



Founding Fathers of Waterbury Quest

Waterbury, Vermont

Moderate

Architectural, Historical

Pavement

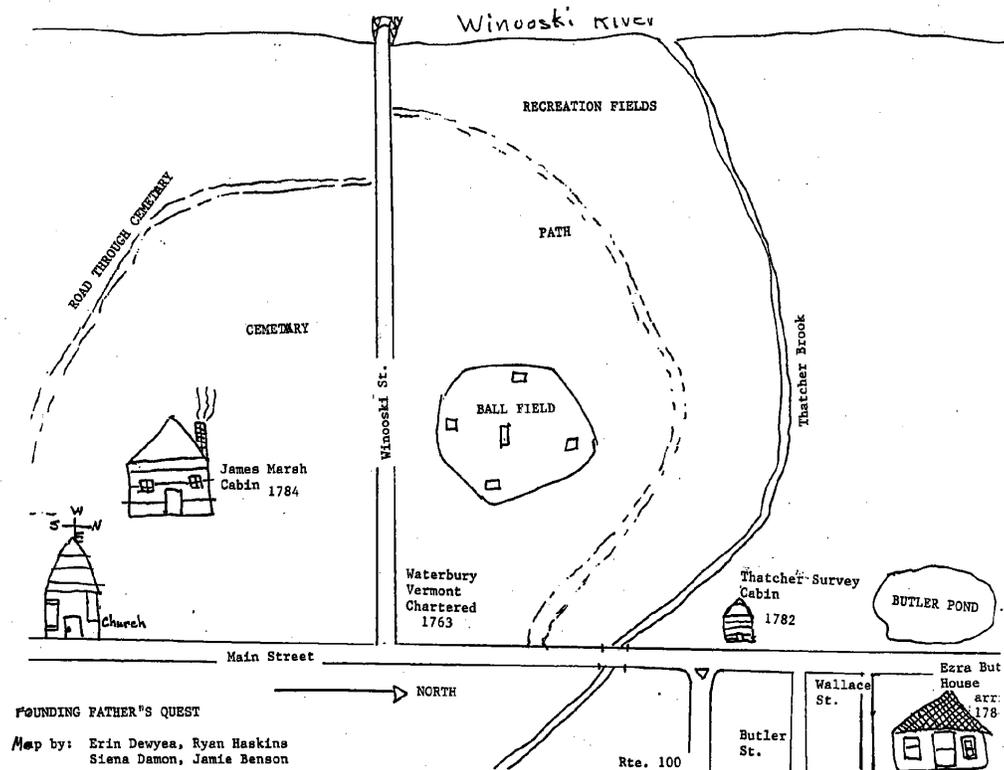
1:00

To get there: Take I-89 north to Waterbury. Follow Route 100 to Route 2 and turn left. The Quest begins at the Waterbury Library, on your right on North Main Street.

Clues:

1. Walk out of the building and go to the street.
Turn yourself north and walk until the bridge you meet.
2. Stop on the bridge, look down in the water.
It's named Thatcher Brook for our very first Town Father.
3. Just past the bridge see a left-turning path.
Walk around the corner and on up the path.
4. A few rods northwest of the brook
Is where Thatcher built a cabin according to the book.
5. In 1782 this shelter he used while measuring a town.
From the Bolton line with chains, he measured 6 square miles around.
6. About this surveyor Thatcher we don't know much more.
He moved on to survey other Vermont lands, and explore.
7. The next year, in 1783, came the first settler;
James Marsh was his name. He came on snowshoes in March's cold weather.

Check the map, and walk through recreation field to the cemetery.



8. He chose a spot on a slope of what is now the Hope Cemetery top. From there toward the river he planted a corn crop.

9. Marsh returned in the fall to harvest and store it. Then back to Corinth to gather his family. They needed a cabin on this spot but he wanted help to build it readily.

10. Back he came in 1784 with 2 sons and a daughter, a small party of four. Alas, his stored corn was gone from the bin. They took shelter in Thatcher's old cabin.

11. Here sheltered and warm with food for a week, They might walk to Richmond settlers for more supplies to seek. With this advice Marsh left his children there While he hurried back for family and supplies on a prayer.

12. Elias 15, Irene 12, and James, about 8, Fished, hunted, and scavenged onions but hunger was their fate. So into week two they made the decision to walk 13 miles to Richmond To visit Mr. Jesse McFairlane.

13. With their trusty hunting dog by their side
They made that long journey, and two disasters survived.
The first, Irene fell from a log in the river,
And was pulled out by her brothers all-of-a-shiver.
Next, a bear blocked their path, but was chased off by the dog.
And finally, they arrived at that Richmond home made of logs!

14. Meanwhile, Mr. James Marsh gathered family and supplies in a
panic.
Three weeks of delays had made him quite frantic.
Finally from Corinth with help from another young man
He was able to bring all to his Waterbury site as he had planned.

15. They searched Thatcher's cabin, for their children to find.
"Quick! Young man, off to Richmond go, to see if McFairlane has any
sign."
Oh joy everlasting, the children are well.
Elias, Irene and James have so many stories to tell.

16. So on this side, atop cemetery hill,
They built their log cabin and began corn crops to till.
A flood spoiled their crop and they struggled through winter weather.
Spring brought fresh hope and news of a new settler.

17. In that spring of 1785 came a new neighbor—Ezra Butler—
With his brother Asaph he planted a corn crop.
Then back to Weathersfield to marry Tryphena Diggins,
While Asaph went on to Richmond to find land and stop.

18. In 1786 they came and found they couldn't keep the 1st land he
took.
They had to relocate so he chose land north of Thatcher Brook.
In September they moved into their first log cabin,
But within a few years built a frame house—a cozy nook.

19. As you stand in this cemetery looking around,
No stone for Mr. Marsh is found, the poor man was drowned.
It happened in the spring of 1788. News came of Munson, a new settler
arriving.
Marsh set out to meet him but fell through the ice, not surviving.

20. But as you stand here in the cemetery top,
Look carefully around and you will find Ezra Butler's lot.
On the end of the stone is his brother Asaph's name,

On the front Ezra and Tryphena, of forebearers fame.

21. Ezra worked hard and studied a lot.

As a Baptist minister, selectman, representative, judge and governor he was sought.

All through his life he lived here in Waterbury village
In that same frame house he built near his corn tillage.

22. Where is this house in which this noble man lived? We must continue our Quest. Follow the path toward the river, cross Winooski Street, walk into the ball field back to Main Street, turn left, pass Route 100, pass Butler and Wallace Street.

23. Now look sharp for the 3rd house on the right.

It has a yellow door and color that is light.

Two trees about two hundred years old...

This is the home of Ezra Butler so bold.

24. Facing the house at the porch on the left side,

Find a birdhouse with the notebook and stamp we did hide.

Stamp in and sing your name.

You've found the three forefathers of Waterbury fame!