

Fuller's Pasture Quest



**Download the quest - you are ready to go
On a treasure hunt, hiking fast or slow.
As you walk the trails and read verses in rhyme
Ask yourself how this landscape has changed over time?**

**Native people grew plants and hunted the land.
Europeans arrived and cut trees by hand.
Farmers cleared fields for pasture, crops and hay.
Later trees grew back, with the forests we see today.**



#1

*Head north with the yurt and pond at your back.
Keep the parking lot on your left, follow the mowed track.
At the end of the parking lot to the right of the stop sign
Is a grove of tall trees known as white pine.
Look carefully for a sign colored green
Somewhat hidden but there to be seen.*

For thousands of years forests covered the land.
Trees wide in girth, many a tall stand.
Hickory, maple, birch and cherry
Imagine a forest filled with diversity.

Chestnut, oak, pine, hemlock and beech
Branches reaching high towards sun they did reach.
Towering overhead, taller than these trees
Their leaves swaying gently, blowing in the breeze.



#2

*Head up the road on the grass to the right
Until another green quest sign is in sight.
Just before the bright yellow gate
Is a large oak tree growing tall and straight.*

For thousands of years native people lived here.
In this fertile river valley, rich with fish and deer.
Gathering seeds and fruit, growing beans, squash and corn
For families to eat as children were born.
Acorns gathered in the fall of the year
Beneath trees such as this oak growing here.
Shelled, ground and boiled, added to soup and bread
Supplemented by game for the families they fed.
Their populations declined very quickly
When Europeans brought diseases to native people with no
immunity.



#3

*Continue uphill, left at the black gate to set forth
Follow the mowed path as it curves towards the north.
Walk past the bluebird boxes on your right
Soon a white farmhouse and barns are in sight.
Just past the faded yellow gate
The view to your left from an earlier date.*

In the 1600s European immigrants arrived
And settled by the river where native people had thrived.
This land was bought in April of 1768
Not sold again until a much later date.

Bought by brothers Noah and Reuben of the Morgan name
Farmed for seven generations, the family the same.
The farmhouse still standing built around 1816
A look back in time at this pastoral scene.

#4

*Fifty steps past the yellow gate, on your left you will see
Another evergreen, a red cedar tree.
Grayish-red flaky bark, short needle-like leaves
Its fragrant wood lining old chests under eaves.*

Over the next hundred years there were farms, shops and a
mill
The only remaining dwelling the farmhouse here still.
Barbed wire and cedar fence posts also did last
As clues to stories from a forgotten past.

Wire strung on cedar posts, resistant to rot
Meant that livestock couldn't go where they should not.
Look closely on your left and you will see
Remnants from this farm's history.

#5

*In the middle of the field find a green quest mark
Next to a pine covered with thick craggy bark.
Bundles of long needles in groups of three
Is one way to identify this pitch pine tree.*

The rough scaly bark, a dark reddish-gray
Its wood lighting homes as electricity does today.
The resinous wood in the dark burning bright
In many an old home, it was a source of light.



#6

*Return to the path, continue til you see
A green sign on your right, the number twice three.
As you continue on your quest, there is a clue
That the forest right here is relatively new.*

In winter, cows and livestock stayed in their stall
Grazing in the fields, spring, summer and fall.
This abandoned pasture land taken over by cedar and pine.
Evergreen trees growing along the fence line.

Two dead cedars on your right near a vernal pool
Once grew and thrived when taller trees did not rule.
The pines and maples growing all around
Towered over and shaded the cedars lower down.
Able to grow only in full sunlight
Their life slowly ebbed, in shade they lost the fight.

#7

*Turn right on Angels Roost to search for hemlock trees.
Walk eighty steps past the trail sign if you please.
Between tall pines is a tree on your right
With low evergreen boughs, a beautiful sight.
Growing well in shade, unlike cedar and pine
This hemlock tree is a place animals might dine.*

Wood cut for heat, for fireplaces and stoves
and furniture and flooring, trees cut in droves.
The forest cleared for pasture, crops and hay
The landscape looked different than it does today.

As trees were cut and the forest cleared
Once common animals soon disappeared.
Gone were the turkey, gray squirrels, and deer
By the late 1800s they were no longer here.
With the forests cleared and habitat lost
This change in the landscape came with a cost.

#8

*Walk straight through two intersections, look on your right
For a trail marked by orange diamonds to keep in sight.
Follow this trail to a large oak on your right
At least two people needed to hug it tight.*

The land the Morgans bought in 1768
Remained in the family until a much later date.
Sold to the Fullers in 1950
Where they ran a successful dairy.

The black and white cows in the winter ate hay
All year-round they were milked twice a day.
The farm later sold to Western Mass Electric Company
The land now used for people to walk and ski.



#9

*Continue along this narrow foot trail
In search of the treasure, do not avail.
On your left a vernal pool you will see
Towards the end of the pool, to your right, a dead cedar tree.*

Tucked into the woods is a relic from the past
The aged, rusty metal, no longer moving fast.
Look closely, five feet above the ground
In a nesting box the treasure is yours to be found!

*Continue along the footpath to find your car
Return through the field, it is not far.
Passing back through the faded yellow gate
We hope you enjoyed your questing date.*

