



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

**Winter 2023**

## MARLOW MAKES MERRY

### 1761 - THE BIRTH OF MARLOW

Our town was first granted as Addison on January 1, 1753 to Elias Alexander and others. Seeing that the proprietors had done nothing for several years to develop and cultivate the land as stipulated, Gov. Benning Wentworth threatened to revoke the charter. It was then that Marlow's early hero Samuel Gustin rode to Portsmouth, the provincial capital, carrying a petition that the charter be extended.

The town was regranted as Marlow on October 7, 1761 to William Noyes and 69 others, the majority from Lyme, Connecticut. It was named after Marlow, England, located on the River Thames in Buckinghamshire. The charter was renewed on Jan. 24, 1772, but Marlow regards 1761 as its true birth date.



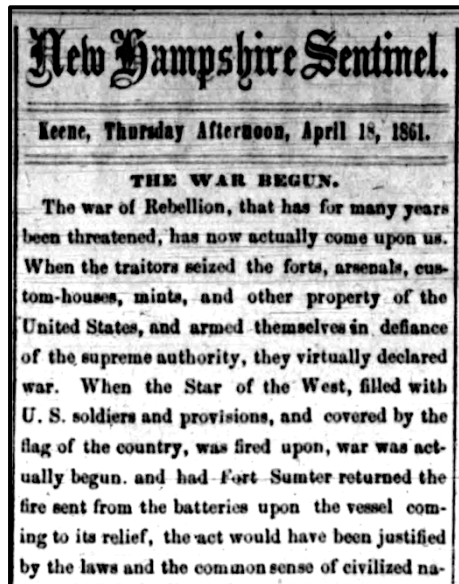
### 1861 - CENTENNIAL

A centennial celebration was the last thing Marlow residents had in mind in 1861. The Battle of Fort Sumter, April 12-13, 1861, had marked the beginning of the American Civil War, and in many sections of the North preparations for the conflict were underway. Elgin Jones wrote: *"In our town, political feelings ran high.... Many insults were borne, some that would not be permitted today, such as putting on fire Old Glory by means of rockets because it bore names of Democratic candidates."* However, he adds, *"When the die was cast, partisanship was forgotten. The slogan for all being 'The Union it must be preserved', notwithstanding the hardships, the sorrow and the breaking up of families."* We could not find evidence of any Marlow Centennial commemoration in our research.

### 1911 - 150TH ANNIVERSARY

Two excellent primary sources: a New Hampshire Sentinel article from August 30, 1911, and a Keene Evening Sentinel from August 25, 1911 provide a thorough account of the 150th Celebration of Incorporation, which was held on August 24, concurrently with Old Home Day. Elgin A. Jones was Chairman of the Committee of Arrangements, which also included George F. Gee and Perley E. Fox.

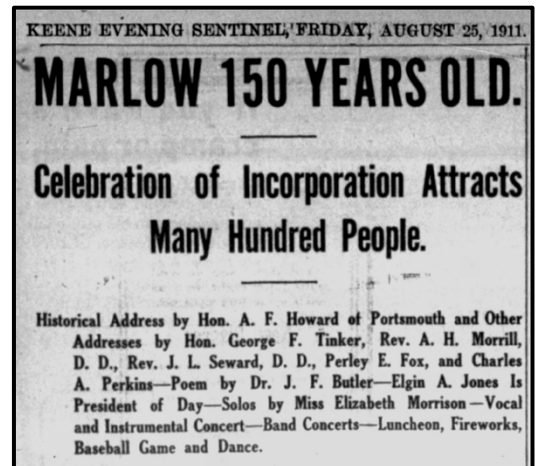
The N.H. Sentinel reported: *"The attendance ...was larger than the present population of the town, large delegations from all the neighboring towns being present, and many natives and former residents from a distance. A free luncheon was served to all visitors at the noon hour, about 600 in all being fed at the several halls where tables were set and in the homes of residents."*



The first event of the day was a ball game between the married men and the single men, *"the benedicts winning by the large score of 16 to 6."* The East Sullivan band played at intervals during the day.

*"Literary and historical exercises"* took place in Jones Hall, through the *"forenoon and afternoon"*. After introductory remarks by the presiding officer, Perley E. Fox, others addressed the audience: Charles A. Perkins (son of Dr. Marshall Perkins), Dr. J.F. Butler of Spofford, a Marlow native, and the Hon. George F. Tinker of New London, also a loyal son of Marlow.

The afternoon featured a *"brilliant duet by Misses Weeks and Gee"*, {Maud Weeks and Ruth Gee}, and a special performance by Miss Elizabeth Morrison, a mezzo-contralto of international renown. This was followed by a historical address by the Hon. Alfred F. Howard of Portsmouth, who was born in Marlow on Feb. 16, 1842. He spoke at great length about the history of the town, its origin, its buildings, its churches and its people.



At the end of his speech he reminisced: "The first boat I ever rowed, or sailed, the first time I ever skated, and the first time I ever fished, was on or in Gustin Pond. I have not visited this pond for many years, but its placid waters, the woods and ledges that lined its shores, and the white lilies growing on the north side, are as familiar to me today as they were when I fished from the ledges, and plucked the lilies to carry home to my mother and sisters".

Finally, according to the Keene Evening Sentinel: "one of the handsomest and most elaborate displays of fireworks ever witnessed in town was given... on the north side of the lake". The closing feature was a social dance in the hotel hall. (Probably the Ashuelot House/Forest House/Marlow Inn, which burned in 1916.)

### 1936 - 175TH ANNIVERSARY

Rather than wait for the bicentennial, Marlow residents threw a birthday party of their own. "More than 1,500 Attend Marlow Old Home Day on Town's 175th", reported The Union, (predecessor to the Manchester Union Leader) on August 21.

"The festivities started with a parade of 10 decorated floats, the Fire Department and the Harrisville band, with the selectmen and a color bearer leading the procession along the Dartmouth College highway. Included in the line of march was a group of children dressed as Indians and there was also a political touch with both Landon and Roosevelt being imitated."

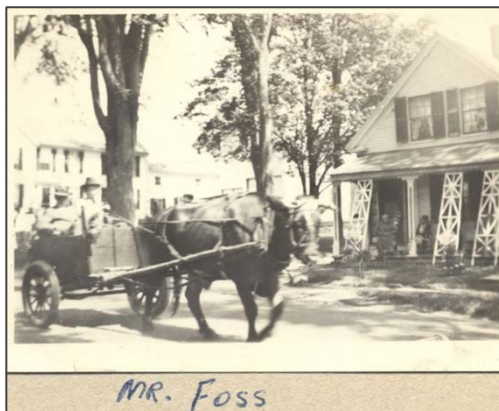
Clifford Lewis, driving an old-fashioned ox team loaded with hay and transporting six persons dressed in old-fashioned clothes won the prize for most original. A large red ox equipped with driving harness and driven by Leslie Foss captured the prize in the horrible class. Mr. Foss was riding on an antique two-wheel ox cart. (See Leslie's brother Clark, his ox Big Blue, and the two-wheeled cart, in our Spring/Summer 2021 newsletter.)

Various swimming races and other sports were conducted prior to the noonday meal. Gordon Newton won the bicycle race and Fred Corey was first in the sack race. The egg race for boys and girls was taken by Rita Papile.

Warren Davis, president of the Old Home Day association gave the address of welcome... The principal address was given by Cong. Charles W. Tobey of Temple. The program also included a vocal solo by George N. Wright of Keene, a piano solo by Joseph Briggs and a short history of the town by Elgin A. Jones of Keene, a native of Marlow, who recounted the outstanding events of the past 175 years. Prayer was offered by Rev. Norman Langmaid.

Concluding the parade was a parade of 'brides', costumed in the style of the various periods since 1850, and an old-fashioned singing school. Mrs. Bessie Webster was the leader of the school and her singers included Mrs. Augustus Sawyer, Mrs. Avis Williams, Mrs. Ralph Winham, Mrs. George Corey, Mrs. Lillian Andrews and Mrs. Dana Winham. Mrs. Evelyn Guild was the organist.

Tonight the play "A Country Minister" was repeated for the second consecutive night in Grange Hall.



## 1961 - BICENTENNIAL

Marlow once again held a double celebration on August 19, 1961: the annual Old Home Day, and the 200th birthday of the town. We have in our files three articles written by Cal Cameron for the Keene Evening Sentinel, in which he describes the festivities so vividly, that we transcribe one of them here, almost verbatim. (Read about Cal Cameron, a well-known resident of Marlow, and the author of travel columns for the Keene Sentinel in our Winter 2016 newsletter.)

### **Day-Long Fete - Marlow Old Home Days draws 1,000 persons**

*"As part of the celebration of its 200 years of existence, this village entertained a crowd estimated at 1,000 persons in a day-long fete which started with a morning parade and lasted till exhaustion on Saturday. Cars bearing number plates from all the New England States, New York and several of the mid-western states lined the roads and were parked in driveways, yards, and fields.*



*Parade Marshall George N. Meleones, Past Commander of Cheshire Barracks 39, Keene VFW provided a color guard and a dozen or more veterans of World War I at the head of the colorful parade that opened the ceremonies. Edward J. Bouvier with his Swanzey band brought elders to their feet and delighted children racing beside them as they swung into the Village Green to the martial strains of "Onward Christian Soldiers". Youngsters were enthralled by the antics of Bob Augustini in a clown's costume who cavorted down the line shaking hands and distributing candy and gum to them. What many felt to be the outstanding float, was a huge oblong "birthday cake" about eight feet high and fifteen feet long that looked good enough to eat. Somewhere concealed within was James Champney who piloted it. He and his wife, assisted by Clifford Chambers had made the delicious looking confection.*

*Immediately after dinner, which had been served in the Odd Fellows Hall, the band gave an hour-long concert in which was a piece that Professor Bouvier had especially composed for the occasion.*

*In the Town Hall, a crowd that strained its capacity recognized the older visitors who had returned and then settled down to enjoy entertainment supplied for the most part by 25 of Marlow's younger generation.*

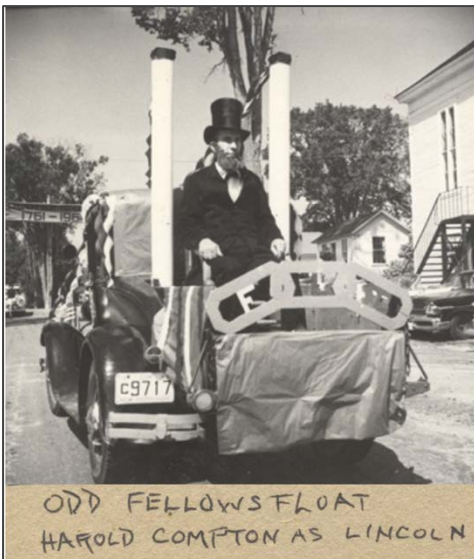
*With her usual patience and hard work, Mrs. Audrey Benson had drilled them in dance formations that were well executed and enthusiastically received by the audience. Mrs. Julie Heffernan made a special trip from Boston to accompany the singers and play for the dancing. Mrs. Benson herself did a dance number, exhibiting her effortless grace which was undoubtedly taxed by the rather small stage area she had to perform in. An unexpected surprise was an exceedingly clever exhibition of tambourine work done with matchless rhythm by the same Bob Augustini who had clowned for the youngsters earlier in the day.*

*Immediately following, slides of old Marlow scenes were shown. These had been carefully prepared by Stanley Sawyer who had been photographing just about every old picture of Marlow that he could find for almost a year. Many of them were of places no longer standing. There were pictures of the great Marlow fires that drew particular interest. However, what stirred most comment were pictures of groups of people taken years ago. Elders saw themselves when they were children and recognized friends long since departed.*

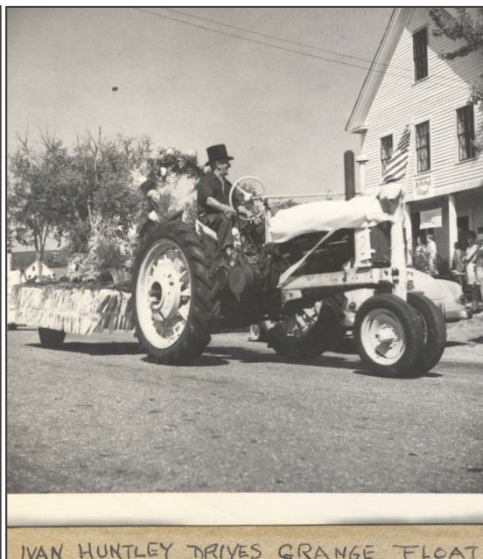
*Old Home Day is usually a day for the older generation to meet old cronies and relive some of their younger escapades. The middle group usually gets enjoyment from the glow they experience from having made possible the reunion of their elders. For kids it's apt to be a dreary day. Not so this one. It was a gala day for those who came or were brought, regardless of age. The kids rode a merry-go-round, had cotton candy, soft drinks, hamburgs, hot dogs and everything that makes an outing fun.*

*Before supper time had come the tots had expended all their energy, and were being carried sound asleep to be tucked in cars, where they enjoyed blissful unconsciousness while their parents went to the evening performance of "Just Country Folks" or the dance at the Grange Hall.*

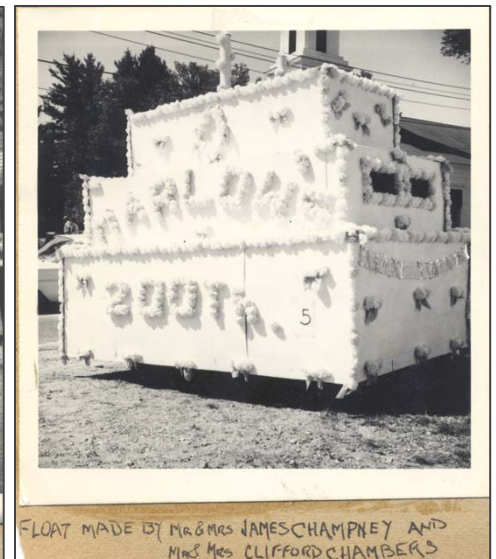
*Gradually the parked cars melted away, and shortly after midnight there was nothing to show but the litter of empty bottles, hot dog containers and messy napkins scattered over village lawns to remind the hosts of the day's reunions.*



ODD FELLOWS FLOAT  
HAROLD COMPTON AS LINCOLN



IVAN HUNTLEY DRIVES GRANGE FLOAT



FLOAT MADE BY MR & MRS JAMES CHAMPNEY AND  
MRS MRS CLIFFORD CHAMBERS

## 2011 - 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF INCORPORATION

In 2011, Marlow threw an epic 250th anniversary party which lasted not a day, or a weekend, or a week, but six months! It started with a Reminiscing Session at Jones Hall in January, led by lifelong resident Charlie Strickland, and culminated with a spectacular parade and block party on July 23.

There was a Winter Carnival in February, a Maple Dessert Competition in March, a Quilt Show in April, an Art Show at Perkins School in May, a Bridal Gown Show at the Marlow Methodist Church in June, and a Variety Show, Antique Car Show, River Regatta, Rope Pull Competition, and special Anniversary Service at the church in July.

At that time the Historical Society did not yet publish its triannual newsletter. Thus for the benefit of out-of-town members and those who moved into town after 2011, we include several photos of the events.

The commemoration is now an important part of our history, and one that we challenge future residents to match - or surpass - in 2061, when Marlow will celebrate its **THREE HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY**.



### OLD HOME DAYS SCRAPBOOK

Many of the snapshots in this newsletter's lead article were scanned from the pages of a priceless scrapbook containing Old Home Days photographs, programs and other memorabilia spanning many decades from 1900 on. The scrapbook itself is in very poor condition - certainly much too fragile to be handled. It is now being digitized. A copy will be printed and bound using acid-free materials, and will be available for viewing at our museum.

## A LACEWORK OF MEMORIES

by Anna (Fay) Sventek



As a recording of the grand bells that rang on my parents' wedding day in Penselwood, England echo out in the village, my husband Miško and I practically skip down the aisle. The air is crisp and new outside, the beauty of this day has colored us ten shades of blush. What a perfect continuation of our Slovak-born love story.

On October 1, 2022 I married my best friend in the best place surrounded by the best people, but it wasn't the first time I walked down the aisle of Marlow United Methodist Church in a wedding dress.

Eleven years ago, I took part in the Marlow Bridal Show during our town's 250<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration in 2011. I was one of several young girls who modeled the gowns worn by married women in town on their wedding days. Since I was 17 at the time, marriage certainly wasn't on my radar. But I did have a blossoming appreciation for good stories back then, and the love story of Gen and Ace Ells was special.

So when Gen asked me to wear her gown for the show, I was both honored and terrified. I knew how much it meant to her, and the beautiful lacework that wove their love story together was so exquisite and delicate. I do not recall breathing much in that dress, first worn in 1945,\* but I do recall the way Gen smiled when I walked down the aisle.

I also got to wear Donna Chase's beautiful gown that day. It was an empowering moment, because Donna and Scott Chase are one of Marlow's top power couples. Our little Marlow is home to a lot of power couples.

On my wedding day, the power of love manifested itself in the infectious beat of Slovak folk music reverberating through Abby Park, as Slovaks and locals alike bid adieu to their uncomfortable shoes and high-kicked and danced the night away beneath the twinkling canopy, wearing their fabulous fascinators. I also think it was at that point that the Tatra Tea, a popular liquor from my husband's home country, kicked in.

Some prized Slovak gin bottles kept glasses of local beer company, while the paper crowns from my mum's homemade British crackers were strewn across the tables. I remember beaming up at my husband knowingly at some point in the evening, convinced we were thinking the exact same thing: only in the tiny village of Marlow does a tri-cultural wedding as quaint and quintessential as this one make perfect sense.

Our love story is one of many told in Marlow, where the ivory pages of bygone and emerging romances blend seamlessly together as generations of brides walk the same promising path. Perhaps, if I'm lucky, someone will take my wedding dress for another walk down the aisle years from now while my husband and I (wearing a fabulous fascinator of my own) beam at each other knowingly.



*Anna wearing Gen Ells' dress during Marlow's 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in Jones Hall (6<sup>th</sup> from left)*



*Anna wearing Donna Chase's dress during Marlow's 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in front of the Methodist Church (far right)*

\* Read about Ace and Gen Ells in our Spring/Summer 2021 newsletter.

## MHS BENEFITS FROM CASINO REVENUES

Our 2023 season will start on a very positive note. We will again participate in Charitable Gaming, this time during January 1 - 10. As we explained in our Fall 2022 newsletter, the Charitable Gaming Commission allots a portion of casino revenues to small non-profits such as our Society. We are very grateful. The Wonder Casino is located at 172 Emerald Street, Keene. If you are so inclined, we encourage you to participate. It's not a bad idea on a cold winter's day!

## PUTNAM TYLER: A LIFE WELL LIVED

by Maria M. Baril

Many years ago our Historical Society received two volumes entitled "How Far Back You Can See", written in 1973 by Albert Putnam Tyler. They were written in a conversational style for his four grandchildren, and are a combination of his and his wife's genealogies. I discovered the two volumes when our files were moved from our old "headquarters" at the Methodist Chapel, to Murray Hall. They are fascinating to read. Mr. Tyler mailed them shortly before his death because his grandfather, Putnam Tyler, lived in Marlow in his later years, and is buried in the Village Cemetery (Section 1819-65, Grave 4).

Who, exactly, was Putnam Tyler? He was born in Sterling, MA on September 20, 1793; died in Marlow on August 7, 1888. The Gazetteer of Cheshire County (1885) lists him as a retired farmer who lived on "Road 18", 140 acres, with his sons Benjamin F. Tyler (farmer)\* and Fred C. Tyler (machinist). The farm was located on Marlow's southeast corner where Marlow, Gilsum and Stoddard meet and can be seen on the 1877 Marlow map in the Elgin Jones History of Marlow. From 1874-1904 the Tyler family also owned the house at 12 Woods Road with land including Wenonah Island.\*\*

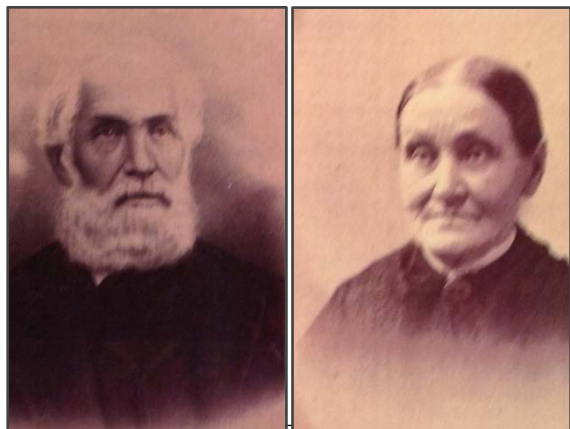
Putnam Tyler led an interesting and adventurous life. He was indentured to Aaron Putnam of Wilton when he was 13 years old and learned the carpenter trade from him. His indenture was to last until he was 21, but at 19 he got tired of the arrangement, walked to Leominster, Massachusetts to visit some relatives, then walked and rafted his way to Natchez, MS, where he helped build many of its fine mansions. It is said that he built a fort and barracks for the troops of Andrew Jackson in the War of 1812.

He also worked as a millwright and carpenter contractor in South Carolina. In 1830 he purchased land, as an absentee taxpayer, east of the Hillsborough Mills site in Milford, NH. Returning from the south to Milford in 1834 he built a dam over the Souhegan River near his property in anticipation of building a saw and grist mill, but the freshet of 1835 washed away the dam. He then built the Tyler Tavern\*\*\* on the entrance to the Wilton bypass to accommodate the stage coaches, but business dwindled when the railroad was built.

By 1858 his assets were depleted by the demise of the stage coach. In 1860 he moved north and settled in a "run-down farm" in Marlow. He was already 67 years old, with many mouths to feed (he did not marry until he was 47). Interestingly enough, however, by 1862 he was living in comfortable retirement in Marlow. The author, Albert Putnam Tyler, speculates that his grandfather recouped his capital from the sale of the farm. At the beginning of the Civil War fine timber was very much in demand for the manufacture of rifles, stock, etc. It is possible that selling his wood lots provided enough money for him to retire.



The house at 12 Woods Road in Marlow village



Putnam Tyler and his wife, Lucy Lawrence Seaver

Putnam Tyler's wife, Lucy Lawrence Seaver, was born in Townsend, MA in 1818, died March 10, 1905. She is also buried in the Marlow Village Cemetery (Section 1819-065), as well as four of their eleven children:

William Tell Tyler, (1844-1863)\*\*\*\*; Almon P. Tyler (1845-1915); Andrew Jackson Tyler (1852-1867); Hannah Flint Tyler (1856-1923)

One of his daughters, Julia Ellen Tyler, (1849-1931) married Austin A. Ellis, who became mayor of Keene in 1901.

One of the sons, Frederick C. Tyler (born in Marlow - 1862-1927) was the father of Albert Putnam Tyler, author of the two volumes. Albert was born January 27, 1899 in Cleveland Ohio, and died September 17, 1978 in Riverside, CA. In the 1920s he was a traveling secretary for the NY Central Railroad Co. He and his wife Florence B. Smith had only one daughter, Beverly Jean Tyler, born in 1929. She married David Anthony, and their four children, Karen, Jeanne, Margaret, and Mark, are the ones that Albert wrote the volumes for. Perhaps a future Marlow historian will be curious and try to learn about Albert Putnam's grandchildren.

\* Benjamin F. Tyler attended the Marlow Academy, and was a classmate of Waldo Perkins (1862-1928) One of the messages in Waldo's autograph book from 1877-1878 reads: "Yours truly, B.F. Tyler, Marlow NH Feb. 9th, '78." Waldo Perkins was the son of Dr. Marshall Perkins, (1823-1902), Marlow's eminent physician, who served in the Civil War and who was featured in our Summer 2013 newsletter.

\*\*There was an island (Wenonah Island) in the middle of Tin Shop Pond. When the bypass came through in 1948 Route 10 connected the north and south shores of the pond by paving over the island. What is left is the picnic area under the pines that overlooks the pond.

\*\*\* Page 233 of Volume II reads: After the freshet of 1835 "he built the large house on the property which is now the home of Mr. and Mrs. Norman Stimson and opposite the entrance to the Wilton. bypass...." After the tavern stopped being profitable and he moved away "the Pine Valley Mills bought the tavern and ran it as a boarding house for the women who worked in the mill. Hillsborough Mills bought it in 1899 and later it became a tenement house. The Stimsons bought it in 1967". At the time that this research was done the building housed Proctor & Greene Real Estate on Route 101 in Milford, NH.

\*\*\*\* William Tell Tyler served in Company B, 14th Regiment, NH VOL INF, and died at a Union hospital in Washington DC on May 29, 1863, of typhoid fever.

## MARLOW HISTORICAL SOCIETY - 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

*Our mission is to preserve and illuminate Marlow's history.  
Everything that we do during the year is relevant to that mission.*

We have begun to index and catalog all objects, books, photos and archives in a software database - a long and complex project that, when completed, will greatly enhance the prospects for educational programming and genealogical research.

To address maintenance of our facilities, the back door and front entrance in Murray Hall were refurbished and secured. Our thanks to Scott Chase and Gary Levesque, who keep an eye on Murray Hall and the Hearse House, and report to the board if something is amiss; and to Betty Misiaszek and Jean McDonald, who decorate our window boxes for the seasons, adding beauty to the Murray Hall façade.

We continued our participation in the N.H. Charitable Gaming Program which donates a percentage of casino earnings to qualifying non-profits - a boon to societies such as ours, which depend on adequate funds to survive and thrive.

We published two books. The Society's 2021/2022 project for outreach and fundraising was a cookbook, "Marlow NH Recipes Past, Present and Future". Two printings quickly sold out. The transcription of Corporal Ezra George Huntley's Civil War Journal is a scholarly achievement of incalculable historic value. The NH State Library, the NH Historical Society, the Keene Public Library, and the Keene State College Library, have added the journal to their collection. We sold copies to many members of the Huntley National Association, as well as to members of Civil War societies. The book will soon be available at The Toadstool Bookshops. A second printing has been necessary to satisfy many requests.

And then there is our triannual newsletter, which cannot in all fairness be called work, since it is so much fun to research and put together.

Unfortunately, we will start 2023 with an abbreviated Board of Directors. We thank Chuck Mosher and Ed Reardon for their invaluable contributions to the Society as President and Vice-President, and regret that they had to step down due to personal circumstances.

The Board will temporarily consist of a Secretary (Patty Little), Treasurer (Pat Strickland) and Directors (Gary Levesque, Sharon Spalluto and Sharon Davis). These board members are committed to continuing the Society's work, and will hold meetings in the Marlow Library during the winter months.

Maybe these circumstances will inspire others to assume positions of leadership. If you are interested in joining the Board to support our mission, please contact the Historical Society at [mhsnewhampshire@gmail.com](mailto:mhsnewhampshire@gmail.com), or get in touch with one of the board members. We look forward to hearing from you.

*Best wishes to all our members for the holidays and the new year.*





**Marlow Historical Society**  
Founded in 1976

**President** - vacant  
**Vice President** - vacant  
**Secretary** - Patty Little  
**Treasurer** - Pat Strickland

**Directors**  
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Gary Levesque  
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marlow-historical-society.php*

**PO Box 12, Marlow, NH 03456**



**It was April 5, 1865, and Ezra George Huntley wrote in his Civil War Journal:**

*".... I saw an Ambulance drive up and a man and two Ladies, one an elderly lady and the other young and good looking. They appeared to know many of the officers and a number of soldiers in Co G. They were Hon Larkin D. Mason, agent for the N.H. soldiers, Mrs. Harriet Dame, and the young lady Mrs. Dr. Fowler. They were at Washington and hearing of the fall of Petersburg came down to see us, we gave them three cheers....."*



*Harriet Patience Dame  
Library of Congress*

It is no wonder that Ezra instantly recognized Harriet Dame. She was revered by NH soldiers, who compared her to an angel of mercy, and called her "Aunt Harriet". Fittingly, the NH Historical Society recently held an event featuring the author of a new book about her life.

**Harriet Patience Dame** (1815-1900), born in Barnstead, NH, was one of the Civil War's most dedicated nurses, enduring four years and eight months of untold hardship and privation. She joined the 2nd NH Regiment at its formation in June 1861, and stayed with "her boys", never taking a furlough until the regiment was disbanded in December 1865, eight months after the war ended.

A biographical sketch by the NH Historical Society tells us that she insisted on going to the front lines and travelled with the men, "carrying all her possessions in a haversack, and going for weeks on end without changing her clothes or sleeping with a roof over her head." Gilman Marston, commander of the Regiment, wrote: "Miss Dame was the bravest woman I ever knew. I have seen her face a battery without flinching, while a man took refuge behind her to avoid the flying fragments of bursting shells."

In 1884 over 600 soldiers signed a petition asking the US Senate to award her a pension for her service. In 1901 her portrait was placed in the NH State House, the first woman to receive that distinction; and Governor Maggie Hassan proclaimed December 2015 Harriet Patience Dame Month, commemorating the 200th anniversary of Harriet's birth.