

# MHS Newsletter

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

*Spring/Summer 2014*

## **Our BIG Silent Auction is Coming July 6th 4 to 7 p.m.!**

Get ready for our biggest fundraiser of 2014 which will benefit the Murray Hall restoration project and the Odd Fellows Forest Lodge. You won't want to miss it, so mark your calendars, and plan to spend the afternoon at the J.D. Perkins School listening to music, eating food, and bidding on over a hundred valuable items up for auction (who says there is nothing to buy in Marlow!)

You'll be able to use your credit card to pay for items you win, or if you don't want to linger all afternoon, you can pay a "Buy It Right Now" price and take your purchase with you immediately. Take a look at the list of items available for bid on the enclosed photo sheet; you'll agree that there is "something for everyone" to enjoy.



### **In The Company of Patriots by Joe Feuer**

Passing through the creaking wooden gate of the old North Cemetery is like entering into a realistic remake of Beetlejuice or a well-designed scene for a spooky Alfred Hitchcock movie, except this is not fiction. Here in their final repose are Marlow's Revolutionary War generation, including many actual veterans of our War of Independence, beneath tombstones replete with poems and inscriptions customary to late eighteenth, early nineteenth century rural America. Some are difficult to read now, though names and dates are still more or less legible. Although this cemetery is still afforded basic maintenance and upkeep, it is no longer utilized. For with the eventual relocation of Marlow's population center and the establishment of the current cemetery, burials in this quaint old burial ground on its rough terrain on a back road ceased. Or did they?

Visitors who come to the North Cemetery to do ancestral research or decorate graves for Memorial Day are able to view the graves in a relatively short time for the area is small and the graves readily visible. Except for one. For nestled among the pines in a secluded corner apart from the other graves, easily overlooked among the weeds there is one little stone all by itself. Little is inscribed upon it; no poem or inscription or fanciful (continued on page 2)





### Photo Exhibit at Murray Hall

This August Murray Hall will feature a photographic show of fine art by Ed Thomas from Marlow. It will open on Friday August 1 at 7:00 PM. The following three Sundays- (August 3, 10, and 17) Murray Hall will be open from 12- 3:00 to view the exhibit.

Although Ed is a commercial photographer by trade, he has amassed a collection of fine art and nature photography and has documented historic structures and objects. Everything in the show is available for purchase at [classicnewenglandimages.com](http://classicnewenglandimages.com).



### Who Am I?

*This intrepid fisherman from Marlow's yesteryear looks proud of his catch! Identify him and mail us a postcard with his name, your name and phone number and you will win a valuable Marlow prize; redeemable at your convenience.*

*(continued from page one)*

engraving graces its small rough surface. Just initials, a surname, and a date.

In an old farmhouse less than a mile away, on a cold winter day in 1931 a child entered this world. And on an even colder night in 1932 he departed it, hopefully to a more hospitable place. What his life was like during those few short months I can now only surmise for it was long before I was born. All my knowledge of his very existence is based upon the scant comments dropped by older family members in my presence many years ago. And, of course, his grave.

The farmhouse in this saga was purchased by my father and his brothers in 1916. Here in 1931 a son was born to one of the brothers and his common law wife. His father named him Maple Hill, a strangely imaginative name in a family famous for strange, imaginative names. In that farmhouse Maple Hill lived for almost a year. And in that same farmhouse he was found dead by his parents the following winter.

The cause of death was long considered by the family. Was Maple Hill simply a failure to thrive baby? Was this event the result of sudden infant death syndrome? Was he malnourished over an extended period of time? Were other factors at play? In the end it was concluded that Maple Hill simply froze to death. It was the dead of winter and the house was neither insulated nor heated at night. The baby was sleeping in a separate room from his parents and he may have become uncovered in the night. The parents heard him crying but did not get up to investigate. By morning he was cold and lifeless. Placing him in the oven was to no avail. It was over. Maple Hill may well have simply been the victim of parental incompetence.

Though the North Cemetery was no longer open to burials, in deference to his parents the selectmen made an exception and Maple Hill was interred close to where he had lived; the first and last internment there in the twentieth century. Family friends in East Alstead created the little monument which now marks his solitary grave. The farmhouse where Maple Hill lived and died is long gone; his parents long deceased. No other member of his immediate family ever chose to be buried near him. Still he lies in hallowed ground, no less so than Arlington or Gettysburg, in the company of patriots.



## Tidbits from Marlow's Genealogy

Continued from our Winter newsletter

The biggest surprise in Marlow's genealogy concerns our earliest settler, Solomon Mack of Lyme, and his wife, Lydia Gates of East Haddam, CT. Solomon was apparently here with his growing family before 1761 on land now occupied by the Village Cemetery. There is so much to tell about Mack and his family that I can only touch on it here. He helped his brother, Elisha, build the first bridge across the Connecticut between Turner's Falls and Montague, MA and also the first bridge across the Ashuelot in Gilsum. Just before the American Revolution, he spread the knowledge of how to make saltpeter, a prime ingredient in gunpowder, being called from town to town throughout New England by town fathers for that purpose. In 1820, he published a narrative of his far-flung adventures involving the French and Indian War, the ginseng trade, privateering, and much more. It's widely available on the internet on the LDS websites. Just Google his name and "narrative".

Why would a narrative by this backwater man be posted on an LDS site? After he had left Marlow for Gilsum and then moved his family to Sharon, Vermont, his daughter Lucy married Joseph Smith, Sr. and became the mother of Joseph Smith, Jr. That is *the* Joseph Smith, founder of the Mormon Church. Thereby hangs a long tale. Interestingly, a number of local families happened to move westward in the same patterns the Mormons did... New York, Ohio, Indiana, and finally ( a few) to Utah. The Gee descendants of Marlow families fanned out across the West. Genealogy is full of surprises. The fact that Marlow's first settler is the grandfather of Joseph Smith is just one example.

Another example is that Solomon Mack's brother, Elisha, was the organizer of the famous Wyman Tavern plan to execute the Tories in Keene and that he owned a leather diving suit to help him construct bridge foundations, information learned from *The History of Gilsum, New Hampshire*. Also of interest in Solomon Mack's line is another of his grandsons, Stephen, Jr., a successful entrepreneur in the fur trade who eventually sold his business to John Astor. Stephen founded a town, Rockton Illinois, and married an Indian princess named Hononegah. Today the town claims the name Hononegah for its high school as well as a restaurant, a bank, a golf course, and various public organizations. Stephen and Hononegah's children, as half Native Americans, are named in the great treaty in which Indians ceded vast lands in the Midwest to the U. S. government. Stephen Jr. was active in early Chicago and Detroit and, in fact, built a highway between them, still called "Mack Highway." The major Chicago street which begins this highway is still called Mack Avenue.

There is no end to the entertaining surprises in Marlow genealogy. This is but a taste. If you want more information on the places to search for Marlow genealogy, go to the Marlow Historical Society website and find the post that lists "Sources for Marlow Genealogy".

Loisanne Foster

## The Hardtacks Folk music of the Civil War era



**SATURDAY/14 JUNE**  
**MARLOW/Jones Hall**  
Benefit concert for  
**Marlow Historical Society 7PM** Admission  
by DONATION  
MORE INFO,  
MUSIC, &c.: [www.CivilWarFolkMusic.com](http://www.CivilWarFolkMusic.com)

Yes, you can enjoy a musical concert in Marlow,  
at least on June 14th!

Our own Marek Bennett and the Hardtacks will perform live Civil War era ballads in Jones Hall at 7 p.m. Admission will be by donation: suggested amount: \$10.00. The Hardtacks have performed all around the state to rave reviews. Their combination of rollicking rowdy tunes, soulful ballads, and fascinating information about the Civil War will entertain everyone, so don't miss it!

REFRESHMENTS WILL BE AVAILABLE  
DURING INTERMISSION!

THE NEW MURRAY HALL TEE SHIRTS WILL BE  
AVAILABLE.....GET ONE WHILE YOU CAN!



Marlow Historical Society  
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Marlow, NH 03456

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

#### Contact Information

Marlow Historical Society Officers 2013-2014

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#### Board Members

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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

### ***From the Mailbox .....***

We have several responses to our recent article on Marlow's Huntley genealogy from the chief Huntley genealogist himself, Virgil Huntley. Mr. Huntley of Mystic, Connecticut, now in his nineties has authored a three-volume set of Huntley genealogy. Virgil has devoted himself over many years to researching the Huntley family including an entire volume on the Aaron Huntley line some of whose descendants settled in Marlow.

Mr. Huntley writes: "John Huntley bought his land in Lyme, Connecticut. There was only one land grant in the CT Colony from Charles the First and that was to Gov. John Winthrop." We said that the Huntley House stood where the Lyme Library stands today. Mr. Huntley writes, "The house was Aaron Huntley's house and the Phoebe-Griffen Noyes Library, standing on the site of Aaron's home, is in Old Lyme." Mr. Huntley states that Aaron Huntley and his wife, Deborah DeWolfe, both died in Lyme, CT and that Aaron Huntley 1 never had a residence in the Carolinas. He also tells us that the early Huntleys were coopers and farmers rather than merchants.

Thank you, Mr. Huntley, for setting the record straight.



In Marlow some things never change....like  
a peaceful afternoon on the Ashuelot River