

**New curriculum: Alien Invaders!  
Exotic Invasive Plant Guide**

## **Introduction:**

Exotic, invasive plant species pose a major ecological and economic threat to the natural ecosystems of Georgia. These alien invaders have an adverse effect on the diversity of Georgia's native plants and contribute to the loss of important habitat for our native animals. Kudzu and privet are choking out trees and wildflowers in forests throughout the state, and the impacts of cogon grass and garlic mustard have yet to be determined.

Invasive exotic plants currently infest millions of acres of forest land in the Southeast and their range continues to expand. All federal park and forest lands in the Southeast currently have exotic infestations (Hamel and Shade 1985, Hester 1991).

While scientists across the state are studying the threat of exotic invasives, public education is equally important in the battle to combat these alien invaders. In order to give teachers and non-formal educators the resources they need to begin introducing their students to the adverse impact these plants have on our natural areas, Elachee Nature Science Center and the Georgia Exotic Pest Plant Council have partnered to develop curriculum that is easily incorporated into the classroom and non-traditional educational programs. This first edition of *Alien Invaders!* includes a few activities to get you started. Additional activities will be added in future editions, including additional activities for 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades.

## **The Curriculum:**

### **Description:**

This guide contains a collection of hands-on activities that are easy for teachers to use in the classroom and in the schoolyard. The curriculum is designed for kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade and most activities are tied to the Georgia Performance Standards.

The guide is available to all formal and non-formal educators on-line at [www.gaepc.org](http://www.gaepc.org) and through workshops offered in the metro-Atlanta area. Classroom teachers, park naturalists, environmental education specialists, and others can adapt these activities to fit easily into their programs.

### **Goals:**

The goal of *Alien Invaders!* is to promote awareness of the impact of exotic invasive plants on our natural areas through dissemination of teaching guides that are easily integrated into the classroom as well as nontraditional education programs. The guide will provide teachers with tools to help students develop a sense of stewardship for our wild places.

The curriculum can be downloaded of the Georgia Exotic Pest Plant council website (<http://www.gaepc.org/index.cfm>), underneath the header *What's new?..* The curriculum is a PDF file. You will need an adobe Acrobat reader to download this. Enjoy the curriculum! If you have any questions please contact Judith at [judith@elachee.org](mailto:judith@elachee.org).

## **Outdoor Classroom Symposium 2008 Questing, Letterboxing, and Geocaching**

Claire Waggenpack Hayes and Annie Quinting  
([Claire@dunwoodynature.org](mailto:Claire@dunwoodynature.org)) and ([annie.quinting@sccpss.com](mailto:annie.quinting@sccpss.com))

### **Letterboxing**

*National Geographic Kids story*

<http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/Stories/PeoplePlaces/Letterboxing?source=pincl>

Find boxes in Georgia – 742 listings!!!

<http://www.letterboxing.org/BoxFind.php>

The Smithsonian article that triggered all this (letterboxing AND questing) in the US:

<http://www.letterboxing.org/Smithsonian.html>

### **Questing**

<http://www.vitalcommunities.org/valleyquest/valleyquest.htm>

an excerpt:

*Look for our new book **BEST OF VALLEY QUEST** in your local bookstores!*

*Teachers check out the New **Civil War Quest Curriculum!***

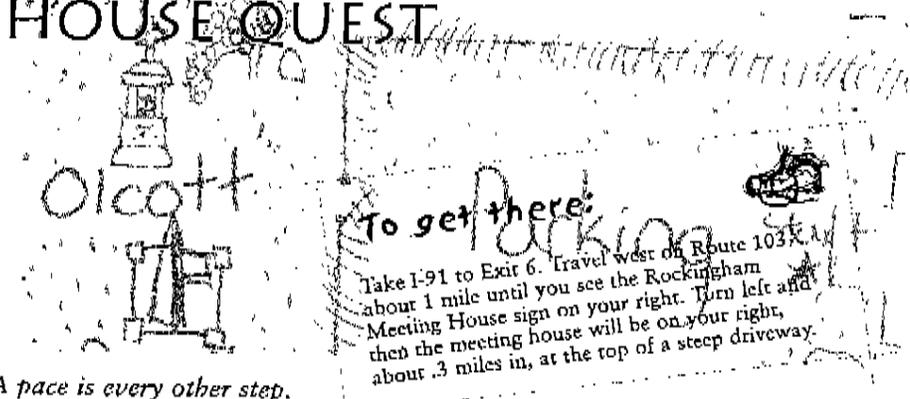
*During Bow and Arrow hunting season, please remember to stay on the trail, and wear bright orange (and it might not hurt to make a lot of noise).*

*For more information contact [steve@vitalcommunities.org](mailto:steve@vitalcommunities.org)*

Wikipedia article: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Questing>

ROCKINGHAM VT

# 49 ROCKINGHAM MEETING HOUSE QUEST



*A pace is every other step.*

Start at the most prominent house of white,  
 its colonial architecture is quite a sight.  
 The building went up in 1787,  
 the folks in back are now in heaven.  
 As you travel through the Quest you will  
 collect clues that will lead you to our box at the end.

Go west from the meeting house;  
 look for the Divoll monument near the gate.  
 One of them suffered a terrible fate.  
 His birth and death months have the same second letter,  
 you will need that for the final clue:     

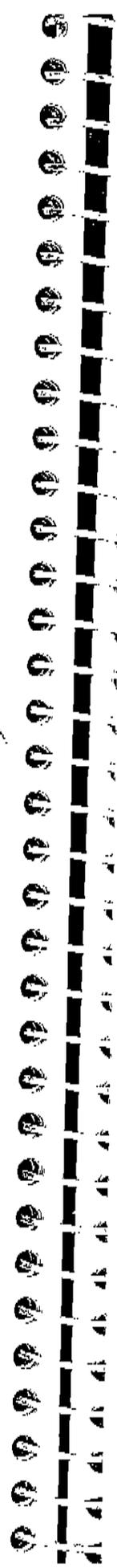
Go a little north of west and walk twenty paces,  
 turn right and go thirty more.  
 The Eldridge grave is what you're looking for.  
 This grave has a tree engraved on its back; on its front are names.  
 How many are not dead as of the year 2000?  
 That number is part of your clue:     

Travel southeast and look up to the grave with the books  
 that cannot be read. As you face the open books,  
 the name is what you're looking for; use the last  
 of the first and the first of the last, these  
 will help you in your clue:     

Go east to a little old grave by the open gate.  
 Amy Kibby is underneath, her age was  
 98 when she died. In the fifth line use  
 the sixth, seventh, ninth, tenth, and eleventh letters,  
 they are in spaces 5, 6, 8, 9, 10:     

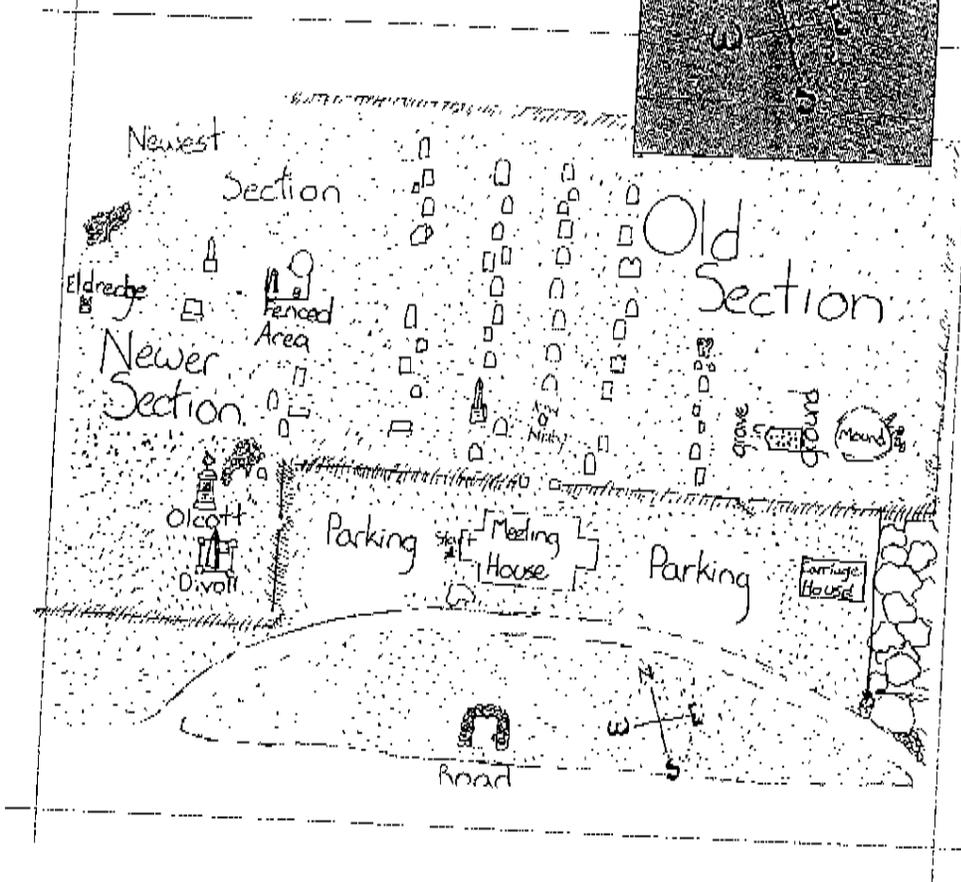
Go east past the grave that's flat in the ground, to the  
 mound with stone underneath, we don't  
 know what it was used for, but it has  
 a wooden shelf inside and latches on  
 the door, like the box you will find at  
 at the end of your quest.

*at Divoll street  
 east makes  
 great map  
 easy to find*



# ROCKINGHAM VT

CONTINUED



Go southwest on the other side of the meeting house, next to the road. It is the waiting room for the dead, under ground. Check out what its made of. It will help you when you look for the box.

Go east to the little house of white, inside is an old hearse for the dead to ride in.

If you followed the clues correctly and filled in the blanks, then you now know where to go to find the box. You have now reached the end of your quest, now you can go home and rest.

Final clue:

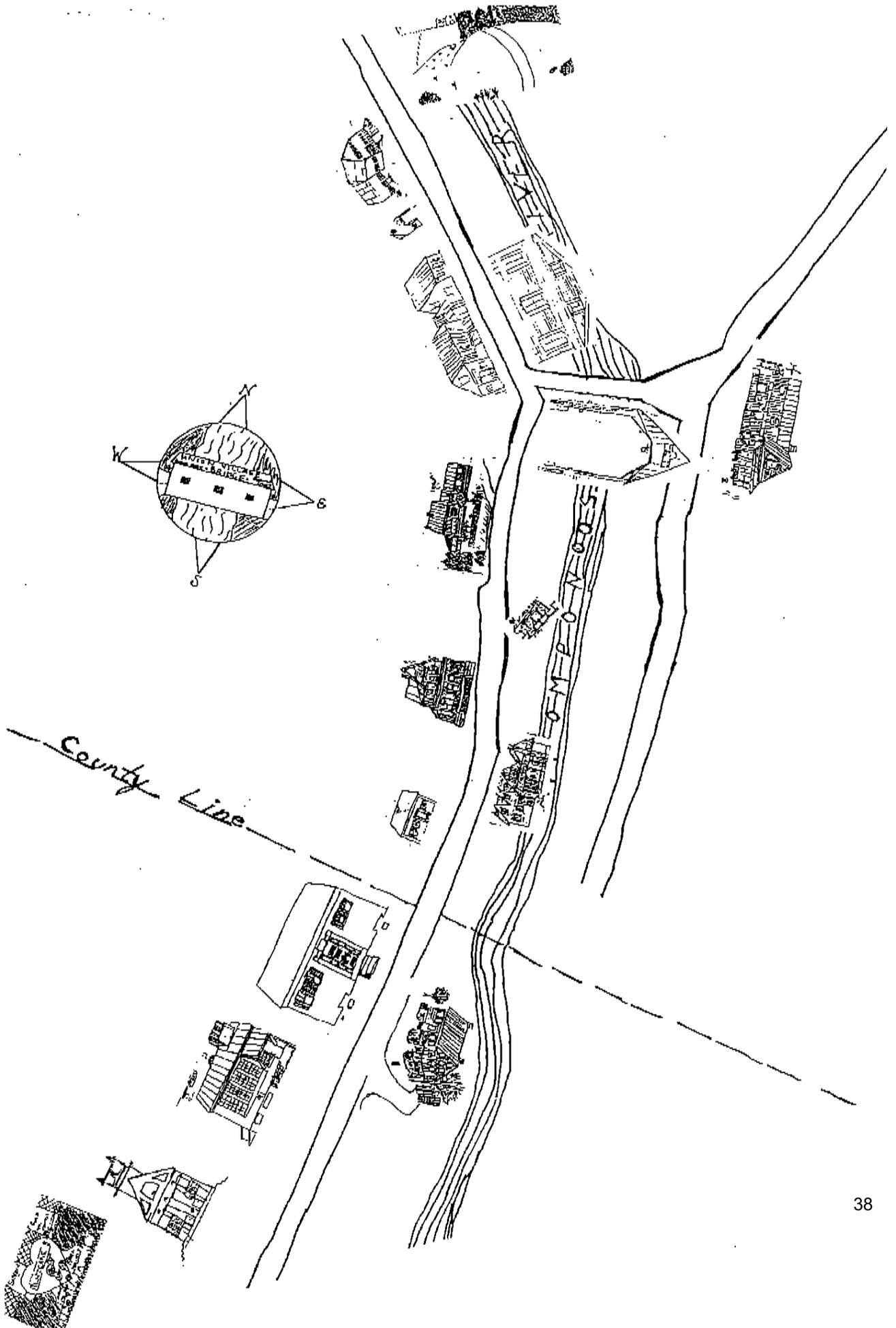
From clue # 3 paces 4 4 2 5 5 from h 5 5 5 se.



**Union  
Valley**

**Village  
Quest**





Start Here!

### The Union Village Historic Quest

He was treasurer of the church.  
Behind his house is a tree of birch.

13) From a 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  
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 that 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 1877, 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.  
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 5 pounds of coffee for just 60 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 the 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.

1) A white bell tower is perched,  
Upon this red-brick Methodist Church.  
On the 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  
Til 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) 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 old Union Village Schoolhouse  
Will be in sight.

7) A black "91" 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.

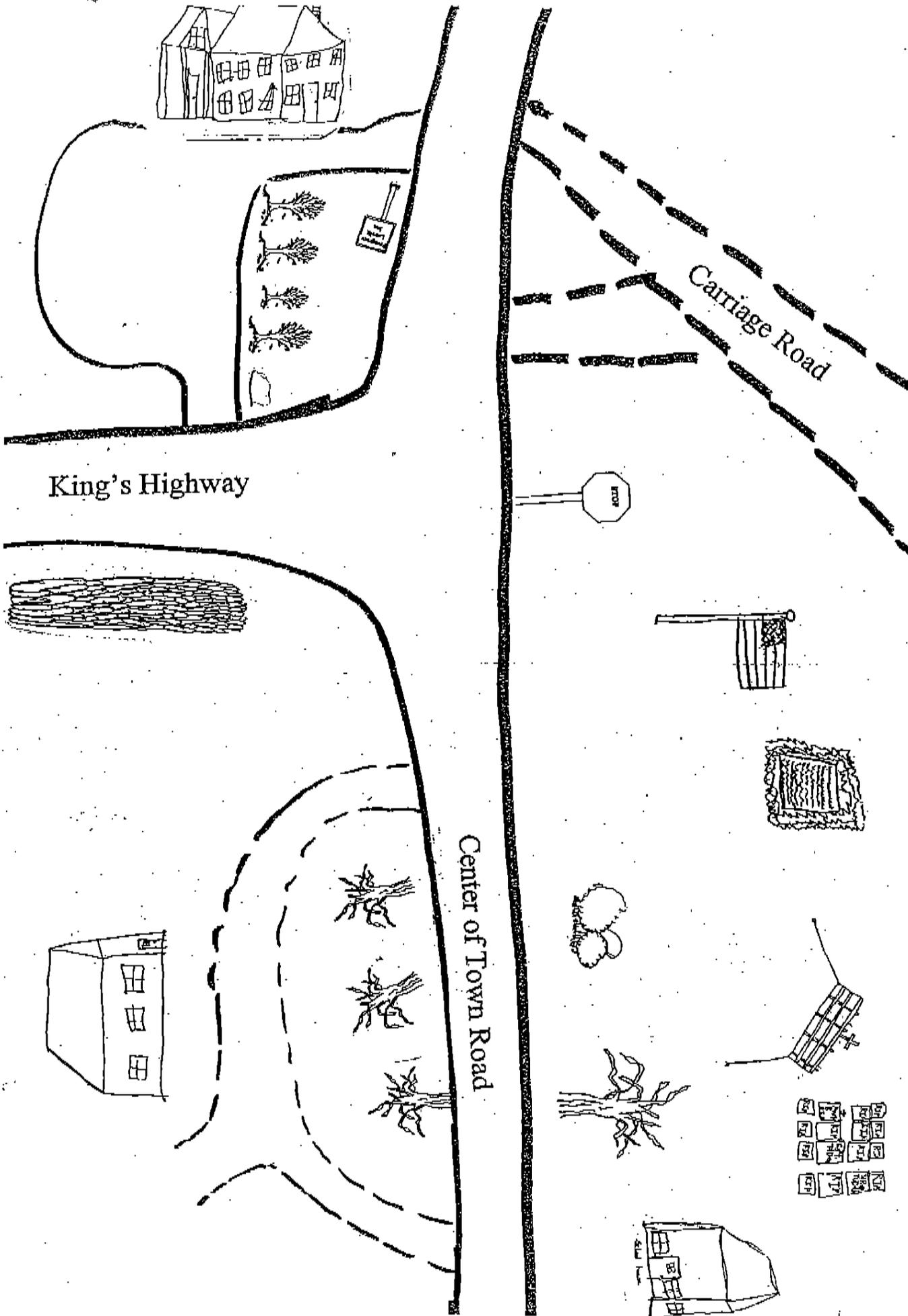
10) From side porch,  
Walk north across the street.  
A red brick house,  
With wood that looks weak.

11) This house is very, very old,  
The old school site was just across the road.  
For chimneys there are three.  
The shutters are white as you can see. 39

12) In 1877, M.J. Walker lived here.  
To the town line the house is near.

- 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 that 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 up the hill to the brick red house.  
Carefully look at what you see.  
Bird feeders to the right, and tire rim by the door.  
The little white sign says the date it was built: 1850.
- 27) Mr. Cook lives here now.  
He's lived in the area for a long time.  
He went to the Union Village School,  
Where he might have learned a nursery rhyme.
- 28) Go back through the bridge.  
Turn to the right.  
Look for the house,  
With a gold 77 on white.
- 29) This house once belonged to Mrs. Clough.  
This house with blue paint and red on the door,  
With circles around the trim.  
Continue now to learn more.
- 30) Turn around and face the road.  
Do the hokey pokey twice.
- Look both ways before you cross,  
Then head toward the stone wall that looks very nice.
- 31) 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.
- 32) Stay on this side of the street.  
Walk to the gray house with yellow shutters.  
You'd better not go in the house,  
Or the quest will open to no others.
- 33) 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 best.
- 34) 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.
- 35) It can hold more than 12 billion gallons,  
This dam was created to control flooding.  
Now it has a recreational area.  
You can have a picnic, go swimming, or running.
- 36) 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.

This quest was created by the 7th grade class of 2009.  
We created this quest because we wanted to learn more  
about our town.



## Center of Town Valley Quest

*Agreement  
due*

Many years ago, upon this green  
Hartford's, Center of Town was a bustling scene.  
So park your car and come on down  
Let's explore this old ghost town.  
Start at something red, white, and blue  
And about old Hartford we will tell you.

King George the 3<sup>rd</sup> was no nerd  
On July 5<sup>th</sup>, 1761 he gave us his word  
by signing the charter to declare this town Hartford.

*primary source =  
town charter*

Now gaze across the green  
And imagine this scene.  
Folks coming down from the hills  
To practice their drills  
In preparation for fights  
To free up our rights.

While imagining the beat of their marching feet  
Turn your body to look across the street.  
Note the tall trees, scary and old  
They are Locust trees we are told.

*conversation w/ a  
no walk?*

Turn 90 degrees twice and walk to the sign.  
Stop to read it, line by line.  
At the back of the sign let's face the woods  
Look toward the left if you could.  
Take 35 steps between the biggest tree  
and all the picnic tables that you see.

You should soon stumble upon an old road  
Now look carefully for a tree with marks of old.  
Find this poplar and come to a halt.  
This old road once led to the graveyard vault.

With your face to the tree and the hill to your right  
 Don't go down or you will be a sorry sight.  
 Turn your back to the hill and go 70 paces.  
 Stop at the fork and turn your faces.  
 Look for three trees together and stop at number two.  
 Cross the street to find the next clue.

Stop and read the sign of white.  
 The bush by the back porch is your next site.  
 Leavitt's Inn opened in January of 1794.  
 The original stencils are behind the front door.  
 This once was the place for the stagecoach drop.  
 Between Boston and Montreal, people would stop.

*the class had  
 permission to  
 go inside*

With your back to the porch walk past four trees.  
 When you reach the rock, stop if you please.  
 Look both ways before you cross.  
 Make a right so you don't get lost.  
 Keep walking to the end of the old stone wall.  
 Stand here a minute and reflect on it all.

The rocks in this wall were an old foundation,  
 From a church which once held the Hartford Congregation.  
 Now turn your eyes to the back corner of this space  
 Where old town buildings once stood with grace.

Reverse directions and head down the hill  
 To the sign of red that makes you stand still.  
 Head to the right beyond the lone Locust tree  
 Go down hill until a driveway you see.  
 With your back to the mailboxes go back up 20 paces.  
 Gaze at the school house where once were held races.

Josephine Orizzonto once taught at this school.  
 In 1943 she ended her rule.  
 Envision all the history we're telling  
 As you look upon this private dwelling.

Walk back toward the green and look for a pipe.  
It is green and an out of the ground type.  
Search for a white cross and go stand below  
For this old cemetery we would like to show.

Enter quietly and look for stones in a line  
Three tall light ones and four small dark kind.  
With your back to the gate  
Go check out their fate.

Welcome friends, meet the Tildens.  
Josiah ran a tavern out of his own buildings.  
Also an authority on the weather forecast  
He fought in the Revolutionary War gone past.  
Pay final respects to son of Stephen and Abigail  
And continue along this historic trail.  
With your back to Josiah, put your hand straight out  
Look for a dull arrow, then give a shout!

There lies Solomon Strong with his two wives  
And his many children who lost their lives.  
This family we know has many roots here,  
Farmers, soldiers, and millers they were all held dear.

So exit if you would this yard of bone  
Take a last look around and keep a low tone.  
The final moment is here at last.  
It is the end of our story from the past.

The treasure is hidden on the ground  
If you find a green chimney, in a bush it will be found.

DEAD



The Center of Town Valley Quest was developed by a Social Studies class at Hartford High School. The quest tells you about the history of the original geographic center of the town of Hartford. This quest began because classmates from last year made a quest and we wanted to carry on the tradition. We picked this area because we wanted people to know where the old center of our town once was. Everyone was involved in this 5 week journey to create the quest. We would like to thank the following people who helped us with information and the details of the quest.

Fred Bradley who told us many facts about the area.

Pat Stark from the historical society who helped us locate people, information and pictures.

Linda Conrad for her information about the school house.

Alex Johnston for information about the Freegrace Leavitt Inn and letting us peek inside

Julie Jasmine for her information about the old foundations and for volunteering to be the "keeper of the box".

Rick Clavelle for joining us in our journey!

Josh Kendall  
 David West  
 Kelly Eastman  
 Randy Sherman  
 Rachel Arbogast  
 April Brown  
 David Spaulding  
 Mary Bouchard