Cemeteries

If you've ever wandered through a cemetery and read the engravings on gravestones, you probably already know that cemeteries are a wonderful source of history. By viewing gravestones, you can learn some of the long-ago names and realize how many of our local residents served in wars throughout the years. You may wonder at the number of children who died young and how families struggled in the early years.

When you visit, please do so respectfully. Colchester has these six publicly owned cemeteries.

Locations:

- **Munson Cemetery on Route 7, just south of the intersection with Bay Road.** This is our oldest cemetery. Here you will view the gravestones of some of Colchester's earliest settlers, including members of the Munson and Wolcott families. Elijah Wolcott served with the Green Mountain Boys in the Revolutionary War. Both families were prominent in the town for as far back as six to eight generations.

- **Colchester Village Cemetery, located behind the Burnham Memorial Library at 898 Main Street.** This is the largest of our cemeteries. It was sold to the town in 1848; however, burials there date back as far as 1816.

- **Old Methodist Church Cemetery, behind the Colchester Town Fire Department at 45 Main Street.** Fanny Munson, daughter of William Munson, one of the town's earliest settlers and largest landowners, donated the land on which a brick Methodist church was erected in 1839. The church's location, according to H.F. Walling's 1857 map of Chittenden County, was roughly where the present Claussen's Greenhouse now stands on Main Street. The congregation later built its second church at 45 Main Street, where the Colchester Town Fire Department is now located. Although both the Village and the Methodist Cemeteries originally were associated with churches, they were never the property of either church; still, it can be assumed that burial in the early days was reserved for church members and their families.

- **Malletts Bay Cemetery on West Lakeshore Drive across from the Vermont Fish and Wildlife fishing access.** This has historically been a family-oriented cemetery. Some of the headstones confirm this with family names such as Thayer, Prim, Barstow, Spear, Porter, and Coates.

- **Champlain Cemetery on Jasper Mine Road.** In 1832, Levi Peters sold this tract of land to the Town. Notable is the grave of Wilbur Monty, the last of Colchester's Civil War soldiers to pass away.

- **Fort Ethan Allen Cemetery, located on College Parkway next to the University of Vermont Medical Center's Fanny Allen Campus.** This military cemetery began when Fort Ethan Allen came into being in the late 1890s. It remained a military cemetery until 1963 when ownership was transferred to the Town.

Sources:
- *History Space: The Cemeteries of Colchester* by Inge Schaefer for the *Burlington Free Press* (2018) at https://www.burlingtonfreepress.com/story/news/2018/06/30/history-space-cemeteries-colchester/36522643
- https://colchestervt.gov/1841/Colchester-Cemeteries