

*Historic Sites - Colchester**Welms-Botts Museum
Collection*

COLCHESTER.

As Colchester was a conspicuous feature of Truro Parish, it may be well to record here that it was established as a Town by Act of Assembly in 1753-4 on 25 acres of land belonging to Peter Wagener, as being "very convenient for trade, and greatly to the ease of frontier inhabitants." The Trustees and Directors were Peter Wageman, Daniel McCarty, John Barry, William Ellzey and Edward Washington, all Vestrymen of Truro Parish. (The History of Truro Parish in Virginia, by Rev. Philip Slaughter, D.D.)

Jedidiah Morse, D.D., A.A.S., S.H.S., in his Geography, 1796, says of Virginia:--Our towns, but more properly our villages, or hamlets are:--On Patowmac, and its waters, Dumfries, Colchester, Alexandria, Winchester, Staunton. Thomas Jefferson in his-- "Notes on the State of Virginia", Boston, 1801, gives the same towns as the principal ones on the Potomac. Morse in The American Gazetteer, published in Boston, 1804, gives the following:--Colchester, a post town in Fairfax county, Va. situated on the northeast bank of Occoquan creek, three or four miles from its confluence with the Potowmack; and is here about one hundred yards wide and navigable for boats. It contains about forty houses, and lies sixteen miles southwest of Alexandria, one hundred and six north by east of Richmond and one hundred and seventy-two from Philadelphia.

In his³ Annotations on the Washington Dairies, Doctor Toner gives the following data upon Colchester:-- Colchester, a village and ferry on the Occoquan creek, a tributary of the Potomac about sixteen miles below Alexandria, in Prince William Co. Va. It is situated on deep water at the

head of Belmont Bay. The charter for this town was granted at the same session of the Legislature that the town of Alexandria was incorporated, and was largely due to the exertions of Major Lawrence Washington in the Assembly.

Washington mentions the town several times in his Diaries, the entry for Sunday, May 1st., 1760, being:--"Set out with M. George Johnston--at Colchester was informed by Col. Thornton and Chissel that the Assembly w^d. be broke up before I could get down--turnd back therefore & found Col. Fairfax and his Family and the Lightning w^{ch}.. had attended a good of Rain had struck my Quarter & near 10 Negroes in it some very bad but with Blood letting they recoverd."

Mrs. Cazenove Lee
3542 Newark St. N. W.
Washington, D. C.

Alexander Henderson I
lived in Colchester. He moved
to Dumfries when Archibald
[son was 3 or 4 years old. Archibald
was born in 1783.

See Archibald Henderson -
letter from his son B. H. H. to his sister Charlotte

