



Beal Cemetery Quest

Lyme, New Hampshire

Physical Difficulty: Easy

Special Features: Historical

Walking Conditions: Trail

Duration: 0:25

Season: May-Oct

Bring: Compass, Field Guide

To get there: From the Lyme green travel east to Lyme Center. Pass through Lyme Center and travel another mile to the fork (just before the Dartmouth Skiway). Bear left here onto the unpaved Dorchester Road. Continue approx. 2.6 miles to the small parking area on the right in front of a double metal gate (250 yards or so beyond the Beal Cemetery). Park at the gate across from the tiny brown Green Woodlands trail sign.

Overview:

Learn about Lyme's early history in a quiet hillside cemetery.

Clues:

Park and get out of your car.

Take a walk... it isn't too far.

Go to your left. Go back down the road.

You may see some butterflies or even a toad.

A small stream trickles under (after 100 paces).

Then, on the left is another stream (after 180 total paces).

Keep on walking down until

You find the Beal Cemetery (its gateway is 250 paces from your car).

At the stone wall that isn't so tall

Climb to the big entrance gateway.

Now, we will take you to see the Beals—

Right, up the hill, toward the big birch is your fate.

Find Mrs. Urania Beal.
 Next to her is Mr. James Beal.
 Another stone, right again
 Find Clarissa and Ezra Alden.

James and Urania Beal settled on half of lot #54.
 They had lots of children: Calvin, John, David, and more.
 First of all buried here were Kate and Prince, two slaves of Mrs. Beal.
 But their headstones are gone, for alas, someone did STEAL!

Ezra and Clarissa's son we knew...
 He owned the Inn around 1902.
 Daughter Clarissa was buried back then,
 But the rest of the family had their graves taken.¹

Now take 40 steps to the northwest
 To see where the Cole family rests.
 Abigail Cole was the oldest to lie here.
 At age 86, 1856 was her last year.

From Abigail go diagonally down the hill,
 Crossing over a dip below,
 Taking another 40 steps
 Until you come to the family Clough in the southwest corner.

Anna Clough was born in 1793.
 Elisha Clough was whom she did to marry.
 (The tops of Anna and Elisha's gravestones have fallen backwards.)
 Then came 4 children: Louis, Eldridge, Gilbert,
 And David all in a row.
 More generations, including the Dimicks, were to follow.

From Louisa A. follow the diagonal to the southeast corner
 Keep on going until you find
 A family by the name of Hovey.

Abigail and Samuel Hovey came here, too.
 They moved to Lyme in 1772.
 There was a "Hovey Island" in the Connecticut River
 It's now known as "Grant's" but is smaller, just a sliver.²

¹ The stones were moved down to the "Old Cemetery" in Lyme.

² The Wilder Dam raised the Connecticut River 14 feet and Hovey Island shrank!

From Hovey keep on going, towards the big birch again...
Count the stones, three rows,
Until you get to Sally Bishop.

Deacon John Bishop served in the Revolutionary War.
He shot at the Red Coats until they fell onto the floor.
The Bishop Family formerly lived with the Shakers,
Who made great furniture and were very good bakers!

Facing Sally Bishop
Turn right towards the street
And walk 15 steps 'til there
Lies a Pushee at your feet.

David Pushee died in 1840.
He married Susanna Pierce and had a son named Harvey.
David fought at Valley Forge with Washington.
Who would have ever thought that the colonists would have won?

Now from Pushee, about face please,
And find many giant white pine stumps.
From the stumps clumped all together
Search to find your Valley Quest treasure.

Meander down the stone wall
'Til, in the northwest corner, it's about to fall...
You will find our box
Hiding in the rocks!

This Quest was created by Steve Dayno and the Lyme 4th grade in 2001.

Other things to do nearby: Check out the Green Woodlands for wonderful walking, Nordic skiing, snowshoeing, mountain biking, horseback riding, hunting, and other activities. Navigate here for more info:

<http://www.greenwoodlands.org/home/recreationaluse.html>.

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



Valley Quest is a collection of 100+ 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.

Have a suggestion, question, comment, or idea for us? We'd love to hear from you. Reach us at valleyquest@vitalcommunities.org or 802-291-9100.

