



Newsletter

Colchester Vermont Historical Society

Summer, 2019

Visit the Log Schoolhouse This Summer



Find out what this object is when you visit the old Log Schoolhouse this summer.

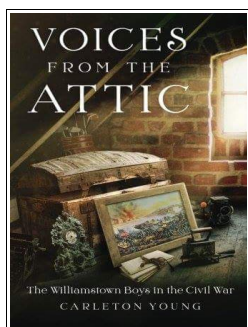
The Colchester Log Schoolhouse is a fun, free and convenient stop for visitors. Open each Friday - Monday all summer, 10 a.m – 2 p.m., this amazing historical exhibit garners *thousands* of visitors. It's located at Airport Park near the recreation path.

More volunteers are needed this summer to host this lovely historical site and visitor center. It's a wonderful family volunteer and educational opportunity!

To volunteer and to find out more, please contact Carol Reichard at 802-497-3036.

Upcoming Programs and Meetings:

- ♦ **Monday, September 9, 7 p.m.**
Presenter: Carlton Young, Ph.D.



Come hear the stories of two Vermont soldiers who served in the Civil War. Inside a wooden box in his parents' attic, Dr. Young found 250 letters these brothers had written. They were members of the Vermont Brigade, the only

brigade in the Union Army consisting of men from only one state. This brigade became renowned for their courage and fighting ability. They fought in many of the most famous battles of the Civil War, and suffered more casualties than any other brigade in the war.

- ♦ **Tuesday, October 15, 8:30 a.m.**



Historical Society members look forward to a trip every autumn to a site of historical interest. This year, we plan to visit the [Vermont Granite Museum](#) in Barre, plus a side trip to the famous Hope Cemetery. We'll meet at 282 Main Street for carpooling. Participants are responsible for lunch expense and the \$5 museum admission fee.

- ♦ **American Legion – 100 Years!**
Monday, November 11 – 7:00 p.m.



The [American Legion](#) was chartered by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic veterans organization. Over the years, the Legion has influenced considerable social change in America, won hundreds of benefits for veterans, and produced many programs for children and youth. Join us for this special Veterans Day program to learn about Colchester's local Post 91 and the 100-year history of the American Legion.

- ♦ **Christmas Party and Concert**
Tuesday, December 10, 7 p.m.
United Church of Colchester
900 Main Street



Welcome the holiday season with this festive event, featuring Colchester High School choral groups. Refreshments and fellowship follow the concert.

- ♦ **Saturday, January 11, 10 a.m.**
Dick Mazza's Transportation Exhibit
777 West Lakeshore Drive



If you have an interest in muscle cars, Corvettes, and 1950s memorabilia, you will not want to miss this program. Colchester businessman Dick Mazza has an amazing collection of cars, farm equipment and memorabilia. He probably has a few great stories to tell as well.

- ♦ **Saturday, February 8, 10 a.m.**



We are excited to present our first special Valentine's Day program featuring [Vermont](#)

[Nut Free Chocolates](#)! Learn about the history of chocolate making as well as the history behind this family-owned, family-run Colchester business.

- ♦ **Saturday, March 14, 10 a.m.**
St. Michael's College Fire & Rescue
Donald E. Sutton Firehouse
220 College Parkway



Now celebrating its 50th anniversary, [Saint Michael's Fire and Rescue](#) is dedicated to providing the highest quality professional fire and emergency medical services and education for the campus and communities it serves. Saint Michael's Fire and Rescue is proudly staffed and managed by members of the Saint Michael's College community.

Come hear their stories and learn their history at our March gathering. They are excited to show us their newly restored original fire truck, a 1957 Ward LaFrance.

Please note: *Unless otherwise indicated, programs and meetings are held at the Historical Society building, 828 Main Street. Parking, admission and refreshments are free; donations are always appreciated. Hope to see you there!*



Recent Programs:



Violet Reeves (2nd from right) wading in Lake Champlain with friends from nursing school. In those days, swim attire was rather modest and made with wool!

At our April meeting, we enjoyed photos and and lively, fun stories from Martha Reeves Lang about the very early days (1920s) of camping on Spaulding's West Shore in Malletts Bay. For more photos and information, please visit the article she wrote for History Space in the [Burlington Free Press](#).



*Suzanne Furst and Mike Heath take a look at this lovely vintage woven blanket.
(below) A beautiful antique serving bowl.*

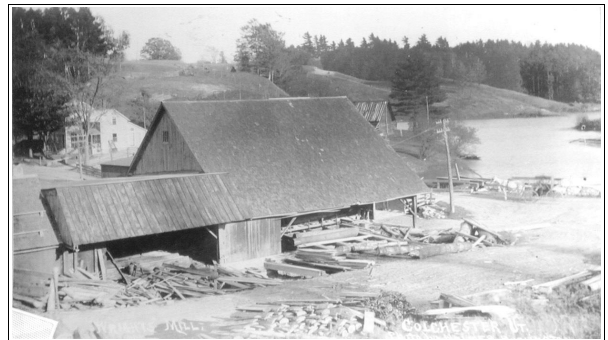
In May, the Burnham Memorial Library co-hosted our first Antique Appraisal Night. Peter O'Brien and Mike Heath of Estate Sales & Consignments here in Colchester shared their expertise and advice on many treasures brought along to the event by participants.



Special thanks to our volunteer gardeners for lovely early summer blooms!

Our Annual Barbecue and Annual Meeting was held on the lovely grounds of our Main Street Building on June 10. Following the meal, we conducted a short business meeting and discussed ideas for upcoming programs.

Mill Pond Dam Removal Project



The former saw mill on Mill Pond Road.

Since about 1800, there have been mill dams on Indian Brook where it is crossed by Mill Pond Road in Colchester. The current dam was built in the 19th Century and powered sawmills until the mill burned in 1941. The dam was abandoned, has not been maintained, and has been slowly deteriorating. There is a risk the dam could fail, releasing water and sediment that would cause property damage and environmental harm downstream.

The owner is working with the Vermont Natural Resources Council to remove the dam and a portion of the impounded sediment later this summer. The Council is documenting the mill's history and this Mill Pond dam project. Once completed, the data

and photos will be provided to the Colchester Historical Society to be added to our Web site to ensure public access, now and for years to come.

Click [here](#) for more information about dam removal and this project.

Fond Memories from a Former Resident



Joy Lynne Banach Roy recently visited the Colchester Historical Society Building on Main Street. She lived in this house with Parson Olson and his family back in the 1970s when she was a teen. Joy remembers the cemetery view from this bedroom she shared with their daughter Karen. She has fond memories of playing on the lawn and in the Meeting House building next door, and also remembers lots of music in the home.

Joy is very pleased this historic building has been saved and is now the home of the Colchester Historical Society.

Joy and husband Ed now reside in Texas, but are enjoying a retirement life of RV traveling.

Check Out the Vermont African American Heritage Trail



This Vermont Historic Marker is located at Fort Ethan Allen in Colchester.

The Vermont African American Heritage Trail explores the stories of early African American

settlers. The guide takes visitors to Vermont museums and cultural sites where exhibits, films, tours, and personal explorations illuminate the lives of African Americans for whom the Green Mountain State was part of their identity. Visitors meet teachers, storytellers, activists, ministers, and legislators who bring this important history to life. Download the brochure [here](#).

Vermont Joins DPLA



The Vermont Historical Society is excited to be a part of the Green Mountain Digital Archive group, the latest service hub of the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA), which connects people to digitally-available photos, maps, documents, books, artwork, and more.

Search all of the DPLA collections [here](#). You can also access the Vermont Historical Society's digital collections [directly](#).

News and Updates at your Fingertips

On Facebook, be sure to "Like" and "Follow" [Colchester Vermont Historical Society](#). Visit the Colchester Historical Society's [web site](#) to stay up to date on news and programs and view some fabulous vintage photos.

Please help sustain Colchester's wonderful local 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: (vacancy)
Director: Carol Reichard
Newsletter and Facebook page by Bonnie Potter