

Magical History Tour of Marlow 2025

Sponsored by the Marlow Town Library and the Marlow Historical Society

Difficulty: A Walk Distance: 1.1 miles Time: Approximately 1 hour Terrain: Paved roads

We have tried to note where to find further information about the subjects herein. The Marlow Historical Society Newsletters can be found at <https://marlownhhistoricalsociety.org> and are noted here as MHS w/ date of publication.

Let's take a walk around Marlow Village and take in its beauty, peace, and feel the history that shares our space!

1. Start at the Marlow Library's book drop (MHS Fall 2019 has a full article on the history of the library and the book drop). Facing the Methodist church and Odd Fellows driveway, turn and walk up Church Street. After the 4th house on the left (white fence) go past a dirt driveway and see a small white garage/outbuilding on your left noted as **Hearse House**. In the 1846 Town Meeting the residents approved building the Hearse House. It was built in 1856 and originally stood in the cemetery (MHS Winter 2021). Facing the building, look to the base in the right corner of the building. You'll find **BOX 1** under a rock or two. Stamp your log with the stamp you find. Carefully replace the box with its stamp, hiding it well.

2. Continue up Church Street following the **Village Cemetery** chain link fence to a pedestrian gate just past the 2nd big old spruce tree. Enter here and look to your right. Locate the **stone of Elvira Knight who died in 1818** at the age of 1 yr 11 months. Her parents, Ira and Abigail Pratt Knight, and her brother, William, are buried near her. Elvira was the first to be buried in the cemetery (MHS Winter 2020, Fall 2020). Return back through the gate and find the granite hitching post. You will find **BOX 2** at its base. Mark your logbook with the stamp and replace the box with stamp in its home.

If you have time, check out the cemetery map at the other side of the cemetery. Walk up the cemetery driveway. There is a shed behind the HUGE sugar maple tree. On the side of the shed there is a map of the cemetery. Elvira and her family are in the 1819 section #105. Look for the grave of the Civil War soldier Ezra Huntley (lot 53), and the graves of the Dillant family (lot 73 Sec 1903) (MHS Winter 2020, Winter 2023, Fall 2022, Winter 2017). Interested in the markings of gravestones? See The Beginner's Guide to Cemetery Sleuthing by Erin E Moulton at the Marlow Town Library.

3. Continue up Church Street. Observe the retaining stone wall along the cemetery as you walk. This is original to the cemetery when this section was added in the 1800s. Amazing skills! It was rebuilt/stabilized sometime in the early 2000s. Continue to the corner of Church/Baine/Cross streets and find a trail off the Baine/Cross Street side. This ends at an old broken dam. A fulling mill was at this site which was later occupied by the **Phelps Rake Shop** in the mid to late 1800s (MHS Spring/Summer 2018). At the site of the old dam look to your right to see a 4-sister maple tree. Under the flat trapezoid-like rock you'll find **BOX 3**. Back to the 3 way intersection, note that just past the brook up Baine Road on the left is the site of the third schoolhouse #4. The sign is no longer posted. Marlow once had eight schools (MHS Fall 2015).

4. Returning to Cross Street, walk to the intersection of Rte 123 and bear left. *NOTE: NH RTE 123 is a windy road, and busy State Highway. Watch for vehicles and stay on the shoulder of the road facing traffic.* Continue up Rte 123 to a bend in the road. On the opposite side of the road you will spot a Town Historical Marker and an area surrounded by a stone wall. This is the **Town Pound (&Tramp House)** (MHS April 1994 - not available online). Cross the highway to the marker. Stay on the outside of this gated area (the ground is very rough, wet, and unsafe). Go to the base of the marker, look behind it at the rock pointing to the sky. Within this pile of rocks (not in the rock wall) you will find **BOX 4**.

5. Walk back toward the village and observe the various houses. Many were built in the 1800s, but some have been standing since the late 1700s. You can read about some of Marlow's oldest houses in the MHS

Spring/Summer 2024 newsletter. The Marlow Library has a 3-volume set of books titled Homes of Cheshire County – which includes Marlow houses. Come in and check them out. NO BOX

6. Continue walking back toward the library. Another point of interest is the **foundation** on your left before the brick house. This was the location of the **Jones Store** back in the late 1800s. In 1916 the building was moved to its current location next to Tin Shop Pond and is now the Methodist Chapel (MHS Winter 2022, Fall 2021). NO BOX

7. The **brick house** (note over the door **Stevens 1843**) next to the former Jones Store foundation is also of historical significance in Marlow. The 3rd doctor to service Marlow, Dr. Stevens, moved to ‘the hill’ in 1829 and then built this house in 1843 (MHS Spring/Summer 2020). NO BOX

8. Continue walking toward the library. At the intersection of Old Newport Road and Rte 123 look to your right and find the Marlow Town Offices. The building was built in 1852 and served as one of the many schools in Marlow. It closed as a school in 1973. There are Marlow residents who remember attending this school before moving up to the new school on Rte 10 (MHS Winter 2025, Fall 2015, Fall 2021) NO BOX

9. Cross Old Newport Road and continue on Rte 123. Go down the hill to the 2nd building after Woods Road - the white building on your left with the green bench in the side yard (MHS Fall 2020). This was the **Grange Hall (Murray Hall)** and is now home to the **Marlow Historical Society**. Go to the front steps. Crouch down by the steps and find **BOX 5** behind a flat rock and in a wide foundation crack (MHS Spring/Summer 2024, Winter 2017, others).

10. After leaving Murray Hall, walk towards and along the side of the white fence, which was restored in 2011/12 (MHS Winter 2012). **Tin Shop Pond** is on the other side (MHS Spring/Summer 2018). Just beyond the fence you will see the **Methodist Chapel** (MHS Winter 2012, Fall 2021). 100+ years ago known as **Jones Store** (#6 above)! At the Tin Shop Pond Fence donor sign (by the white pipe) you will find **BOX 6**.

11. Back track to the front steps of Jones Hall and have a seat. Take in the view of **the monument** on the triangle (MHS Winter 2014) and the buildings which make up the famous scene of our village found in many advertisements (including one for a cruise!) and the cover of an Elvis Presley record album! Your **Final Box** and the MHMT Log Book will be found on the Rte 123 side of the Jones Hall steps under a flower pot. Please be careful of the gardens when retrieving and replacing the box.

We hope you have enjoyed this Magical History Tour of Marlow Village and that we have piqued your interest in the life of Marlow residents of years past. It was so very difficult to choose what to highlight for this hike, since there is so much more to learn about Marlow. We hope you check the Historical Society website <https://marlownhhistoricalsociety.org/> for more information on our beautiful town. Stephanie Tickner has gathered more detailed information on highlights in the hike. A copy can be found in the library and at the historical society. The Historical Society is open May through October on the 3rd Sunday of the month from 10 - Noon. Appointments can be made for private visits at other times. Check website for contact information. Thank you for visiting. If you are walking this hike during library hours, please stop in and say ‘hi’. This hike was created for the 2025 Summer Reading Program at the Marlow Town Library – FIND ADVENTURE!

For many summers, many summers ago, a group of us gathered every Tuesday to go Letterboxing. We hiked over hill and dale. We found hikes of many themes: popular books, a Barbie hike, fairy and gnome hikes, as well as history and geography/geological themed hikes. Great Summer Tuesdays were spent with friends, many picnics were had, and problem solving and learning happened while enjoying the great outdoors! I would love to pass on the joy of letterboxing.....for great adventures happen every time we set out on a magical hike in our beautiful outdoors. – Tuesday Hikers (aka Donna Chase)