



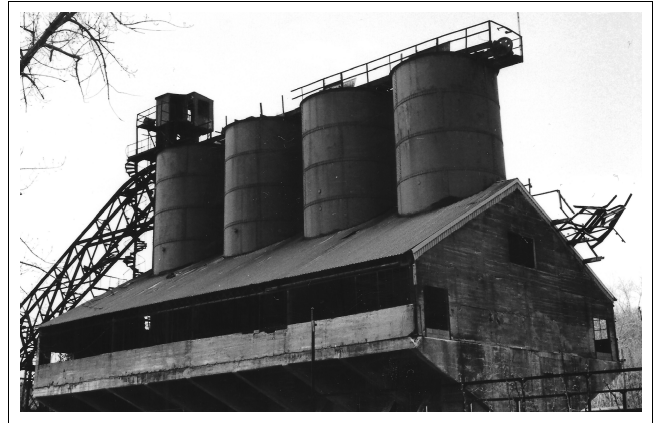
Newsletter

Colchester Vermont Historical Society

Spring 2018

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- ♦ **Marble Quarries and Lime Kilns
in Colchester**
Monday, May 14, 7 p.m.

Upcoming meetings and programs:

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

- ♦ **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.

What is in a name? Why is there a place called Marble Island in Malletts Bay? What was going on at Lime Kiln Road? There is little evidence today of the reasons for the names of these places, but they are historically important to Colchester. Local historians Ruth Wright and Inge Schaefer refer to them in their books. Bob Furst began looking into these places to learn more about them and will present what he has found so far.

- ♦ **Membership potluck dinner/picnic**
Monday, June 11, 6 p.m.

For more information, please call Suzanne Furst, 802-658-3706.

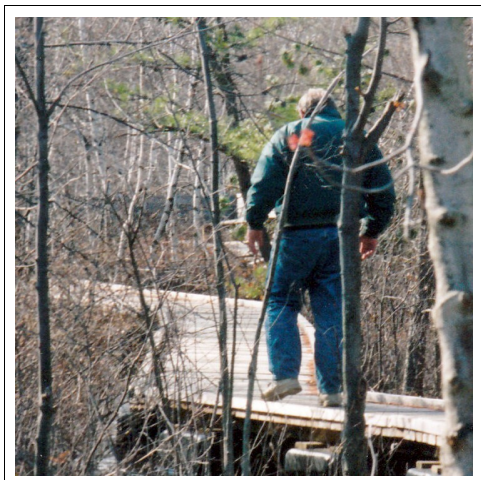


Spring Has Sprung



While many of us enjoy gardening, the days of using a horse-drawn hand plow are probably not what we have in mind! This photo (circa 1940) shows Joyce Severance Sweeney on horseback. Handling the plow was her father, John Herbert Severance. The farm was located on the corner of Route 7 and Severance Road, also known as Severance Corners. In later years, Joyce became Colchester Town Clerk/Treasurer, Auditor, and Cemetery Commissioner. (Photo courtesy of the Severance family and Inge Schaefer.)

Pictured below is Hank Schaefer on the boardwalk of Colchester Bog at Airport Park, in the spring of 1996. (Photo courtesy of Inge Schaefer.)



With the help of The Nature Conservancy, the University of Vermont acquired 180 acres in 1973 and has since managed them as the Colchester Bog Natural Area. The area consists of an open peatland, shrub and tree dominated swamps, open water areas called lags, a sand dune, and several adjacent uplands. The Bog itself consists of a forest dominated by a dense thicket of shrubs and trees and an open mat of sphagnum moss and sedges.

Click [here](#) for more information about Colchester Bog, a map and directions. Maybe you'll hear some peepers on your visit this spring!

Found! A Malletts Bay Treasure



This vintage milk bottle was found in an old farmhouse in Huntington that had recently been purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Dave Gratton. After online research, Dave was unable to find information about it, and approached the Colchester Vermont Historical Society for help. The embossment reads:

One Quart
Liquid
Parsons & Porter
Sand Dunes Farm
Mallets Bay, VT

Bob Furst of our Historical Society contacted Jed Ruhl and Pat Porter who provided some important historical details. Jed learned from his uncle that this milk bottle pre-dates his great great grandfather whose name was Charlie Parsons who owned Sand Dunes Farm in 1850. He indicated the Parsons and Porters had adjoining farms at the time. Pat Porter added that Mr. Porter had come to Colchester from Connecticut and that Porters Point and Colchester Point were provided as payment for a surveying job he did in 1810. Pat Parsons' husband remembered his grandfather delivering milk to residents on the lake in a rowboat! Sadly, after two outbreaks of "bangs disease", also known as Brucellosis of cattle, the dairy farm was closed in the 1920s. It was later a turkey farm until the 1960s.

Anyone with further knowledge and/or photos of Sand Dunes Farm is encouraged to contact Dave Gratton at dgratton@gmavt.net.

Opening Day at Vermont State Historic Sites



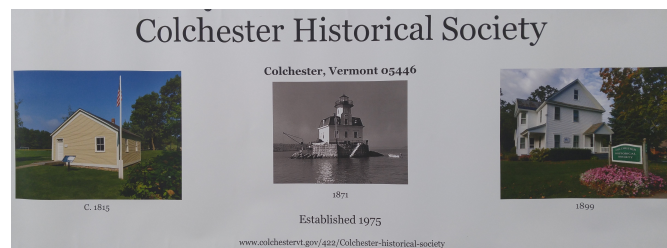
Vermont boasts a rich and rewarding historical heritage. Today, that history is well preserved in an exceptional collection of state historic sites spanning the length of the state. There are lots of interesting things to see and do! Opening day of Vermont State Historic Sites is May 26. Learn [more](#).

News and updates at your fingertips

Visit the Colchester Historical Society's [web site](#) to stay up to date on news and programs. There are also some fabulous vintage photos!



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



We are happy and proud to present our new promotional banner! Watch for it around town at local events.

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](#).