



Colonial Claremont Quest

Claremont, New Hampshire

Easy

Historical

Trail

1:00

Bring: Compass

To get there: From Interstate 91, take exit 8 for Vermont 131. Turn left at Route 131/Vermont 131, continue to follow Main St./NH-103/NH-12. After you have traveled in NH for 1.6 miles, turn right on Plains Road. After .2 of a mile, take a slight left at Old Church Road. You will need to take a right to stay on Old Church Road, your destination will be on the left. This Quest begins in front of the Union Church.

Clues:

The clues in *italics* are the movement clues and will direct you around this Quest. The clues not in italic are your teaching clues and will tell you facts about Colonial Claremont.

Tall and white,
 It's part of Claremont's history
 From the time of a great fight.
 Now what was once a muster ground
 Is a good place to fly your kite around.

Union Church
 Stands surrounded
 By white birch.
 Built in 1773,
 It's still as beautiful as can be.
 Here's where Tories used to pray,
 And others worship to this day.

In 8 years, Claremont will be 250,

Isn't that nifty?
Claremont is named for the Duke of Newcastle's house
Not after his pet mouse.

1. *With your back to the door
And your feet on the floor
Don't go back
Walk to the plaque.*

There's a rock with a plaque
Don't put it in a sack
Don't stare at the moss,
Look at the cross
The words are in gold
They can't be sold.
From them,
You'll learn about a NH governor of
old.

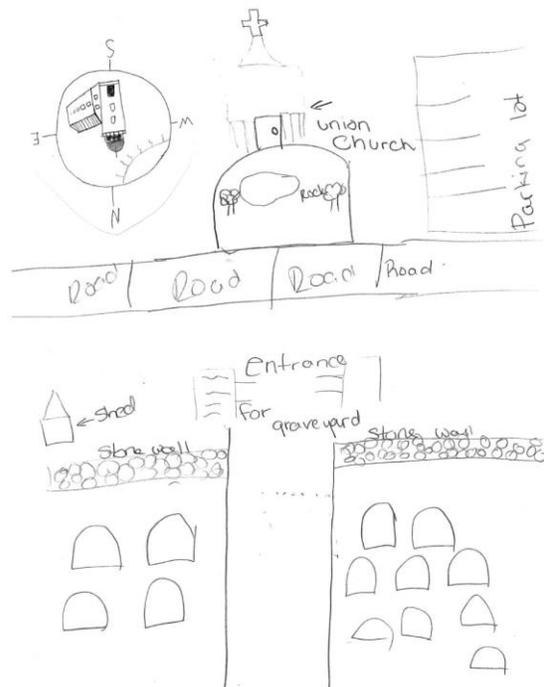
Benning Wentworth got to be
NH's governor while it was still a colony.
From 1741-1766, he made the rules
Setting aside land for homes and schools.
The spot for this church came from him,
But he never delivered the glass
To go inside the windows' trim.

2. *Cross the street
And stay left with your feet
What you have found
Will tell you about the burial ground.*

Two Acres the settlers did take,
This burial ground to make

3. *Look right
To the next sight
Where you see a patch of grass
There's a list of people from the past*

34 men went off to war,



Not one less, not one more

*4. From the plaque look for a bush that has flowers in May.
To find Christopher York, it won't take all day.
Find the big pine tree to your right,
Christopher York is within sight.
Near his grave there stand two flags.
In a stiff breeze, they won't sag.
They stand tall and proud
Above the crowd.*

Christopher York is buried here.
He was one of the first settlers to hold Claremont dear.
We don't know much about his family.
He died 5 years after age 63.

*5. Turn left not right
Take 14 steps to the obelisk that's white
Another left turn
And you will learn
25 steps more
To where the second obelisk soars
You've found the last home
Of Charles Jones
But now turn to your right
Here lies Ezra Jones in plain sight..*

He fought in the Revolutionary War
But wait there's more.
He had a family of five
While he was alive
He lies here beside his bride.



6. *Put your back to Ezra's stone.
30 steps straight ahead
Takes you to where Ichabod Hitchcock lies dead.
His family lies in a line of nine
Between where two trees grow, they're white pine.*

Rebeckah was his wife
And she lived a long life.
Kids he had = 11
At the cemetery, there lie only 7
Being a Mason,
He worked with stone.
He died at 89, not alone.

7. *Look at Ichabod, turn right and
Walk to the giant tree.
Then turn all the way around
Don't fall on the ground.
Walk 10 steps forward until you get to Mr. Joseph's grave
Then turn around again
Walk 14 steps forward then,
Until you see a grave split in half
That lies in your path
Walk 10 more steps forward
Mr. Benjamin Sumner lies there.*

He worked as a clerk
And may have done it with a smirk
Married his dear Prudence Hubbard
She helped keep a full cupboard.
The Declaration of Independence, he refused to sign
On the fine line.

8. *Put your back at Benjamin Sumner's stone,
Now walk diagonally to the right to the slate
That is in a row one further from the gate.
Barnabas Ellis lies here where the grass is mown.*

On July 28, 1745, Barnabas Ellis was born.
He came to Claremont in the spring of 1767 and started planting corn.
He served at Ticonderoga and Crown Point with General Stark –
As a soldier and constable he made his mark.

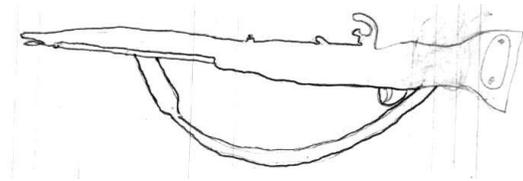
He died on June 26, 1838 at age 93,
Taking his place in history.

*9. Put your shoulder to Mr. Ellis' stone.
Facing north, walk two stones ahead.
You'll end up where Beverly lies dead.
Turn left from Beverly's slate and
Walk to the stone with the metal plate.*

Sanford Kingsbury, he was so great
Now he lies a cracked slate.
His wife was nice
And they had a good life.
Kids, he had six
And that he couldn't fix.
Now he lies dead
With his wife and kids.

*10. Now cross the road
Don't be as slow as a toad.
Then turn left, not right
Look out for sunlight.
Take 12 steps forward,
Don't be a coward.
It's the second grave from the path
There is no draft.*

In Deerfield, Mass, Samuel Ashley was born.
A revolutionary patriot,
To the cause of liberty he was sworn.
He fought in the Battle of Bennington,
Which was important,
since the colonists won.
Now he's known in our community
Because of the landing named for
(the ferry run by) his family.



11. You're standing at the grave

*Of someone brave.
Now from Samuel Ashley
Face the tree.
Then take
14 steps diagonally.
Leaning there you'll see
A stone that's embedded
in the tree.
Read closely,
Denis Hitchcock's name on
it will be.*

*12. Zenis is on one side of the tree.
Go to the opposite side to find the key.
Take 27 steps diagonally
To the right to Lucy
Go 4 graves diagonally
To see Asa Jones and his family*

Asa Jones was a lieutenant
And he had many descendants
He died at 66 years
Amid many tears
He died June 4th, 1828
And was buried here behind the gate.

*13. Take 20 heel to toe steps southeast
Not more, not least
Find the stones that gaze
At the biggest obelisk in the haze*

Benjamin Tyler was known for his mill
Not for being still
You can find him in the church
You must move, but you don't need to lurch.
He's got a plaque,
Attention it does not lack.

*14. Now go to the wall.
You won't fall.
Take seven steps south.
In the wall, look for a mouth.*

If you found the treasure box, that is fine
Now in our book, you need to sign
Collect an impression from our stamp, we don't mind
And re-hide the box for the next determined Quester to find.

Other things to do nearby: Grab a bite to eat at one of the tasty restaurants on the roundabout right in town. While you're there check out the Claremont Spice and Dry Goods shop for a fun tour around the world in spices. Mount Ascutney isn't far off if you're looking for a hike, either! Beautiful views from the top. It's the highest peak around!

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.