



Settlers of Bayley-Hazen Road Quest

Cabot, Vermont

Moderate

Historical

Trail

1:00

Bring: Compass

How to get there: I-91 North to Exit 21, take a right off the exit and look for signs for Route 2 West. Follow Route 2 up into West Danville, VT. Turn right onto Route 15 at Joe's Pond. Turn left on Route 215. Proceed SW and 4.3 miles downhill into Cabot. At the fork in the road by the recreation field, take a right onto Walden Heights Road. Go about a mile, and then take a right onto Cabot Plains Road. Follow this dirt road until you reach the top of the hill. Take a right onto the Bayley Hazen Road. Park in front of the cemetery on the left.

Clues:

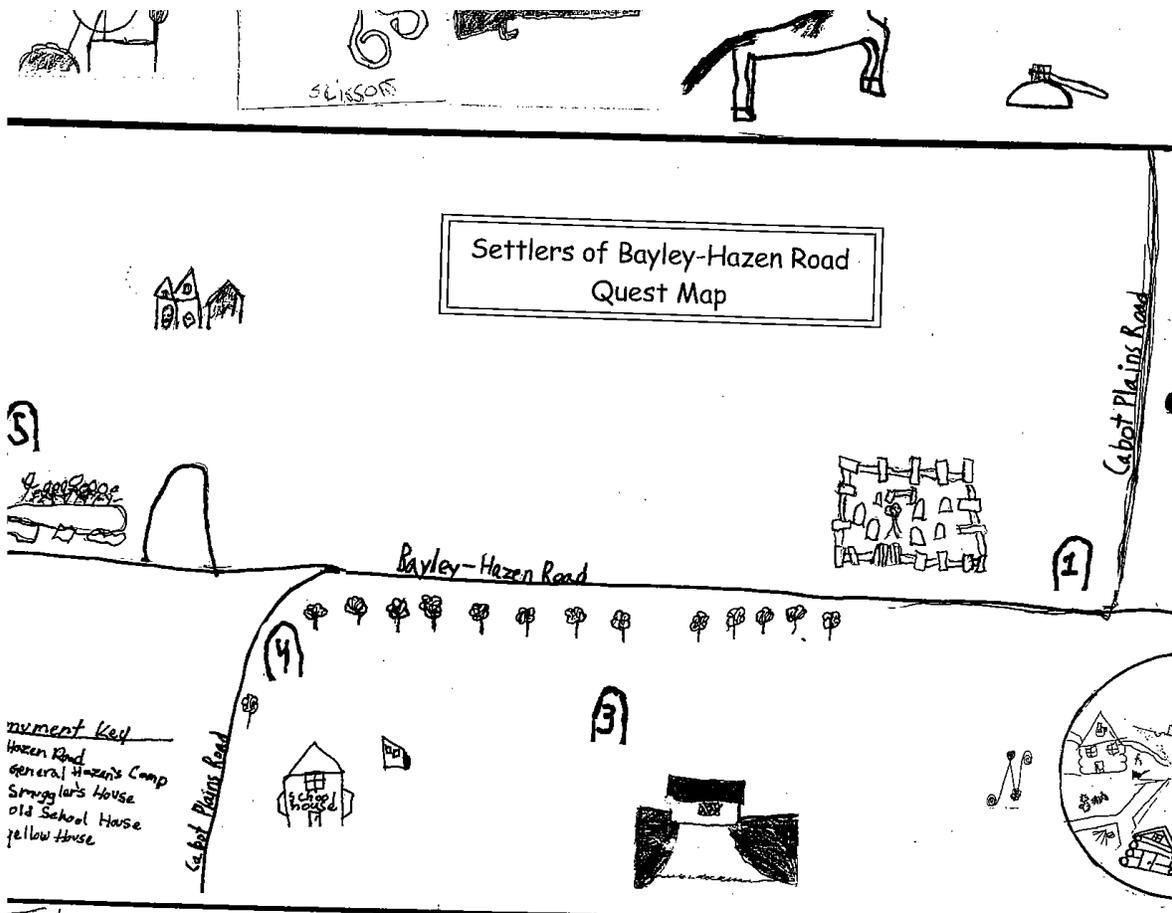
From the cemetery go south 100 steps to the Hazen Stone.
Remember it's granite and not made of bone.

You are now at the first monument called Hazen Road. The first part of the Bayley-Hazen Road started at Wells River and ended at Cabot Plains. It was built by General Jacob Bayley in 1776. In 1779, the second part of the road was built by General Moses Hazen from Cabot Plains to Hazen's Notch. General Washington ordered Jacob Bayley and Moses Hazen to build on an Abenaki trail. American troops built the road because it was a shorter way to get supplies to Canada and to fight the British. The British also used the road.

The road was built by 60 to 110 men. All of the men were hard working and got paid ten Spanish dollars a month, and food and one half pint of rum a day. Men didn't take too many baths back then so their smell probably kept the bugs away and there were lots of bugs.

The men made the road 22 yards wide. Oxen were used during the building of the road. Five men took two hours to cut down a six foot tree with axes. Soldiers built bumpy, corduroy roads and bridges with

logs over wet valleys. Militiamen, which means soldiers, built a block house or a fort to protect them from the British soldiers while building the road. Parts of the fort were still there in the later 1800's. After the Revolutionary War, settlers used the road to travel on and build their log cabins along. The first six or seven log cabins were built along the first mile of the Hazen part of the road in Cabot. The first Cabot cabin was built by Benjamin Webster. Before there were cemeteries people got buried in fields or near their homes.



Continue south across Cabot Plains Road
To the pole in the middle of the field that stands all alone.

Stop and turn and look at the view just like the deer do!
(P.S. I can see the tallest mountain in Vermont...can you?)
Go east to the stone wall. Make sure you don't fall.

Go right along the stone wall 10 strides
Until you find two quartz rocks leading to the left.

Go left a short way until you see three small flat rocks

That look like leaves on the forest floor
Near a hemlock, majestic and old, on the right.

Go straight 5 more steps with a natural gait.
Bear right and wander seven more, until you see
A large softwood tree rising up ahead from the forest floor.

Turn left and walk about 12 steps until you come to the tree
With the white rock at its feet.
Turn 50 degrees to the right and walk to the fallen down spruce
With a four foot gap.

From the gap in the spruce
Take 10 steps over the ground pine to the mossy log.
(Stay away from the rocks to the left so you don't lose your socks!)

Walk down the trail to the right until you see
A foot wide tree with white mushroom lines.
Take 6 steps, and then a left,
And stay to the left of the tree with the old posted sign.

Walk 15 steps ahead to the falling down tree
That's dart and scary as can be.
Walk across a corduroy path of thin brown logs
and General Hazen's Camp Monument you will see.

You're now in the spot where General Hazen and his men camped in 1779 when they were making the road. Look around and what do you see? Rocky ledges are up above where the men made fires. Food came by ox cart from Newbury 15 miles each way, with 14 trips in all. One hundred ten men ate 5300 pounds of salt port, 182 bushels of wheat. 50 pounds of sugar, 40 pounds of chocolate, and drank 80 gallons of rum in 45 days. There was plenty of game in the wild to hunt such as deer, moose and other animals. The cooking pot that was found at he camp ground is in the Cabot Historical Society Museum.

Men brought their own axes and spades from home to use to build the road. There were two men that only fixed the tools for the rest of the men. There were thirty spades, twenty axes and thirty hoes bought to replace the broken ones. When cutting down trees, some men didn't move their arm or finders quick enough and they got chopped off. The men played games when they got time off in the evening. Some played songs on the fiddle, played cards or threw dice. They wrestled, practiced shooting, threw axes and drank rum.

As you walk back out of the woods the same way you came

Look for the ledges which are where the men built up their flame.

When you get back to the stone wall
Walk along it to the road.
Now back to the cemetery
Where people from Cabot Plains go to bury.

Walk to the gate then cross the street.
Walk a ways north then watch your feet.

Walk past the Foster Bridge sign,
Then go to the next small granite rock
Where people didn't pay their fine.

People smuggled whiskey from a first settler's home here on this spot. They smuggled whiskey to Canada during the War of 1812. The war was between the US and the British, but we smuggled the whiskey to the British soldiers anyway, to get money. Settlers made the whiskey at two distilleries on Cabot Plains from potatoes grown along the Bayley-Hazen Road. The distilleries were farther from the road and near water. It is said that an officer was thrown into a pond when he tried to make the settlers pay the taxes for the whiskey.

Watch out for the holes...were they made by moles?
Face north, keep the rock to your left and the maple trees on your right
Between the 8th and the 9th maple you will find the next site of gran –
ite.

We are now at the monument of the first schoolhouse. The first schoolhouse was on the other side of the road. It was made out of logs. The first schoolhouse was at the bottom of Shephard Hill. Pins were driven into the logs and boards were laid on them for desks. They sat on benches and faced the wall. The first school was taught in 1792 by John Gunn.

Back then settlers often used goods and crops, like wheat, nails, glass or \$5 in cash, to pay for the school. If kids misbehaved, they got hit on the hand with a hot burning birch branch. They took barley cakes and potatoes and cooked them in the fireplace in the morning and ate them at lunchtime. School lasted for a few months in the summer and winter. They also used the school house for meetings.

Cross the two roads and the driveway
To the stone that marks where settlers used to stay.

The Yellow House was built by Horace and Gershom Beardsley. One of these men was the first doctor in Cabot but we are not sure which one it was. The house was moved from another spot in Cabot. It was the first framed house in Cabot and was made of hardwood and was two stories high. Everyone from Cabot, Danville, and Peacham was invited to come and raise the roof. Everyone who came was given rum and food for helping. It was a pretty big party!

The Yellow House was a tavern where travelers came and ate, drank and slept. Cabot people went there for visiting and news. Pens and fences outside held animals on their way to market.

At this point in time, you can only see a part of the foundation but the Yellow House was really a lot bigger because it had a shed and an ell and a barn. The ell had a large hall that was used for big gatherings. The Yellow House was torn down in 1855 but the lock, key and hinges still remain at the Cabot Historical Society Museum.

Now find the flat table rock
Big enough to hold the 4th grade flock.
There you will find what you are looking for
And don't worry, it won't have a lock!

We hope you learned a lot and had a fun time on our quest!