

# MHS Newsletter

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

## Roddy Andrews

If there was a time machine that would transport us back, so that we could visit with some of the fascinating and colorful characters in Marlow history, one person I would love to meet is Roddy Andrews, one time Marlow blacksmith, chief of police, and the fire warden who led the battle against the Fire of '41.

Charles Roderick (Roddy) Andrews was born in Hereford PQ, Canada on March 5, 1886 to Walter and Minnie Andrews. The family settled in North Woodstock NH, where Walter was a builder and where the Andrews were very involved with the Episcopal Church, the Church of the Messiah.

He married Lillian Ramsdell from Lunenburg VT and they bought their one and only home in Marlow on Mill St. in 1906 – for \$600!! Lillian gave birth to six children; oldest to youngest: Walter, Kenneth, Eleanore (Emily Bomely's mother), Agnes, Charles Jr. (Carol Pacetti, Kathleen Knight and Charles III's father) and Emily. All the children were baptized in North Woodstock.

It was in 1840 that Longfellow wrote:

*Under a spreading chestnut tree  
The village smithy stands;  
The smith, a mighty man is he,  
With large and sinewy hands;*



"Roddy" Andrews

The chestnut trees have long since vanished from our countryside. The "village smithy" has pretty well surrendered to the machine age and given up the ghost. But here in Marlow we still have an old time village blacksmith shop. Have you ever seen one?

In his younger year he had an eclectic career. In the early 1900s he was test driver for the Pope-Hartford automobile company. He was also a logger for a company on the Connecticut River.

An expert with the cant hook, he took part in the log drives down the Connecticut River to the mills in Northampton, MA. His grandchildren remember him tell about coming down the river to Bellows Falls riding on the logs.

It was during this time that he learned blacksmithing, and later on in his life he did extensive work for logging concerns, repairing broken chains, sharpening peavies and grab hooks, and building oaken skidding sleds.

During his more than 50 year career as blacksmith/farrier, he shod oxen, horses and mules; he spent one winter shoeing cargo mules for a coal mining company in British Columbia. He would also make 'orthopedic' shoes for animals with injured or deformed hooves. His granddaughter Carol Pacetti remembers "going shoeing with him throughout Alstead and Walpole in the old 33 Buick." (Continued inside)

## Winter 2017

### Marlow By Heart

Poetry of a Small New Hampshire Town



Marlow Historical Society

Just in time for the holiday season, the Historical Society has compiled a book of Marlow poetry through the decades - from the 18th century to the present - matched with historical images and beautiful pictures by local photographers.

This is the front cover: a watercolor by Marlow artist Stephanie Tickner, titled "Ashuelot River from the Bridge to Cheshire Earth". We thank Stephanie for doing such an outstanding job formatting the book. The books are \$15.00. Contact the Society at PO Box 12, Marlow, or Maria Baril - 446-2292, maria@barils.com - to purchase one.

## Thank You Very Much!

The Historical Society gratefully acknowledges the people who have helped us through the year each in his or her own special way. Albert St. Pierre of Cheshire Earth, donated gravel for the foundation of the handicap ramp at Murray Hall; Kroka Expeditions helped build the ramp; and many volunteers, members and non-members, came to paint two sides of the building. The Odd Fellows donated a Porta Potty, and Tony Davis removed our old one.

We thank Ted Aldrich, who let us use his scaffolding and John Luke who lent us his torpedo heater; Wendy Pelletier, who sewed curtains for the front windows; the Gorges family who donated a handsome desk for the office; Aaron's Specialties for giving us pumpkins and gourds to decorate; Marcia Levesque, who brought baked goods for the drywall workers, and Stacy Overstreet of the ATV club who sent over pancakes and coffee from the Gathering Place.

Our hats off to three resourceful guys: Chris Cote, Mike Bascom, and Tony Davis, who built spooky props for our program on Grave Robbing.

### A New Web Presence

Beginning on November 11th, you can find us on the Marlow Community Webpage, rather than on our old website. We feel that this change will make us much more accessible to our supporters and those researching Marlow history. **Please note the new address: [www.marlownewhampshire.org/](http://www.marlownewhampshire.org/)**

*Many thanks to Stephanie Tickner, who created and maintains this site, and who is going to work with us to make all of our news, events, and newsletters accessible to all.*



**Roddy and Lillian Andrews**  
(Andrews, continued from page one)

The story goes that Smiley Burnette, popular actor who played sidekick to Gene Autry in Westerns, came to Marlow to visit Virginia Sales at the Christmas Trees Inn. He met Roddy, and was so impressed with his work that he invited him to go with him to Hollywood to work with the horses used in the films. Roddy declined, saying he'd really much rather stay in Marlow.

As police chief from the 30s into the mid 60s, it was said of him that if he noticed a car speeding through town, he would make them go back to the town line and come back through at a reasonable speed.

His granddaughter writes "I can remember him taking tramps to the tramp house. Nana {his wife Lillian} who was the Town Treasurer would write out a check for groceries and Grampa would take them to the tramp house. I also remember that when the gypsy caravans used to arrive, Grampa would make them stay down on the flats then escort them through town."

At one time Roddy and his brother Bernie worked in the mill that was located at the corner of Symondsville and Washington Pond roads. Besides the mill, the site included boarding houses for the workers, and a blacksmith shop. The mill and all adjoining structures burned down in 1941.

He was instrumental in building the present day Marlow fire station. The site then included a car repair shop, the smithy, and a Socony gas station of which he was co-owner with Bert Strickland.

Roddy Andrews died in May 1967. He and his wife Lillian are buried in the Marlow Village Cemetery.

Chuck Mosher pays a moving tribute to this esteemed Marlow citizen, as follows: "Roddy devoted his life to working for the town, not just living in it. He was a larger than life guy, who made a big impression on a young man. There was no "foolishness" when you were in the doorway of Roddy's blacksmith shop watching him work on the fire trucks, or visiting him at their home on Mill St. He had everyone's respect, and he earned it with his hard work and dedication to the community. He isn't defined by "funny stories" or anecdotes, but by the body of his work. In the context of Marlow history, he was unique."



## THE SAND POND GUN SHOP

You cannot say that Marlow is or ever was a gun owner's mecca. We have no shortage of accomplished hunters, to be sure, but we're not likely to end up on the cover of "Guns & Ammo" magazine as Gun Capital U.S.A. Even so, we do have a gun-related claim to fame. There was a time, in the 1960s and the 1970s, when Marlow had an excellent gun shop that served as a hub for firearm enthusiasts in the region. Its owner was a renowned expert on ammunition; in fact, his fame was such that when President Reagan was shot he was called to Washington to identify the bullet.

James Tillinghast moved to Marlow in 1963, ran an ammo-related mail-order business, and opened a gun and antique shop across from his home at 119 Sand Pond Rd. Jim was obsessed with all manner of gun cartridges. He started collecting them at an early age and eventually amassed about 3,500 cartridges in 400 boxes with, in his words,

amassed about 3,500 cartridges in 400 boxes with, in his words, "about 1,000 different calibers or case-construction and patent variations." He would later write, "Cartridge collecting has become a very lively and important hobby to those who could not afford to collect guns." At the time of his death in February 1995, Jim was said to have the largest collection of its kind in the world. Jim catered to fellow collectors, offering up cartridges for sale in cleverly designed catalogs that themselves are prized collectibles. "I have been collecting cartridges since 1962, and for many years, I bought items from Jim," one enthusiast posted on an International Ammunition Association online forum in 2015. "I have all of his catalogs." (Our Historical Society has one of the catalogs, thanks to past president Mary Blank, who spotted it on eBay.)

Jim ran in an illustrious gun crowd. His friends included William B. Ruger, co-founder of Sturm, Ruger & Co., which created the Ruger Standard, the most popular .22-caliber target pistol ever made in the United States. He was also pals with Ted Williams, the Hall of Fame baseball player whose name appeared on a line of firearms sold by major retailers, such as Sears and Roebuck, during the 1960s and 1970s.

Jim married Gaye Thomson in 1967, and they had three children, Sarah, James and Ralph. "I came to Marlow in 1967 as a new bride," Gaye recalls. "The town gave us a big reception in the Grange Hall. Ivan Huntley brought me a basket of his tomatoes, the best I've ever tasted. At that time there were only a few people living past us in the winter."



\*\*Read about Roy and Roxy Forbes in our Summer 2012 newsletter.

Marlow meant a great deal to Jim. He was moderator and a selectman for 13 years. He was known by town youth as "Mr. T," sports coach, head cheerleader and official carpooler. Jim loved to help people. "Charlie Elliot never forgot Jim for helping him get a job with the town after he was injured," Gaye recalls. "He was also aware that some of our customers depended on game for food for the winter, going out of his way to make ammo and guns affordable to them." Gaye herself was active in Marlow affairs. She served on the school board at a critical time, when a decision was being made to build a new school on land donated by the heirs of John D. Perkins Sr. She mentions that Roxy Forbes helped the board a great deal in working with the state.\*\* Dennis and Pat Hersom would later buy the Tillinghast home. It is still called the "Gee House," though, because it was owned in the 1790s and early 1800s by Stephen Gee, his son Stephen Gee Jr., and his granddaughter Joanna, who married John Stone.

Gaye has offered to provide materials related to Jim's cartridge collection for display in our museum. Given how Jim helped put Marlow on the map, devoting a special place to his memorabilia will be our honor and privilege.



## Marlow's Dillant Connection



DID YOU KNOW that the DILLANT HOPKINS AIRPORT in Keene is named in honor of two young pilots who died during WWII? One of them was Lieutenant Thomas David Dillant of Marlow.

We would not have learned about the Dillants but for a lady named Georgie McDougale, Lieutenant Dillant's niece, who contacted the Historical Society from her home in New Mexico and asked us to mail her a Marlow History, because, as she put it, "I will always feel that Marlow is my hometown."

This request has led to an interesting and cordial exchange of emails which have opened for us a window into the life of a Marlow family who should not be forgotten.

Joseph Edward Dillant and his wife Emmerette (Emma) Buffum\* were Georgie's grandparents. He was born in Maine in 1878. They lived in Washington NH, where the first four of nine children were born: Stuart, Beatrice, Bernice, and Doris.

According to the history of Washington - Portrait of a Hill Town - he worked in his father-in-law David Buffum's mill, and married Mr. Buffum's daughter. The mill produced a variety of wooden products, including thousands of whip sockets. Upon Mr. Buffum's death in 1905, Mr. Dillant took over the management, and also started making cider at the mill.

Around 1917 he bought the family farm up on Reed Road, and his last five children - Mildred, Avis, Thomas, Tessie and Byron - were born in Marlow. JE Dillant worked as a millwright; Charlie Strickland recalls that he travelled from mill to mill plying his trade.

In their older years the Dillants moved to the village, and lived in the house now owned by Art and Mary Andreassen. Both the farm and the house were sold when he passed away in 1975.

One of the Dillant daughters, Doris, married George Coddington, who worked for the B&M RR. They were Georgie's parents, and they bought the house at 20 Old Newport Road - "the house with the chicken barn" - around 1951 when Georgie was 2 years old. Her mother lived there until she passed away in 1985.

Two of JE Dillant's sons, Thomas David and Byron Edward - served during WWII as Second Lieutenants and Pilots in the US Army Air Corps.

Before the war, "Tom" Dillant played baseball at Keene H.S. and was on the varsity team at Keene Teachers College (now KSC). He acted in many school musicals, and was president of his class. He was only 25 years old when he died in a plane crash while on a routine flight with his squadron - the first Keene student to die in the war.

His brother Byron Edward also died in the line of duty at age 22.

Joseph Edward Dillant, his wife Emma, and 7 of their 9 children are buried in the Marlow Village Cemetery.

\*Emma Buffum's sister, Lottie, was Elizabeth Feuer's maternal grandmother; Elizabeth is first cousin once removed of our dear late friend Joe Feuer - an interesting connection!





*Clockwise from left to right: Sheetrocking in Murray Hall; Painting once the rock is up; A skilled team from Sheetrock Inc. works on the ceiling; More craftsmanship as the job is almost complete*

## Murray Hall - A Tale of Drywall and Paint

One and a half years ago, Ed Thomas took it upon himself to start repairing the interior walls of the great hall, with Barry Corriveau's help. They covered the wall with sheetrock almost to the height of the windows. 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, 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.

Joc Baril



*AND SPEAKING OF SCAFFOLDING, HERE'S AN ANECDOTE SENT IN BY LIBBY FEUER, WHO IS OUR LATE FRIEND JOE FEUER'S COUSIN.....*

"My dad, Reeshon Feuer, used to tell (with hearty chuckles) how the Feuer boys, once chores were done and they'd gotten bored shooting bottles at the dump for target practice ('and that's why old bottles are so scarce and pricey now', he'd add), decided to hoist a heifer up into the belfry (I'm sure he said which one, but I don't remember), where it bellowed and bellowed. And I don't recall him saying who discovered their mischief, but I'm sure some town folks weren't too impressed with their prank!  
AND ALL WITHOUT SCAFFOLDING!!"





**Marlow Historical Society**

**Established in 1976**

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## **From our archives.....1961 MARLOW PTA WINTER CARNIVAL**

*This town held its second annual winter carnival under the auspices of the Marlow PTA and while it was necessary to cancel all skating events scheduled Sunday, ski and toboggan events were conducted Saturday on Fox Hill.*

*The carnival opened Friday night with a record dance at which Emily Compton was crowned queen and Diane Rougeau princess. They in turn chose as their consorts Kenneth Batchelder of Langdon, king, and Jack Strickland, prince.*

*Ira Huntley of Langdon served as disc jockey. Mrs. Frances Strickland was in charge of the carnival. Mrs. Gloria Poole and Mrs. Ethel Mosher assisted with the dance, and members of the sports committee were Charles Strickland and Stanley Sawyer Jr.*

*Winners of the Saturday afternoon events were: Downhill, seniors, Richard Thompson; juniors, Mark Strickland. Jumping, seniors, John Reinhardt; juniors, Stephen Burns. Three on single pair of skis, James Strickland, Emily Compton and Lawrence Wilson.*

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*Toboggan race, seniors, Berle Forbes Jr., Annette Wilson, Ernest Knight, David Knight; juniors, George Sanders Jr., Gerald Ball and Jack Strickland. Free for all race: George Sanders Jr.; snow sculpture, 4-H Club.*

