

Departing the Cobble-side would leave you bereft.

At the gap in the fence look down the dirt road,
Up from Connecticut came many a load
Of iron ore- part of Col. Ashley's domain
A forge, a store and mills- his to maintain.

Bountiful crops John Ashley grew;
Corn, wheat, rye, and tobacco, too.
The field that you see is now in hay,
It's good for the birds; it's better this way.

5) Go cross the road, then straight to the wood:
Borland Trail — Hmm... that would be good!
Follow Borland Trail across the clearing,
The end of our quest now you are nearing.

Small white blazes on the trees mark it all
Walk 'til you get to the low stone wall.

Stone from the fields used to make a fine border,
Now barbed wire helps keep things in order.
First mixed crops, then sheep, and now cattle here.
how farming changes o'er the years.

6) Continue between the fences old and new,
Through vine-covered twin pines just out of view.
Goodbye to Borland, take Colonel Ashley instead,
Through woods and across a stream you'll be led.
Ten feet from the road steps lead the way,
Step back in time to Col. Ashley's day.

Settlers and Mohicans are not all this story holds,
Slaves were here too, they carried the load.
An aspect of slavery that's not often put forth,
Was its role in fueling economies in the North.
Col. Ashley owned five, including Bet
Who sued for her freedom, a case not to forget.

In the 1760s tensions were growing,
Tea in the harbor they'd soon be throwing.
The British rulers would rue the fateful day,
It was declared, "If we can't vote we won't pay!"

Patriots in Boston wrote their western friends,
"Help us convince Parliament to make amends!"
Thus, Ashley and his neighbors helped form a new

"Mankind in a state of nature should be,
For all lives happy, equal and free!"
These bold ideas helped plant a small seed
That someday even slaves would be freed.

7) Bet was inspired and in 1781 took a stand,
Winning her suit to become Elizabeth Freeman.
Her story is told here at the Ashley House today
Visit to hear it on a weekend day.

East the kitchen garden 'round the house
to the side, Within an old tree stump the Quest box hides.
Search the far side of the gravel drive
The stone with the hole offers the last clue,
Finding the box is now up to you!

We hope you found this Quest fun.
Collect our stamp. Sign the book.
Then you're done.

PLACE QUEST
STAMP HERE

THE TRUSTEES OF RESERVATIONS

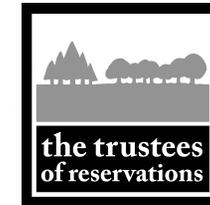
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Rocks, Roads, & Revolution Quest

BARTHOLOMEW'S COBBLE

ASHLEY HOUSE
SHEFFIELD



HOW TO QUEST

Use the clues and map that follow to find a hidden story in the landscape. Along the way you'll get some fresh air and learn about the modern sculptures and natural history. The best way to do this is to take turns reading the clues aloud. At the end of this Quest you'll find a hidden box, where you can sign in, and collect a copy of the Quest stamp. Then you will replace the box for the next visitor. This 1.5 mile walk will take about 90 minutes.

Happy trails.

To begin your Quest:

1) Turn to the right once out the front door
Around the corner along the porch floor.
The bulletin board will soon be in sight,
Go up the mowed path and bear to the right.

On Ledges Trail it's 50 steps to the "V" tree,
Turn your back to the hemlock: What do you see?
Amidst the moss-covered rocks, a streak of white-
This is a vein of ancient quartzite.

Quartzite is hard; it's made from sand,
It acts like a backbone to sturdy the land.
The grey rock is limestone; plants find it sweet,
It feeds their roots with a calcium treat.

The limestone you see is made from debris,
The remains of creatures from an ancient sea.
Laid down in layers, stacked and pressed,
Thrust up and folded...you see the rest!

2) Amble along and past the downed pine,
If you reach the rock cave you're doing just fine.
This cave was a refuge with a river view
For native people and animals too.

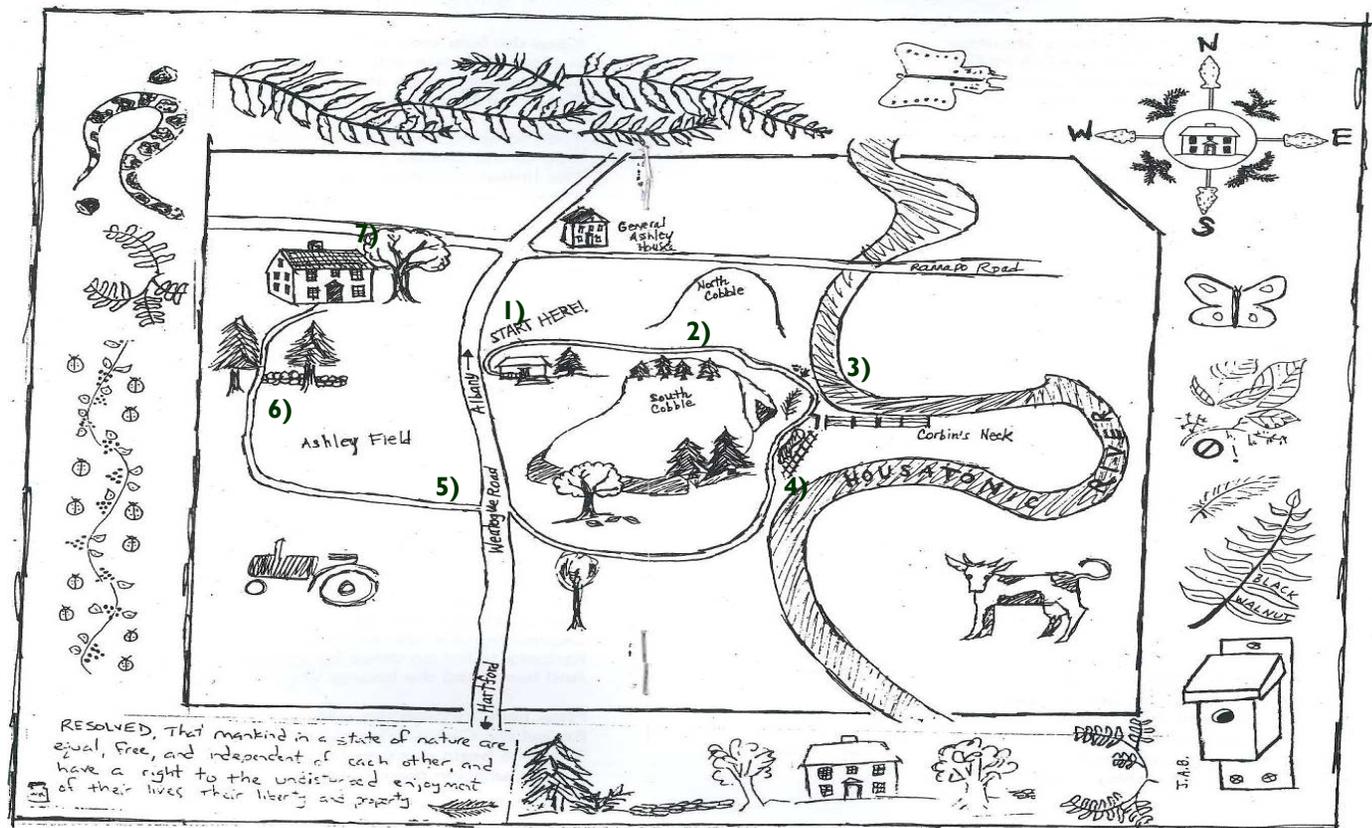
The Mohican tribes who hunted here
Tracked turkey, squirrel, fox and deer.
They kept the banks from shrubbery clear
And harvested nuts and berries with cheer.

They came o'er the mountains from the west
To edge of the wide lands that they loved best.
Forced east they were after Henry Hudson arrived,
They came to this place and for a while thrived.

They called this place, "Ousatunock" - The place
between the mountains, Hoosic & Taconic.

Keep the fern-covered rocks close on your right,
A rustic staircase will soon be in sight.
To the cedar fence, and through the zig-zag stile,
But be careful! Don't step in a big cow pile!

The Mohicans under Chief Konkapot
Sold to the settlers this entire spot.



The Indians north to Stockbridge went now,
Their hunting grounds soon under the plow.

1724 was the year
When Captain John Ashley arrived with gear
To survey and acquire land,
In this "new" country rich and grand.
The Captain's son had a title true,
It was "Colonel" John Ashley (#2).
Here he stayed: he did not slumber,
He built a fortune from iron and lumber.

3) While this river was his means of commerce,
Now and then it inspires verse.
Its gentle curves, its slow progress
Invite the mind to take a rest.
Today the river curves as it flows,
Shapes like these are called oxbows.
It all looks unchanging you might exclaim,
But a river is strong and never the same.

Each spring the river spills o'er its shore

Depositing rich soil on the floodplain floor.
Farmers toiled on these fertile lands
And harvested the bounty with their backs &
hands.

Now back through the stile, leave the cows inside.
Round the Cobble clockwise, the vernal pool hides.
Then we begin our first brief ascent,
To the junction then make a quick descent.

4) The Cobble is off to the right of your shoulder,
Go up the stairs past the great mossy boulder.
Soon there's a bench, please take a seat;
Look, contemplate and rest your feet.

After your respite head up the trail southwest,
The big rock face is next on your Quest.
Follow the mowed path, don't veer to the left