



# Newsletter

Colchester Vermont Historical Society

Autumn 2021

## MEMBERSHIP INFO!

Dues are now due! If you are not yet a member, or if your membership has lapsed, we welcome you to our history-loving group. Current members are reminded that dues are now due. Fees are very reasonable and help support our work in preserving and sharing Colchester's significant local history.

Single: \$5.00

Family: \$10.00

Single Lifetime: \$100.00

Please access our membership form and more information [here](#).

As an added bonus this year, your membership entitles you to *free admission* to the [Local & Lively Exhibit](#) at the Vermont History Museum in Montpelier throughout the month of October. The exhibit features Colchester's Log Schoolhouse.

## Summer at the Log Schoolhouse



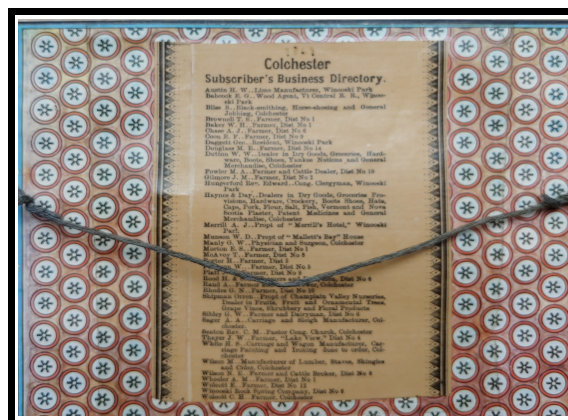
The historic Log Schoolhouse located at Airport Park was closed during the summer of 2020 due to the Covid pandemic. It was re-opened on weekends this summer during July and August, and we were pleased to welcome many people to this little museum and visitor center. The 2022 season is expected to begin in June, and we encourage more volunteers to sign up as weekend hosts.

## Recent Acquisition

We were very pleased to recently receive this framed map of "Colchester Centre" dated 1869. Summer resident Laurette Sweet found this adorable little treasure approximately ten years ago while shopping for a picture frame at the Habitat For Humanity ReStore in Williston. Laurette rescued it for only \$1 and enjoyed it until recently when she decided to give it a permanent, appreciated home with the Colchester Historical Society. Laurette is originally from Bradford, Vermont, but these days lives in South Carolina and has returned to Malletts Bay every summer for the past 22 years. She and her husband both very much enjoy history.



Laurette Sweet shows the little framed map she donated to the Colchester Historical Society.



On the back of the frame, many local farmers of the time are listed in the "Colchester Subscriber's Business Directory."

## Volunteer Recognition



*Long-time volunteers Suzanne and Bob Furst.*

The August 15 *Town Newsletter* shone its spotlight on Colchester Historical Society volunteers Bob and Suzanne Furst.

Suzanne, a past president of our organization, currently serves as chair of the program committee and helps organize programs and group trips of historical interest for our members. Bob serves as treasurer and as webmaster for our website.

Both Bob and Suzanne are always there to help with the gardens, hosting at the Log Schoolhouse museum, making and serving refreshments at meetings and events, and any other miscellaneous needs that arise.

When they're not busy with Historical Society activities, Bob and Suzanne enjoy watching UVM women's basketball games, traveling (including Vermont's 251 Club), and, of course, spending time with their grandchildren.

Thank you, Bob and Suzanne, for all you do!

## Visit One of Colchester's Historical Gems

The [Vermont National Guard Library and Museum](#), founded in the 1970s, is dedicated to the accumulation, preservation, and display of military artifacts and memorabilia spanning the history of Vermont and our nation. Currently, exhibits range from the Revolutionary War through the Iraqi conflict. The museum has both indoor and outdoor exhibits. Its collection has been donated by the military, government, and individuals.

Volunteers and directors work to maintain displays to make them available to the general public. The museum is fully supported by memberships, donations, and volunteers.

The library of the Vermont National Guard Library and Museum has approximately 4,000 military books, periodicals, manuals, and regulations, as well as information about the history of the Vermont National Guard and Vermont's military heritage.

Parking and admission are free. The museum is generally open Monday-Friday, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. but may not be open on some holidays. Call 802-338-3360 or email [museumadm@gmail.com](mailto:museumadm@gmail.com) before you go.



### ***Special Note:***

The Vermont National Guard Library and Museum is just one of many local Colchester historical sites to check out as part of our Self-Guided Driving Tour. No lines, no rush, no fees. Get started [here](#) and enjoy!

## Local Historical Landmarks for Sale

Three historically significant landmarks went up for sale over the summer months.

Built in 1933, the Herrouet Theater was named for Father John Herrouet, one of the original founders of St. Michael's College. The building featured a projection room above the entrance and a stage, indicating it was once used for both film showings and live stage productions to entertain military personnel stationed at the Fort. Another building is the unnamed chapel built in 1941, which provided services for a variety of religious denominations.



Priests from St. Michael's College often served mass there, and the Fort also employed its own chaplain. Both buildings, situated next to each other, were most recently owned by St. Michael's College and have gone mostly unused for many years.



*Herouet Theatre*



*Chapel*



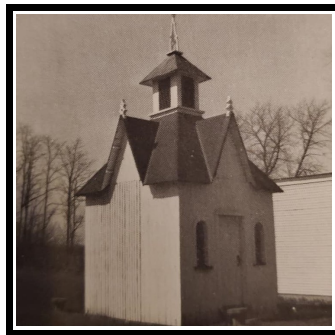
*Austin House*

Austin House and its breathtaking location continues to be the only homestead on Austin Road, a lovely country gravel road. In *Look Around Colchester and Milton, Vermont* (Chittenden County Historical Society, 1975), Colchester writers Christopher Closs, Suzanne Ferland, Mary Simpser, and Noah Thompson indicated that Austin House was built in 1812 for Solomon Austin and featured "wide floor boards, enormous beams, an attic without a ridge pole but with beams running to the roof simulating a reversed ship's hull. The 'Christian' front door (depicting a cross and Bible according to tradition) and a lovely glazed lunette fanlight above the door added elegance to the facade. In its working days, the

farm was noted for its excellent alfalfa, ample maple syrup, and many fine sheep."

Only time will reveal the future of these interesting buildings from Colchester's history.

## History Mystery Solved



This little Gothic structure was featured in the booklet, *Look Around Colchester and Milton, Vermont* (Chittenden County Historical Society, 1975). It once served as a drying shed for seed plants and herbs on the Ernest Yandow farm located on Route 15 across from St. Michael's College. The property was sold in 1998 for the development of a hotel. We wondered whatever became of that little shed?

Thanks to Joseph Perron of the Winooski Historical Society, we learned the shed was dismantled and reconstructed by area businessman and real estate developer Dave Dubrul. The shed now stands on the Beltrami Photography Studios property on Dorset Street in South Burlington.

## News and Updates at Your Fingertips

On Facebook, be sure to "Like" [Colchester Vermont Historical Society](#), and 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 2021-2022

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