

MHS Newsletter

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

Winter 2014

Life on a Marlow Dairy Farm by Joe Feuer

Ever drink warm milk, fresh from the cow? I did, often. Growing up on my uncle's little farm on Route 123 along Grassy Brook during the mid 20th Century, I came of age on the "family farm" in the true sense of that designation. There was an old farm house surrounded by lilacs and kudzu vines, a cow barn, a couple of hay barns, some chicken houses and coops, and a wood shed out back. Further out there were a few hilly, boulder filled pastures and a couple of small hay fields.

Marlow, despite a smaller population than at present, was much different in the wake of World War II. There were two stocked grocery stores here then, in full operation, and a fully functioning gas station/convenience store. In the summer there were cabins to rent and close at hand in East Alstead there was summer theatre for cultural enjoyment. And we sold dairy products locally, including raw milk.

We were not alone in this endeavor. Several other Marlow residents kept cows and sold their surplus milk, if any, to their neighbors. But my uncle did it for a livelihood and went on with it for years. Beyond us in East Alstead there were far more extensive dairy operations with large herds that shipped in bulk to commercial creameries. In Keene there were several large dairies producing and selling pasteurized milk. One of them, Wheeler and Taylor, even had a route in Marlow with far more customers than we did. But my uncle had a handful of loyal customers and he soldiered on.

We usually had no more than the three milk cows named Blackie, Brownie, and Nellie. My aunt and uncle milked twice a day by hand, bottled the milk in the kitchen, separated some milk for cream in a hand cream separator (which I still have), cooled the filled bottles in the well, (and eventually in the refrigerator when we got electricity) and washed the returned bottles in the sink.

On delivery mornings my uncle would load up his old Pontiac and later the Plymouth coupe with a few milk crates and head for town. He also had cream and butter and, when milk was plentiful, cottage cheese. My aunt had a flock of chickens so he sometimes carried a few dozen eggs for sale. In the summer he also gave his best customers wild blackberries he had picked in the woods. If I went along for the ride, at age 8 or 9, I was perched on top of the milk. I believe milk was 25 cents a quart delivered; 20 cents picked up at the farm house. Our milk bottles were a mixture of brands from other,

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Odd Fellows and Society Team up for Silent Auction

On Sunday July 6th the Historical Society and the Odd Fellows will host a joint silent auction at the J.D. Perkins School, and the profits will benefit both organizations equally. We are raising monies to continue renovating Murray Hall, so that we can move our office and gallery space into it, and the Odd Fellows are raising money to complete necessary maintenance on their historic meeting hall.

In the next few months we will be asking for donations of desirable goods and services. You might have something of value to donate, or know of someone who does. Would you consider helping your Society?

We have an estimate to level the foundation of Murray Hall, a necessary first step, which will also include excavating soil to slope away from the rear of the building. This will cost approximately \$3,000.00, which is a few hundred dollars more than we currently have in the Murray Hall capital improvement fund. Please help us raise much needed cash by participating in our Silent Auction!

Watch for more information on our website.....

New Site, New Look, New E-Mail for MHS

With the expertise of Society friend Aaron Thomas, and input from interested members, our Society now has a new website that will allow our members and anyone interested in Marlow history a new place to do research, find important contact information, and find items to purchase. We will be shifting our interactive "forum" portion of the site to our Facebook presence, so if you wish to ask questions or post comments, that will be the place to do it. We will also be shifting the content and photos from the old site to the new; please be patient as this will take time! We also have a new email address, so mark your computer now.....

Our new email address is:
mhsnewhamshire@gmail.com

and our new website is:
mhsnewhamshire.org

We hope you will frequent our site, and we welcome your feedback as we work to improve it.

Tidbits from Marlow's Surprising Genealogy

This month: Gustins and Huntleys

Genealogical research is exciting for the same reason mysteries are exciting. There are perplexing problems and sudden breakthroughs. Just when the case of a lost ancestor seems hopeless, a tiny clue such as a middle initial or a newly discovered date will unlock a cascade of information. One of the more difficult hurdles in genealogical research occurs when an ancestor changes names or is recorded under a nickname. The most common name changing happens through marriage. For this reason, it is more difficult to trace a female line. It's as if, in the records, every wife is "Good Old Mom," and we are lucky if someone remembered to record her first name.

Because of a name change, one tough genealogical nut to crack was the ancestry of Marlow's early hero, Samuel Gustin. He is important to us because, by carrying a petition to extend Marlow's charter when Governor Wentworth had threatened to revoke it, he saved Marlow. Gustin's origins, though, proved to be an enigma. There was no record of the Gustin name in Lyme, CT, the town from which most other early Marlow settlers came. As it turned out, he hailed from Stonington, CT, but had sea trade connections with Lyme. The main obstacle, though, was that his father's name was not Gustin. It was *Auguste Jean*, but he was called "Gustine" or "Gustin." Once that nugget was unearthed, the rest became easy because wealthy, prominent families from places like Lyme and Stonington, CT tend to have recorded ancestry for many generations.

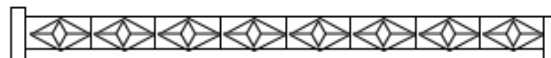
When I first saw a list of 1793 Marlow settlers, I despaired of tracing their ancestry or learning anything significant about any of them, but, because they all came from early wealthy Connecticut families, the work had already been done. All I had to do was find it, and find it I did not for Samuel Gustin. Gustin's mother is Abigail Shaw of the prominent Shaw family whose ancestry is laid out in books and on the internet, but, as stated above, Gustin's original surname is Jean. The Jean family, from the beautiful Isle of Jersey between France and England, were Huguenots, Protestants driven out of Catholic France in the 1500's. One was Augustine le Rossignol Jean, third son of Edmmund Jean De Le'Taq and Ester LeRossignol, christened on January 9, 1647 at St Ouens Parish in Le Taq. Gustin's ancestors served as slaves on the Isle of Jersey, an interesting origin for one of Marlow's most prominent citizens. To complicate matters further, Samuel's daughter Mary changed the name to "Austin."

The Huntley (Huntly) family, some of whose descendants are still in town (See Pat Strickland and Shirley Plumb, for instance) can be traced to John Huntley to whom King Charles I granted a tract of land in Lyme, CT in the 1600's. His grand sea merchant's home stood in the place where Lyme's public library now stands. His grandson, Aaron Huntley II, with his wife Deborah DeWolfe, settled in Marlow in 1766. (The DeWolfe family, going back to Lyme's Balthazar DeWolfe, engaged in the Triangle Trade. Think DeWolfe rum. See tracesofthetrade.org). Among his most prominent sons was Nathan Huntley, ancestor of our present Huntley descendants. He personally owned 750 acres of Marlow, including Marlow Hill, and jointly owned with his Huntley relatives several hundreds more. It was Nathan who gave the land for the 1792 construction of the meetinghouse on Marlow Hill.

Genealogist Virgil Huntley, now 95, of Mystic, CT, has laid out Marlow's Huntley line (Freeman, Russell, Curtis, Elisha, Nathan, Aaron, Aaron, John) in Volume III of *John Huntley, Immigrant of Boston and Roxbury Massachusetts and Lyme, Connecticut, 1647-1977*. Aaron I seems to have had a residence in Carolina. Many Lyme merchants ranged the colonial coast and had more than one residence from Halifax to Rhode Island to the Carolinas and went far abroad to bring the colonies such items as tea, spices, molasses, ivory, indigo, and brocades and you can imagine what else. We could speculate that their interests in Marlow might have been lumber and beaver fur to be sent down to Lyme's busy harbor near the mouth of the Connecticut River.

Another aspect of Marlow genealogy that makes research easier and more interesting is that almost all of the early Marlow settlers are interrelated. The booklet published by the Huntley National Association in 1942, when they held their annual reunion in Marlow, says it best: "The Huntley's of Lyme, Connecticut, started their trek up the Connecticut River Valley in 1766. The Huntleys were that—they were the Huntleys: but also they were the Macks, the Gees, the Tubbs, the Millers, and the Lewises. All traced their ancestry to John Huntley."

[Next month, we continue with "Macks and More"]



MHS helps Santa

The night of December 7th was clear and mild, the tree in front of the lodge was resplendent, and the tables overflowed with festive dishes. Santa wore a brand new suit, and gave out stockings full of toys and goodies to a record number of children, including the Willey twins, Skylar and Mitchell, seen here with Santa.



Clay Bradley won the quilt crafted by the incomparable Marlow Quilters. It was raffled to benefit the Marlow Church Roof Fund and the Historical Society Murray Hall renovations.

The Historical Society and two other donors chipped in to defray Santa's expenses. At our suggestion, a few days later Santa visited the 100 Nights

shelter in Keene and handed out gifts to the wide-eyed tots who waited in line to hug him and sit on his lap.

(Dairy, cont.)

larger operations that people donated to us. We used a number of Wheeler and Taylor, Sawyer and MacKenzie Dairy bottles that drifted in over the years. If our paper caps fit them we recycled anyone's bottles.

With the advent of more stringent regulations and the requirements for milking machines and pasteurization, we were eventually forced out of business. Shortly thereafter my aunt and uncle retired to Florida. The era of the small town farmer/distributor and indeed the small family farm itself was coming to an end. Alone I watched as the barns and outbuildings collapsed and the old farm house tumbled into the cellar. Alone I walked through the old hay fields and pastures as nature slowly reclaimed them back into woodland. After a lifetime of experiences I can now only go back there in my mind. Still, I remember the sounds and the smells of the old cow barn, the shadows of the huge beasts in the lantern light in winter after dark, the noise the milk made upon the empty pail, and the taste of fresh warm milk in an old enamel cup. And I still have the cup.

Finding My Ancestors on Ancestry.com by Jacqui Fay

I have always had an interest in researching my family tree but the task of gathering the information seemed way too time consuming, and as an only child, I felt as if my family was very small. That was until I came across Ancestry.com.

I signed up for the one month trial subscription on a whim, typed in the few names I knew and the next moment little green leaves (they show links to other leads) started popping up and before you knew it, it was 3 a.m. and I was totally hooked. Of course, this was not the most logical manner in which to do research, so I now have a rather unmanageable family tree (over 1600), and I should go back and research my ancestors more thoroughly. I'll have to search national census records, as well as birth, marriage, and death registers, and other places on the web.

There are challenges in working through Ancestry searches. For example, a lot of the documents are written in beautiful copperplate, which I find very hard to read. The poorer branches of the family are harder to find, because in those cases life events weren't necessarily recorded. Women are hard to trace because the maiden names disappear upon marriage.

So, here's a brief summary of my family as I have found them through Ancestry.com:

On my father's side I have found my 12th great grandmother was Isolda, born in 1380, my 10th great grandmother was called Mistress of Navan (whatever that means) born in 1420 and a twelfth great grandfather born in 1525 was John Fellow. For at least the last couple of generations they were Londoners. Of course being British, I was desperate to find a link to the Royal family and here it is--the Plantagenets! King Edward is the 2nd grand uncle of the wife of my 1st cousin 8 times removed! Other notable relatives in my family tree include Florence Nightingale, John and Thomas Astbury who were pioneers of English plant potting technology, and an early Staffordshire potter with ties to Josiah Wedgwood. My many time great grand uncles include Sir Nicholas Bagnall, Marshall of the Army in Ireland in 1551 and Sir Ralph Bagnall, a courtier to Henry VIII.

On my mother's side I still have a lot of research ahead of me, as I keep hitting walls. There are only very sketchy records on the Hague family from Yorkshire, who were predominately coal miners and

steel workers. A cousin tells me we are related to the current British Foreign Secretary, William Hague. Military records show devastating losses to the family in WW I and WWII. In WW I the men from each village fought together and therefore when searching military records I have found all the menfolk of one family killed within two days at the Battle of the Somme.

Last year I took my genealogy one step further and asked my husband for a DNA test for my birthday. Word of warning: there are several types of tests out there; make sure you choose the right one for you. For example, some will tell you what you are most likely to die from (I prefer to be surprised). I got the test results the other day and have found that I am 76% Western European, 18% Irish and possibly 2% Scandinavian and 2% Russian. This makes me a Celt. I also now have 64 pages of probable matches to living cousins with the option to message them in Ancestry, but I am somewhat hesitant to do so. I think I may wait to see if any contact me. This list I believe will keep growing as more take the DNA test.

Researching my family tree has given me a keen interest in history as I try to picture what it would have been like when and where my ancestors lived...what would have been the big inventions and events in their lifetime, also the challenges and highlights.

Next steps for me will be to research these DNA records, as well as my immediate family members (not all 1600 of them!). Finally, my biggest challenge is to sort out a large box of very old family photos and try to identify and match them to my Ancestry tree.



June Fundraising Concert with the Hard Tacks at Jones Hall

On Saturday June 14th at seven o' clock the Society will sponsor a fundraising concert open to the community, as we host The Hard Tacks in celebration of the 150th anniversary of the Civil War. The Hardtacks perform a discussion and singalong presentation of a wide variety of Civil War ballads, in period costumes, that has been wildly popular on the New Hampshire Humanities circuit. They use camp songs, parlor music, hymns, battlefield rallying cries, and fiddle tunes to enact living history. Instrumentation includes banjo, fiddle, dulcimer, accordion, whistle, and guitar. The evening promises to be educational and entertaining. Refreshments will be for sale during intermission; invite your friends--- this is an event not to be missed!



Marlow Historical Society
P.O. Box 12, Rte 123
Marlow, NH 03456

mhsnewhampshire.org
Hours: May - October
3rd Sunday of the month and by
appointment

Contact Information

Marlow Historical Society Officers 2013-2014

President Joanne Thomas 446-7421
Vice President Maria Baril 446-2292
Secretary Jacqui Fay 446-3602
Treasurer Joe Baril 446-2292

Board Members

Gen Ellis 446-7161
Loisanne Foster 446-7163
Lynne Bailey 446-3450

Board Meetings are often held
the first Thursday evening of the month at
the Methodist Chapel on
Forest Road
all members are welcome!

e-mail: mhsnewhampshire@gmail.com

Did You Know.... the Marlow Soldier's Memorial

Did you know that the statue of a World War I soldier in front of Jones Hall was sculpted by a famous stonecutter born in Italy?

In her will of February 14, 1927 Agnes Grant Phelps left \$1,900 to the town of Marlow for the creation of a soldiers monument. The town commissioned the work to Martin M. Comolli of Milford. Mr. Comolli was a WW I veteran himself, and the "American Doughboy" was his personal design, carved in granite at his own plant.

At the dedication on June 1, 1930, the artist was warmly applauded, and praised for his attention to detail: the soldier's scabbard, field bag, and canteen, the tree stump behind his right leg, even the hobnails of the shoes. George Mastin, the remaining survivor of the Civil War who enlisted from Marlow, attended the dedication.

The monument, dedication, grading and curbing cost \$2,237.25. Although the town had to make up the difference, the inscription properly acknowledges that "The Public Generosity of Agnes Grant Phelps Made Possible This Monument."

The monument was re-dedicated on Memorial Day 1989. New granite curbing was installed, evergreen bushes were planted, and two benches were added. This memorial, familiar to all who admire our Village Green, is now an integral part of our town center. It is an appropriate reminder of all the Marlow veterans who fought and died to preserve the liberty we enjoy.

