

MHS Newsletter

The Marlow Historical Society, Marlow, NH, 03456
P.O. Box 12, Marlow, NH 03456

Summer 2012

The Tinker House on Washington Pond Rd.....



"The Quest" began on a perfect June afternoon in 2010.....

Art was in front of the house working on the retaining wall when a car drew up. A sprightly little lady, driven by her granddaughter, asked if they could look around. This delightful sprite would become our friend, and her story unfolded this way: she was born Priscilla Hall, in 1922; she is the great granddaughter of Lucius Tinker (1848- 1931), and had spent summers in Marlow at this house from the time she was a year old until she was ten or twelve. The Tinkers were among the early settlers of Marlow, and through marriage, are related to the Gee and Huntley families. Lucius and his wife Alfaretta Keyes (1855-1930) had moved from Marlow to Nashua, where he had worked as a teamster. Alfaretta had inherited the house on Washington Rd. from her father, Alexander Graham Keyes (1828-1898), and in their later years she and Lucius spent summers here. Lucian Tinker (1848-1928), Lucius' twin brother, still lived in Marlow, and ran a store in town.

That June day, for Art, one question burned to be answered: had there been steps going up to the front door from the road? Art had noticed that part of the front retaining wall looked haphazardly "filled in", and that the area aligned perfectly with the front door. Priscilla thought there were steps, but couldn't remember; she'd look through her photos and send us a picture of the front of the house. And that was when our quest for the history of the Tinker house and family began.....

We went on Ancestry.com and pieced together the family line; we visited The West Yard Cemetery and Marlow Village Cemetery to take pictures of Tinker headstones. Time passed, and no word or pictures came from Priscilla. Then in October of 2011 we received a call from her daughter, Pat. They'd like to visit. Priscilla had been ill, was recovering, and had found some photographs she'd like to give us. The day came, and Priscilla and Pat arrived with the most amazing photo albums! Priscilla presented them with great love and tenderness for the contents that she and her family were passing on to us and to Marlow. Copies are available at the Historical Society. These pictures give us an intimate view of life and work in the early 20th Century.

Over the years we've turned up many artifacts. Horse shoes are a common find, as are bits and pieces of crockery, but the best find turned up, literally, in a shovel full of dirt. Years ago, Art was making a woodworking shop in the L that is attached to the house. This L was a dirt floored shed, complete with active woodchuck hole, and in need of a new foundation. As Art turned the gravel into his wheel barrow, a tiny, child's tea cup, in perfect condition, gleamed in the light. He brought it in and washed it; it was beautiful. We wondered what child had played with this little tea cup. We now have a picture of Priscilla sitting outdoors at a table having a tea party with Lucius. She said they had many a tea party. The teacup sits on a shelf in Art's studio. (Cont. pg. 4)



Priscilla's Teacup

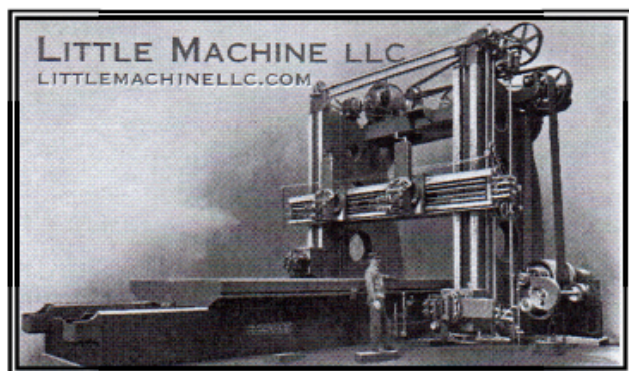
Bits and Pieces from the Archive.....

Did you know that there used to be an airfield in Baker's Corner? In 1919 Warren Reed Keith, a Brockton MA oil dealer, was on his way to Northern Vermont to look for a farm. He stopped at Baker's Corner where he was told that land was for sale. He purchased over 380 acres from Charles and Mary Kloss. In the early 1930s Mr. Keith cleared land for an airfield - as far as we know the first and only place in town where a small plane ever landed.

Did you know that, until 1927, one could drive on Washington Pond Road all the way to the Town of Washington? At that time, the level of Washington Pond was raised, making the trip impossible. At low water, one can still see the top of the old bridge. This information is from Ulric Lindholm whose parents often drove to Washington before he was born.

Did you know that, until the Hurricane of 1938, Marlow had a fine park beside what is now Route 123? There were a lake, a dance pavilion, a promenade, a boat launch, and picnic tables. Many social events were held there, including parts of Old Home Day celebrations. It featured Edwardian recreation at its finest. The hurricane took the dam out and that was that. The twin falls are still there and a road track with a tight circular turn. Who left that rusted old truck in there?

Did you know that in 1872, Marlow boasted a mineral spring? This was at a time when such healing springs and spas were all the rage. Do you know where it is located? We would love to know!



Cora Comes to Marlow

On Saturday June 2nd at 5:00 come meet Cora Hurd. She's travelling a very long way to meet you--all the way from the year 1911 in the village of Washington New Hampshire! She will join us for a pot luck dinner, and will entertain us over dessert with many a story of the "olden days."

Gwen Gaskell, the archivist from the Washington Historical Society will join us for this meeting, and will play the part of Cora Hurd, a real resident of that town who kept a diary for forty years, from the mid nineteenth century through the first years of the twentieth century. Recently Gwen and her team have transcribed the entire collection, and so the character of Cora has come to life!

A homemaker, librarian, spiritualist, Grange member, grower of lovely roses, avid Republican, wife of the town clerk, and devoted mother, Cora faithfully recorded details of her life that we can surely relate to in many ways. She will tell us about the many connections between Marlow and Washington. You will thoroughly enjoy her company! For more information call Joanne Thomas at 446-7421.

September Meeting to feature Folk Singer

In September we begin our fall season with a real treat. Come to our membership meeting on Saturday September 15th, and after a delicious pot luck dinner and brief business meeting, we will enjoy a unique musical performance by folk musician and music historian Fred Hill.

Fred will perform a program of traditional music with guitar, banjo, fiddle, and voice to highlight aspects of American history. His selections will be loosely based on the theme of "Family Values in Appalachian Music."

You won't want to miss this meeting; why not bring a friend?



A Pair of Marlow Originals

Before it was subdivided and developed, much of the land on Marlow Hill belonged to Roy E. Forbes. The History of Marlow by Elgin Jones, reedited in 2002 by Betty Batchelder, former President of the Historical Society, traces the ownership of properties from the original owners in the 1760 and early 1800s to Roy's father George. Roy also owned land on Ashuelot Pond, which his father bought in 1906.

Roy Edward Forbes was born in Keene on January 6, 1891. In 1933 he married Roxanna Abigail Guillow, who was born in Gilsum on June 27, 1894, the Guillows being one of the earliest families in the history of the town of Gilsum. They had a summer place and a winter place on Marlow Hill, across from each other by the Common, on the corner of Flagg Rd. No one knows for certain why two places - it was one of the Forbes' many endearing idiosyncrasies.

People who knew Roy and Roxie will talk about them at length and with affection. You also get lots of chuckles and an endless string of anecdotes. "Unforgettable", "characters", "originals", "real Yankees" are some of the terms used. They were thrifty, canny, eclectic, eccentric - certainly impossible to pigeonhole. They epitomized the motto "Live Free or Die" because they lived as they wished and did exactly what they wanted, paying no attention to "correctness". They were not concerned with pretense - they were comfortable in themselves. They practiced sustainability long before the word became fashionable - hunting, fishing and growing a garden. They lived simply and didn't need much.

Roy was a big man. Like his father, he was a "rigger"; he moved houses using oxen. The house across Rt. 10 from the Perkins School used to sit where the school is now, and the family who owned it had Roy move it across the road. Once he moved a house from Marlborough to Marlow - it took him almost three days and it arrived intact, complete with chimney.

Roxie, who was a woman of great wit, charm and intellect, was a state legislator. Representatives who served with her talk of her talent in drafting legislation and amendments and in negotiating compromises. She was also a member of the Marlow School Board. Roy and Roxie were extremely well read - both their winter and summer places were jammed with books.

The Forbes raised beagles on Marlow Hill - they called it "The Beagle Club". Roy loved hunting, and had an enormous pack of dogs. He was also a great baseball fan. Charlie Strickland recalls that one of the highlights of Roy's life was the fact that Ted Williams came to see him because he was looking into buying land in town.

The Forbes probably owned more land than they could afford and eventually had to sell it. The last parcel on Ashuelot Pond was sold in 1968. Roy and Roxie died in the early 1970s and are buried at Woodland Cemetery in Keene. Thomas Cross and Dick Fisk, who own land on Ashuelot Pond, and who remember Roy and Roxie fondly, have paid tribute to their memory by naming their respective driveways Forbes Crossing and Roxie Lane.



*Roy Forbes,
at home on
Marlow Hill.*

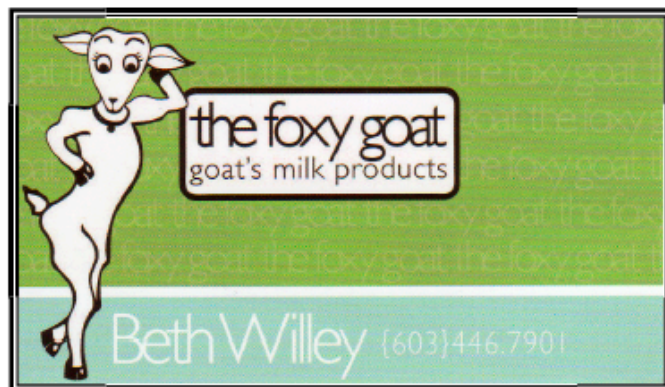
Tinker, (cont.)

There is also a photograph of Priscilla at age two sitting in a wheelbarrow, with the two elderly, handsome twins. The minute Art saw that photo, he ran to his studio with the picture. While fixing the shop, he'd come across an old, wooden wheelbarrow side. It made a nice shelf in the corner of his studio. The picture and the wheelbarrow side, now shelf, were a perfect match. We have also found other things on this property: a fence tool, a clay pipe, two shoes, some oar locks, an oar, and a most strange "bellows". At first we thought it might be a homemade insect "duster", but on close inspection, it appears to be a wooden, rectangular bellows. It puffs out air, and when new, sealed with leather fittings, it was probably quite powerful. An older picture shows the house with its many barns, and a lady doing her wash in a tub with a hand wringer. As well as life on the farm, Priscilla also remembers walking to town with her mother and little brother, Everett, to visit "Aunt Addie" (Addie Brown Tinker 1857-1940) and Uncle Lucian. They'd stop at "Baptism Beach" to play in the sand and water.

We talk to Priscilla and Pat often on the telephone; we all feel like "family". We have, in fact, found relatives that we have in common. But that's another story....

Pat and Art Anderson

Thank you to the generous Sponsors of this edition of the Marlow Historical Society Newsletter!



Programs

Saturday May 26

**Memorial Day Program 9:30 a.m.
Museum Opens 9:00 - Noon**

Saturday June 2

**Potluck Meeting and Program
5:00 p.m. @ the Odd Fellows
Lodge featuring "Cora Speaks"
Beverages and Desserts
provided**

Saturday September 14

**5 P.M. Potluck; Election of Officers;
Musical Program with Fred Hill.
Location TBD**

Marlow Historical Society Officers 2011-2012

President	Joanne Thomas
Vice President	Maria Baril
Treasurer	Mary Blank
Secretary	Loisanne Foster
Board:	Gen Ells; Johanna Kent

***Like us on Facebook; visit our site:
www.marlowhistoricalsociety.org***

***Not a member yet? Why not join us in
preserving Marlow history?? Contact Maria
Baril at maria@barils.com***

RUFFLED FEATHERS FARM

Karin Asseng

210 Newell Pond Road
Marlow, NH 03456
603-446-9474
jandk3@local.net



- Pasture raised chicken, farm fresh eggs, meat rabbits & maple syrup.
- Greenhouse grown veggie starts, herbs & annuals. (May -June)

Marlow Historical Society Museum

**Located at the Methodist Chapel on Rte 123
Open Seasonally
May - October
3rd Sunday of the Month
9:00 a.m. to Noon**

**P.O Box 12
Marlow, NH 03456-0012**