



The Farmstead Quest

APPLETON FARMS, HAMILTON & IPSWICH



The Old House c. 1942

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THE TRUSTEES OF RESERVATIONS

We are more than 100,000 people like you from every corner of Massachusetts. We love the outdoors. We love the distinctive charms of New England. And we believe in celebrating and protecting them – for ourselves, for our children, and for generations to come.

Together with our neighbors, we care for special places, like Appleton Farms, across the Commonwealth. We inspire a commitment to protect these irreplaceable natural and cultural treasures because of their value to our lives every day. **Visit us at www.thetrustees.org.**

DIRECTIONS

From Route 128, take exit 20N and follow Route 1A north for about 7 miles. Turn left onto Waldingfield Road and look for entrance immediately on left at corner.

HOW TO QUEST

The Quest begins at the Waldingfield Road parking area off of Rte. 1A. Use the clues and map to discover the story of Appleton Farms and to find the hidden Quest box. When you find the Quest treasure, be sure to sign in, collect a copy of our Quest stamp, and replace the box for the next visitor. Many Questers leave an item and take an item from the Quest box – please feel free to join the tradition. We recommend you take 1.5 to 2 hours to enjoy this adventure (1.5 miles round trip). *Happy trails!*

LET'S GET STARTED!

Welcome to The Trustees' Appleton Farms. Follow the rhyming clue directions to get to each of the stops. The clues guide you through the historic roads and buildings of Appleton Farm. Allow the prose, combined with the farm's sights, sounds, smells and textures, to take you back in time.

YOUR CLUES!

STATION 1: PARKING LOT ON WALDINGFIELD ROAD

We start the stroll along this way.
Imagine you're here in another day
When farming was the way to live,
And making soil its best to give.

Down the hill, please note the fields,
Nurtured by families for maximum yields.
Their hard labor made this place bloom,
Providing crops and making room
For livestock, too, to meet their needs...
Pastureland and sowing seeds.

Appleton Farms is the oldest, continuously operating farm in the United States. It began in 1636 as a land grant from the Town of Ipswich to Samuel Appleton, a Puritan emigrant from the village of Little Waldingfield in Suffolk, England, and was owned and operated by nine successive generations of Appletons until 1998.

STATION 2: BOTTOM OF HILL AT CULVERT

Stop at this ditch, and look around;
Fields and fences all abound.
Without a channel to direct the stream,
Dug by a determined team
Of workers to control the flow,
Waters would spread, and grass not grow.

Good farming practice required work,
Tasks the Appletons did not shirk.
Daniel Fuller Appleton, in fact,
Was well rewarded for his acts.
In eighteen-hundred-seventy one
An agricultural award he won.

The Appletons built stone culverts throughout the farm to divert streams or brooks under roads or embankments. The culverts drain wet fields for farming and enable horse traffic throughout the wet areas. This system, implemented by Daniel Fuller Appleton, improved drainage of Patch Field (agricultural fields on left). The excess water was routed into the drainage lot (on right, occasionally used for grazing).

Quest Directions: Follow Mary White Lane until you find the rock with a plaque.

STATION 3: PATCH FIELD

On the left this amazing space!
What do you notice about this place?
Open fields for crops, you say...
And a very high fence to keep deer away.

A CSA program was established here
Providing produce for members much of the year.
Young farmers, apprentices, and some staff
Plant and weed, and even laugh
As 24 acres give forth their yields
The rotated crops make fertile fields.

Patch Field marks the original location of the John Appleton House, built around 1688. The house was moved in 1916 to a site near the Farmstead buildings, but was destroyed by fire in 1922. The cellar hole from this house is still visible, and the site is marked by the tablet mounted on the rock.

Quest Directions: Follow the lane until you find the crossroads.

STATION 4: CROSSROADS

What does a farming operation need?
A way to move produce and assorted feed
To and from the place to sell,
With some efficient speed as well.

In the 1830's a deal was made
A railroad line was duly laid
And moved by plan, just West a bit
So that the Old House would not be hit
By the passing "Iron Horse"
Which belched out smoke and sparks of course.

As time went on, the railroad brought
Both friends and supplies, and those who sought
Employment at the farm by day –
They'd work, and then they'd go away.

The train, aside from these good things,
Brought what a wood-fired engine brings;
A spark or two that fired a dwelling,
A barn, or even trees for felling.
(All of which happened from time to time).

In 1837, Eastern Railroad filed plans for a new rail line from Boston to Ipswich, with the tracks originally slated to run through the Old House. The line was rerouted to preserve the Old House, and the railroad agreed to build and maintain a bridge to facilitate farm operations and to maintain fences along both sides of the rail to keep animals off the tracks. The Appletons planted trees along the tracks to act as a screen. The railroad line runs to your right. Notice the bridge that crosses it.

Quest Directions: Turn left at the crossroads towards the Barns.

STATION 5: DAIRY BARN

This spot is a very busy area.
If you were a cow, it's here they take care-o-ya.
On your left you see the dairy:
Morning and evening (it doesn't vary)
The jerseys are milked and checked and petted;
Well cared for, cleaned, and carefully vetted.

The dairy barn complex, consisting of the main barn, concrete silos, heifer barn, and bull barn, was built in 1943 to replace the late 17th-century barns that burned down in the early 1900s. Because most of the working farm operations take place in this area, it is closed to the public unless on a guided tour. Please respect private and closed areas and be mindful of truck and tractor traffic.

STATION 6: CARRIAGE BARN

Turn right, the Carriage Barn is seen.
You may go in, and if you mean
To learn some more about the past,
Look around, but not TOO fast...

As you leave, it's left you go.
You'll pass a restroom, too, you know!
Turn right again, a wall-lined way,
That once held horses and a barn with hay
Which burned, a mighty funeral pyre,
From train-borne sparks, a giant fire.

The Carriage Barn was built in the late 19th century. The Appletons used the barn for carriage storage as well as to house their horses. Carriages were designed for a variety of purposes, with separate carriages for working, riding, and going to town for errands and Sunday services.

STATION 7: STONE LIONS

Stop at the end of this stone-lined sward,
A pair of lions seem to guard
Your way from the farmstead, where are they from?
Look carefully and you'll see whence they come.
"Staten Island" is written on the bottom
"Bud" Appleton's the one who got 'em.

Bud Appleton, a frequent commuter on the Staten Island Ferry, salvaged the lions during the reconstruction of the Ferry terminal. Bud was the brother of Frank Appleton Sr. (whose son, Frank, Jr., donated the farm to The Trustees) and he spent his summers on Appleton Farms.

Quest Directions: Take a left at the lions toward the Old House.

STATION 8: OLD HOUSE

This old house was once much smaller.
A farmhouse that became much taller...
Larger, grander; you might ask why?
A family seat, as time passed by.

The view from here meant quite a lot.
The "home field" was a special plot
For Appletons to watch cows grazing
On summer days while they were gazing.

Standing on the site of Major Isaac Appleton's original First-Period house, the Old House was built by Major Appleton's grandson Samuel in 1794. Today, there is evidence of at least three separate additions to the original house spanning the 200 years of inhabitation by the Appleton family.

STATION 9: THE QUEST BOX!

The house is the heart of the farm.
Look for a milk box – our quest box of charms...
Look up, look under, look all around,
the Treasure Box is here to be found.
You found it, peek inside for treasures.
Discreetly return it for others' pleasures.

MARY WHITE LANE

Appletons loved and worked this place.
Today it's treasured as open space,
But as you've seen, this special place
Brings nature and culture together with grace.

Now stroll back to the start down the road that you came,
Eyes fresh and warm heart, does the farm look the same?
Reflect on our history, both present and past,
We hope this visit won't be your last.

Please return the Quest brochure so that others may enjoy it. For more Questing opportunities with The Trustees, visit our website at www.thetrustees.org and check out our new Quest page!

This Quest was designed by Appleton Farms' volunteer Visitor Experience and Education Committee. Artwork courtesy of Katrina Hart.

