



"HOMESTEAD OF THE LAST DEACON ELI RICE"
Marlboro, Mass. 1830

In the west part of Marlboro', on the slope of a hill,
There stands an old Elm, like a sentinel still;
Its half-buried roots bracing upward each side,
Like buttresses seem, against gales to provide.

Generations of children in its alcoves have played,
With brickbats and crockery their houses have made;
While its giant-like trunk, with limbs stretching all ways,
Gave grateful protection from the sun's scorching rays.

No one can determine the age of this tree,
'Tis a mystery to all, and always will be;
For the sires of the past, each and all to a man,
Said, "When in our boyhood the tree was there then."

This Elm has long buffeted many a storm,
And Time and the tempests have shattered its form;
Yet with all the wild ravages of winds and of ice,
Has protected for centuries the families of Rice.

Two centuries ago, 'neath the Elm's grateful shade,
Foundations substantial for a dwelling were laid,
The lord of the soil was then known well to fame,
For a captain was he, and Peter his name.

His father was Thomas, who had his abode
Nearly southward a mile, on the main traveled road;
whose father was Edmund, from Old England came,
The first of the Rices, styled "Goodman" by name.

He married Rebekah, whose surname was Howe,
And her he had plighted a connubial vow,
That 'neath the broad shadow of this stately tree,
In view of Wachusett, their homestead should be.

*These are the first lines of a poem written in token of affection
to an aged sister on the occasion of her 81st birthday.
The picture was drawn by Howard Searles.*

Marlborough Historical Society, Inc.

a non-profit organization

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Marlborough Historical Society 2005-2006 Program



*The Peter Rice Homestead is an Historical Museum
listed on the National Register of Historic Places.
This original painting, by Archie Fenton, hangs in the
Sunshine Room of the Homestead.*

Membership Meetings:

4th Tuesday of the month 7:30 p.m.
(Open to the public and free of charge.)

Archival Office:..... 377 Elm St., Marlborough, MA

Phone: 508-485-4763
Write: P.O. Box 513
..... Marlborough, MA 01752-0513

Office Hours:

Tuesday 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Wednesday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Thursday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
1st Saturday of the month 10 a.m. to 12 noon

or call for an appointment:

President Jack Gracey 508-229-8813
Curator Joan Abshire 508-251-1057
Archivist Jeannette Pollard 508-481-7543

SEP 27 - TUESDAY, 6 P.M. - COVERED DISH SUPPER

Bring a covered dish and enjoy the company of your fellow members while sampling the wonderful array of dishes which will be available. This is always a fun time.

The supper will be followed by the **7:30 p.m. Membership Meeting**. Corresponding Secretary Elna Headberg will present **Anne Hutchinson - The Marlborough Connection**. Anne (1591-1643) was an extraordinary woman. She was a Puritan, a religious pioneer and some felt she was a forerunner of the women's liberation movement. She was also a charismatic and persuasive speaker. In 1638 Governor John Winthrop ordered her banished from the Massachusetts Bay Colony jurisdiction as a woman not fit for society. A bronze statue of her by Cyrus Dallin is outside the State House in Boston. Learn more about Anne and her Marlborough connection. She certainly led an interesting, but short life.

OCT 25 - MEMBERSHIP MEETING - TUESDAY, 7:30 P.M.

"Little stories, told to a little boy, by a loving old woman who had no wealth or property, so she gave him her time, attention and love. There is no greater gift."

Thus begins Ed McManus' memoir, **The Nana in the Chair and the Tales She Told** (published by AuthorHouse 2004). Ed McManus was the little boy who sat with his blind Irish grandmother during the 1940's while she spun her tales of misers, heroes, banshees, gold coins, tinkers, witches and leprechauns. His book tell of a young woman coming alone in steerage to America in the 1880's and working as a domestic in fine houses, seeing the first electric light and the everyday adventures of a large Irish-American family in a mill town between 1883 and 1956. These are upbeat tales that entertain, amuse and inspire.

The serial rights to the book have been purchased by *The Boston Herald* and eight stories will be printed as part of its Newspapers in Education Program in November 2005.

NOV 22 - MEMBERSHIP MEETING - TUESDAY, 7:30 P.M.

Trustee Peggy Ayres presents **Marlborough U.S. - Marlborough, U.K., an Ocean Apart - Centuries Together**. She will tell us about some of the similarities between the two Marlboroughs and about our shared history.

We have more in common than just a name. Look for more details in the November/December Newsletter.

DEC 3 - CHRISTMAS AT THE FARM SATURDAY, 1 P.M. - 4 P.M.

Christmas wreaths, special holiday foods, fancy breads, cookies, jams and jellies, Christmas carols and more are all part of this annual event. If you are looking for gifts that are both distinctive and thoughtful, the Society's third annual Historical Marlborough Calendar will be on sale as well as reprints of Ella Bigelow's *Historical Reminiscences of Marlborough* with Gene Schneider's *Index* to the same and reprints of Charles Hudson's *History of Marlborough*.

JAN 24 - MEMBERSHIP MEETING - TUESDAY, 7:30 P.M.

Program Director Barbara Somerville will present a very **Early History of Marlborough** focusing on this area in the 1600's when it was called Okommakamesit. She will include information about Reverend John Elliot and his "Praying Indians." This long-time resident will delight us with remarks that are sure to be interesting.

FEB 28 - MEMBERSHIP MEETING - TUESDAY, 7:30 P.M.

At this meeting there will be a presentation of a collection of **Photographs of Marlborough** from the late photographer Arthur Jacques of Marlborough, with a narrative by John Sahagian, a long time Marlborough resident. John, a photographer himself, will speak briefly about Arthur and show selected photographs from Jacques Studio.

MAR 28 - MEMBERSHIP MEETING - TUESDAY, 7:30 P.M.

A staff member of the **American Antiquarian Society** in Worcester will talk about their wide variety of programs and collections. This national research library, founded in 1812, is the third oldest historical society. It contains the printed record of what is now the United States of America from the first European settlement through the year 1876. The library collections encompass three million books, pamphlets, newspapers, periodicals, graphic arts materials and manuscripts housed on twenty-five miles of shelving.

APR 2 - ELEGANT CAKE SOCIAL - SUNDAY 2-4 P.M.

In our Front Parlor we plan to have a display of the wonderful collection of the photographs and memorabilia from St. Mary's Parish donated to the society through the efforts of Adele Marshall and Bob Scott. Because this well-organized archive is so extensive only a portion will be exhibited at this time. Come and sample the tasty cakes baked by our members and then take a stroll through the Parlor to view the collection from St. Mary's.

APR 25 - MEMBERSHIP MEETING - TUESDAY, 7:30 P.M.

At our **Annual Membership Meeting** this year the focus will be on honoring the past presidents of the Society. Also we will once again be honoring those who have been particularly helpful to us in the past, by presenting them with a Certificate of Appreciation.

MAY 23 - MEMBERSHIP MEETING - TUESDAY, 7:30 P.M.

At this meeting Dick Eastman of the *New England Historic Genealogical Society* will talk about **Using the Internet for Family and Local History Research**. There is a wealth of information now available on line for genealogy and history buffs, and it is growing daily.

JUN 27 - MEMBERSHIP MEETING - TUESDAY, 7:30 P.M.

President Jack Gracey will present **Marlborough Irish in the American Civil War**. The Civil War had a huge impact on the town of Marlborough. Over 900 of its male residents, approximately 25% of the town's population, served in various Massachusetts Union Army regiments during the war. Of those 900 a significant number were Irish immigrants. As a part of our on-going focus on Marlborough's ethnic history, Jack will recount the experience of these Irish immigrants both in the military service and after the war. While many of their experiences mirrored those of other Civil War soldiers, there were some notable differences. For example, many of the Irish served in special "Irish" Regiments which were often found in fierce combat in many major battles. They were known both for their bravery and for their lack of discipline. Hopefully, this presentation will lead us to a deepened understanding of what motivated these men to serve and how that service influenced the course of their subsequent lives in America.