



# COLBY CLAN COMMUNICATIONS

*Descendants of Anthony and Susannah Colby*

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## June 2004

### From the Editor

Happy Spring!

We are preparing for an exciting reunion in August. Marjorie McCabe, along with Luther and Kathleen Colby, have done an outstanding job of arranging the events of the day. The day is sure to deliver handsomely. We will also be voting on a new slate of officers and paying our gratitude for those who have generously served the Colby Association.

The officers we will be voting on are: President, James F. Colby of Scarborough, ME; Vice President James W. Colby of Falls Church, VA; Treasurer, Adeline Stack of South Portland, ME; Secretary, Barbara J. Zdravesky of Pawtucket, RI.

As you all know, annual dues help to pay for the cost of publishing the newsletters. For those who prefer to receive the newsletter on email, or access it on a website, instead of by "snail mail," please let me know. The fewer copies there are to send, the easier it will be for me. Since it doesn't cost anything to send the newsletter electronically, you can opt out of paying your dues and not have a hard copy mailed to you. However, we are grateful for your donations!

See you in Amesbury!

Errata: In the March 2004 issue, page 1 -- The picture of Anthony Colby is Abraham Colby b. 28 Nov 1785 s/o Gee Colby and Hannah Edwards. On page 4, Darwin and Wana Colby live in Orangevale, CA.

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE



- 1 From the Editor, Colby Reunion
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### From our Treasurer

It is that time of year again, time to send in your annual dues. Of course, I am glad to receive dues at any time of the year, but most often, folks send in their dues when they indicate whether or not they will attend the reunion in August. Dues are still **\$2** per calendar year, which includes three newsletters (March, June, and September). If you do not receive your issues, please let us know. Those who do not pay their dues for two consecutive years will be dropped from the membership list. Dues are used to pay for the cost of publishing the newsletters. An extra big "Thank You" goes out to those who send in more than their annual dues. We appreciate your donations.

Please send your dues to Adeline.

## 51st Annual Colby Clan Reunion

The 51<sup>st</sup> Annual Colby Reunion is scheduled to be held on Saturday, August 21, in Amesbury, MA. The reunion will be hosted by Marjorie McCabe and Luther and Kathleen Colby.

Luther and Kathleen have graciously offered to host a gathering in their home from 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. on Friday, August 20 for those arriving the day before the reunion.

Their address is 18 Kendrick's Court in Amesbury (978-388-3054). The Macy-Colby House will provide refreshments on both Friday evening and Saturday morning.

We appreciate their tremendous generosity.

The reunion day will begin at 9:00 a.m. with coffee and registration at the Macy-Colby House at 259 Main Street. The

business meeting will take place at 11:30 a.m. at the Amesbury Playhouse at 198 Main Street. At noon, our featured speaker, Marcia Melnyk, will give a talk entitled, "Oral History: Separating Fact from Fiction." Lunch will be served at 1:00 p.m.. The meal choices will be roast beef, roast turkey, and baked scrod. Each selection comes with a complete dinner for the price of \$15.00 per person. The annual awards will presented during the luncheon portion of the

reunion.

### Amesbury Fairfield Inn

has reserved 20 rooms for August 20-21, 2004. The price will be \$115.00 per night (plus tax). The rooms will be held at that rate until July 20, 2004. Guests should mention the Colby

Reunion to get that rate. They will need to secure the reservation with a credit card. The Fairfield Inn is at 35 Clarks Road, Amesbury, 978-388-3400.

Information on other Amesbury area hotels appears on page 2.

## Hotels in Amesbury area for Reunion weekend

### Country Garden Motel

101 Main St., Rowley, MA 01969

[\(978\) 948-7773](tel:9789487773)

(800) 287-7773

(978) 948-7947 (fax)

(800) 287-7773x. 7773 (toll-free)

<http://www.countrygardenmotel.com>

### Best Western Seabrook Inn

Nine Stard Road, Seabrook, NH 03874

(603) 474-3078

### Garrison Inn

11 Brown Square, Newburyport, MA 01950

(978) 499-8500

### Essex Street Inn

7 Essex Street, Newburyport, MA 01950

(978) 465-3148

### Hampton Falls Inn

11 Lafayette Road, Hampton Falls, NH 03844

(603) 926-9545

(800) 356-1729 (toll-free)

### Inn Of Exeter

90 Front St, Exeter, NH 03833

(603) 772-5901

(800) 782-8444 (toll-free)

### Ashworth By The Sea Hotel

295 Ocean Blvd, Hampton, NH 03842

(603) 926-6762

(603) 926-2002 (fax)

(800) 345-6736 (toll-free) Toll Free US&Can.



## News from the Colby Members

**Edna Colby** of Pawtucket, RI celebrated St. Patrick's Day on Cape Cod, MA with the Royal travelers.

[www.RoyalTravelers.com](http://www.RoyalTravelers.com)

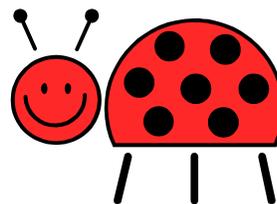


A former Pawtucket man is Commander leading Battery "B" of the 103 Field Artillery Rhode Island Army National Guard. **Captain Glenn A. Colby**, son of the late **Richard A. and Edna Colby** of Pawtucket, RI is in Iraq in conjunction with "Operation Forward March". In a ceremony, he was presented the flag of RI to carry, and a digital camera to send memories back to the families and support group. When asked how he feels, he said, "While nobody likes war, freedom is not cheap." They are proud to serve their country. They will be gone 18 months.

**Ron Colby**, of Kearns, Utah has been posting Colby obituaries to the following Colby message board:

<http://boards.ancestry.com/mbexec?htx=board&r=rw&p=Surname.Colby>

He invites everyone to post their Colby ancestors obituaries to the Colby message board. If you go to "view message type" and search for obituary you will see how many we now have on the message board.



## Interesting Colby Facts

**Ron Colby** of Kearns, Utah was contacted about Colby pictures being sold by a collector. There are about 200 photos. They cover the 1800's up to 1920 and most are of the family of **John Colby** and Sarah Nichols. The seller states that all the photos are identified, which will help.



Top left, William R. Colby Jr.; Top Right Charles Norris Colby and the bottom is Children of W. R. Colby Jr. -- Prescott Norris Colby, Elizabeth Roberts Colby, Virginia Colby, Wilma Colby, Carolyn Colby



Standing: Henry Lincoln Colby, William Roberts Colby Sr.  
Sitting: Lawrence Colby, son of Henry L. Colby And Susan Colby mother of Wm. R. Colby. Mother Susan Colby is Susan Roberts b. 1818 Salem, MA d. 1902 Salem, MA. This family has descendants in Oregon, Washington, Maine and other states. The line is: Anthony(1), Samuel(2,3,4), Gideon(5), Aaron(6), John(7), William C. Colby(8) & Susan Roberts, William R. Colby(9, 10).

### Colby Bicentennial Farm ...

.....a dairy farm, a family venture and a piece of history. Once, near the middle of the 1800s, New York State had more small farms than anywhere in the country. Today, the state's surviving 38,000 farm families are a tribute to the gains of science, technology and homegrown economic success. Belonging to an exclusive club of just 36 other farm families in New York State is the 1,100-acre Colby Homestead Farms of Ogden which is celebrating its 200th year of farming this year: 1802-2002.



**James A. Colby** reminisces about the seven-generations of farmers that contributed to today's Colby Homestead Farm. **Cont. on page 5**

## **BIRTHS**

Herb and Dorothy Williamson of Newburyport, MA have a new granddaughter! Carolyn Robin Williamson was born to their son Jon Latham on Friday, February 27th at 10:10 a.m. at the Anna Jaques Hospital in Newburyport. Baby Carolyn was six pounds, five and one half ounces and nineteen inches at birth.

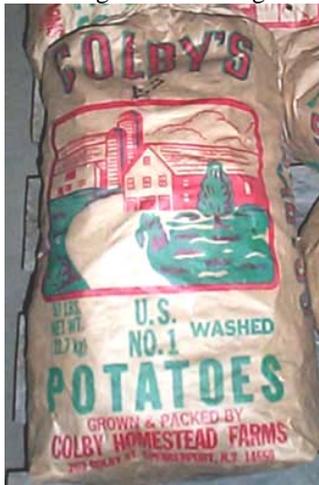


## **IN MEMORIAM**

Colby, Kenneth F. MADISON - Kenneth F. Colby, age 86, passed away on Saturday, Feb. 7, 2004, at the Belmont Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, Madison. He was born on Feb. 19, 1917, in Easton, the son of George and Louise (Engnath) Colby. Mr. Colby was united in marriage to the former Margaret Vedvik on Aug. 10, 1947, in DeForest, and they enjoyed 56 years of marriage. He was a member of St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Madison. Ken loved farming and was employed with numerous farms in the Madison area throughout his lifetime. He retired from Electric Motors Unlimited, Madison, after 17 years of employment as a mechanic. He is survived by his wife, Margaret of Madison; his son, Douglas (Susan) Colby of Poynette; his daughter, Diane (Ronald) Bebout of Colona, Ill.; his step-children, Larry Churchill of Milwaukee, Linda (John) Riek of Madison, Jerome (Carol) Churchill of Windsor, and Francis "Frank" Churchill of Madison; his 17 grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren; his twin brother, John (Ingebor) Colby of Delafield; brother, Ed Colby of Nekoosa; his sisters, Eva McChensey of Portage, and Luanne (Robert) Schaetzka of Westfield; and nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends. Mr. Colby was preceded in death by his parents; a granddaughter, Lisa Wiesensel; five brothers; and two sisters. A funeral service celebrating his life will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 10, 2004, at 1 p.m. at the CRESS FUNERAL HOME, 3325 E. Washington Ave., Madison, with the Rev. Mary Pharmer officiating. Burial will be held in Norway Grove Lutheran Cemetery, DeForest. Family and friends are invited to call on Tuesday at the funeral home from noon until the time of the service. Cress Funeral Home 3325 E. Washington Ave. (608) 249-6666 [www.cressfuneralservice.com](http://www.cressfuneralservice.com). Printed in the Madison State Journal, Feb. 8, 2004.

### Cont. from page 3

"The Colbys are a great asset to the community. They have contributed to the community in so many ways," said Gay Lenhard, supervisor of the Town of Ogden, who signed a proclamation last month designating August 17 as 'The Colby Homestead Farms Day.' "In these times when other communities are trying to buy up open space, Ogden is fortunate to have the Colby Farm - not only for its agricultural business, but as landscape to look at. It provides open spaces and the beauty of farmland that is non-existent in neighboring communities. In addition to providing both food and dairy products, the farm creates an aesthetic value for which I'm personally very grateful." Ogden, not to mention Monroe County and the state, are justifiably proud in honoring the Colby Family for their enduring commitment to an amazing record of profitability, environmentally-sound farming, the preservation of farmland in the midst of suburban development, and their ineffable character of stubbornness, luck, and knowledge which has brought them through 200 years of agriculture.



The Colby label on potatoes.

#### It's Colby potatoes

If you've ever grabbed a five-pound bag of potatoes with the Colby red-barn and green-tree label, you're on the receiving end of just one of the Colby Farm's products. A founding member of the Upstate Farms Cooperative, one of the state's top milk co-ops, Colby Farms dairy produces upwards of 1,800 gallons of milk each day. Its cabbages are sold year round from New York to the Carolinas and are a tasty part of the Chinese egg rolls we love. Its wheat (for flour), sweet corn and peas also end up on our tables. "Gross sales are close to a million dollars a year," Robert Colby and father, James, concur. "Half is in milk sales and half is in potatoes and cabbage." With 15 year-round employees including three who have been with the farm for 15 years - Bob Hill, field cropsman; Kathy Goodman, herdsman; and Aaron Bush, feed manager - Colby Farms sits unassuming on the south side of Colby Street. But history is the confirming test of this family farm. "Four Colby brothers set out in February 1802 from New Hampshire for western New York," James said. "They had to get to the Genesee River with their oxen-drawn sleighs before the ice broke. They each bought 100 acres from the Wadsworth Land Company in Canandaigua for two dollars an acre. The original log cabin was on the north side of the road across from the swamp pond. There were no wells, so they needed water." The Colbys can trace their heritage to 1630 in New England. They represent the seventh generation of farmers here in Ogden and look back in fondness

and admiration to the farming pioneer, Abraham Colby (1779-1861), who was also the first Ogden Town Clerk in 1817. Each succeeding generation has made its mark on the land. From Oscar P. (1841-1910), a Civil War veteran who served in the 140th N.Y. Volunteer Infantry, to J. Merton (1896-1984) under whose tenure electricity revolutionized the milk and egg business.



Robert Colby walks the length of the stock barn. Farming is a 24-7 operation that depends on the Colby family and 15 employees year round.

One of the most important pieces of farm equipment -- the cell phone. Son of Merton Colby, 75-year-old Jim Colby, known hereabouts as a retired member of the Monroe County Legislature as well as the Ogden Town Board, sits talking fondly of the farm's many changes with his son, Robert J. Colby, in an office just off the cabbage barn. "In the 1920s we had tractors with steel wheels," Jim said. "We kept a team of horses up through the 40s which was used to sell milk and eggs door-to-door through the Depression." When Robert's cell phone interrupts the conversation, Jim shoots back, "Things have changed, that's for sure, but I think people were just as happy without all the modern conveniences ... cell phones are one of the most important pieces of farm equipment!" Robert takes the call which links him to the field being irrigated, the delivery of a newborn calf in the dairy barn, and with the herdsman who milk 220 cows three times a day. "We've got 220 cows milking, 30 dry cows waiting to calve and 210 young stock," Robert says. With his wife, Sharon, and herdsman Kathy Goodman, the operation begins at 4 a.m. and ends at 10 p.m. everyday, seven days a week, year round. "Some days you're trying to plan ahead, other days, putting out fires ... . The technology in agriculture is just going to keep expanding: everything from crop protection, seed selection and variety development, spliced-gene seeds and micro-nutrients," Robert said. "We work with several consultants - a soil scientist, an agronomist and an expert in feed rations." Both Jim and Robert studied agriculture in college. Jim graduated in 1950 from Cornell with a degree in Agricultural Economics; Robert and brother Chuck at SUNY Alfred; daughter Jean at Cornell. Robert's daughter, Sarah, just started her freshman year at Cornell. But staying ahead of the game takes a lot of farm experience. Their large-animal veterinarians are from Oakfield and Perry. Their hoof-trimmer is also from Perry. It's not unusual for Robert to compare notes with other farmers across the internet and through e-mail, but what does he love the most? - "troubleshooting mechanics!"

**Cont. on page 6**

Cont. from page 5



The Colby Farm has 210 young stock growing up on its dairy farm.

### **The 'Colby Cow' - better genetics**

As Robert approaches the dairy barn, about 50 black and white Holstein heads turn in his direction. A walk through the free-stall dairy barn reveals the entire herd well-spaced along the 500-foot long, airy barn. It's 3:30 p.m., so they're not getting milked again for another four and a half hours. "Sixteen cows get milked at a time," he says. And the milking parlor, framed in timbers felled 150 years ago, is a technical wonder. Ankle-bracelets on the cows trigger computers to read each cow's number so that its statistics can be tracked. Dairy cows are only milked from four to 10 years and begin milking at about age two. Robert asserts that the 'Colby Cow' has better genetics. Colby milk just may be 'superior' as this year the Upstate Farm Cooperative tied for first place in a milk quality contest at Cornell based on butterfat content, post-pasteurization bacteria count, vitamin levels, flavor, scent and shelf life. The Colby cow does seem contented. They roam about freely in the barn and are turned out to pasture, according to Robert. But the future is even more unbelievable: robotic milking parlors. "The 'modern agricultural dairy' is moving toward robotics," he said. "It's possible that we may be installing a working robotic dairy in Ogden, at the Northampton Farm, a Monroe County Park on Colby Road, for the public to see." "Four hundred and fifty people came," Robert said, "for a sit-down barbecue and ice-cream social in the barn." But what of the future generations of Colbys? "We encourage our kids to look everywhere else first," Robert said, "and if they want to come back after that, they're welcome to become part of the farm." Robert's son, Jim, a junior at Spencerport High School and sporting a "San Francisco Art Museum" t-shirt, grabbed a broom and started sweeping feed back toward the cows' feeding trough. "I'm into music at school," Jim said, "the saxophone, guitar and piano, but I work weekends here and get paid." Daughter Sarah has begun her studies at Cornell and third child, Alex, is just 14-years-old. Chuck and Colette's two children, Chad and Camille, are still too young and sister Jean's daughter, Margarita, is in elementary school. Non-farming brother, Richard, a finance manager at Xerox and Pittsford resident, has two children, Scott and Marc. But for James A. Colby, grandfather, and Reta Bausch Colby, grandmother, the grandchildren's futures remain unknown. "I don't know what the children want," James said realistically.

### **The future of farmland in New York**

Despite the legacy of the Colby Farms and the importance of agriculture in the state's economy, the very existence of a farm like the Colbys is threatened. According to the American Farmland Trust ([www.farmland.org](http://www.farmland.org)), "New York counties ranked three times in the nation's top 20 most-threatened areas for loss of cropland due to suburban sprawl, scatter development and large-lot subdivision. Both Robert and Jean have been members of LEAD NY, an agribusiness leadership program sponsored by Cornell which assists farmers, market growers and others in ag-business to keep abreast of the changes in science, the political and cultural climate and the future of technology. Although 'heritage' is a big word for the Colby family, its significance is born lightly by Robert, Chuck and father, Jim. If farming teaches anything, it teaches patience.

### **Featured Colby Relative**

From the Greenfield Gazette & Courier, August 24, 1874:

The Tynan mystery at Boston - The detectives at Boston think they have at last secured the man who made the murderous assault on Mary Tynan, at 34 Oxford Street, Boston July 1, which has been so much of a mystery ever since. Dana S. Colby [Dana Samson Colby], who has been mentioned several times as her lover and perhaps her seducer, was taken before the municipal court Mon., and held in \$10,000 bonds for examination on the 16th of Sept. Colby has been under suspicion for some time, and several items of evidence that have been made public look badly for him. It is known that he is a wood turner, and that his kit of tools comprises all of those used in the trade except a one inch beveled gauge, but he had such a gauge previous to the murder; and that the wounds upon the person of Mary Tyson were inflicted by a weapon similar to a gauge of this description. The assault was undoubtedly made between the hours of 6 and 8:30 o'clock in the morning, and Colby is unable to account for the time between those hours. He has told many contradictory stories about the matter, though always denying that he knows anything about the assault. He however, admits that he has looked in at the window of her room, suspecting that somebody was with her there. If he committed the assault, the motive was doubtless jealousy. He has been closeted with the officers for several days. He has visited Miss Tynan frequently since she has been in the hospital, and it is supposed that he has promised that he will marry her if she will not witness against him. She manifests the greatest regard for him, and evidently knows more than she is willing to tell. She says however, that she got up at 6 o'clock on the morning of the assault, and raised her window, but as to what happened subsequently she is silent. She has been gradually improving, so that she has nearly recovered her powers, and her recovery is most wonderful, it being thought all the time when she was found in her bed that she would live but a few hours, her mind seeming to be entirely gone. Colby will probably get out of confinement, as he has wealthy friends who may be willing to furnish bail.

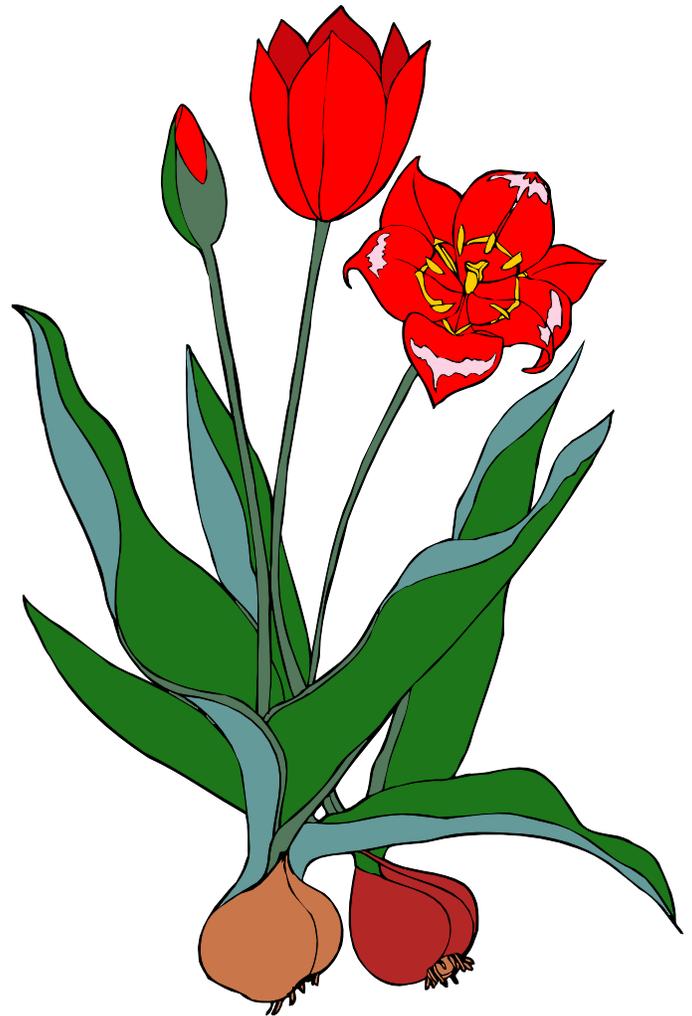


## Can Anyone Help?

### Who is this Hannah Colby?

Daniel Hackett b. 25 May 1753 Newbury, MA d. 11 Jul 1841 Tunbridge, VT m. 19 Feb 1780 Hannah Colby b. 14 Dec 1755 MA. d. 30 Apr 1854

Daniel and Hannah (Colby) HACKETT, with two children, came from Dunbarton, N. H.; settling in Tunbridge in 1790. The year previous he had come here and made some preparations for a permanent home, building a log house and clearing some land. He served with his father, Ebenezer, in the Revolutionary war, and was among those detailed to dig in the trenches at Bunker Hill. He had four children, all boys, viz.: Rev. George, John, Capt. Ephraim and Ebenezer. Capt. Ephraim HACKETT married Mary CORWIN, January 5, 1808, and their union was blessed with seven children, -- five sons and two daughters, six of whom lived to maturity and were married, and two of whom are now living -- Hannah and J. Spencer. When Daniel HACKETT came to Tunbridge he settled on East hill, on what is now called the old HACKETT farm. The soil was productive, and, being an energetic, hard-working man, he was quite successful. In a short time others had taken up and improved land in this part of the town, and, feeling the need of christian worship, a church was erected called the "red meeting-house." A society was organized by Elder RANDALL, called the "Freewill Baptist Church," and the meetings were attended by all the settlers and great interest manifested. Eld. Nathaniel KING was the first settled minister, and he served without pay. After Elder KING removed from town Rev. George HACKETT, son of Daniel, became the settled minister, and remained in charge most of the time until his death, working on his farm during the week and preaching the gospel on the Sabbath "without money and without price." He was quite successful financially, and reared a large family of children who became scattered throughout the country, one dying in California, and one in Beloit. Ephraim and Ebenezer remained on the old farm until they were married, when Ebenezer bought and removed to a farm in the same district. He represented the town in the state legislature a number of years. Ephraim lived with and cared for his parents until their death. He was a captain of militia at the time of the Indian raid, receiving the news while at church on Sunday evening, and the next morning started in pursuit of the red fiends with those of his company whom he could get together on such short notice. Both he and Ebenezer were successful, financially, investing largely in Vermont Central railroad shares and bonds.



# Reunion RSVP!

Please send your reunion registration with payment and meal choice to Adeline. Please send in your reservation by **Saturday, August 7** so we can give an accurate account to the Amesbury Playhouse.

\_\_\_\_ I do plan to attend the Colby Reunion    Amount enclosed: Luncheon (\$15/person) \_\_\_\_\_    Dues: (\$2/year) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ I am unable to attend the Colby Reunion but am sending my annual dues.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ (address labels can be used)

Number of Persons \_\_\_\_\_ Meal Choice (s):  Roast Beef    Roast Turkey    Baked Scrod

Barbara J. Zdravesky  
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