



## Union Village Historical Quest

### Thetford, Vermont

Physical Difficulty: Easy

Special Features: Historical

Walking Conditions: Pavement

Duration: 1:00

Bring: Compass, Field Guide

**To get there:** Travel north (from Norwich) or south (from East Thetford) on Route 5 to the village of Pompanoosuc. Turn west on Route 132. Take 132 to Academy Road. Fork right onto Academy and travel slowly through the village. Start at the red brick United Methodist Church on your left.

### Clues:

1. A white bell tower is perched  
Upon this red brick Methodist church.  
On its wall is a plate; 1836 is the date.  
Samuel Richardson was the first pastor's name,  
And in 1928 electric fixtures came.
2. Come out the front door  
And turn southwest  
Till you face the old carriage shed  
Where six horses used to rest.
3. Too bad for the poor  
And the ones who lived close,  
'Cause the rich and the far  
Had first pick for their horse.  
In a shed with only six stalls to spare,  
Everyone else had to leave their horse bare.
4. From where the horses used to lie,  
Make a right and walk ten paces.  
Buried underneath are a lot of lonely faces.

Walk southwest to the back where the cemetery ends  
And where the LaPierres' pink tombstone bends.

5. Surrounded by a wrought iron fence,  
Families buried side by side,  
The cemetery was started around 1-8-1-5,  
The large tombstones of the rich,  
Will make you want to hide in a ditch.

6. As you look at the cemetery,  
You turn to your right.  
Now the Union Village Schoolhouse  
Will be in sight.

7. A fine facade stares you in the face,  
The old Union Village Schoolhouse,  
Not in its original place.  
The schoolhouse once stood  
Across the road  
Until 1925, when it was towed.

8. Across the street you'll notice a house,  
White with green shutters,  
A river out back,  
For the windows there is no lack.  
Now move your feet to the house,  
Where flowers are kept real neat.

9. On the right side,  
Between two maple trees,  
There was once a blacksmith's shop,  
But it no longer exists,  
The family that lived there has  
Long been dismissed.

10. From the side porch,  
Walk north across the street.  
A red brick house,  
With wood that looks weak.

11. This house is very, very old,  
The old school site was just across the road.  
For chimneys there are three.  
The shutters are black as you can see.

12. In 1877, M. J. Walker lived here.  
To the town line the house is near.  
He was the treasurer of the church.  
Behind his house is a tree of birch.

13. From this brick house by the road,  
Go northeast and you'll pass a shady grove.  
Now cross the street east;  
Pieced together and painted white,  
You'll see a house that's right in sight.

14. This house used to be next to the dam.  
You'll see an old fence in front of the house,  
With 237 by the door.  
Inside this house lives a kid named Sam.  
Their house is close to the  
Ompompanoosuc River Shore.

15. Walk across the street  
And follow the road the direction birds fly in the spring.  
Don't worry, the walk isn't too far,  
Now in the yard of the yellow house with a fence,  
You can see identical trees,  
Swaying in the breeze.

16. In 1877, G. Benton lived  
Across the river from this house,  
Which at the time was owned by Mrs. L. Hall.  
Surprisingly enough, it still stands in the same spot:  
Road, foundation and all.  
To finish this Quest you must be on the ball.

17. Walk up the street and look to your right;  
There is a big maple tree in plain sight.  
The white house right there has black trim,  
Is the house where D. Turner settled in.  
It's been modified since 1877,  
Now the house can comfortably sleep 11.

18. Start at the house with many-a-point,  
Walk northwest across the street.  
You'll be standing on the sloping lawn of the Donovans,  
With a sprawling silver maple ready to greet.

19. In 1977, this property belonged to the late T. Jenks.  
This two-story house included a gable.  
You'll notice a rounded corner on the second floor,  
And did we mention that the silver maple  
Is supported by a cable?

20. You're at the house with a silver tree.  
Face northeast and cross the street.  
Peer down and there you will see an old foundation.  
This is J. K. Blaisdell's old store and gas station.

21. This store is just south of the mill;  
Here you could buy five pounds of coffee for just sixty cents.  
The old store lay half on a hill;  
For horses and safety there was a railing and fence.

22. Across the street and up on a hill,  
A yellow old house sits opposite  
From the now-gone wool mill.  
Next to the house, there is a barn with a red window sill.

23. M. J. Walker settled here in 1830,  
In this yellow house with white trim.  
There is a barn north of the house, brown like a mouse.  
This house is two stories, but it's still rather slim.

24. Look for a sign saying Union Village Bridge.  
Start walking northeast to it and look around.  
You should see screen windows and wooden beams.  
Beneath you is the flowing river.  
Can you hear the sound?

25. This is one of the two covered bridges in Thetford.  
It was built in 1888 and rebuilt in 2002.  
Walk through the bridge, look closely on the wooden beams, and you'll  
see a key.  
The foundation used to be old brick,  
But now the rocks are new.

26. Go back through the bridge  
Turn to the right.  
Look for the house

With a gold '77' on white.

27. This house once belonged to Mr. Clough.  
This house with blue paint and red on the door,  
With circles around the trim.  
Continue now to learn more.

28. Turn around and face the road.  
Do the hokey pokey twice!  
Look both ways before you cross,  
Then head towards the stone wall that looks very nice.

29. F. W. Morse lived here with his cows in 1877.  
"We use the Delavel Milker"  
Is boasted above the barn door.  
In the back yard there is a Buddha at peace.  
On the door at the far right  
There's a whale from the ocean shore.

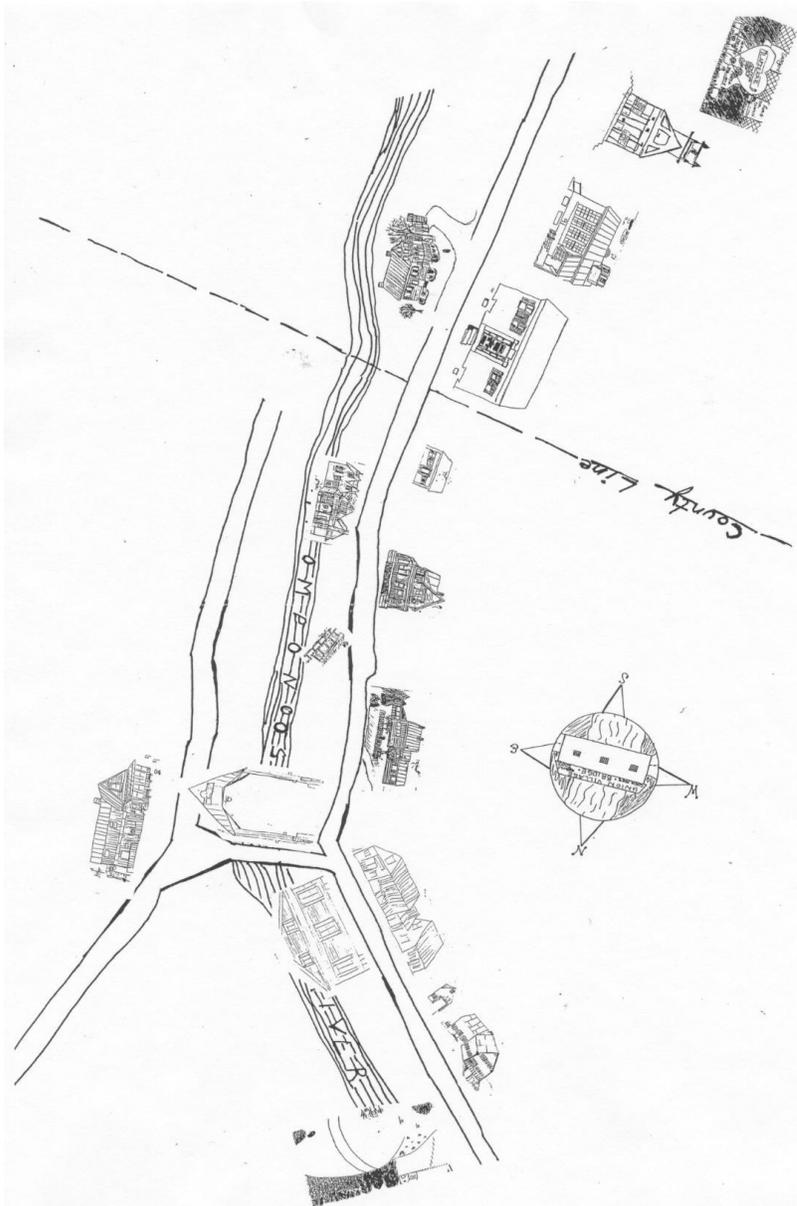
30. Stay on this side of the street.  
Walk to the blue-gray house with white trim and a shiny roof.  
You'd better not go in the house,  
Or the Quest will open to no others.

31. This house is close to the road and built in 1877.  
It was paid for and owned by a man called A. West.  
There are three different kinds of foundations;  
Stand in front of the porch to see them the best.

32. Go north from the residence of A. West.  
Follow this road to meet your fate,  
Up the road and across the brook,  
Until you reach the yellow gate.

33. The dam you see can hold more than 12 billion gallons;  
It was created to control flooding.  
Now it has a recreational area.  
You can now picnic, swim, or go running.

34. In the gate and up the path towards the water,  
Look around the field for a birdhouse marked 'TA'.  
In a clearing hidden a little to your right,  
There your Valley Quest will be done for the day.



**Other things to do nearby:** Sweetland Farm, which you passed on Route 132 just before you turned right onto Academy Road on your way to the dam, is a thriving place that feeds people, animals, and soil. Call ahead to see about visiting. You might even want to join their CSA!

**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](http://vitalcommunities.org)