



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

Fall 2024

WHERE CREDIT IS DUE

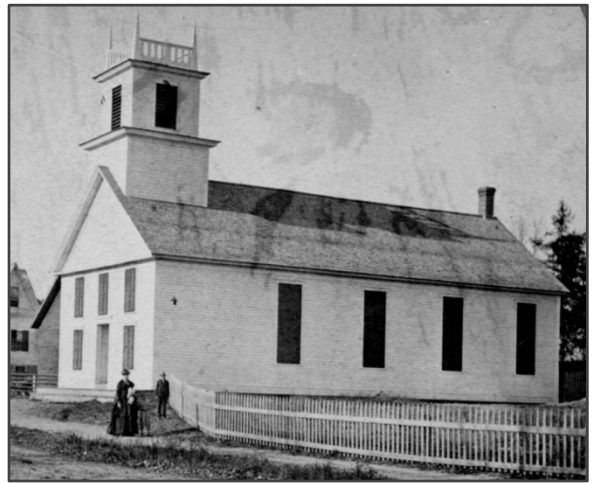
by Maria M. Baril

Unsung heroes

Who were the disaffected members of the Methodist Church who, in 1849, felt compelled to build a second house of worship on Marlow Hill? What were the names of the craftsmen who put up a structure so fine and so sturdy that its boards and beams are still sound after nearly two centuries?

Who were the resourceful citizens who, in 1873 raised the building from its foundation, and, with the help of oxen, brought it down to the Village to a site on Forest Street?

Elgin Jones' *History of Marlow* doesn't mention their names. They were all valued members of their community, and yet, sadly, their identities are lost to history. Today, as we document the ongoing Murray Hall narrative, we want to make sure that doesn't happen again.



"Underutilized treasure"

After many iterations during the following decades, Murray Hall came under the ownership of the Marlow Historical Society in 2002, when **Gallup & Hall** donated to them both land and building. At that time new shingles were installed on the roof. The back stage was taken down, as well as an old shed behind the building. The Hall then sat idle for several years, used only seasonally as a painting space for Marlow Art Colony members, for art exhibits during fall festivals, and as a used book store organized by **Mary Blank, Susan Rock**, and others.



At a special meeting held in the summer of 2013, the Marlow Historical Society Board declared Murray Hall "an underutilized treasure", and resolved unanimously to pursue a restoration plan. The Officers were: **Joanne Thomas**, President; **Maria Baril**, Vice President; **Jacqui Fay**, Secretary; and **Joe Baril**, Treasurer. Directors were **Gen Ells, Loisanne Foster**, and **Lynn Bailey**.

The first step was examining the foundation. The Society contracted **John Bolles**, who had years of experience working with old buildings. We feel claustrophobic just recalling how they crawled under the building to shore up the floor and make it level and stable.

It takes commitment

The Winter 2015 historical society newsletter reported that "work continued unabated at our Murray Hall", spearheaded by **Ed Thomas**.

The two front rooms were swept, cleaned, and spackled in preparation for a coat of paint. They would house the Society's archives and office materials.

Alex Chase did the electrical upgrade. The façade of the building was painted by Ed Thomas and Joe Baril. Baril installed the original front double doors. He also built a storage room in the back of the main hall with a strong ceiling that would later bear the weight of the summer hearse.

In 2016 Ed Thomas and **Barry Corriveau** repaired the walls of the great hall, covering them with sheetrock almost to the height of the windows.

Now came the most crucial and climactic part of the restoration: covering the ceiling with sheetrock. It was, as Joe Baril described in the Winter 2017 newsletter, "A Tale of Drywall and Paint".

At that point we were not sure what to do. We needed to find a way to bend sheetrock to fit the curve at the joint between the walls and the ceiling.

After consulting with **Peter Lebel of Drywall Inc.** in Massachusetts, and after much trial and error, we finally found a way to shape the material to the required radius.

Peter offered to help, knowing we did not have the money to pay for the price of a job of such huge proportions. We borrowed scaffolding from **Ted Aldrich**, and with the sheetrock ready to be installed, we finally picked a date to start. After many days of hard work, and with the help of a crew from Drywall, the job was completed.

Now the room had to be painted. Four of us: **Peter Thayer**, Ed Thomas, Barry Corriveau, and I completed the job within a couple of weeks. We can look at our new hall with considerable pride.

Our thanks to **Dianne Brandt of Home Depot** for giving us a sizeable discount on the material, and to Peter Lebel, who charged us a very small fraction of what the job was actually worth, giving his labor and that of his son for free.



Richard Baril and Joe Baril roll the summer hearse to its new exhibit space.

Some work, to be sure, had to be outsourced: **Guyer & Son** and **J.A. Judd** both worked on the roof at different times. **Larry Sportello of Budget Blinds** installed UV-shielding window shades. **Chris Keith** reinforced the back entrance. And, finally, forester **Geoff Jones** cut down two trees that leaned precariously over the hall, insisting it was his gift to the Society.

It was volunteers, however, who, in a whirlwind of activity that lasted for months, cleaned the rooms, and arranged and labeled the displays. I still remember **Carol Reardon** up on a ladder washing the inside of the windows. Young people also came to help. **Anna Hubbard** and **Francie Huntley**, for example, appear in this photo from 2017. Dirt was no match for them!

On July 1, 2018, the long-awaited inauguration of the Murray Hall museum took place, on a hot and humid afternoon that did not dampen our spirits. An old Marlow Historical Society sign that **Gary Levesque** had cleaned and restored, hung proudly over the entrance.

After all these years it is heartwarming to look at our Murray Hall today: secure, loved and cared for: **Jim Strickland** mows; Gary Levesque weed whacks; **Mason Conley** weeds and mulches; Lynn Bailey spruces up the inside. **Bette Misiaszek** and **Jean McDonald** decorate the window boxes with the seasons. **Scott Chase** and Gary Levesque set up the window candles at Christmas.

You might say the Hall is a little pampered. It has earned it.

*We are counting on our readers to share their recollections.
Have we forgotten anyone?*

Correction: In the Spring/Summer 2024 newsletter we incorrectly noted: "In 2002 the Marlow Historical Society purchased Murray Hall". In fact, Gallup & Hall donated both the land and the building to the historical society. We apologize for the error.

And it takes a village

Carrying all the museum pieces from the second floor of the Methodist Chapel, where the Historical Society had been headquartered, was no easy task, considering the steep staircase, and the fragility of some of the items. A contingent of volunteers made countless trips to get the job done: **Tony Davis**, **Mark Bragg**, and others. (*Does anyone remember who the other volunteers were? Surely there were more than two!*)

At a later date **Bob Sharp** and Tony Davis helped to bring the summer hearse, which had been stored in the Hearse House since the late 19th century, to the hall. It would be rolled up to its now prominent place looking down on the museum.

To make the hall fully accessible, a ramp was built in the back with help from **Kroka** volunteers. **Albert St. Pierre** donated gravel for the ramp's foundation. Ed Thomas, a professional photographer, was able to procure antique reproduction chandeliers from one of his clients at minimal cost.



Anna Hubbard, Francie Huntley

BETSEY BROCKWAY HUNTLEY

"To forget one's ancestors is to be a brook without a source, a tree without roots". Chinese proverb

Everyone buried in Marlow's cemeteries is someone's ancestor. By doing genealogical research, we honor them and celebrate their lives.

Marcia Loring Huntley Maloney has done just that, with her exhaustive research on **Betsey Brockway Huntley** (1785-1836), her ancestor through son **Willis Lemuel Huntley**. Marcia followed up on investigative work done for many years by **Florence M. Brockway**, the Brockway family historian, who collaborated with **Virgil Huntley** when he was writing the Huntley genealogy*.

Marcia's work was extremely challenging due to the fact that there were many Brockway families living in the Lyme and New London, CT area. To complicate matters, many online family trees are not reliable. In the process, she had to painstakingly explore, and ultimately dismiss, other possibilities. That said, despite the fact that no birth record has been found for Betsey, Marcia's research came to *"the same conclusion that Florence Brockway and her collaborators did"*: Betsey was the daughter of **Ephraim Brockway, Jr.** and **Esther Calkins (Caulkins)** of Lyme, CT and Marlow, NH.

Betsey's father, Ephraim Brockway, Jr. was one of the beneficiaries of the 1761 Marlow grant issued by New Hampshire Governor Benning Wentworth, and was among the many Lyme families who *"removed to the wilderness of the Ashuelot River area"* around that time. According to the Elgin Jones *History of Marlow, New Hampshire*, he was also listed as a resident head of family on the 1772 petition to Governor John Wentworth to extend the Marlow charter.

Unfortunately, the Brockway family was caught up in the border disagreement between Marlow and Stoddard as their property was on disputed land. The Jones History mentions, *"The settlers on the strip were in constant difficulty, being assessed and enrolled now by one town, now by the other, some years by both."* According to Jones, Ephraim Brockway's name appeared in related legal documents from 1776 to 1799, and, although *"the State legislature, meeting in Portsmouth, passed a law in June of 1797 that all the portion of Marlow lying east of the curve line of Mason's Patent was decreed as belonging to Stoddard, settlers continued their disputes over the property."* This included the Brockway land, which *"was determined to be on Stoddard side of Masonian line"*.

In her research, Marcia Maloney found in the *History of Stoddard, Cheshire County, N.H* by Isaiah Gould that, *"Ephraim paid taxes to the Town of Stoddard in 1784."* She continued, *"I believe he was disgusted by the land dispute which went on for years. The original land grantees wanted the land to be in Marlow... As a matter of fact, Ephraim and other Huntleys began to move west around this time in 1802 and 1803"* to Vermont and the Monroe area of Rochester, NY.

Sources indicate that Ephraim and Esther Brockway may have had 14 children between 1762 and 1790, with Betsey possibly being the 12th! Those dates would indicate that the children were all born in the Marlow/Stoddard strip, even though the 1801 marriage certificate** for Betsey and **Elijah Huntley** (1779-1861), which Marcia found at the Marlow Town Office, states she was born in Lyme, CT. It seems highly unlikely that Betsey's mother would have gone back to Lyme to give birth in 1785.

Betsey's husband, Col. Elijah Huntley was a grandson of **Nathan Huntley, Sr.** who settled on Marlow Hill. Nathan Huntley was not one of the original Marlow grantees, but he was one of the original Proprietors and was very involved in early town governance. Like Betsey's father Ephraim Brockway, Nathan Huntley was also listed as a resident head of family on the 1772 petition to extend the Marlow charter. Betsey's husband, Col. Elijah Huntley served during the War of 1812.

According to deed records, Betsey and Elijah Huntley lived on Sand Pond Road in Marlow. They had eight children, including Marcia Maloney's ancestor, Willis Lemuel Huntley. Their surviving children were: Willard, Orissa, Hibbard, Luther, Marilla, Elijah, and Willis Lemuel.

Betsey Brockway Huntley is buried in the Marlow Village Cemetery next to her husband. The inscription reads: *Wife of Col. Elijah Huntley. Died age 51 years.* Col. Huntley's second and third wives are buried there as well.

Groom	<i>Mr. Elijah Huntley</i>
Bride	<i>Mrs. Betsey Brockway</i>
Residence of Groom	<i>Marlow N.H.</i>
" Bride	<i>Marlow N.H.</i>
Age of Groom	.....
" Bride	.....
Color of Groom	.....
" Bride	.....
Occupation of Groom	.....
" Bride	.....
Birthplace of Groom	<i>Marlow N.H.</i>
" Bride	<i>Lyme Conn.</i>
No. of Marriage of Groom	<i>1st</i>
" Bride	<i>1st</i>
Groom Widowed or Divorced	.....
Bride " " "	.....
Intention Filed	<i>October 4th 1801</i>
By whom Married	<i>Elisha Huntley</i>
Residence	.....
Official Station	<i>Justice of the Peace</i>
Date of Marriage	<i>Oct 4th 1801</i>
Place	.....

[Record continued over.]
*Clergyman, Notary Public, Justice of the Peace, etc.

[Record continued.]	
GROOM'S FATHER AND MOTHER.	
Father's Name	<i>Russell Huntley</i>
" Residence	<i>Marlow N.H.</i>
" Age	..... Color
" Occupation	.....
" Birthplace	.....
Mother's Name	<i>Anna</i>
" Residence	<i>Marlow N.H.</i>
" Age	..... Color
" Occupation	.....
" Birthplace	.....
BRIDE'S FATHER AND MOTHER.	
Father's Name	.....
" Residence	.....
" Age	..... Color
" Occupation	.....
" Birthplace	.....
Mother's Name	.....
" Residence	.....
" Age	..... Color
" Occupation	.....
" Birthplace	.....
THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE.	
I hereby certify that the above marriage record is a correct transcript as required by Chap. 51, Section 1400, 1905.	
<i>L. B. Huntley</i>	
Clerk of	
<i>Marlow N.H.</i>	
Date <i>Dec. 5 - 1905</i>	
*if deceased, give age at death.	

Marriage certificate for Betsey Brockway and Elijah Huntley showing 1801 marriage date and 1905 certification date. See footnote on next page**.



*ELIJAH HUNTLEY,
died
Dec. 3, 1861.
Æ. 81 ys. 8 mo.*



*BETSEY,
wife of Col. Elijah
HUNTLEY,
died Jan. 21, 1836,
Æ. 51.*

*MARGARET,
wife of Col. Elijah
HUNTLEY,
died Nov. 28, 1843,
Æ. 51.*

To this day there are still Huntleys in Marlow, including Marcia Maloney's sister, Pat Strickland, who is the Marlow Historical Society Treasurer. We thank Marcia for sharing her extensive research with us, giving us the opportunity to make connections from her work to many other Marlow stories.

For further details, or to offer additional information regarding Betsey's birth, please email Marcia at torriecat15@gmail.com.

** A remembrance of Virgil Huntley appeared in our Spring/Summer 2019 newsletter. The Huntley genealogies are available to read in the Marlow Town Library.*

*** Between 1903 and 1906, the State of New Hampshire began collecting vital records from cities and towns in an effort to create a central repository. It required municipalities to transcribe their vital records from the original record books and send the copies to Concord. The town clerk earned a fee for each transcription. Betsey and Elijah were married by Justice of the Peace Elisha Huntley (likely Honorable Elisha Huntley (1760-1835)) in 1801. The transcription was made by Leander Bradford Huntley in 1905. Sometimes errors were made in transcriptions, so it is always best to refer to the original document whenever possible.*

A NEW SEAT FOR THE WINTER HEARSE

In the Fall 2023 newsletter we mentioned that we were searching for someone to restore the deteriorated leather seat on the winter hearse, which is exhibited in Murray Hall. Gary Levesque recommended Mike Farkas of Spofford Upholstery to do the work, using the original materials: leather and horsehair.

The seat looks FANTASTIC. Mike Farkas' father started Spofford Upholstery, and now Mike's son Brandon is learning the trade. Lovely people; excellent craftsmen!



The deteriorated original...



...now beautifully restored

THE MYSTERY OF THE GEE HOUSE REPLICA

The Historical Society recently acquired a wooden model of the Gee Mill house on Sand Pond Road, and we included this photo in our Spring/Summer 2024 newsletter. We did not think it was one of Ronnie Lake's Marlow house replicas, but had no idea who made it.

Thanks to Facebook, we learned from three sisters that the craftsman's name was Dennis Mackenzie. When the newsletter was posted in May, Rachel Mackenzie commented, "My dad Dennis Mackenzie built that little wooden house about 15 years ago! It's made from old barn boards from the Gee Saw Mill." Sara Mackenzie added, "Our old house ♡♡♡".

Then in July, Kristie Sweeney messaged on Facebook sharing some beautiful old photos of the Gee Mill house and property on Sand Pond Road, noting, "My parents somehow got ahold of the photos when they moved in [to the Gee Mill home] some 27 odd years ago. My father passed in 2022 and Mom in 2023, and we sold the house last fall. I wish I could get the photos to the new owners."

We hope that since Facebook connections helped solve the mystery of the model house, perhaps it will assist again so that Kristie's wish can be fulfilled.

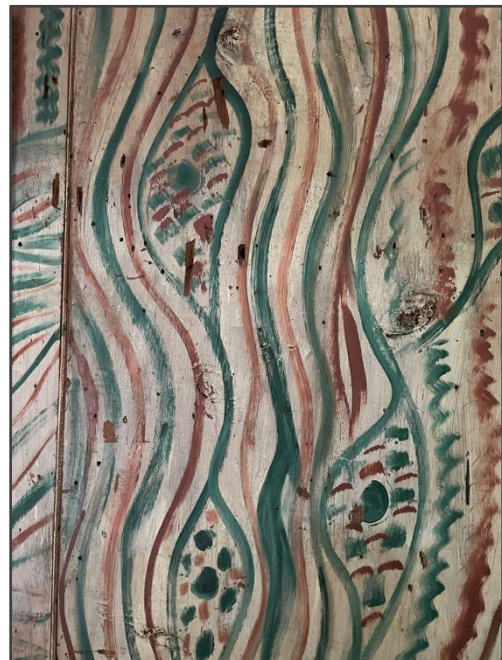


DID YOU KNOW?

Have you ever heard of milk paint? It is a non-toxic, milk-based paint bound with casein, the main protein in milk. It can be made from milk and lime, with pigments added for color, and sometimes contains borax as a preservative. It has been found on artifacts from ancient Egypt, and was commonly used on colonial and Shaker furniture. It has become popular once again because it is free of malodorous, toxic, and volatile organic compounds, which makes it environmentally friendly.

We have come across two examples of the use of milk paint in old Marlow homes. In an article in our Spring/Summer 2024 newsletter, former Marlow resident Mickey Danyluk mentioned the restoration work done at 235 Marlow Hill Road by past owners Charlie and Nancy Siekierski, who "preserved the original red milk-based paint in the Keeping Room".

The owners of another old Marlow home, built in 1790, sent us photos of wood panels decorated using milk paint. They tell us that a previous owner meticulously removed seven layers of wallpaper to finally reveal the artistic patterns.



COMING HOME

by Stephanie Tickner

Christopher Mack, Jr. sent a Facebook message to the Historical Society in April 2024 asking, “I was wondering if someone might know the cemeteries where my Mack ancestors are buried in Marlow.” And so began a months-long correspondence about generations of the Mack family in Marlow, Gilsun, Walpole, NH, and Lyme, CT. We discussed his family genealogy, challenges around finding historical information, confusion about identities when the same first names appear through the generations, and conflicting sources.

As the weeks went by, Christopher described his research and shared that his family descends from the following Marlow Macks: Silas, Amasa, Albert Brown, and Ernest:

Silas Mack seemed to really love Marlow, and held various positions in the town. He and his brother Zopher Mack, along with cousin Solomon Mack**, were among the first settlers in the late the 1700s. My family has deep roots here. When my great great grandfather Ernest Mack left Marlow for Walpole, his father, Albert Brown Mack was the last of our family line in town. Ernest and his wife Myra Dinsmore had 11 kids, and members of my family have been in Walpole ever since. A few years ago my cousin Dan Mack moved to Marlow - back to where it began, so to speak.*

Christopher expressed interest in visiting the Marlow Village and West Yard Cemeteries to see the graves of his ancestors, as well as possibly finding the location of the old Mack farm. He hoped his father and his cousin Dan would join him. “I want to get a picture of us in front of the Historical Society building. It’s like the Mack Boys returning home.”

That visit took place on August 4 when Christopher Mack, Sr. of Walpole, Christopher Mack, Jr. of Keene, and Dan Mack of Marlow arrived at Murray Hall. We toured the museum, and walked through the Village Cemetery to see the gravestone of Albert B. Mack, his wife Cordelia A. (Tinker) Mack, and their son Albert A. Mack. Then, with threatening skies looming in the west, we drove towards the West Yard Cemetery, hoping to avoid the rain. Unfortunately, about halfway there, the skies opened up. Despite the pouring rain we located the gravestones of Silas Mack, his mother Abigail (Davis) Mack, wife Mary Brown Mack, and son Amasa Mack, among others. Thunder and lightning made us cut our tour short, but we have compiled a list of places we would like to explore this fall, including the Marlow Soldiers Memorial and the area of Newell Pond, Gustin, and Honey Roads, which was the location of the Mack family farm!

Upon receiving the photos later that afternoon, Christopher texted, “The feeling of us being surrounded by our ancestors was really powerful. We were standing on the ground that Silas Mack’s family would have stood on, looking down at his memorial stone. Incredible stuff!”

* You can read about Silas Mack in the *Elgin Jones History of Marlow, NH*, including the fact that he served under Brigadier General John Stark during the 1777 Battle of Bennington; his involvement in protests against the Marlow ministerial tax in the early 1800s; the building of the first Baptist Meetinghouse on his land near Bakers Corner; and his involvement in early school committees.

** You can read about Solomon Mack in the *Jones History of Marlow*, as well as in our *Spring/Summer 2014* and *Winter and Fall 2020* newsletters.



Christopher Mack, Jr., Christopher Mack, Sr., and Dan Mack in front of the Historical Society



Mack family gravestone in the Marlow Village Cemetery - husband and wife Albert B. Mack and Cordelia Tinker Mack, and son Albert Amasa Mack



Christopher Mack, Jr., Christopher Mack, Sr., and Dan Mack in the Marlow West Yard Cemetery



Gravestone of Silas Mack, Esq. in the Marlow West Yard Cemetery

FAITHFUL TO THE END

Airplanes were not used extensively as a long-range fighting force during WWI. By the beginning of WWII, however, the heavy bomber had been created, capable of carrying explosives far into enemy territory. As a result, the Aircraft Warning Service (AWS) was established as a civilian branch of the US Army Ground Observer Corps, to watch for suspicious planes entering our airspace.* The nation called on civilian volunteers to man the observation posts and, since many men had joined the military, a great number of volunteers were women. As the war went on, thousands of observation posts were established on the east coast from Maine to Florida.

In our Fall 2016 newsletter we wrote that the swap shed at the recycling center was once the headquarters of Marlow's observation post. It was located behind Jones Hall, and for a time, Charlie Strickland told us, it was behind the Methodist Chapel.**

We have in our collection a Marlow AWS Log Book covering the period from August 6, 1942 to December 18, 1942. It includes each volunteer's signature, time of arrival and departure, the weather and the temperature. The page corresponding to August 14, for example, lists the following Marlow residents: E.P. Campbell, Bessie Webster, Nelda Gorges, Roy Huntley, Alice Britton, Lillian Andrews, Alberta Young, Edna Lusby, Winnie Knight, Annie Manning, Stella Winham, C. Andrews, Virginia Breckenridge, Carl Elliott, Frank Whippie and Ivan Huntley.

The Stricklands, Charlie and his sister Barbara, as well as his parents Martha and Berton, appear in many of the pages, as well as others whose names are familiar to Marlow historians: Ralph Winham, Leroy Mosher, Stanley Sawyer, Vernabelle Sanders, Lucian Webster, Agnes McPhail, John Perkins Sr., Bessie Clough, etc.

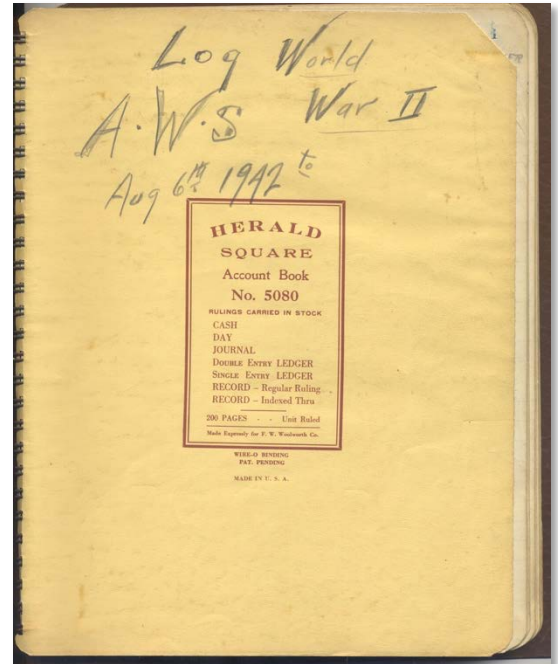
There is also some humor mixed in including a drawing of a house on a hill on page 136 with an added note below, "You can do better than this George. Let's see it."

The page for November 18 shows that George S. Morrell, who had been appointed Chief Observer, stood watch from 2 AM to 6 AM. Sadly, a few days later he passed away. Someone wrote at the bottom of the page: "In memory, faithful to the end. Nov. 27, 1942."

On the last page it reads: "New log book in drawer. Please put this one in drawer for records." We wish we knew what happened to all the other books.

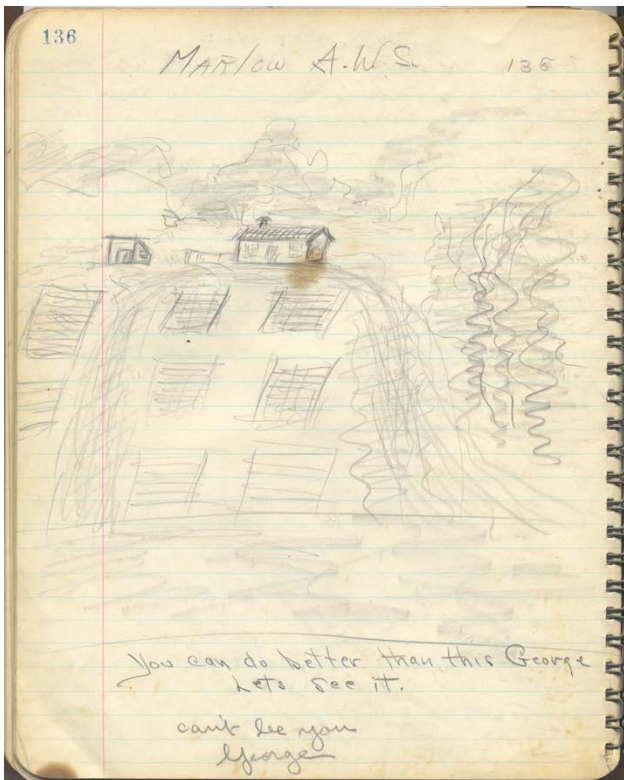
*On Oct. 3 one of the Marlow ground observers noted warily that an airplane above had "red under wings, black fuselage" and jotted it down in the log book.

**The town selectmen had originally decided that the best place for the post was the highest accessible point, and chose a spot on the Marlow/East Alstead line on Route 123. This eventually proved impractical and the post was moved to the village. See our Spring/Summer 2017 newsletter.



August 14, 1942

Time of Arrival	Name	Time Relieved	Weather
6:00 AM	E. P. Campbell	8:00 AM	Rainy
8 AM	Bessie Webster	10:00 AM	rainy
8 AM	Nelda Gorges	10:00 AM	rainy
10 AM	Roy Huntley	12 M	Rainy
10 AM	Alice Britton	12 M	"
12:11	Lillian Andrews	2:00	"
12:11	Alberta Young	2:00	"
2 P.M.	Edna Lusby	4:00 P.M.	"
2 P.M.	Winnie Knight	4:00 P.M.	"
4 P.M.	Annie Manning	6 P.M.	"
4 P.M.	Stella M. Winham	6 P.M.	"
6 P.M.	C. Andrews	10 P.M.	"
7:15 P.M.	W. Breckenridge	10 P.M.	"
10 P.M.	Carl Elliott	2 A.M.	cloudy
10 P.M.	Frank Whippie	2 A.M.	cloudy
2 A.M.	Ivan Huntley	6 A.M.	cloudy



Nov. 18.

I.A.	Name	I.P.	W	I.
6:45 AM	Myrtle Smith	8:00 AM	Rain	43
6 AM	Elo Rappin	8 AM	"	43
8 AM	Angela Sawyer	10 AM	"	45
10 AM	Gayle Langdon	12 M	cloudy	50
10 AM	Edna Lusby	2 P.M.	clear	45
2 P.M.	Edna Lusby	4 P.M.	clear	52
2 P.M.	Winnie Knight	4 P.M.	"	"
4 P.M.	Ruth A. Saltman	6 P.M.	"	47
4 P.M.	Fannie Strickland	6 P.M.	"	47
6 P.M.	Frank Young	10 P.M.	"	30
6 P.M.	E. P. Campbell	10 P.M.	"	30
10 P.M.	Arthur T. Superior	2 A.M.	"	27
2 A.M.	George S. Morrell	6 A.M.	"	39

In memory, faithful to the end Nov 27, 1942.



Marlow Historical Society

Founded in 1976

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Secretary - Gail Rowe (interim)

Treasurer - Pat Strickland

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Sharon Davis

Patty Little (interim)

Stephanie Tickner (interim)

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marlow-historical-society.php*

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THE QUIET SPOT - CHAPTER TWO

The bench which provided “The Quiet Spot” under the elm tree on the west side of Murray Hall eventually fell apart from rot. As we noted in our Fall 2020 newsletter, the plaque on the bench reads:

“This Quiet Spot was created in loving memory of Marlow residents Marge Davis, Geney Ames and Kay Windhorst, by The Marlow Historical Society, with appreciation for the donations given in their memory to the Society by their family and friends.”

In order to continue to show our gratitude and to provide a little haven during the warm months, a new bench with the original plaque was placed on the same site. It was kindly donated by Joe and Maria Baril, and sanded and repainted by Jeff Tickner.

We hope you will stop by and enjoy this unique place in Marlow Village.



The original



Ready for paint



Chapter two