

Colchester Historical Society

2024 Winter Trivia Game

Answers:

Multiple Choice:

- (1) The correct answer is **(c) 1763**. For more information about Colchester's charter, please visit <https://www.colchestervt.gov/474/History-of-Colchester>.
- (2) The correct answer is **(c) the Parsonage**. This building, built in 1899, originally served as the home for the Baptist Church's minister and family. Today, that church (next door to the Parsonage) is known as the Meeting House and is managed by the Burnham Memorial Library.
- (3) The correct answer is **(d) All of the above**. This lovely and historic 80-acre peninsula is located just off West Lakeshore Drive. In 1872, it was purchased from the Munson Family by William I Coates, Sr. and has remained with the family ever since.
- (4) The correct answer is **(a) A Catholic nun and the daughter of Revolutionary War patriot Ethan Allen**. She was the inspiration for the founding of Fanny Allen Hospital in Colchester, known today as the Fanny Allen Campus of the UVM Medical Center.
- (5) The correct answer is **(d) Colchester. The recipient was John Hovey Lyon**. The envelope was sent from Mount Ophir, a former mining hub in California that has since become a ghost town. The recipient was John Hovey Lyon, a distinguished Civil War veteran. He later served as assistant judge for Chittenden County Court, and as Colchester's postmaster in the years leading up to his death. The mystery of this story is that the contents of the envelope are today unknown. The envelope recently sold at an estate auction in New York for \$6,500.

True or False:

- (1) **True**. In addition to serving for decades in the Vermont Legislature and volunteering for many community causes, Dick Mazza has owned and operated this popular store in Malletts Bay since the 1950s.
- (2) **False**. Bayside Park was historically famous as Clarey's Bayside Pavilion, a popular vacation resort that featured tourist cabins, a beach for swimming in Malletts Bay, rowboats and bicycles to rent, playground equipment, horseshoes, basketball, table tennis, ballgames, singing around a campfire in the evenings, and a roller skating rink. It also was well-known for hosting musicians from the Big Band Era, including Louis Armstrong and Glenn Miller.
- (3) **False**. The Colchester Log Schoolhouse is open to visitors in the summer from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend, Fridays – Mondays, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., and is hosted by wonderful volunteers.
- (4) **True**. The marker reads "The FSSF was formed in 1942 as the only joint U.S.-Canadian unit in World War II. Many Vermonters volunteered to serve. Led by U.S. Army Col. Robert T. Frederick, the FSSF trained rigorously in Montana, Virginia, and at Fort Ethan Allen. Known as the 'Black Devils', the FSSF distinguished itself during the Italian Campaign at Monte la Difensa and Anzio. It was the first unit deployed to southern France and later disbanded in 1944. It earned considerable honors from four nations for accomplishments during the war, including a U.S. Congressional Gold Medal. The FSSF is a predecessor to the modern special operations forces in service today."
- (5) **True**. Since the early 1800s, the land located on what is now Colchester Point Road, was owned and farmed by the Porter family. In 1945, Charlie Brink, a Bell Aircraft employee, saw the property as a way to continue his hobby of flying — something he had done since he was 14 years of age. To Charlie "the place offered level land, a barn that would serve as a hangar, and a house that left something to be desired." Today, Airport Park offers a popular selection of athletic and recreational options for all ages, including ball fields, a playground, walking trails, tennis/pickle ball courts, picnic tables, a pavilion, and restrooms.

Fill in the Blank:

- (1) Built in 1899, the Colchester Causeway **served as a Rutland Railroad rail bed** that ran from Colchester Point to Allen Point in South Hero. Today, this 3.25-mile, 10-foot-wide gravel path causeway crosses Malletts Bay at the point where the Bay opens into the broad lake. Locally referred to as the "fill," it connects Colchester to South Hero and continues on to Alburgh. It is suitable for walking, running, cycling, and fishing, as well as seasonal duck hunting. Access to the causeway is free of charge, and dogs are allowed.

(2) Built in 1871, the Colchester Reef Lighthouse originally guided mariners past treacherous shoals in Lake Champlain and served as a home and workplace for 11 successive lighthouse keepers and their families. Today it is a welcoming sanctuary near the center of the campus of the **Shelburne Museum**. Visitors can learn about Lake Champlain history and daily nineteenth-century life on the lake. There is also a beautiful model of the lighthouse at the Colchester Town Offices.

(3) Colchester's **Sunset Drive-in** celebrated its 70th anniversary in 2019. It has been owned and operated by the Handy family during that entire time period. During the Covid-19 winter, while indoor theaters were closed, the Sunset Drive-in remained open so that families could continue to enjoy movies in the safety of their own vehicles.

(4) **Priests from the Society of Saint Edmund in France** came to the United States in 1889 and opened Saint Michael's Institute in 1904 with \$5,000. The first session had 34 male enrollees, ages 10 to 22; tuition and board cost each student \$105. Over time, St. Michael's Institute changed from a high school to a residential college. Graduate programs were offered in 1939 for the first time.

(5) In 1909, the 10th U.S. Cavalry arrived at Fort Ethan Allen for a four-year assignment. Nicknamed the "Buffalo Soldiers" during the American Indian Wars, **the 10th Cavalry was one of the first peacetime all-black regiments established in the regular U.S. Army after the Civil War**. Highly decorated and famous for their professionalism and contributions during the Spanish-American War in Cuba, the 10th Cavalry became popular with the local community, hosting many performances, parades, and sporting events.

Matching:

(1) **Correct answer is E.** "**The Alrite Night Spot**" was the advertising slogan for Nourse's Restaurant, once located on the sharp bend where Bay Road meets East Lakeshore Drive. Many local folks and visitors still remember this business with great fondness and as the place for a 15-cent hotdog. The snack bar/restaurant featured a sandy beach area for patrons to enjoy. The building is long gone, but this bend in the road continues to be referred to as "**Nourse's Corner**."

(2) **Correct answer is C.** Many local folks still enthusiastically remember **Broadacres Roller Rink**. The indoor rink was built in 1974 by Harold Kalf of Colchester, and the floor of the rink measured 120 x 70 feet. Today, Broadacres is a non-profit, family bingo facility, with proceeds benefitting local charities..The creemee stand is still in active operation during the summer months.

(3) **Correct answer is D.** If you've ever wandered through a cemetery and read the engravings on gravestones, you probably already know that **local 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. Colchester has six publicly owned cemeteries.

(4) **Correct answer is A.** This 584-acre property was purchased by the State of Vermont in 1975 and was aptly named for the bay on the northeastern end of Lake Champlain's larger Malletts Bay. Originally, most of the property was farmed and pastured through the 1800s; today, it is mostly forested. Management strategies at **Niquette Bay State Park** support the park as a place for nature appreciation.

(5) **Correct answer is B.** In the book Colchester Vermont From Ice-Cap to Interstate, author Ruth Wright theorized that **Colchester Pond** may have been scraped out by the huge southern-moving glacier that covered our area millions of years ago. In more recent centuries, the property was used as farmland, and the pond once served as a water supply for Colchester Village. **It also was once the site of a Boy Scout cabin for use by the local troop**. In 1960, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, as a flood-control measure, installed a dam that blocked the only outflow from the pond, nearly doubling the pond's size. Today, Colchester Pond is a public-access area managed by the Winooski Valley Park District and is a great place for canoeing, fishing, nature trips, hiking, and even swimming.

Thank you for participating in this Colchester History Trivia Game! We hope you enjoyed it and learned about some of Colchester's significant local history.

For more information about Colchester's history, please visit the Colchester Historical Society's website at <https://www.colchestervt.gov/422/Colchester-Historical-Society>. You are cordially invited to become a member.

And, please visit our popular Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/ColchesterVermontHistoricalSociety>

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