



# Newsletter

Colchester Vermont Historical Society

Winter 2020

## Upcoming Events and Programs:

**Please note:** Unless otherwise indicated, events and programs 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!

- ♦ **Saturday, February 8, 10 a.m.**  
**Vermont Nut Free Chocolates**  
**Presenter: Mark T. Elvidge, President/CEO**



We are excited to present our first special Valentine's Day program featuring [Vermont Nut Free Chocolates](#). Please join us to 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 50<sup>th</sup> 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.

- ♦ **"A View from Inside the State Capital"**  
**Monday, April 13, 7 p.m.**  
**Presenter: Rep. Curt Taylor**



Join us for a little history about how laws are made in Vermont and what new laws were enacted during this most recent Legislative session.

- ♦ **Monday, May 11, (time to be determined)**  
**Field Trip to Birds of Vermont Museum**



We are looking forward to a spring field trip to the [Birds of Vermont Museum](#). We'll learn about its history, view the exhibits and find out what's new. This museum provides education to nurture an appreciation of the environment, and to study birds and their habitats using woodcarvings and other resources. Meet at 828 Main Street for carpooling to Huntington. Participants are responsible for museum admission fee and lunch.

♦ **Monday, June 8, 6 p.m.**  
**Annual Meeting and Barbecue**



Members and invited guests enjoy this annual event for a look back over the past year and to plan events for next year. Always casual and fun!

**Recent Events and Programs:**



*Standing, left to right:  
Annette Mulcahy, Tom and Georgene Raub,*

Scott McLaughlin, Executive Director of the [Vermont Granite Museum](#) in Barre, gave our Historical Society members a very educational tour on October 15. In the photo above, he shows and describes several granite surface finishing options. For more photos and information about this event, please visit our [Facebook page](#). Afterwards, we took a drive through Hope Cemetery – an amazing outdoor granite exhibition of granite art, then enjoyed a nice meal at The Wayside Diner followed by a scenic foliage ride home.

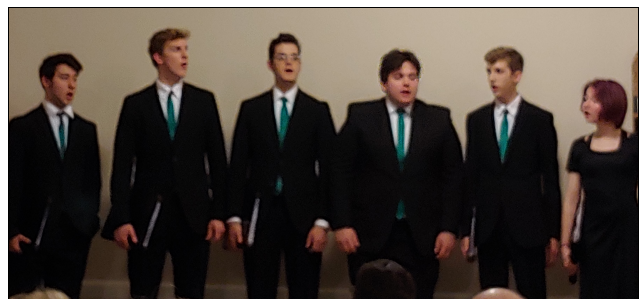
In honor of Veterans Day in November, we celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the [American Legion](#) (including the Auxiliary) and the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Colchester's Post 91 – the second largest post in Vermont. Past Post Commander Barbara Beshaw shared inspiring stories about the challenges faced during the history of Post 91, including a devastating electrical fire that destroyed the building in 2009,

and how the members rebuilt and moved forward. American Legion members support a broad array of causes – housing, food, clothing, and transportation for veterans, job training programs, Special Olympics, Boys & Girls State, youth baseball, educational scholarships, holiday toy drives, and more.



*Past Post 91 Commander Barbara Beshaw.*

In December, we welcomed the holiday season with a beautiful Concert and Christmas Party at Colchester's lovely historical United Church of Colchester. Glorious music was provided by the Colchester High School Chorale and Chamber Singers, under the direction of Melissa Towle and accompanied by Marne Lopez on piano. The concert was followed by quantities of wonderful food provided by ladies of the church and Historical Society members.







Carol Reichard leads the Colchester Community Chorus during a recent rehearsal. (Photo and information courtesy of Avalon Ashley of the Colchester Sun.)

The December 12 issue of the [Colchester Sun](#) honored Colchester resident Carol Reichard with a feature story entitled “Decades of Music.” Carol has conducted the Colchester Community Chorus for 35 years. She has been playing piano and organ for at least 70 years. She's a busy lady, for sure. Carol is also one of the original founders and active member of the Colchester Historical Society. Thank you, Carol, for *all* you do!

### Colchester Students -- Participate in Vermont History Day!

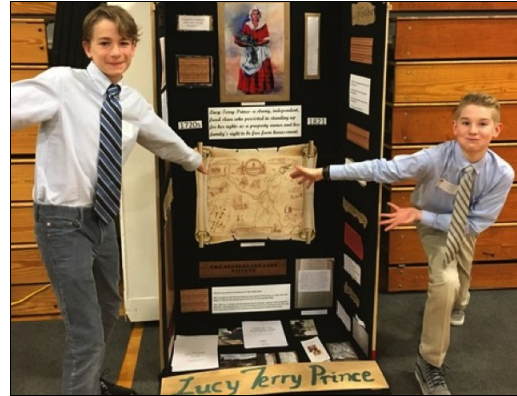
Vermont History Day is an exciting education program that encourages students to develop research and critical thinking skills through project-based learning and the study of history. It also provides students the opportunity to share their projects at the annual state contest. Vermont History Day is affiliated with National History Day.

The state contest is scheduled for Saturday, April 4, 2020, at the University of Vermont Davis Center in Burlington. The theme is “Breaking Barriers in History.”

Students conduct research online and in libraries, museums, historical societies, and interview experts on their topic. Using evidence from primary sources, the students share their knowledge in the format of their choice – exhibits, websites, documentaries, performances, or papers. The entries are then judged by local historians, educators, and other professionals.

Through their work, the students gain a deeper understanding of how people, cultures, and events affect the course of history.

Visit the [Vermont Historical Society's web page](#) for more details about how to participate.



Two students from Vergennes Union Middle School were first-place winners in a previous year. Wouldn't it be wonderful to see some Colchester winners in 2020?

### Historical Society Membership

New members are always welcome and membership dues are very affordable. Please take a moment to [sign up](#) in support of Colchester's wonderful local history. There are also many interesting volunteer opportunities available.

### 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 to view some fabulous vintage photos.

### 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