

# Colchester History Connections Newsletter

April 1, 2013 *Colchester Historical Society*, Box 112, Downsville, New York 13755  
Volume 3, Issue 1 Preserving the history of Downsville, Corbett, Shinhopple, Horton and Cooks Falls  
Website: [www.colchesterhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.colchesterhistoricalsociety.org)

Historical Society Room is open the third Saturday of each month 11 A.M.-3 P.M. and by appointment, please call Kay Parisi-Hampel, Town Historian at 607-363-7303.

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## Displays

**Colchester Civil War** display will be in the Colchester Town Hall from April 1, 2013 through May 31<sup>st</sup>. Three hundred and sixty-eight men from Colchester served in the Civil War. The display prepared by Historical Society members, Linda Mills and Betty Watson; shows the history of the war, specific battles where our soldier fought and also includes artifacts from our collection.

**Colchester Interpretive Signs** will be on display as a group in the Colchester Town Hall from June 1 to July 31<sup>st</sup>. Please stop by to see the sign samples and pick up a walking/driving tour map to tour all sign locations in Colchester Township.

## Programs and Projects

### Historic Interpretive Sign Project

We are pleased to announce that we have received an O'Connor Foundation matching grant for our Historic Interpretive Sign Project. The O'Connor Foundation grant will be matched by funds from the Town of Colchester, the Downsville Women's Club, Downsville Lions Club and private donations. This project will provide for the placement of a dozen Historic Signs throughout Colchester that will show a visual history of Colchester, pointing out certain historical places, people, events, industries and businesses. The signs will be educational, promote tourism and will be incorporated into a walking/driving tour map of the Township. The signs will make the public aware of the resources of the Colchester Historical Society by featuring historic photographs and the research from Society's collection that was used to prepare the signs. Interpretive signs illuminate the power of place. Clear educational messages and content inform the public of each site's historic significance and will give a roadside history lesson which can inspire people to investigate history. We hope that increased membership in the Historical Society will be gained through these signs.

The target date for sign installation around the township and the availability of the walking/driving tour maps is Memorial Day. The Historical Society would like to thank the O'Connor Foundation, the Town of Colchester, our local organizations and all the individual donors that are making this project possible.

## Civil War Program

**Charlie Slater** will show a video on Spotsylvania, the Battle of the Wilderness, on **Saturday, April 27, 2013, from 1-3 PM**, at Colchester Town Hall, 72 Tannery Road, Downsville. There is parking behind the building and on Tannery Road. The program will be upstairs in the Town Hall Meeting Room which is handicapped accessible and has bathroom facilities. After the video, Mr. Slater will have some memorabilia to show the group, talk briefly about his ancestors and his re-enactment activities. The Colchester Historical Society will have a display about the Colchester Soldiers that served in the Civil War and our member, Linda Mills, will be on hand to answer questions about the specific battles where our men fought.



**Downsville GAR Veterans Group Reunion-1885 on Montgomery Avenue**

## Old Cemetery Gravestone Cleaning Project

**Marianne Greenfield, owner of Gravestone Cleaning Service**, will be presenting a Gravestone Cleaning Workshop **on Saturday, May 4, 2013 from 10 AM to 2 PM** at the Old Cemetery located on Back River Road. This program is open to the public but attendance is limited, so please call 607-363-7303 to reserve your place. The Historical Society will be selling a "green" gravestone cleaning product: D2, for anyone interested in cleaning their family gravestones with the proper cleaning materials that will not damage their markers. If you cannot attend the workshop but are interested in purchasing the D2 product, please call for details and pricing. The Girl and Boy Scouts and the Sons of the American Legion have been invited to participate in this gravestone cleaning workshop, a general clean up and mapping of that cemetery.

## Delaware County Historical Society Conference:

The Bi-Annual Historical Society Conference, *Making History in Delaware County*, will meet on **April 27<sup>th</sup>, from 1 P.M. to 3:30 PM, at the Delaware County Historical Association** at 46549 State Highway Route 10, Delhi, New York. The meeting is designed for members of town and village historical societies. The afternoon's agenda is focused on: researching at the State Archives in Albany; and a troubleshooting roundtable. Another more general idea behind the meeting is for all of us to meet and get to know one another! All sessions will provide for questions and answers. Attendees are asked to bring several questions of concern for the roundtable discussion, as well as dates of planned events and handouts which can be shared for cross-promotion of events. **There is no charge for this conference, but you need to register by April 20, 2013.** Please call Tim Duerden, Director, Delaware County Historical Association at 607-746-3849.

## Gregorytown Stone Structure



This photograph shows a stone structure built into a rock outcropping in Gregorytown. It is located up toward the top of the mountain across from Tim's Turn. The structure has several rooms, with a central room with a fireplace and smoke hole. Gregorytown resident, Stanley Shaffer, reports that the shelter has been there as long as he can remember. Does anyone know who built this rock shelter and any information on its use and history? Please contact, Kay Parisi-Hampel, Town Historian at 607-363-7303.

## Remembrance

Stuart and Joyce Townsend Williams, past Historical Society President and Vice-President and Board Members, both passed away within the last year. We extend our condolences to their families. A hand-bound Memorial Record Journal is being produced and Downs House Hotel Register- May 1891-May 1893-record of guests at the Downs House Hotel, that was donated by Stuart William's family is being restored in their memory.

**Please come and celebrate Colchester's history by joining us at our meetings:**

### Meeting Dates for 2013

<b>April 30, 2013 at 7 P.M</b>	<b>May 28, 2013 at 10 A.M.</b>
<b>June 25, 2013 at 7 P.M</b>	<b>July 30, 2013 at 10 A.M.</b>
<b>August 27, 2013 at 7 P.M</b>	<b>September 24, 2013 at 10 A.M.</b>
<b>October 29, 2013 at 7 P.M.</b>	<b>November 26, 2013 at 10 A.M.</b>
	<b>December 17, 2013 at 10 A.M.</b>