

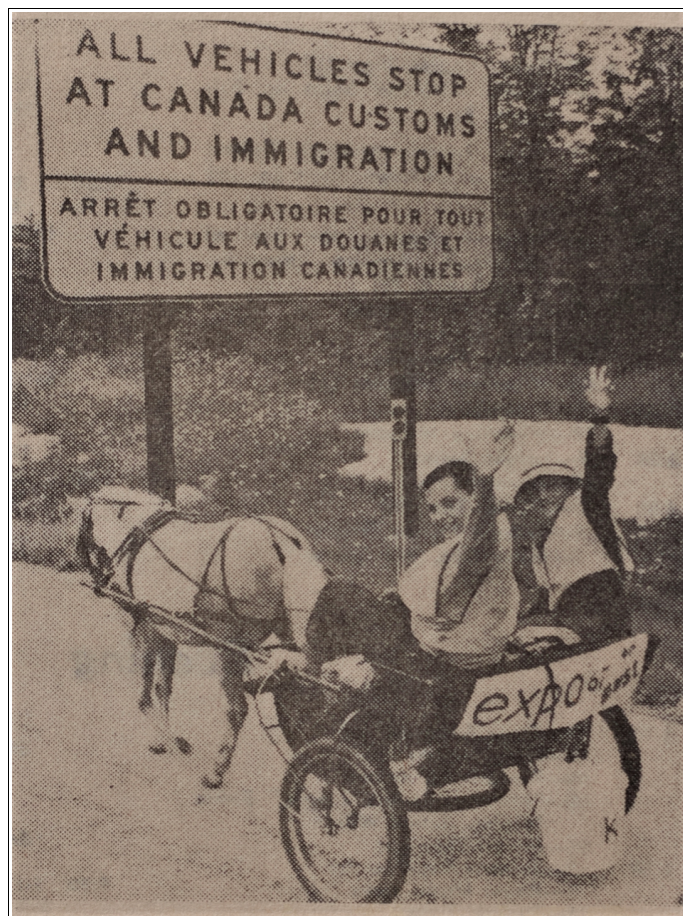


# Newsletter

Colchester Vermont Historical Society

Winter 2022

## Did the Pony Boys Travel Through Colchester?



*The Pony Boys cross the border into Canada.  
(Source: Boston Globe, July 29, 1967)*

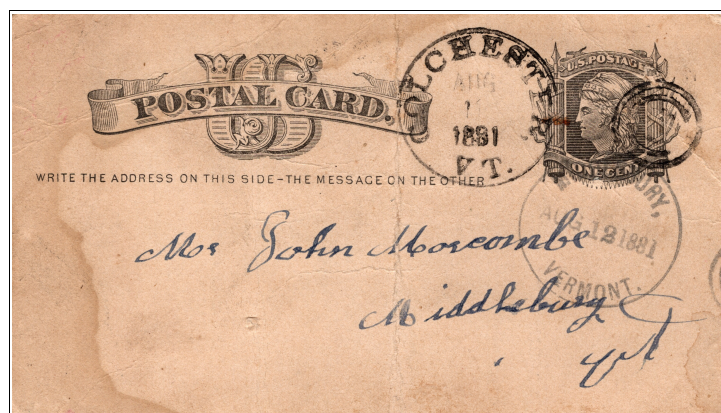
Archival researcher Heather Merrill is working on a very interesting project. It's a documentary film about the Pony Boys, two brothers named Tony and Jeff Whittemore, aged 9 and 11, who rode their pony cart alone from Needham, Massachusetts, to Expo 67 in Montreal. As they made their way through Vermont with their Shetland pony, King, they stayed at local homes, toured various attractions, gained minor celebrity status, and were lauded as "modern day Tom Sawyers." Heather is hoping to find photographs of their travels in Vermont and would also love to talk with anyone who interacted with the boys along their route. Did they pass through Colchester? Possibly!

Here's what Heather has learned so far. From newspaper accounts, it seems the boys and their

pony crossed the Connecticut River into Vermont at Springfield and then stopped in Ludlow, Killington, Pittsfield, Rochester, Hancock, Warren, Monkton, Essex, and St. Albans. They stayed at the Phelan farm in Ludlow. They were given a tour of the Killington ski area by Frances Mendolia and stayed with Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Hall in Sherburne. John Giorgetti hosted them for a night at his home in Pittsfield, where they also visited with local guide and hunter Clifton Merrill and apparently played with two bear cubs. In Rochester, they stayed with postmaster Thomas Simpson and his family, followed by Hugh Kinsman in Hancock. In Essex, they stayed with Arthur K. Tudhope and in St. Albans, they stayed the night in the Franklin County Jail (voluntarily), under the watch of Sheriff John Finn and assistant Larry Berger. The trip took 27 days in total, so there were likely other Vermont towns and families on this list.

If you have any photos or memories of the Pony Boys, please email Heather at [heatherlmerrill@gmail.com](mailto:heatherlmerrill@gmail.com).

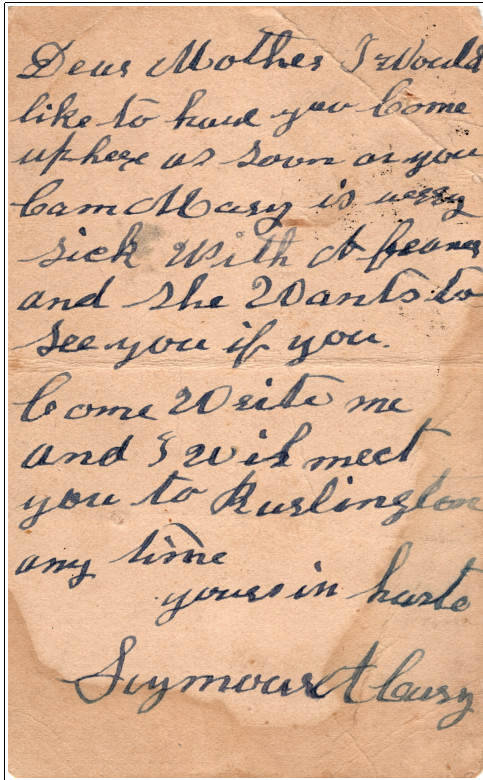
## Recent Acquisitions



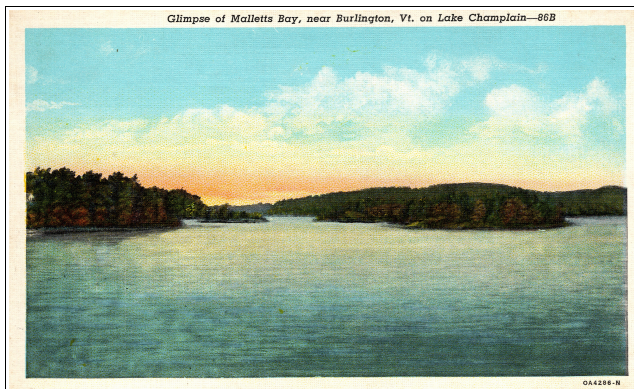
The Colchester Historical Society was pleased to recently accept two donated postcards from Todd Cromie, formerly of Colchester. This postcard (see photos above and next page) bears a Colchester postmark dated August 11, 1881, and was postmarked again in Middlebury, Vermont, on August 12, 1881. It was sent by Colchester resident Seymour Carey to his mother, Mrs. John Morcombe in Middlebury urging her to "come to Colchester for a visit as Mary is sick with a fever." Todd was uncertain of the relationship -- perhaps wife of Seymour or sister of Seymour's mother. Morcombe is Todd's paternal grandmother's maiden



name. The Morcombe family had a camp/home on Marble Island Road. Todd's father, Michael Cromie, spent a good portion of his youth on Malletts Bay fishing, water skiing, and ice fishing with his grandfather, George Morcombe. See more background information about this on our [website](#).



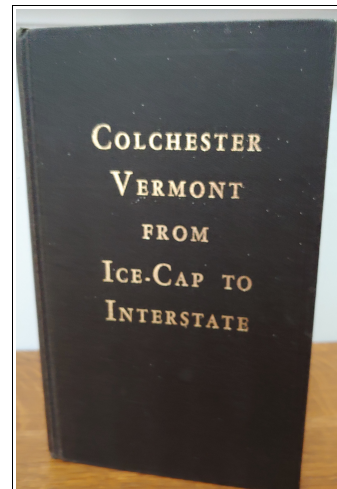
The postcard featured below is undated but the code in the lower right, 0A4268-N, indicates it is a reprint of a 1930 original. The back side has a patent office notice "C. T. AMERICAN ART, REG U. S. PAT. OFF." The printer is shown as "C. W. HUGHES & CO., INC., MECHANICVILLE, N.Y.," a town just north of Troy, New York, on Route 4.



C. W. Hughes & Co., Inc., was a publisher of cards depicting scenes of upstate New York, Vermont, and western Massachusetts, 1915-1951, which helps date the card. Another indicator of the

date is the note to use a "one cent stamp." The rate for postcards was one cent between 1928 and 1951, indicating this card is from 1951 or earlier. The source of the photo for this card was the [Curt Teich Company](#), a producer of over 360,000 images, 1898-1978. The card is printed on a simulated linen finish stock and most likely is a colorized version of a black and white photo using a process that the Curt Teich Company developed.

### New Indexes for Colchester History Book



Thanks to the dedicated efforts of Colchester Historical Society member Lisa Halvorsen, at last there are very helpful indexes to the book *Colchester Vermont From Ice-Cap to Interstate* by Ruth Wright (Queen City Printers, 1963). This book is a history of the Town of Colchester, 1763-1963, and is a valuable resource for local historical data. If you are the fortunate owner of one of these books – there is also one available for loan at the Burnham Memorial Library – these indexes will greatly ease your process of researching topics of local historical interest.

The newly developed indexes can be easily accessed on our website under the tab for [Historical Resources](#). One of the indexes is a complete list of all key words and names found in the book. The other is a list of the names of people. There is also a short document describing the content of the indexes.

The Colchester Historical Society has only a very limited number of these books for sale. The cost is \$50 plus shipping. If you would like to purchase one, please contact Carol Reichard at [winchris65@comcast.net](mailto:winchris65@comcast.net).

## 2022 Vermont History Day Registration Deadline: March 8



*Students study and celebrate history for Vermont History Day – and may qualify for the national competition.*

Every April, hundreds of Vermont students share their learning at the annual Vermont History Day state contest, and we're hoping some Colchester students will participate this year. As students create their projects, they develop research and historical thinking skills. They explore content and gain life skills through project-based learning and the study of history. Students who win at the state contest qualify for [National History Day](#) in June.

The 2022 theme is "[Debate & Diplomacy in History: Successes, Failures, Consequences.](#)" But don't let that big title scare you. Vermont students in Grades 5-12 and homeschool students, ages 10-18, may compete in Vermont History Day. Students exercise their voices and choices by selecting a topic related to the annual theme and presenting their research as an exhibit, website, documentary, performance, or paper. Working individually or in small groups (up to 5), students can explore a topic related to Vermont history, U.S. history, or world history.

Students explore change, continuity, and context as they conduct research online and in libraries, museums, and historical societies. Using evidence from primary sources and interviews with experts, students examine multiple perspectives and draw conclusions. At the state contest, students present their projects to local historians, educators, and other professionals who participate as judges. In recent years, a few members of the Colchester Historical Society have served as volunteer judges for this amazing competition.

Click [here](#) for more information about Vermont History Day and the registration form. For added incentive, be sure to check out the list of special prizes. **The registration deadline for students is March 8.**

## Coming Up:

### ◆ January - Vermont Trivia Winter Series

Join the Vermont Historical Society on Wednesday evenings in January for the Vermont Trivia Winter Trivia Series. Each week has a different, Vermont-centric theme, and you don't need an account to play. Free and fun for all ages. Register [now](#).

### ◆ February is Black History Month

This is a great opportunity to recognize the famous Buffalo Soldiers who served with the 10th Cavalry Regiment at Fort Ethan Allen, 1909–1913. Watch our Facebook page, Front Porch Forum, and the Town Newsletter for more information.

### ◆ March is Women's History Month

We typically select a woman from Colchester's local history to learn more about and recognize. Watch our Facebook page, Front Porch Forum, and the Town Newsletter for more information.

## Summer at the Log Schoolhouse



We were very happy to be able to re-open the Colchester Log Schoolhouse for weekends in July and August of 2021, especially after having been closed in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Colchester's historic Log Schoolhouse is located at Airport Park, and we were pleased to welcome many people to this little museum and visitor center. The 2022 season is expected to begin in early June, and we encourage more volunteers to sign up as hosts. The museum is open weekends only in the summertime, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Volunteer hours are very flexible. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Carol Reichard at [winchris65@comcast.net](mailto:winchris65@comcast.net).



## Mast & Anchor Restaurant

The first photo below shows the Mast & Anchor, a restaurant and night spot at Malletts Bay. It was located at the corner where Blakely Road meets Lakeshore Drive. The building in the image is actually the second Mast & Anchor. The original stood next to Clarey's Bayside, and was destroyed in the same 1964 fire that consumed Clarey's.



But unlike Clarey's, the Mast & Anchor was rebuilt, as seen in this photo from the 1960s. It later was known as the Bayside Inn and was demolished for the complex that sits on that corner today.

*(Source: Champlain College Special Collections.)*



*The same spot today is the location of the Pickled Perch restaurant and other small businesses.*



*"The other night I ate at a real nice family restaurant. Every table had an argument going."*

– George Carlin, comedian,  
actor, social critic, and author

## Just Fishin'



*William Coates (1866-1960) ice fishing on Malletts Bay in the early 1900s. In addition to being a farmer and a builder, "Gompy" became well known as a fishing and hunting guide. He operated a boat marina and worked as a sexton and cemetery commissioner.  
(Photo courtesy of the David Coates family.)*

## Have You Paid Your Dues?

Dues are now overdue! 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 overdue. Fees are very reasonable and help support our work in preserving and sharing Colchester's significant local history.

Single: \$5

Family: \$10

Single Lifetime: \$100

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

## 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