



Newsletter

Colchester Vermont Historical Society

Winter 2018

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Family History

Upcoming meetings and programs:

Please note: Unless otherwise indicated, CHS programs are held at the Colchester Historical Society building on Main Street. Following the programs, refreshments are available, and a short business meeting follows. Parking and admission are free; donations are always appreciated.

♦ Business meeting

Saturday, January 13, 10 a.m.

♦ The First Thirty Years of Barbie

Saturday, February 10, 10 a.m.



Colchester Historical Society member Carmen Brunelle will present information about the history of the Barbie doll. She will speak about Barbie's creation, changes, evolution and longevity.

Carmen will exhibit Barbie doll samples from years past up through 1989.

♦ Researching Your Family History

Saturday, March 10, 10 a.m.

Colchester High School librarian Christine Eldred will share information about her own family history research. Her presentation will focus on the best places and ways to get started with genealogy research. Find out what free resources are available as you investigate your own family tree.



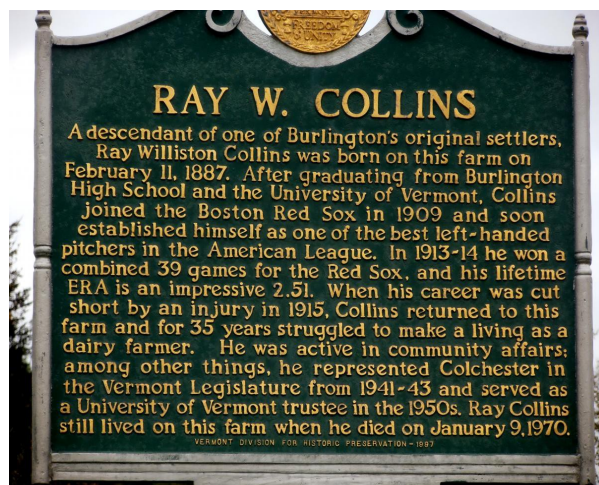
♦ North Country Involvement -- War of 1812

Monday, April 9, 7 p.m.

Join history and civics teacher Jason Barney for this program about Vermont's role in the War of 1812. Learn about the events that took place on Lake Champlain during the war, including Murray's Raid (a British invasion of Swanton), cross-border smuggling, the Black Snake Affair, and the Battle of Plattsburgh.

Vermont Roadside Historic Marker

In case you missed it...



How many times have you driven by this marker on Route 7 and wondered what it is? Here's the answer!

“A descendant of one of Burlington's original settlers, Ray Williston Collins, was born on this farm on February 11, 1887. After graduating from Burlington High School and the University of Vermont, Collins joined the Boston Red Sox in 1909 and soon established himself as one of the best left-handed pitchers in the American League. In 1913-14 he won a combined 39 games for the Red Sox, and his lifetime ERA is an impressive 2.51. When his career was cut short by an injury in 1915, Collins returned to this farm and for 35 years struggled to make a living as a dairy farmer. He was active in community affairs; among other things, he represented Colchester in the Vermont Legislature from 1941-43 and served as a University of Vermont trustee in the 1950s. Ray Collins still lived on this farm when he died on January 9, 1970.”

Read H.W. Mott's [blog](#) about Ray Collins and view photographs. Learn [more](#) about Vermont Historic Markers.

- ◆ *The Burlington Free Press*, on December 2, 2017, published an item about the [Colchester Causeway](#), written by Colchester's own Inge Schaefer and featured several historical photographs provided by local collectors.

- ◆ On December 21, 2017, *The Colchester Sun* featured “[Farm & Family](#),” about Ruth Worden, age 100, of Colchester. The article was written by Neel Tandan.

News and updates at your fingertips

Visit the Colchester Historical Society's [web site](#) to stay up to date on news and programs.



We are also now on Facebook. Be sure to “Like” and “Follow” [Colchester Vermont Historical Society](#).

New Exhibit at Vermont History Museum



Everywhere a Sign is the new exhibit in the Jackie Calder Gallery at the Vermont History Museum in Montpelier. This exhibit showcases the diversity, artistry, and impact of signs on our every day lives. It will be on display through April. For information about hours and admission, check [here](#) or call (802) 828-2291.

Fun facts about Colchester

- The first class at St. Michael's College was enrolled in 1904, and was founded by the Fathers of St. Edmund. Today, the college has a total undergraduate enrollment of 1,902 and the campus size is 440 acres. Tuition and fees are \$43,640.

- The first Boy Scout Troop in Colchester was organized in 1930 by S. Ritchie Low, who was the pastor of the United Church. Interestingly, the very first Boy Scout troop in the United States was organized in Barre, Vermont, in 1909 by William Foster Milne, a stonecutter from Scotland. It was sponsored by the Barre Baptist Church.

Blast from the past

This photo from the late 1800s shows William and Mertie Munson leaving their home on a cold winter's day. Their home was located on Munson Road, just off Route 7, and still stands. The Munsons were headed for Burlington via their one-horse open sleigh. From *Images of America – Colchester*, Arcadia Publishing, by Inge Shaefer, with permission.



Colchester Historical Society Officers, 2017-2018

President: Nancy Burke
Vice President: Suzanne Furst
Treasurer/Director/Webmaster: Bob Furst
Secretary/Director: Coralie Magoon
Director: Carol Reichard

Newsletter compiled by Bonnie Potter

Becoming a member of the Colchester Historical Society is easy and inexpensive! Find out more [here](#).