



Newsletter

Colchester Vermont Historical Society

Winter 2021

Upcoming Events and Programs

As the COVID-19 health pandemic continues, the Colchester Historical Society will not be hosting any in-person meetings before March – and perhaps a little longer.

We have several program ideas in mind but are interested to know if *you* have any ideas or requests, especially for a program that could be conducted via the Zoom video conferencing computer application.

Please email Bob Furst with your program ideas at bobfurst@comcast.net.

Still in the Works

Plans and work are still underway to provide some additional Colchester historical resources:

◆ **A self-guided driving tour of local historical sites.** You probably already have seen most of Colchester's local historical sites. Or have you? During this health pandemic time when people are eager for something interesting to do – but safely – we're hoping a self-guided driving tour of several local historical sites will provide an opportunity to get out and enjoy, but also to have fun and to learn.

◆ **A video tour of the Parsonage in Colchester Village.** This video tour is being considered, with the assistance of LCATV. We just need to get through this pandemic, then need a volunteer or two to make it happen.

Our Facebook Followers Exceed 500



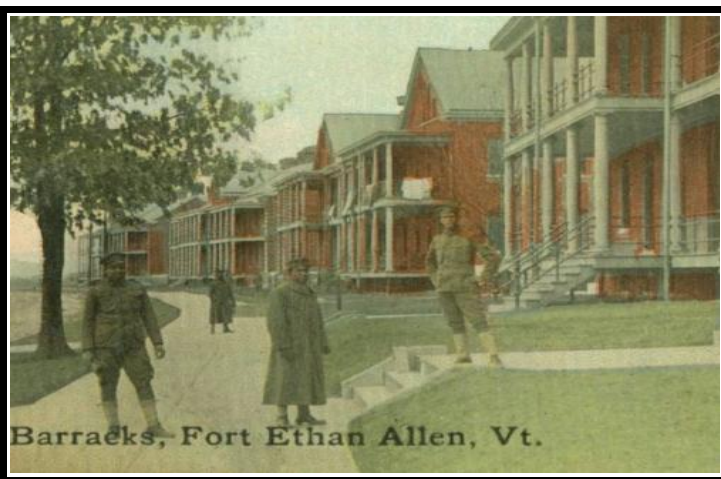
Yay! Our dedicated Facebook page has exceeded 500 followers – we're at 546, to be exact. Followers from Colchester number 213, and there more than

100 people from other parts of Chittenden County. Additional followers come from other Vermont counties, many from other states, and even a few foreign countries. Women followers make up 58%; men come in at 42%.

New Facebook followers are always welcome. Join in for weekly postings featuring updates on programs and meetings, vintage photographs, historical information, helpful resources, recipes, anecdotes, and more. You can ask questions and offer your Colchester historical photos and experiences. On Facebook, just search for Colchester Vermont Historical Society (If you don't specify Colchester, Vermont, you'll end up on the Colchester, Connecticut, page), then simply click on "Like."

We hope to see you there!

**Register Now for Free Presentation:
Colchester's Famous Buffalo Soldiers
- February 18 at noon on Zoom**



In July 1909, the Tenth United States Cavalry Regiment, one of four regular Army black regiments collectively known as the Buffalo Soldiers, arrived in Colchester to begin a four-year tour of duty at Fort Ethan Allen.

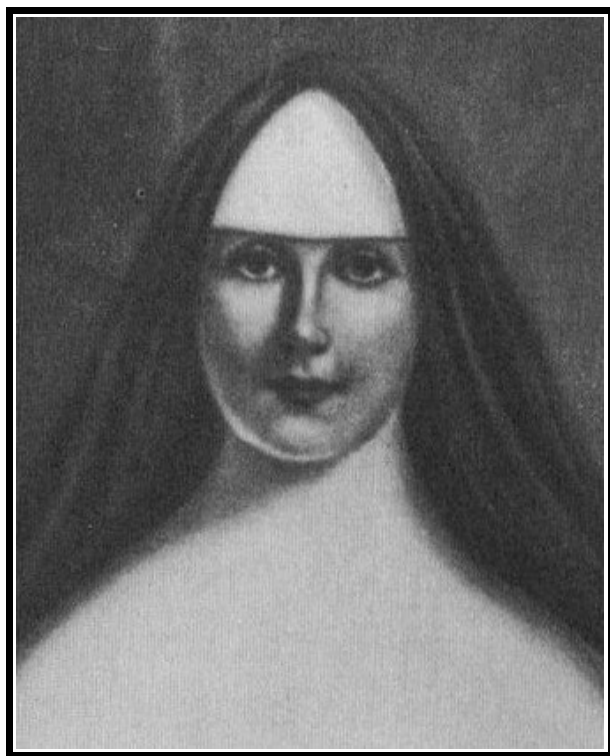
Their arrival alarmed the almost exclusively white population. Many people feared the presence of sizable numbers of African American soldiers in their community, and a bitter debate ensued over whether the city should adopt Jim Crow facilities.

For the next four years, the Tenth Cavalry would encounter similar reactions as it traveled throughout the Northeast and as far south as Winchester, Virginia. Wherever they went, the black soldiers faced fear and suspicion and had to demonstrate good behavior to win the acceptance of the white population.

The presenter is David Work, who holds a doctorate in American history. He currently teaches at Tacoma Community College in Washington.

For more information and to register, please visit the Vermont Historical Society [website](#).

March is Women's History Month: Fanny Allen, 1784 - 1810



Frances (Fanny) Margaret Allen, daughter of Vermont's most famous Revolutionary War hero Ethan Allen, was the inspiration for the founding of Fanny Allen Hospital in Colchester. She was the first woman born in Vermont to enter the order of the Religious Hospitaliers of St. Joseph at the Hotel Dieu in Montreal.

Tuberculosis took her life at only age 26, but her memory was preserved in the hearts of the women of her congregation in Montreal as well as in the hearts of many Vermonters who were

edified, inspired, and converted to a deeper faith by Fanny's life's example. The hospital is known today as the Fanny Allen Campus and is part of the UVM Medical Center.

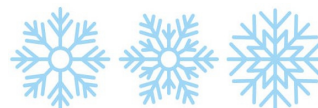
Interestingly, Fanny Allen was not interred in the Fanny Allen Cemetery here in Colchester, but beneath the chapel of Hotel Dieu in Montreal.

Sources: *Walking in the Spirit – Fanny Allen Hospital 1894-1994*, by Michael J. Healy (1993, Fanny Allen Hospital, Colchester, Vermont 05446) and [FindAGrave.com](#).

Acquisitioned Item:



The Colchester Historical Society recently acquired this lovely metal basket from a Kansas donor. It once belonged to Arthur W. Howard, who served as the local postmaster 1880-1885.



"History gives us the opportunity to learn from past mistakes. It helps us understand the many reasons why people may behave the way they do. As a result, it helps us become more compassionate as people and more impartial as decision makers."

- Arcadia Publishing

Town Receives Lighthouse Model



This beautiful replica of the Colchester Reef Lighthouse was built by Thomas C. Raub and recently donated to the Town of Colchester by the Thomas J. Raub family in memory of their son and brother, Bill. Tragically, Bill died at age 35 when his ultralight aircraft crashed at the Highgate airport in 1993.

Many years ago, Tom C. had made a similar version. Coming from a family of sailing enthusiasts, he had grown up with a special appreciation for Lake Champlain and its history. The lighthouse model was placed in the front yard of their home on West Lakeshore Drive. It was also once used by the Colchester Historical Society for its display at a meeting of Vermont's historical societies held in Tunbridge.

Its popularity prompted Tom C. to build a second lighthouse. That one was donated to the town in June of 2013, and the Historical Society became its steward. It was placed on the Main Street Parsonage lawn for display; however, Vermont weather was unkind to the lighthouse, and major restoration was needed.

Recently, Tom undertook that project. Upon closer examination, he realized the better plan would be to rebuild a new lighthouse from scratch. The new lighthouse model was delivered to the town administrative offices on December 16, 2020, where it will be on indoor display, along with a descriptive plaque.



The Raub family with lighthouse model (left to right): Linda Raub Noyes, Thomas J. Raub, Georgie Raub, Kelley Raub, lighthouse builder Tom C. Raub, Alex Raub and Nikki Centerbar. Thomas and Georgie are long-time members of the Colchester Historical Society.

The actual Colchester Reef Lighthouse, was constructed in 1870-71 at a cost of \$24,500 – the most expensive light built on Lake Champlain. It served as the home and workplace of 11 successive keepers and their families. In 1933, the lighthouse was decommissioned and was abandoned. In 1952, the lighthouse was dismantled from its site on the lake and reconstructed at Shelburne Museum where it is on permanent display and open to the public.

A sketch of the Colchester Reef Lighthouse serves as the logo for the Colchester Historical Society (see page one of this newsletter).

For more information about the Colchester Reef Lighthouse, please visit the Shelburne Museum [website](#).

News and Updates at Your Fingertips

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

Colchester Historical Society Officers 2020-2021

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