

Colrain After 25 Years: Looking Back and Looking Forward

The 34th New England Regional Gathering
of War Tax Resisters

Friday 6pm – Sunday 1pm, November 16–18, 2018

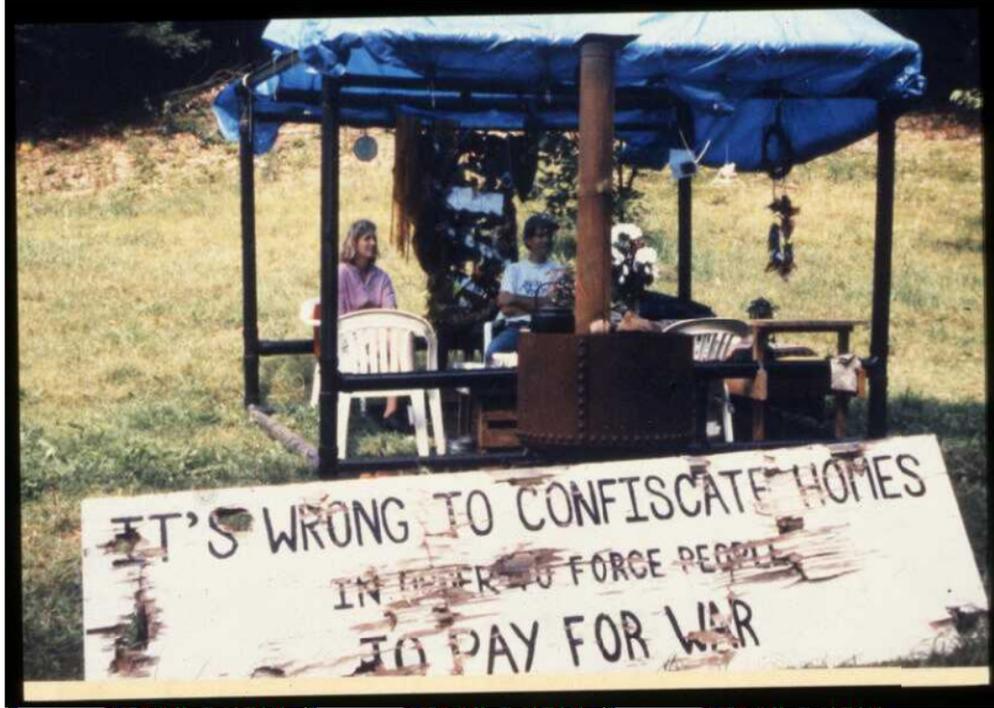
Woolman Hill Retreat Center
Deerfield, Massachusetts



Between 1989 and 1993, hundreds of people flocked to Colrain, MA, to voice their opposition to war and military spending by supporting the war tax resistance of the Corner-Kehler household. As this year marks 25 years since the end of the Colrain action, we are inviting as many of these participants (and interested others) as possible to gather at the Woolman Hill Retreat Center in Deerfield, MA, November 16–18, 2018, to revisit that experience.



On Friday evening, we will take a close look at what lies at the heart of war tax resistance and the Colrain action: today's exorbitant U.S. military budget and the wars and weapons it finances. President Eisenhower famously said in 1953, "Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired signifies, in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed." We will unpack that statement and look at where the money spent on the military is going *and where it isn't going*. These policies have an enormous impact on practically every important issue facing us today as a society, but, for the most part, military spending remains a blind spot today for the population at large and even for many activists. We hope to shine some light on these very issues.



On Saturday, through panels, small group discussions, and informal conversations, participants in the Colrain action will revisit and explore what it meant to each of us personally, what we gained from it, as well as what we found difficult. We will review the timeline of the action and hear from a panel of Colrain activists addressing these questions. We will here from the principal players and organizers of the Colrain action, as well as from others who have different — even critical — perspectives. We will explore how the action was organized and how we handled decision-making as it related to strategy and tactics. We hope to cast as wide a net as possible and evaluate the Colrain experience from many points of view.



On Sunday, in what may well be the capstone of the Gathering, we will explore the legacy of the Colrain action and examine in what ways it has impacted the WTR movement and the larger peace movement generally. Twenty-five years ago, it seemed as if we were on the cusp of something revolutionary and that the Colrain action would provide a powerful model for expressing a conscientious nonviolent response to war and war preparations. This, alas, has not come to pass. We hope to ask — and try to answer — some difficult but important questions: How did the Colrain action impact the WTR movement and the broader peace and social justice movement? It clearly energized its own participants, but what about others? Did it inspire people, or did it scare them away? Why didn't the Colrain experience catalyze similar actions across the country? Were we mistaken about WTR as an expression of political power and as a mode of resistance that could change the calculus of military spending and war-making? Why are we not seeing a resurgence of WTR now, in the Trump era? Why does it not seem relevant to most peace activists? Is there a way it can once again become relevant? We invite activists, both old and young, to help us explore these important questions — and not only for historical reasons. They are clearly important today.



Conference Logistics

Conference begins Friday at 6pm and ends on Sunday at 1:00pm

Cost for the entire weekend, which includes 6 meals: \$60 per adult

Saturday only: \$30

Cost with meals but without housing: \$45

These amounts are suggestions. No one will be turned away for lack of funds.

For directions to Woolman Hill, see <http://woolmanhill.org/directions/>

Register online by using [this link](#)

Registration deadline: November 1st. No deposit necessary.

Questions/Ride Share/Airport pickup: Contact Bob Bady at bobbady@gmail.com or 802-258-7750, or call Aaron Falbel at 413-397-8976.















Ed Hedeman