



The Podunk Quest

Norwich, Vermont

Difficult

Natural

Trail

1:30

Bring: Binoculars, Compass, and Field Guide

To get there: From the intersection of Routes 5 and 14 in White River Junction, head west on Route 14. After 7.4 miles—just beyond the village of West Hartford—turn right on Tigertown Road. Pass beneath the interstate and then turn right (after 0.3 miles) onto Podunk Road. Proceed for 0.75 miles and then fork left onto the dirt road. After 0.6 miles there will be a pull off on your left (it is big enough for 2 cars). Park and begin your Quest there.

Clues:

Head uphill along the gravel lane
Stone walls snaking by your left hand,
Then downhill passing stumps and snags—
Signs left by nature and loggers upon this land.

New culvert down beneath your feet,
Old culvert points the way—
When you come to this trail fork,
RIGHT is the path to take today.

Cross through a wet hollow
Keeping to the main thoroughfare,
(DON'T turn left at the brown "AG" sign
or right where the yellow blazes stare).

Bridge crosses over rushing brook:
Listen to water's sweet flowing sound.
Trees taking root on bare bedrock,
Life twisting forth from earthen ground.

Orange-black-orange, three faint stripes upon a trunk,
Remnants of a trail blaze made by the DOC.
The path on which we walk once was
The Appalachian Trail, it seems to me.

The trail climbs up a small hill,
While white water rushes down.
Orange paint splash to your right,
High left on a stump, a carved AT found.

Still onward, keeping to the main path,
Crossing over bridges two and three
(in between these two, just right of the trail,
Pieces of a truck, now old and rusty).

Look down at the trail for a great gray rock,
Here the AT crosses this old woods road.
White-blazed trees on both sides can be found,
Right turn onto the trail is where you should go.

Through forest of white pine, then across a wall,
And into an understory of teenage beech.
This land is more open, perhaps an old field?
Toward the village of Podunk, continue to seek.

White blazes continue to show us the way
More stone walls a sign of farmers past.
Podunk was a village 150 years ago
And stone markers are signs that over time last.

Back again into pine, continue your walk,
Uphill goes the trail, with a twist and a curl.
This Quest's not a short one, take a rest if you must,
But keep your eyes peeled to the left for a burl.

What is a burl? From where did it come?
A burl is a bump on the side of a tree.
It sticks out, like a wart, but is not fatal,
Though it was caused by infection or injury.

Enter a wide-open triangular ground.
A cellar hole in plain sight you should see.
Look around you now, for Podunk Road,
Then take a stroll there most leisurely.

Carriages, horses, and oxen traveled here
On journeys to Norwich and Hartford, too.
But now these are trails, recreational places
Strolled upon by visitors like me and you.

Bypass a cellar hole, keeping between stone walls,
Then at two blazes blue, follow fork to the right.
Count your steps – it's about one hundred –
And soon you'll see the old burying site.

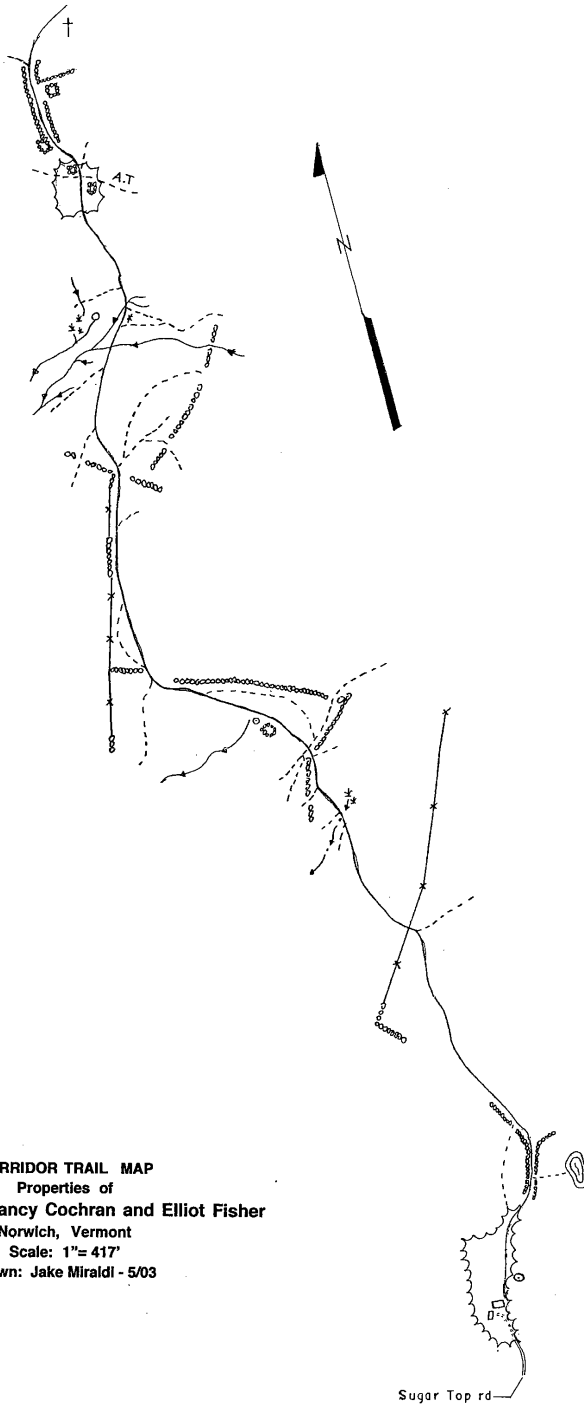
Dexter, Culver, Foster, Gould,
Gilman, Cutting, and Bliss can be found.
Many families once lived in Podunk, and are
Remembered in the Parkhurst burying ground.

Head back toward the yellow blazes,
Then left back onto Podunk Road,
And up the rise to the big cellar hole—
Your Valley Quest treasure box's abode.

Sign in, and then explore this old ghost town.
Many sights of the past you'll surely see.
A town once stood where this forest grows...
There is so much more to this mystery.

To get home, head back to the "open clearing,"
And then right onto the trail from whence you came,
Then turn left when you get back to the "wide road,"
Downhill back to your car and the end of this game!

- LEGEND**
- Main Path ———
 - Other Path - - - -
 - Stone Wall [dashed line]
 - Barbed Wire [line with 'x' marks]
 - Field Edge [wavy line]
 - Stream/Brook [line with arrows]
 - Foundation [dotted line]
 - Wet Area [line with 'x' marks]
 - Buildings [rectangle]
 - Driveway [line with dots]
 - Road [double line]
 - Pond [circle with 'o' inside]
 - Well [circle with 'w' inside]
 - Spring [circle with 's' inside]
 - Seasonal Stream [line with arrows]
 - Cemetery [cross symbol]



CORRIDOR TRAIL MAP
 Properties of
John Wiggin, Nancy Cochran and Elliot Fisher
 Norwich, Vermont
 Scale: 1"= 417'
 Drawn: Jake Miraldi - 5/03

