



Fort #4's Past & Present Quest

Charlestown, New Hampshire

Physical Difficulty: Easy

Special Features: Historic

Duration: 1:30

Bring: compass

To get there: Take I-91 to Exit 7; and then travel east on Route 11. At the intersection of Routes 11 & 12, take Route 12 south towards Charlestown Village. Upon entering the village, look for the fire station—it's the first building on the left. Enter the driveway beyond the station building as this is a one-way driveway. Please park in back of the fire station, well out of the way.

Clues:

Start at the Fire Station and head south toward town.
The very first house on the left is where you are bound.
This is the site of the Johnson's cabin.
They were captured by Indians in 1754.
They returned to Charlestown after a ransom was paid.
The original cabin is hidden underneath the modern exterior.

Keep heading south. Do you hear the sound of a bell?
Is it the church or the brick house next to it that would ring so well?
It is the brick house that in 1772 was built as a one-room schoolhouse.
This is the oldest schoolhouse in Charlestown and it held 40 students,
The youngest learning their ABC's and the oldest algebra.

Continue down the sidewalk quite a ways,
Until a pizza parlor comes into your gaze.
You could stop in to have a bite to eat,
But when you're done go back outside and cross the street.
The place you should find yourself to be is in front of the Silsby Public Library.

The library holds a lot of interesting things, including a carved wooden eagle
And some of Charles Hoyt's plays (one of only five in existence).

Travel south once again, to the site of what was the Walker Tavern
A place where (once-upon-a-time) you were able to walk right in.
This stone house was the home of Mary Walker,
The great granddaughter of an original grantee of # 4.
The "stone cottage" as it is commonly called, used to be the Walker
Tavern.
It had a sign with bees and a beehive on it,
Just like the Beehive Tavern of Philadelphia, PA.
I'll mention here as a last note,
They say this place is haunted by two ghosts!
(Oh I almost forgot to say,
So was the first house along the way.)

The next house south that is on your right, is Fort #4's original site!
At your back is a stone with a plaque. Go over and read a little history.
Now travel south to house #304.
Stop here and of history you'll learn more.
Hidden in the back of this house is a well that is thought
to have been originally used by the fort.

Now look for a brick house as you journey along
And I will tell you of a poltergeist's song.
This house underwent re-construction to return it to its original state.
It was then that the owners heard the ghost!
It banged boards together and slammed doors.
When the re-construction was done, the noises disappeared.

At the next crosswalk you will do just that ...
Come to some grand trees upon a large lawn.
Can you identify these large evergreens?
Let's hope they never have to be sawn.
South you roamed the first part of this Quest,

Now traveling north I think would be best.
Onward to a place where you can sleep
And eat while resting your very weary feet.
Now a bed & breakfast this house
was built by Phineas Stevens in 1752.
He was very careful while building this house,
For Indians captured him as a youth.

Keep traveling north along Main.
Go to place you would visit if your tooth had a pain.
Moses Willard, an occupant of the fort, called this "mine."
Later, two brothers bought it (that was in 1839).
They married two sisters and split the house in two, each living in half.

Keep going toward a brick building called Dan's,
you can buy everything here from cards to pans.
The street next to this is Perry Ave.,
Travel up it if the treasure you want to have.
On the side of this building you will see
A mural dedicated to Charlestown's past history.
Continue to the end of this street.

You will come to a street named
After the direction you were just heading.
Now head north along the street named East.
You will come to a cemetery I am betting.
Turn right through the first gate.
Hurry now, let's not be late.
Now inside, bear right at the 1st fork; then left at the 2nd fork
Onto a dirt roadway to some stone steps.
Go up the steps and walk straight and narrow
Until adjacent to the 2nd oak tree off to your left.

You are looking for the gravestone of Moses and Susannah Willard,
Who were killed by Indians June 16th of 1756.
Pay your respects to these fort settlers buried here.
Now look straight ahead, slightly to your left,
For a chalice standing high in the sky.
It is the Johnson's burial spot, also settlers of the fort.

The people from the fort have been here a long time...
But so has something that is living.
Can you guess what it may be?
Look ahead at the edge of the woods.
My goodness it's a huge sycamore tree!
How many times do your arms go around?
18 feet the diameter was found.
Just imagine how long this tree has been standing here.

History we have discovered and trees of many year.
It's almost time to find our treasure, which is very near.
Facing the tree turn right and head down the road.

Be careful not to step on a camouflaged toad!

Along the way turn right at the second granite post.
To the steps you came up, please do coast.
Ahead on the right, look around in the tree web and mirth.
The treasure is where the pine tree leaves the earth.

This Quest was created by Maeghan Paulhus in 2003.