



Blacksmith Covered Bridge Quest

Cornish, New Hampshire

Physical Difficulty: Easy

Special Features: Natural, Historical

Duration: 0:20

Bring: Compass!

To get there: From I-91 take exit 9 toward Hartland/Windsor; turn left onto US-5/VT-12. After 4.1 miles, turn left onto Bridge Street and cross over into New Hampshire – enjoy the bridge! Turn right onto NH-12A. From Route 12A in Cornish, just south of the bridge, head east on Town House Road. In two miles the bridge will be on your right. On your way you'll pass the Dingleton Covered Bridge, also built by James F. Tasker.

Clues:

James Tasker lived on Parsonage Road.
He cut down trees by the cartload.
Then brought them here to this Mill Brook,
Built Blacksmith Bridge with posts and nooks.

Enter the portal, walk into this space
You will soon discover an exciting place
It is a very old bridge, 1881 to be sure
Highly prized for its look, Tasker's legacy endures.

Look all around, past the King Truss beams
Names you'll spy carved in wood above the stream
Look north near the hill, there is even a mill
With an undershot wheel that never stood still.

The bridge was built in 1881;
100 years later it was redone.
Milton Graton and his men did labor long
To make this bridge once again strong.
Flooring and sheathing were replaced.
Each side of the bridge was a little bit raised.

When you've crossed the bridge,
Look to both sides.
Past the guardrails, but not to your right
There is a trail down to the old mill site.

You'll be at the mill when you see some stones.
There are good seats here so find your own.
Think what it was like so long ago
When the mill was running both fast and slow.
"Slab City" was once the name of this place.
The mill and the bridge kept an active pace.

If you walk back to and up the road (not down to the mill)
You will spy some old walls at the edge of a hill.
When you see walls ahead and the bridge and road behind,
Look to your left—coppiced birches you will find.

Then on the left a boulder you will see...
Now very carefully, listen to me.
With your back to the boulder
Facing 220 degrees SW
Count and then take 17 steps.

You'll be standing tall in the gap of the wall.
Across from you—a wall in view;
Along your left, another wall too!
Where the two walls do meet
There is treasure at your feet!

This Quest was created as part of the Cornish Elementary School Valley Quest
Exploratory in 2000.

**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 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.