



Newbury Village – It's Monumental Quest

Newbury, Vermont

Moderate

Historical

Pavement

1:30

Bring: Compass

To get there: Newbury Village is approximately 5 miles north of Bradford, Vermont and 5 miles south of Wells River, Vermont on Route 5. Park at the Newbury Village Store or at the Town School on the Common. Begin at the large monument on the Common.

Clues:

**Step back in time
And learn our story
Of monuments, men,
And Newbury's glory-**

**And saunter `round
Our sleepy village
That's steeped in heroes,
History, and tillage.**

**Drawn by the intervalles,
River, and pine,
Both Abenaki and Europeans
Thought the land fine.**

1. Begin at our Founding Father's stone,
Upon the scenic Common
You'll find its stately home.

During our country's fledgling years,
This courageous frontier scout appeared.
The year was 1763,
That's when Newbury came to be.

General Jacob Bayley
Was the name he was given;
Farmer, brave soldier,
Staunch patriot, fine citizen.

Almost captured by the British
At home on his farm,
He was warned by his neighbor
And escaped without harm.

Bayley forged a great roadway
At George Washington's behest,
Sacrificing time and fortune,
And died almost penniless.

2. Now turn to the south of this hallowed mound-
Take a few steps and peer to the ground.

Under this lilac hedge
Now grown so high,
A Civil War monument
Here humbly hides.

Simple and lonely
Though it may be,
It tells a noble story
Of our courageous odyssey.

In April, 1861,
The Civil War had begun,
'Twas a call to end slavery
That sent our boys on the run.

Three hundred or so
Left their loved ones and farms,
Leaving horses and plows
For a chance to take arms.

They fought to right wrongs
And joined Union troops
With wide eyes on battles-
Newbury soil in their boots.

Many of our brave, young men
Died in fields and in prisons,

Leaving parents, wives, and children
To carry on with their visions.

3. Across the Common, spy the Town Central School
Where `rithmetic, reading, and `riting rule.
The building is old, five score minus three.
The date's high in the dormer for all folks to see.

On a windy June day in 1913,
Came a terrible fire that had not been foreseen.
An unlucky blacksmith, Chase was his name,
Caused thirty grand buildings to go up in flame.

4. Lost on that day where the brick school now sits
Was our famous seminary, burned up to bits.
Some bricks survived (they're not suited as fuel),
So they used eighty thousand to build the new school.

The seminary leaders were persons of bravery
For they took in a black girl though some states had slavery.
Even here in the North some schools were torn down
For admitting young students whose complexion was brown.

To the right of the school is a landmark of wood,
Miraculously, this structure the fire withstood.
This timber-framed church that survived the great fire,
Continues to sport five pointed spires.

So now stands a shrine of the Methodist creed
From here Boston University can trace its first seed.

5.6.7. & 8. Cross in front of the church
A brick house at a glance,
Turn left on the road-
Then advance to Romance.

A white picket fence
Guides you along.
Turn right with a skip;
You cannot go wrong.

This road dips and dives
From pavement to dirt,
You'll follow this path
But still stay alert!

There's much to be seen as you mosey along:
A waterfall on Harriman's Brook,
A stone wall, an old house,
You might have a look.

On past the old mill-yard,
Advance to steel rails,
Now keep moving onward
To hear the rest of our tale. (Stop, look and listen!)

9. From the triangular junction
You'll spy the old school;*
Turn right and go towards it-
You've discovered a jewel!

The site of a courthouse,
Statehouse, then school,
Imagine the glory
When pomp was the rule.

Vermont's roving General Assembly
Met a month here in 1801,
Passed a law banning dueling,
Then rode home on horseback when done.

'Tis said that a corps
Of drum and of fife
And a hundred-voice choir
Brought the session to life!

10. Now find Thomas Johnson's tribute
For quite a story it could relate,
It was once a working millstone,
Entwined with the Colonel's fate.

While delivering the stone for a gristmill
According to handed-down stories,
Colonel Johnson and his loyal men
Were ambushed by enemy Tories.

Released by the British only when
A spy he agreed to become,
Colonel Johnson returned to find
He had lost the trust of some.

But when the Tories plotted secretly
General Bayley to deliver,
Thomas Johnson warned his friend
Who escaped `cross the Connecticut River.

(* Currently the D.A.R. (Daughters of the American Revolution) House

11. Continuing south on this quiet dirt road
You'll spy a great maple tree on a lawn alone
Could it have witnessed this history of old?
What would it say if the truth be told?

(To determine this maple's age, estimate the tree's diameter in inches
and multiply that number by 5 —the maple's growth rate—and you'll get
its approximate age in years!)

12. Next pass two long rows of oak trees;
Trudge up a hill to Route 5,
Stay left to find Mr. Ingalls' stone-
Don't give up, you'll soon arrive.

13. Yes, he was quite undeniably
True master of the choir,
And to everyone who knew him
He was known as Jeremiah.

He was the keeper of a small tavern
On what was then the River Road,
Of Shape Notes and of harmony,
This music was his mode.

Thomas Johnson and Jacob Bayley
Rounded out this famous singing troupe,
Ingalls composed his song "Northfield"
As he waited patiently for his soup.

The last monument you have found
Now on to our treasure, you are bound,
On your way, you will surely see
Some landmarks of our fine community.

14. So cross the street most carefully,
Then at a sidewalk you will be.
Turn southward next and take a stroll
To a bridge crossing where freight trains roll.

Look east and see the wondrous view,
The river, high mountains, and New Hampshire, too.
You're looking across the Coos plain
Where Native Americans once planted grain.

Continue on with your expedition
And notice two buildings of quite old tradition.

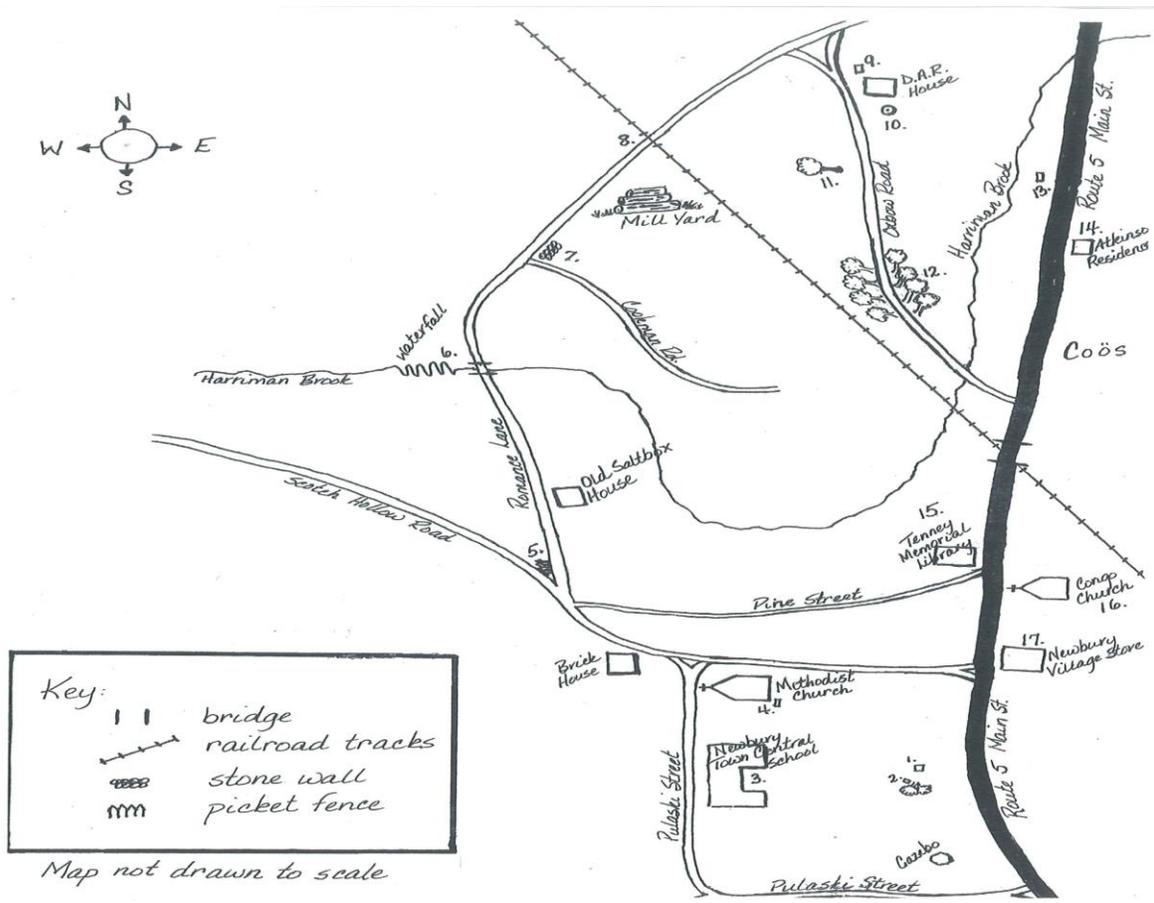
15. The first on the right is Tenney Memorial
(Forgive us here a brief editorial);
This red brick gem has books on history,
Art, adventure, drama, and mystery.

16. On your left is the next place to search,
Where columns four mark the Congregational Church.
What early date did this church organize?
Check out the sign; you won't have to surmise.

17. Head on, you're close to the treasure now;
Read closely here and we'll tell you how.
You'll have to pass through a middle door
To discover the goal that will be "in store."

Turn right toward the corner with the small couch
The treasure's at hand, so don't be a slouch.
Crying "Open Sesame!" would be pretty slick,
But lifting the chest lid will best do the trick.

Congratulations!



Valley Quest

Valley Quest is a series of more than 150 treasure hunts that teach and share the natural and cultural history of the Upper Valley region with children, families, adults and visitors.

How can I participate in the Valley Quest program?

1. Go on a Quest!
2. Complete 20 Quests and earn a Valley Quest patch. Go on 50 Quests and earn a Valley Quest hat!
3. Utilize an existing Quest as an "Outdoor Classroom" with a group.
4. Adopt an existing Quest as a "box monitor." Help foster community as you steward one of the Upper Valley's Special Places. Contact Laura@vitalcommunities.org if you are interested!
5. Create a NEW Quest by yourself or with friends. Help preserve a special place in your community.
6. Buy a *Best of Valley Quest* guide book from your local bookstore and head out on an adventure.

Vital Communities

Valley Quest is a program of Vital Communities, a regional non-profit organization serving the Upper Valley Region. For more information about Valley Quest please check our website: www.vitalcommunities.org. You can call us at 802-291-9100 or email laura@vitalcommunities.org.