Lee Settlement Quest

Explore the remnants of a 19th century farming settlement in what was also called “Ossipee Glen,” located on a plateau on the Ossipee Mountains overlooking Lake Winnipesaukee. The property is stewarded by the LRCT, and is open to the public year round, from dawn to dusk daily. This Quest is best completed between May and October, when the Castle in the Clouds tourist attraction is open. The quest is a moderate hike of about 1.5 miles with slight uphill and downhill areas, and generally takes about 60-90 minutes to complete. It is of historical and natural interest, with walking on both pavement and trails, best suited to individuals aged 10 and above, though younger Questers accompanied by adults may also enjoy it.

Map

Use the map on the back page as a guide. When walking, note the trail markings as follows: Roberts Trail = Orange; Settlement Trail = White; Whitten Trail = Blue

Clues

Follow the clues in this brochure to find the Treasure Box, and sign in to record your achievement. Please leave the box as you found it for the next Quester.

Getting There

Follow directions for the Castle in the Clouds, but turn up Ossipee Park Road (0.4 miles east of the 109/171 intersection) rather than using the main entrance to the attraction. At the top of the hill, park in the free Hiker Parking Lot on the right side of the road. A map showing the entire Castle in the Clouds Conservation Area may be seen at the kiosk at the end of the parking area by the gate to the property, and may also be purchased by mail or online from the LRCT or in season in the Castle in the Clouds Gift Shop.
As you prepare for this exciting day,
Go back towards the stone house to start on your way.
You passed by this spot on your way in,
But to go back and look again is surely no sin.

Begin at the place where the ancestors lie
The joined stones of two to find you should try.
Martha with Asa and William Henry Horne
Through all of these three our story is born.

Before 1860 this land was in fashion
Six families lived here with farming their passion.
The Lees and the Roberts, Whitten, Witham, Horne, Copp
At about 40 people the growth sure did stop.

Can you find Martha Jane born four years past her sibling?
Twas Asa the elder 1836 did bring.
Together they proudly sustained the Lee Farm,
Until events in 1911 sounded an alarm.

Martha J. and Asa were sister and brother
But twas Henry Horne made Martha a mother.
Lizzie Lee was their daughter, whose child was born there
The last on the mountain homestead to bear

She sleeps with the rest, no longer alive
Since the Lord took her back in '95.
But through all of her thoughtful work and her caring
Images and stories of this settlement we are sharing.

Face north towards the old trees and count 1-2-3
Proceeding and looking, a plaque you will see.
The family who built this memorialized there
Much more in the Carriage House, to see later, if you dare.

Cross to the parking; another plaque you will find
The Hall built by Shaw, with friendship in mind.
Good neighbors they were, the Lees and the Shaws
With the ongoing help of W. Henry Horne.

Through the gates down the road to the stone family of foxes
To the place where the fish do not come in boxes.
Tom Plant bought this land and created a stir
But left if for us to enjoy, we concur.

Look north on the shoreline, a plaque for to find.
The story of Horne's houses to try to unwind.
One certainly lies under the water out front
The other we may find near the end of this jaunt.

Tom Plant built this pond
By damming the brook.
And building his castle
Just south of this nook.

Now head toward the stable, go straight up the road
For the Mt. Roberts Trail to become your abode.
At the top of the hill and end of the road, you find a small signpost
Which points the way to three trails, our adventure to host.

To the right of the pasture is the way you should go
Watch poison ivy, you could be scratching, you know!
What signs of which animals can you find on this trail?
Wind onward and upward for a right turn to prevail.

Now, this Settlement Trail is two hundred years old
So sturdy and well-built, it certainly won't fold
There's barbed wire on trees to keep their animals out
Of the marshy below which we've traveled about.

A challenge for young ones, of the barbed wire kind
How many can you successfully find?
While watching for those keep your eyes on the road
For cobblestone pavement to protect wagons load.

New Hampshire springtime brings frost from the ground
And into the roads the mud will abound.
Dwellers in this glen numbered forty at peak
With neighborhood help the roads to bespeak.

As you move up the hillside look for pavement so grand
That it boggles the mind—it was all built by hand!
At the top of the hill a stone culvert you'll find
A very rare leftover, from colonial time.

When first constructed the surface was flat
But two hundred years have undone all that.
Further along on the right a stone wall you should find
And a hidden stone culvert on the road's other side.

You'll come to a fork, so proceed to the right.
The Whitten Trail turn now becomes your green light.
A secondary road on the hillside this might
For times when the lower road created a plight.

On your way down the hill try to locate the pile
New Hampshire potatoes they were called with a smile
Seems the earth brought them up at plowing each spring
So the farmers just piled them, to use them again.

Watch for the resting place off to your right
What does Sally have there, but for Joseph, not quite?
Joseph died in the war, but his body returned
He now sleeps next to Sally with the flag that he earned.

Continue downhill for a green plaque to find
With the story of Joseph and Sally in mind.
Inspect the picture and enter, the path just beyond
To find the cellars of buildings their family had spawned.

The stone wall by the culvert continued downhill
Find it in the picture, for it is there still.
Walk on down the trail toward the pavement and see
Cobblestone at the bottom, and a plaque on a tree.

Recall Henry Horne, hard cider, and Frost?
We now face the mystery of history, and its cost.
The image of this house is claimed to be Horne's
We can't know for sure, as such history forewarns.

Now enter the paved road toward Shannon Pond south,
Until at the Pond Trail, where you enter its mouth.
Immediately explore the woods on your right.
A mysterious banked hole will be in your sight.

It looks to be dug,
But it's not on the map.
No stones for foundation,
Who can fathom that?

We know not its purpose, origin, or past.
All that we know is it sits here at last.
We cannot explain, we will not refrain
From asking our Questers: please challenge your brain!

Explore its surroundings for the base of a tree
Where the treasure box is hidden, most difficult to see.
When you find it please sign in and enter your name
If you can for this banked hole, just try to explain.

Your Quest is now over, you may now rejoice;
Follow the paved road back out for your ultimate choice:
Straight for ice cream or the Carriage House in season,
Or right to the parking for whatever reason.

If you have enjoyed this Quest, please don't be rare
With some of your friends we ask you to share.
And if you're of mind, please also consider
Donation to LRCT, you're the bidder!