



The West Cemetery Civil War Quest

Keene, New Hampshire

Easy

Field Trip, Historical

Trail

:45

Bring: Compass

To Get There:

In the square that lies in the middle of Keene

A civil war monument can be seen.

From there, follow West Street west.

Drive a mile and a half...well, more or less.

Bear right on Park Ave, then drive 0.8 miles

Take a left on Arch Street, be sure to smile.

A left turn on Bradford Road, you're almost there!

Look for it on your right, please enter with care.

Drive slowly around to the back,

Park your car, then begin our trek.

This Quest begins at the Norway Maple—

Find the star on our map..if you are able.

Clues:

Note: BOLD tells you where to walk

ITAL means please listen to our talk

Head the way most of the stones face.

Yup, towards the road—but please don't race!

Walking in the direction of the sunrise

We'll begin our tour of Keene Civil war lives.

You're looking for STEARNS giant granite square.

It's on your left, walk there with care.

Just beyond you'll find our cherry tree.

Take in the view from beneath its canopy.

Keene in the Civil War:

Fort Sumpter was attacked in 1861

With this the Civil War was begun!

The call for 75,000 militia was given by Lincoln

The Granite State responded without much thinkin'.

It was written that

“ the events of the past two weeks had startled all

And awakened feelings that will soon not fall.”

So let's start this quest

To find out the rest!

**Back to the “middle road” you should wander
Then head east to the 1st veteran (right) you will ponder.
Note American flags often mark our veteran's stones.
Can you find this Civil War vet's resting home?
Look four rows (or so) from the entrance gate
The 1st stone is where Lyman Estey does wait.**

Lyman enlisted at 18 in 1863.

Battling in Virginia he suffered injury.

He returned to Keene for kids and wife,

And to practice carpentry the rest of his life.

Two children of his died at one and nine;

The third one, Jennie, did just fine.

**Now stay in this row
and a bit further south you should go
You will see an obelisk
beneath which is a man who took a big risk
Here you'll find Oren's family.
Elmer's is the grave we want you to see
Look at the Obelisk and go to the opposite side
There you will find the date he was born and the day he died**

In Swanzey Elmer did reside

But this is not the place where he died.

Eleven brothers and sisters had he,

But buried with him is only poor Elvie.

His brother James enlisted in the war,

Like Elmer did two days before.

In 1864 on the 16th of May

A battle took place in Virginia that day

Poor Elmer was wounded and his family they cried

Because a month later in a hospital he died.

**With Dickinson's obelisk on your left
Raise your eyes and face to the west.
Gaze beyond marble stones newer in date
Towards a cluster of 3 older stones of dark slate.
Walk westwards towards the cluster of three
Beyond them a bush—not a tree—you will see.
Stop at the bush that is hiding Ella...
We are getting close to finding our fella!
Walk to the finger that points to the sky
Fred H. is the younger brother of our guy.
Walk past Frankie in heavenly rest
Past mother and father, one of the Navy's best.
You'll find C.L. Hadley at the end of the row
To see our friend closely you'll have to bend low.**

*Charles mustered in as a musician
Playing sweet notes as the soldiers listened.
At seventeen, though just a lad,
He fought the same war as his Navy dad.
Wounded, he left Ol' Comp'ny G;
When healed, he joined heavy artillery.
In Boston, he made his post war life
And took charming Jennie as his wife.
In death, he rejoined his family in Keene
Whose names mark the headstones that you have seen.*

**Walk once again in the direction of the rising sun
Onward to see the Masons father, daughter, and son.
Forty feet (or so) on your left Hs carved in flat stone you will see
Stop at the first white H for that's where you will need to be!
Turn to the left, take 15 steps where Henry you will greet
The patriarch of the Mason family you're here to meet.**

*Henry Mason had a son
And his name was Simeon.*

**Take a gander to your right,
To see his stone...which has a bit more height.**

*Born in the same town as his dad,
The pattern of Simeon's life seems quite sad.
In the year of 1862,
His wife passed on and left him blue.
So off to war he did go,
But sadly there would be more woe.*

*His soldier brother died in battle.
He came home to make harness for cattle.
Soon he met his second wife,
And built himself a happy life.*

**One more step to the north and you will see
Another member of the family.**

*Her maiden name was Angeline Goddard
She was Simeon's wife, not his daughter.
About Angeline's life little is know;
Men of this area were more often shown.
At the young age of 38, she sadly passed away,
A victim of consumption on Simeon's birthday.*

**Now start walking west
Towards the tall grey obelisk,**

**Behind which a young Daniel does lie
In a field that is SLY.**

*A young man of twenty years,
He enlisted in August of 1862 with no fears.
He was assigned to Company C
In the 14th Infantry.
A feeling of comradeship in these men.
He died after the war – but we don't know when.*

**From where Dan Slyfield takes his rest
Walk towards the woods in back—in the west.
Pass Miss Fanny, do not stray,
Straight across the road where Joy does lay.
Now with the woods along your right
Down the road south, your final prize is now in sight.
Walk down the road past stones to Graves,
Then search deep in arbor vitae caves!**

