**Title of Quest**

**Thetford, Vermont**
Physical Difficulty: Moderate  
Special Features: Natural  
Walking Conditions: Trail  
Duration: 1:00  
Bring: Field Guide, Binoculars, Swimsuit

*To get there: from Exit 14 off I-91 follow Rt.113 west over Thetford Hill and down into Thetford Center. Turn left on Buzzle Bridge Road. Continue to large parking lot on left. During the summer months, when the gate is open, you can go on to the parking lot by the steel bridge where the “Lollipop Loop” Quest trail starts.*

**Clues:**

Walk half a mile along this peaceful country road.  
East Branch of “Pompy” River follows you along.  
Turn right where the iron span will lead across.  
100 years ago it was a covered bridge.

A pamphlet from the wooden box may give advice  
And point out mysteries of human history,  
Of farming times and labor at the mill  
Made possible thanks to the river’s flow.

Turn left beyond the bridge and start the loop.  
A steep spur leads to what is called  
A “mill race”, remnants of a channel  
Diverting water to a water wheel.

It drove the gears of Rogers Woolen Mill,  
Four stories high, built right there on the shore.  
With rooms for spinning, weaving, dyeing,  
Workers would turn the wool into warm blankets.
Back on the trail, and over on your right
A "cellar hole" from workers' boarding house.
And further on, the open field may have been used
For farming, gardening or playing after work.

The trail dips down, and finally it enters
Old Union Village Road with a view of the marsh.
Turn right a stretch and at the next sharp corner
Look out for Lonesome Pine and a display sign.

The Cook Family’s dairy farm stood in this field
Until removed in 1940 to make room for the Dam.
Go past the sign on its left side and you can find
A gate post cut of stone and remnants of old barns.

Walk straight ahead and you will soon discover
Look right, in the rocks of an old stone wall, to find
The Quest Box, filled with stamp and pad,
With an old map and even older pictures.

In the logbook, please share what else you found –
Maybe a snake, a butterfly, a painted turtle,
Or if you heard the song of any bird
That makes its home close to the Lonesome Pine.

The “laugh” of a robin, the “wrock” of a Raven,
“Wichity, wichity” warbles the Yellowthroat,” “Madge, madge, please put
on the teakettle”,
sounds the bubbly tune of the Song Sparrow.

And when you get tired of listening and looking:
Retrace your steps back past the display sign
To the main trail, where you take a left
to go back to the start. To end or begin again!

By Bill Shepherd, 2000; updated by Vital Communities 2022.

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 non-profit organization serving the Upper Valley Region. For more information, go to www.vitalcommunities.org; call us at 802-291-9100; or email valleyquest@vitalcommunities.org.