

Marlborough  
Historical Society, Inc.

*An all volunteer non-profit organization.*

Marlborough Historical Society  
2004-2005 Program

The purpose of this society is to collect, study, preserve and maintain historical records, relics and objects relating to the history of Marlborough, its founders and peoples;

to promote interest in, and study of, the history of Marlborough;

to preserve items of current events that may have historic interest in the future and to provide a safe depository for the same;

to make collections of historical interest and to insure the continuous adequate care of such collections and their accessibility to the general public;

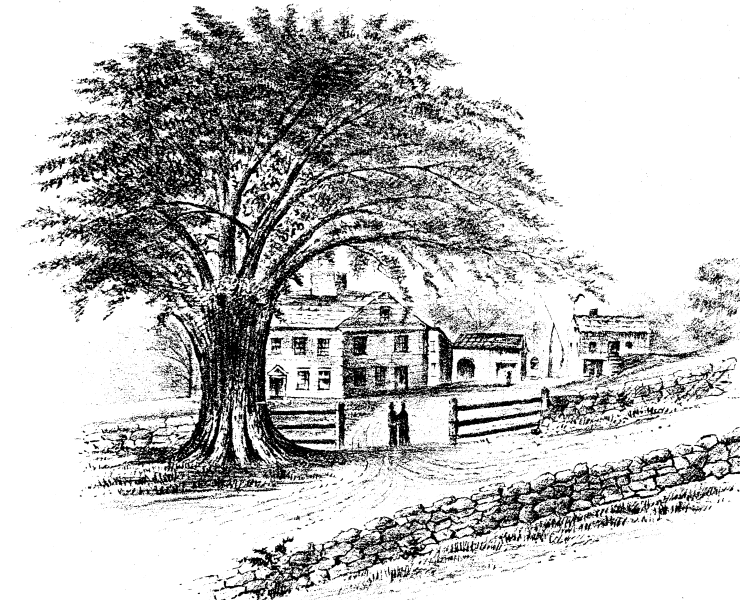
to interest and unite the people of Marlborough and promote a fuller understanding of its traditions and history.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

- President*..... John Gracey
- Vice-President* .....Joan Abshire
- Past-President* ..... Marilyn Otto
- Treasurer*..... Eugene Schneider
- Recording Secretary* ..... Janet Licht
- Corresponding Secretary* ..... Elna Headberg
- Trustee, 2004-2005* ..... Eileen Trombetta
- Trustee, 2003-2006* ..... Bob Scott
- Trustee, 2004-2007*..... Joanne Lent
- Curator* ..... Richard Wilcox
- Archivist*.....Jeannette Pollard

**COMMITTEES**

- Building Committee* ..... Eugene Schneider
- Program Director* ..... Barbara Somerville
- Publicity Facilitator* ..... Susan Alatalo
- Newsletter Editor* ..... Joan Abshire
- Membership Chairwoman*.... Elaine Greenleaf



*The Peter Rice Homestead, 377 Elm Street, Marlborough  
an Historical Museum  
listed on the National Register of Historic Places.  
This is how it appeared in the early 1800's.*

**Membership Meetings:**

(Open to the public, no charge.)

4th Tuesday of the month ..... 7:30 p.m.  
(unless otherwise noted)

**Archival Office:**..... 377 Elm St., Marlborough, MA  
Phone: ..... (508) 485-4763  
Write: ..... P.O. Box 513  
.....Marlborough, MA 01752-0513

**Office Hours:**

For an appointment call Curator Richard Wilcox, 508-460-3499, or Archivist Jeannette Pollard 508-481-7543 who is there every Tuesday from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

**Sep 28 Tuesday, 6 p.m. - Covered Dish Supper  
7:30 p.m. Membership Meeting**

Bill Patton of Natick has provided us with many excellent presentations. Tonight his topic will be ***Circus! Circus!*** This is an informal history of the circus through rare old time posters. See family run shows still under tents. Visit a small museum in Connecticut where carousel animals are being restored. All packed into a one-hour presentation with "PEANUTS! POPCORN! AND CRACKERJACKS! Ladies and gentlemen and children of all ages! Step right up and see the big show!" Augmented with authentic circus music.

**Oct 26 Membership Meeting - Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.  
At the MARLBOROUGH SENIOR CENTER,  
250 Main St.**

Jim Hollister, Interpretive Park Ranger at Minuteman National Historical Park in Concord will present ***Beyond the Minuteman*** - Exploring the Military Tradition of the Massachusetts Militia. From the stern Puritan warriors of the 17th century, to the audacious "**minute men**" of Revolutionary fame, the citizen-soldiers of the Massachusetts Militia played a crucial role in the building of our nation. First organized in the 1630's, the Massachusetts Militia successfully defended their colony for more than 140 years prior to the Revolution. Join Park Ranger Jim Hollister (wearing 18th century period clothing and weapons) for a one hour exploration of the Old World origins and New World adaptations of the Massachusetts militia, their equipment and weapons, the many threats they faced and the impact of this military tradition on the events of April 19, 1775.

**Nov 23 Membership Meeting - Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.**

Did marriages in Colonial times require a license, witness and a ceremony as they do today? What state had an 1843 law stating that all that was necessary was for the parties to declare, "that they take each other as husband and wife?" How *common* were common-law marriages? Come and

find out the answers to these questions and more when John Lambert of Marlborough presents ***Marriage Through the Years***, a history of marriage from the ancient Greek and Roman days through the Colonial period, to the present day.

**Dec 11 Christmas at the Farm  
Saturday, 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.**

Christmas wreaths, special Christmas foods, fancy breads, cookies, jams and jellies, Christmas music, Santa and more. If you are looking for Christmas gifts that are both distinctive and thoughtful, the Society's second annual Historical Marlborough Calendar will be on sale.

**Jan 25 Membership Meeting - Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.**

Our curator, Richard Wilcox, will present ***Antiquities from the Athenaeum***. This will be a presentation and discussion of a variety of historically significant selections from our very extensive collection of Marlborough memorabilia. Come and sit around the fire while we listen to stories from our past.

**Feb 22 Membership Meeting - Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.**

Vice-president Joan Abshire will present a program about the ***Irish in Marlborough***, which will focus on the Michael Burke family and include information about the village of Cashel in County Tipperary where this family originated, St. Patrick, the potato famine, Cuckoo Pure Rye Whiskey, and many other items of interest.

**Mar 22 Membership Meeting - Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.  
At the MARLBOROUGH SENIOR CENTER,  
250 Main St.**

Father William Wolkovich, a priest in Norwood for 21 years, who also served in Marlborough and Hudson and is now living in Marlborough, has written over a dozen book reviews and historical articles. He has an honorary doctorate in History from University Vitautas Magnus in Kaunas, Lithuania. He will speak about ***Peter Ambrose***

***McKenna***, a catholic priest in Hudson and pastor of the Immaculate Conception Church in Marlboro in the late 1800's. He added the church tower that did not survive the 1938 hurricane.

**Apr 3 Elegant Cake Social - Sunday, 2 - 4 p.m.  
Details to follow in the Newsletter.**

**Apr 26 Membership Meeting - Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.**

This will be our ***Annual Membership Meeting***. In place of having a guest speaker we will commemorate the 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the establishment of the Marlborough Historical Society by recognizing the founders of the Society who worked so diligently to create an organization dedicated to preserving Marlborough's history and made possible the acquisition and renovation of the Peter Rice Homestead.

**May 24 Membership Meeting - Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.  
The location will be in the Newsletter.**

Our President, Jack Gracey, will present a program with slides on the ***History of Church Street - Part 2*** tracing its development from 1900 to 1950 and focusing on the growth of Marlborough as a city as its citizens met the challenges of the first half of the twentieth century. Part 1 of this program was presented last year and was very well attended, so be sure to come early to get a good seat.

**Jun 28 Membership Meeting - Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.  
The location will be in the Newsletter.**

This month we will have a program on ethnic genealogy research. The lecturer will be announced later in the Newsletter.

*All events will be at the Peter Rice Homestead,  
377 Elm Street, unless otherwise noted.  
See the current Newsletter for more details.*