



# Newsletter

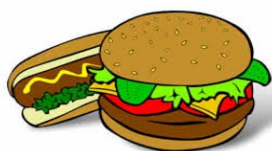
Colchester Vermont Historical Society

Spring 2020

## Upcoming Events and Programs

Due to the current coronavirus pandemic, our Spring events and programs are canceled or postponed until further notice. Please stay informed on our [Web site](#) and [Facebook page](#) for updates as they become available.

- ♦ **Monday, June 8, 6 p.m.**  
**828 Main Street**  
**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! What – not a member yet? Please see page 3 of this newsletter to learn how to sign up. It's easy and very inexpensive.

## Recent Events and Programs



*From left: Carmen Brunelle, Annette Mulcahy, Clinton Reichard, Dick Mazza, Pat and Bob Carman chat about the vehicles in the collection.*

Our January program was held at the showroom of a private transportation collection here in town. Local businessman Dick Mazza treated us to a very special tour of his building that took us back in time. We also enjoyed refreshments at "Dick & Dolly's Diner" – a fun and lovely replica of a 1950s soda fountain shop, complete with black and white tiled floors and Coca Cola memorabilia.

We enjoyed a special Valentine's Day program in February featuring a family-owned, family-run Colchester business. Mark T. Elvidge, President/CEO of [Vermont Nut Free Chocolates](#) presented information about the history of chocolate making as well as the history behind his business. He brought delicious, free samples, too!



## Vermont History Day Update



*Vermont History Day winners from a previous year.*

The Vermont Historical Society has done some fancy scrambling and organization to re-schedule the in-person Vermont History Day originally set for April 4. Because of the current health pandemic, this event will now be held as a virtual event the week of May 2. This year's theme is "Breaking Barriers in History."

Colchester Historical Society's vice president Bonnie L. Potter has been selected to serve as one of the judges. "I'm excited about this event," said Bonnie. "It's my first time being involved in this state-wide student event, and I'm curious to see how the students present their work and what they've learned."

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.

Students conduct online research and interview experts on their chosen topic. Then, they will share their knowledge in a format that may include exhibits,

web sites, documentaries, performances, or papers. Students gain a deeper understanding of how people, cultures and events affect the course of history. Winners will be awarded special prizes.

To learn more about this event, please visit the [Vermont History Day web site](#).



## Summer Volunteers Needed



The Colchester Historical Society welcomes and encourages you to become a volunteer this summer at the Log Schoolhouse located at Airport Park. This lovely historical site and visitor center offers wonderful family volunteer and educational opportunities.

The Schoolhouse is open each Friday – Monday, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., throughout the summer, and volunteer hours are flexible.

To learn more, please contact Carol Reichard at 802-497-3036.

*“Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections once a year, but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in.”*

– Unknown

## Count Yourself In!

The first U.S. Census began more than a year after the inauguration of President Washington and shortly before the second session of the first Congress ended. Congress assigned responsibility for the 1790 census to the marshals of the U.S. judicial districts under an act which governed census taking through 1840. The law required that every household be visited, that completed census schedules be posted in "two of the most public places within [each jurisdiction], there to remain for the inspection of all concerned..." and that "the aggregate amount of each description of persons" for every district be transmitted to the president. More historical details are available on the [U.S. Census web site](#).

On a local level, the first U.S. Census recorded only 137 people living in Colchester, Vermont. The Vermont Historical Society provided these statistics for all the U.S. Census years:

Census Year	Colchester Residents
1791	137
1800	347
1810	659
1820	1192
1830	1489
1840	1739
1850	2575
1860	3041
1870	3911
1880	4421
1890	5143
1900	5352

1910	6450
1920	6627
1930	2638
1940	3031
1950	3897
1960	4718
1970	8776
1980	12629
1990	14731
2000	16986
2010	17067

So now is our opportunity to make history again for the 2020 U.S. Census by counting yourself in. Why is this important? It's history in the making!

Over the next decade, lawmakers, business owners, and many others will use 2020 Census data to make critical decisions. Results of the U.S. 2020 Census will influence individuals, communities, governments, for-profit entities, and nonprofit organizations. Data obtained will inform decision makers in all sectors and lead to allocation of political power and financial resources. If the data are wrong, there will be inequitable distribution of resources for basic community needs, such as education, food and income security, health care, housing, transportation, and much more.

The results will also inform how hundreds of billions of dollars in federal funding are allocated to more than 100 programs, including Medicaid, Head Start, block grants for community mental health services, and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, also known as SNAP.

Your information is confidential and is only used to produce statistics. And, the Census Bureau will **never** ask you for your Social Security number, your bank or credit card numbers, anything on behalf of a political party, money or donations.

If you haven't already done so, you can learn more about the 2020 Census and how to count yourself in by visiting [2020census.gov](https://2020census.gov).

## In Case You Missed It

The *Colchester Sun* newspaper recently covered two articles pertaining to Colchester history. Using the supplied links, read the stories and view the photos.

- ♦ January 18, 2020 issue – [“Historical Society Remembers Mill Pond Dam”](#). This is a very short history about the dam and information about its removal over the summer of 2019.
- ♦ March 8, 2020 issue - [“Women's History Month: the Life of Sabra Collins Bates.”](#) In the early 1900s, Sabra Collins organized a class of young men to give them an opportunity to study the teachings of the Bible, socialize, and become doers of the First Congregational Church of Colchester (now known as the United Church of Colchester) as well as the Colchester community.

## 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 photographs.

## Colchester Historical Society Officers 2019-2020

President: Nancy Burke  
Vice President: Bonnie Potter  
Treasurer/Director/Webmaster: Bob Furst  
Secretary: (vacancy)  
Director: Carol Reichard  
Newsletter and Facebook page by Bonnie Potter