

Ralph Winham in turn headed the police department from 1962 to 1971. He also held the position of Deputy Cheshire County Sheriff for many years. His son Don tells of an incident during Old Home Day 1944, when Ralph had just been appointed Deputy Sheriff. He had arrested and handcuffed a fugitive just south of the village on Route 10, but the prisoner "sized him up as a real amateur sheriff, a real Marlow bumpkin" and took off across an open field towards the woods. Ralph hollered for him to stop, fired shots in the air, and the man stopped dead on his tracks.

Mike Bascom recalls that as a young teenager he figured out how to make wine, and decided to "go into business", selling it to the kids on the bus. Ralph Winham found out, confiscated his equipment, and visited his parents, making it very clear that "only heads of households were allowed to make wine."

The first official *Report of the Marlow Police Department* was written by Police Chief Ronald Lake, and appeared in the 1972 town report. Besides the usual crimes and misdemeanors, he lists: 5 missing persons, 5 minors drinking, and 20 crank phone calls. He and Constable Ronald Kendall attended 42 days of Police School sponsored by the Sheriff's Department - probably a first for Marlow officers. Ronnie Lake was Police Chief until 1977, except for two years when the department was headed by Mark Strickland. Working as constables were Ronald Kendall, Charles Champney Sr., and John Berge. (continued page three)



As time went on there was increasing need for police intervention. In 1974 the department responded to 41 calls; the following year there were 167 calls - an increase of 126%. The chief reported only one unsolved case: "threatening with a revolver, forgery, and welfare fraud". He also lists 23 dog complaints - "running loose, biting and barking" - but he adds *"These animals can't be blamed for how their owners take care of them."*

Charles Champney Sr. served as Police Chief in 1978 and 1979, with Richard Rock as Constable. He was followed by Chief Francis P. Hardy, who had worked for the federal government, and set very high standards in his 1980 Police Report. He promised the finest in police service: "a professional department able to cope with almost anything that comes our way, available to you 24 hours a day, with a minimum of outside involvement." He saw to it that officers were equipped with radios and pagers, and made plans to refurbish the small building behind Jones Hall as a police station.\*

Frank Hardy resigned after two years, but remained involved in the department, which was headed for a while by one of his previous deputies, Louis Renaud, a retired state trooper.

Robert Chambers was Police Chief from 1984 - 1987. Working as constables at different times were Louis Renaud, Ken Avery, Arthur Grover, Frank Hardy and Tom Foote. Chambers himself was the subject of a major murder investigation - a tale in and of itself - so his tenure ended under a cloud.\*\* It fell to Philip D. (Danny) O'Brien to rehabilitate the department. In his first Police Dept. Report in 1988 he wrote: "When I was elected as Police Chief, I thought everything was going to be a snap, but it wasn't quite that easy." Patrolling with Ken Avery gave him the experience he needed. He got the town police files back from the Sheriff Dept., inventoried police equipment, attended Part Time Officers School in Plymouth, had the town's radar unit certified and calibrated, and budgeted money for uniforms. He stated "I would have to say the Police Dept. is on its feet and looking towards the future".

It was also during his term of office, in 1994, that a Town Warrant asked the residents to raise and appropriate the sum of \$12,000 for the purchase of a used police cruiser. Before then officers had used their own vehicles.

Those years saw a substantial increase in calls and arrests: from 240 calls in 1989, to 315 in 1990, and 433 in 1991. Brandon Little, Ken Avery, and David Conley served as deputies.

Brandon Little recalls how grueling the requirements were at the Police Academy. It was like military training - and it was not size and brawn that would get you through, since some of the big husky guys didn't pass. You had to learn about the Constitution and its amendments, federal and state laws, civil rights, methods of prosecution, etc. Physical training was intense, and included being hit with pepper spray! You needed certification for every aspect of policing, such as using handcuffs, carrying weapons, and using a radar. If you passed, you had every reason to be proud of yourself.

O'Brien served until 1996, when Ken Avery became acting police chief. Avery paid tribute to him in the 1997 town report. He wrote "I watched Dan grow from a 'rookie chief' to a well-respected 'chief of police'."

Ken Avery has served as Marlow Police Chief since 1997 except for a brief period in 2000 when another chief was narrowly voted in, and subsequently resigned. Avery was reinstated by appointment later in the year. As Selectman Joe Feuer wrote in the Annual Report: "We are proposing that the town return to the appointment method of engaging a police chief. The era of electing this position is long past. Although only a part time position, this office represents a critical element of emergency response which should never be left to the vagaries of a popularity contest." Avery worked for the US Postal Service for 32 years; and for nine years he was Police Chief both in Marlow and Gilsun. He has had deputies at different times during his tenure, but most of the time he has been the sole man on patrol. He now has the help of Officer Kevin Fay who was recently appointed to the Marlow P.D.

Policing has evolved significantly through the decades. The cruiser now carries a computer, light bar, siren, radar gun, defibrillator, taser, and breathalyzer. There's enhanced 911 service, assigned permanent house numbers for swift emergency response, and support from the State Police - things that Constable H.F. Towne could not have dreamed of in 1898. The problems the police face have changed dramatically as well. Chief Avery says that of the DUI arrests, more and more are due to drug use. One thing has not changed: the mission of the Marlow Police Department; and nothing summarizes it better than the title that appeared in that town report over a century ago, namely, **Protection of Persons and Property.**

*\*Work has been done on the building through the years. The local Boy Scout Troop led by Joe Scharf renovated the inside in 1996.*

*\*\*We must mention two other riveting Marlow mysteries that are not mentioned in town reports, probably because they fell under the jurisdiction of the county or state police and possibly the FBI. In 1923 Marlow witnessed the murder case of Dr. William Robb and the "headless corpse". In the early 1980s Marlow's famous murderer Audrey Marie Hilley (the "Black Widow"), made national news. At one time she lived in a cottage across from Stone Pond. For full details read Betty Batchelder's "Murder & Mayhem in Marlow", which appears in our Marlow History.*





## HORACE GEE AND THE CHARLESTOWN BANK CAPER



*Mary Marlow residents have never heard this amusing story. This is an abbreviated version of an article written by Shelly Candidus for the SooNipi Magazine, in 1999. We print it with permission from the editor.*

The Larned brothers from Massachusetts were misguided when they hit the First Connecticut Bank in Charlestown on the evening of June 10, 1859. The robbery was carefully planned and successfully executed, but the brothers were misled by their horse!

The streets of Charlestown were deserted on a summer evening when the horse drew a wagon carrying a man and his companion, dressed in gown and bonnet, up to the doors of the bank. The couple climbed down and strolled to the doors, pausing for a few moments before a skeleton key and crowbar allowed them entrance. Once inside the "lady" quickly shed dress and bonnet and assumed the identity of Abijah Larned's brother and companion in crime. The two men set to work on the vault. After forcing the outer door, they blew open the inner door and removed the contents - bags of gold and silver coin, and bundles of paper money. They loaded the wagon and urged the faithful horse to make tracks to the Massachusetts border. The heist had gone off without a hitch, and the Larneds were \$12,000 to the good.

Eleven miles southeast, between Drewsville and Marlow, the fugitives came to Hatch Hill, a long, steep and winding mountain road. The brothers decided to spare the horse by lightening the load. One brother walked ahead of the horse while the other followed behind. The one in front kept up a strong pace and soon outdistanced the horse; the one behind found it hard going and slowed his climb until he no longer heard the plodding horse and creaking wagon. The weary beast, finding the climb not to his liking, and lacking human guidance, decided to follow a more moderate lane, a logging lane that led east into Marlow.

The consternation of the Larneds must have been considerable when they met at the top of the hill. Horse, wagon and \$12,000 had been swallowed up in the night. As dawn approached they realized that they would soon be the objects of an intense local manhunt; they decided to separate to improve their chances of escape.

In the meantime, Horace Gee was returning home after an all night vigil at the house of a sick neighbor. A prosperous young farmer, Gee was a compassionate man; when he spotted a driverless wagon, pulled by an exhausted horse, he picked up the dragging reins and guided the rig into his yard. After providing the horse with water, he tied him in the door yard, confident that the owner would soon come looking for him.

That morning George Olcott, cashier at the bank for more than 30 years, arrived for work, and discovered that the vault had been cleaned of every coin and bill. He sent word to the bank president, ex-governor Henry Hubbard. When the authorities arrived they determined that not a clue had been left by the robbers. Men on horseback were dispatched in all directions, carrying the news and an offer from the bank of a reward for the return of the money. When Horace Gee awoke and heard the news, he decided to take another look at the horse and wagon, and was astonished to find that the wagon held bags of and bundles of money, along with burglary tools. He lost no time in driving the rig back to Charlestown to return the money and claim his reward.

Although the robbers escaped prosecution, Abijah Larned was nabbed a few years later after robbing a bank in Cooperstown, NY; he went to jail and died before serving out his sentence.

As the article so aptly summarizes: "The hero of the story? A strong and stalwart horse who only wanted to find the best way home!"

Don't forget to renew your membership!

Every contribution helps to make our work possible!

## WINDY JIM

*{Story sent by Don Winham of Temple City, CA. His father, Ralph Winham, was Marlow Police Chief from 1962 - 1971, and Deputy Cheshire County Sheriff for many years. The story took place in Marlow, sometime in the 1940s. Harry James Waldron (1872-1953) was a teamster for the lumber industry. He and his wife Lottie Maria Litchfield are buried in the Marlow Village Cemetery}*



Jim Waldron always wore overalls. He always had something to say and spoke in a rather loud voice. He was known to swear, but not that much. People began to call him Windy Jim behind his back. He didn't like it one bit. Mr. Waldron didn't own an automobile, but he did have a farm wagon much like the one in *Little House On The Prairie*, and a spirited work horse to pull it. He had a wife, but no one ever saw her; at least I never did.

One late afternoon, the two Champney boys were over and the three of us were at play behind our house, when we heard a wagon coming in the distance. It was Mr. Waldron on his way home, his horse in a slow gallop. As he passed by, we all jumped out from in back of the barn and yelled "HEY WINDY, WINDY JIM!" Mr. Waldron continued on home and put his horse away. Then he walked back to our house. My father was not home yet so he complained to my mother and told her what had happened.

When my dad came home he was quite concerned and told me that after supper he and I were going to see Mr. Waldron and I was going to apologize. "And you're going to say, 'I'm sorry Mr. Waldron, and I'll never do it again.'" I was so nervous. It seemed like I would never see tomorrow. I went in the car with my dad and Mr. Waldron met us in front of his camp-type house. My father said "Donald has something he wants to say." Then it was my turn to talk. I was shaking when I said "I'm sorry Mr. Waldron, and I'll never do it again." He accepted my apology immediately. His heart surfaced. After some brief conversation between the men, we got in the car and went home.

My dad was never big on fathering but this time he knew what had to be done and he did it. He gave me a crash course in respecting your elders and to consider other people's feelings. Looking back, I am so proud of him.

He took the wind out of my vocabulary. And I never did it again.



## As 2017 Comes to a Close. . .

Your Officers and Directors would like to wish you and yours the best for the coming year, and we would like to thank you for everything you have done to make our Marlow Historical Society an important part of the Marlow community.

From supporting the nearly complete renovation of Murray Hall, to attending our programs, to writing articles for the newsletter, and generally being of good cheer as we all work together to preserve and communicate our heritage to the world around us . . . we thank you so much! Let's make 2018 a memorable year! *Maria, Barry, Pat, Patty, Ed, Joe, and Joanne*



**Marlow Historical Society  
2017-2018**

**Officers:**

*President:* Maria Baril  
*Vice President:* Barry Corriveau  
*Treasurer:* Pat Strickland  
*Secretary:* Patty Little

**Directors:**  
 Joe Baril  
 Edward Thomas  
 Joanne Thomas

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**1889 MARLOW SELECTMEN'S REPORT**

Selectmen were Orville R. Rogers, Henry H. Huntley and Leander B. Huntley

Valuation of the town of Marlow as appraised by the Selectmen April 1, 1888, for the purpose of taxation:

Valuation of real estate,	\$185,637.00
172 polls *	17,200.00
176 horses	14,040.00
93 oxen	5,626.00
267 cows	7,900.00
1,345 sheep	4,560.00
217 neat stock **	6,428.00
21 hogs	172.00
28 carriages	1,846.00
Stock in public funds	19,935.00
Stock in banks and other corporations	29,121.00
Money at interest	25,966.00
Stock in trade	11,374.00
Mills and machinery	7,500.00
Lumber	900.00
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	\$ 336,405.00

\* POLL is an old word for "head" or "top of the head". Poll here is a head tax, paid by every person of voting age.

\*\* NEAT STOCK refers to cattle that are not producing milk, such as young heifers - and maybe bulls???