South Royalton Historical Quest

South Royalton, Vermont
Physical Difficulty: Easy
Special Features: Historical
Walking Conditions: Pavement
Duration: 30

To get there:
Your Quest begins at the White River Valley High School. To get there, take Exit 2 on 89 North for South Royalton and turn onto Route 132. After 1/4 mile on Route 132, turn right onto Route 14. Go 1/3 mile on Route 14, then turn left onto River Road. Stay on River Road for about 2.5 miles, then continue straight as it turns into S Windsor St. After 2 miles, the High School will be on your right. Park in the second parking lot, near the cemetery.

Clues:

To begin your quest, you must take a left. Inside the cemetery you’ll see a birch tree, take a moment to look around to observe and just be.

Built on Elisha Kent’s farmland, this cemetery has been active since before the Royalton Raid. Kent and at least nine other Revolutionary War veterans are buried here.
Leave the cemetery behind and head back towards downtown. At the corner of Safford and Alexander, you’ll find the library. Open a book and take a gander.

The Royalton Memorial Library was built in 1921. Storage space was made into extra rooms and heating was added in 1957. In 2019, almost 99 years after construction, a new addition was added to make the library accessible to people with disabilities.

Down Railroad Street you’ll spin and stop at the old inn. Built in 1850 by Daniel Tarbell as a railroad stop inn, it was popularized by travelers passing through the town. The building is now used for apartments.

Now look to the green, where the Women's Club had the gazebo built. This was where the town band would play. Have your way, if you will, and check out the coffee shop, village store, and more – just explore!

Now down Chelsea Street, take flight to the White River in all its might. Rebuilt in 2001, underneath it, water runs. Towards the center of the bridge, you’ll find a plaque, that’s where your next clue is at.
The current bridge replaces an early covered bridge and two later iron truss bridges. The version of the bridge standing now was built in 2001-2002. Turn back from where you came, back up Chelsea Street you go.

In 1974, This establishment opened its doors. People came from all around to study law in our town. The former high school building was bought in 1965 by Anthony Doria, who founded Royalton College. He reopened it as Vermont School of Law in 1973.

From the school, head back on Chelsea, to Railroad Street. This location holds money, loads and loads. In the past it was a train station.

The bank was once a railroad stop, built in 1886. This depot brought rapid expansion to the South Royalton village, as Daniel Tarbell built a hotel, a church, a school, and houses.

Head across the street, through the green just by using your feet. March beneath the arch, a memorial to events long past, most recently rebuilt in 2018.

Across the road see doors of red, Your final destination is ahead.
Where they break the bread and drink the wine. The treasure box you will find is next to the sign. We hope you had a wonderful time.

The church was built in 1869 as a one-story building and jacked up in 1890, making it taller. Was once shared by different groups, but the Methodist and Congregational groups merged. It is now known as the United Church of South Royalton.

This Quest was created by Ms. Epchook’s 2019 sophomore class at White River Valley High School. Updated by Vital Communities staff in 2024.

Please be a good steward of the land: leave it better then you found it and pack out any trash you find.

Valley Quest is a collection of treasure hunts that share and teach the natural gems and cultural heritage of the Upper Valley with children, families, adults, and visitors. It is a program of Vital Communities, a regional nonprofit working to engage citizens, organizations, and communities in creating solutions to our region’s challenges. Learn more at vitalcommunities.org