



# Newsletter

Colchester Vermont Historical Society

Autumn 2018

- Upcoming Meetings and Programs:**
- ♦ **Appraisal Night!**  
**Meeting House on Main Street**  
**May (date to be determined)**  
Appraiser: Kyle Scanlon of  
Vermont Estate Services



- ♦ **Please wear your “thinking caps” to this very special meeting!**  
**Monday, September 10, 7 p.m.**  
Presenter: Carol Reichard
- ♦ **Field trip to Chimney Point and Crown Point**  
**October (date to be decided at September meeting)**
- ♦ **WW II Prisoner of War Journal**  
**Monday, November 12, 7 p.m.**  
Speaker: Lt. Richard J. Heh
- ♦ **Christmas Party**  
**Tuesday, December 11, 7 p.m.**  
**Red Brick Church**  
Colchester High School Choral Groups
- ♦ **Business Meeting**  
**Saturday, January 12, 10 a.m.**
- ♦ **History of the Heineberg Bridge**  
**Saturday, February 9, 10 a.m.**  
Speaker: Reid Allen
- ♦ **History of Fort Ethan Allen at Fort Ethan Allen**  
**Saturday, March 9, 10 a.m.**  
Speaker: Dr. Will Parkinson
- ♦ **Lang Family Camp**  
**Monday, April 8, 7 p.m.**  
Speaker: Martha Reeves Lang

- ♦ **Monday, June 10, 6 p.m.**  
**Annual Meeting and Barbecue**

**Please note:** Unless otherwise indicated, programs are held at the Colchester Historical Society building at 828 Main Street. Refreshments are available, and a short business meeting follows. Parking and admission are free; donations are always appreciated. Hope to see you there!

## In Case You Missed It...



- Cemeteries hold lots of historical information and stories! Explore [“The Cemeteries of Colchester”](#) by local historian Inge Schaefer in the *Burlington Free Press History Space* published on July 1.

- Remember this old advertising jingle?  
“Let’s go to a movie,  
Let’s go to a show!  
Let’s make the scene  
at the silver screen,  
Let’s go to a movie tonight!”



Colchester’s [Sunset Drive-in theater](#) celebrates 70 years this year, and it’s only one of three remaining in Vermont (the others are in Bethel and Fairlee). Read [“Reel Deal”](#) by Madeline Clark in the *Colchester Sun*, published July 12.

- The Vermont Genealogy Library, located on Hegeman Avenue here in Colchester, now offers classes and research materials to help people find their ancestors, regardless of ethnicity. In "[Filling the Family Tree](#)," (August 26 issue of the *Burlington Free Press*), read stories demonstrating the variety of journeys taken by others while exploring their own family histories.

Historical Society saved the old log schoolhouse (now situated at Airport Park), please click [here](#).



### Back to School, Back in Time

The end of summer means it's time for back to school. This photo shows students at play outside the old town hall on Main Street, which also served as a schoolhouse and was referred to as "District No. 1 School" or "The Colchester Academy."



In 1850, the school's male teachers were paid \$65 for 14 weeks of work, while female teachers were paid \$24 for 16 weeks. Wood for heat cost \$12.50, so to educate 77 students that year, \$99.50 was spent. The school tax for the year 1865-1866 was 40 cents in that district.

How times have changed!

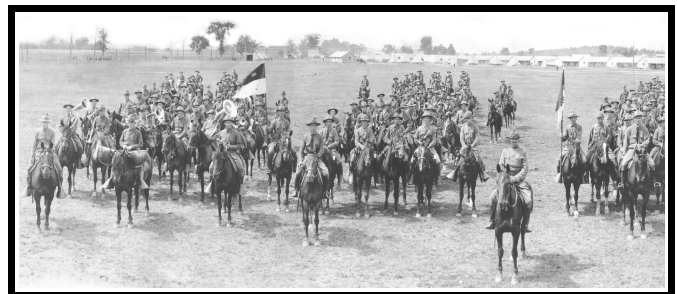
(From *Images of America – Colchester*, by Inge Schaefer, Arcadia Publishing, 2003)

For more vintage images of Colchester schools, please visit the [gallery](#) on our web site. And, to learn how the Colchester

### In Honor of Military Veterans



The 3<sup>rd</sup> U.S. Cavalry moved to Fort Ethan Allen in 1894 and arrived in two trains – one for the horses and the other for the men. On the event of the Spanish-American War in 1898, they were transferred, and the fort became a mobilization point for the Vermont National Guard.



Legislators John Stewart and Justin Morrill had persuaded the U.S. Congress in 1892 that a fort east of the Mississippi near Lake Champlain had strategic military importance. The Colchester site was ultimately selected for its accessibility to railroad links extending to the south and east.

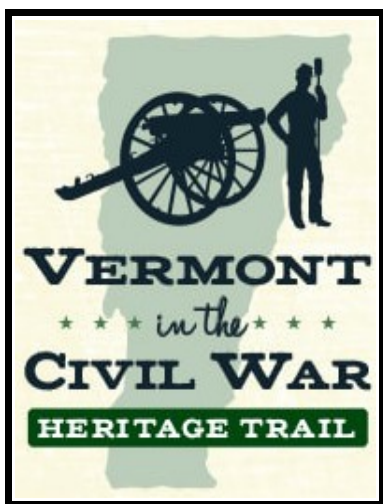
Because of the stimulation it brought to the local economy, the stipulation that the land had

to be donated free of charge to the U.S. government drew the energetic support of Dr. W. Seward Webb of Shelburne and the Central Vermont Railroad, who, along with several other local business people, pledged money for the land purchase.

The fort was named after Ethan Allen, the leader of the Green Mountain Boys.

(From *Images of America – Colchester*, by Inge Schaefer, Arcadia Publishing, 2003).

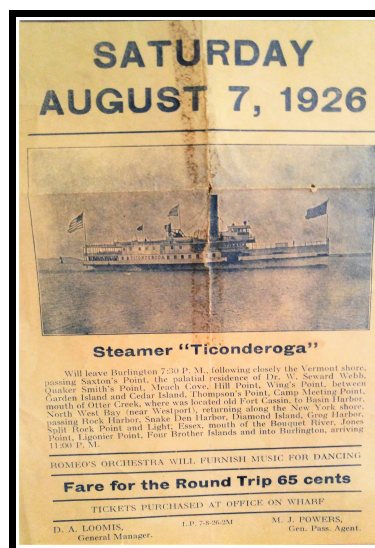
### Travel Vermont's Heritage Trail



If you're touring around enjoying Vermont's beautiful foliage this autumn, consider U.S. Route 7's Heritage Trail. Explore museums, historic sites, and exhibits while learning more about Vermont's important role in the American Civil War.

Visit the Heritage trail [web site](#) for more information. You can even download the brochure and map under "Locations."

### A Round-Trip Ticket for 65 Cents...



... and that included music and dancing! This is an ad from 1926 for a lake cruise on the "[Ticonderoga](#)," now an incredible exhibit at the Shelburne Museum.

### 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! On Facebook, be sure to "Like" and "Follow" [Colchester Vermont Historical Society](#).

Becoming a member of the Colchester Historical Society is very easy and inexpensive. Please help sustain Colchester's amazing history by joining in on the fun and activities. Find out more [here](#).

### Colchester Historical Society Officers 2018-2019

President: Nancy Burke  
Vice President: Bonnie Potter  
Treasurer/Director/Webmaster: Bob Furst  
Secretary/Director: Coralie Magoon  
Director: Carol Reichard  
Newsletter and Facebook page compiled by Bonnie Potter.