

Answers

1. Henry Cummings
2. 8 steps
3. Baton Rouge, Cedar Mountain, Chancellorville, Gettysburg, Petersburg, Newbern, Lookout Mountain, Bull Run
4. R. P. P.
5. Revolutionary War
6. 1796
7. Sabbath
8. 1829
9. 2 chimneys
10. 6 pillars
11. c. 1827
12. Washington Oak and the Solomon
13. Surveyor
14. 2002
15. 5 seashells
16. 18 shutters
17. Black bricks
18. 1658
19. "First Parish Church"

This Scavenger Hunt has been created by

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We wish to express our deep appreciation to Mary Kate for all her time and effort.

Billerica Public Library
15 Concord Road
Billerica, MA 01821
978-671-0949
www.billericalibrary.org



Billerica Historical Scavenger Hunt

By Mary Kate McCarron

Girl Scout Gold Project

On the following pages, you have been given a description of a local historical site, its location, and a question which can be answered by visiting the site. All places are within walking distance of the Billerica Town Center. Once you arrive at a spot, write your answer in the given boxes, and take a picture of yourself with it (ex. standing in front of the library) to prove you have really been there. The answers have been placed upside down on the final page.

Good luck!



Clara Sexton House

The Billerica Historical Society received the house as a gift from Clara E. Sexton in 1936. Parts of the house are believed to have been built back in 1723. It has had many owners throughout the years, and was even remodeled to include what is believed to be a doctor's office in 1763.

Location: 36 Concord Road

1. Who was another resident of the Clara Sexton House?

Bandstand

The Bandstand often shows up on local postcards and photographs. A staple of the town, the original bandstand was built in the 1890s. A replica took its place in 1912 in the same spot. More recently, in 2003, the third Bandstand for Billerica was introduced. Despite its multiple recreations, the Bandstand is a constant, a persistent trademark of the town.

Location: Town Common

2. How many stairs lead up to the bandstand?

Soldier's Monument

The 25 foot, white granite monument stands as a memorial for local soldiers who died in the Civil War. Billerica lost 20 of its own in the fighting. It was dedicated on October 8, 1873.

At one time, there were cannonballs adorning its sides.

Location: Town Common

3. Name 4 of the 8 battles the monument mentions.



Naval Cannon

Also called the Parrott Rifle, the cannon sits close to the Soldier's Monument on the Common, as it also holds significance to the Civil War. Years ago it even had a path attaching it to the monument. It was created at the West Point Foundry in New York in the year 1865. Although appropriate to the era, it is presumed to not have been used in the Civil War. The cannon was brought to Billerica in 1907.

Location: Town Common

4. What initials are engraved on the side of the cannon?

First Meeting House Site

Five years past its town's establishment, 1660, the first meeting house of Billerica was built. It was a simple building, 30 feet by 24 feet, and a thatched roof atop it. Held responsible for building the meeting house was a committee led by Jonathan Danforth, Ralph Hill Sr., and George Farley. Unfortunately, like many structures of the time, it succumbed to a fire. The marker was placed to remember its existence in 1901, courtesy of the Billerica Historical Society.

Location: Town Common

5. What other event is memorialized on the other side of the marker?

Jonathan Bowers House

The Jonathan Bowers House is one of the oldest commercial buildings still in use in Billerica. It functioned both as Bowers' home and general store. A versatile building, its role has changed several times throughout the years. The building has served as the center of operation for the Billerica Trust Company around 1930, and even as the Modern Food Shop. Currently, it houses the Center Café and retains much of its original colonial style.

Location: Town Common

6. What year was the Bowers House built?

Sabba Day House

The Sabba Day House, sometimes spelled as Sabbath, was built for those attending church at the First Congregational Church next door. Religious affairs often took all day, and the church's parishioners constructed the Sabba Day House. It was used as a place of refuge from the weather. Its second story was a later addition, and is currently a residential building.

Location: 20 Andover Road

7. On the marker at the house, what is the name given to the house and how is it spelled?

First Congregational Church

The First Congregational Church was established by protesters Huldah Blake and Martha Bowers. They were unsatisfied with some religious doctrines of the Unitarian Church, so broke off to create the First Congregational Church. Its beginnings included only 25 members and their pastor, John Starkweather.

Location: 18 Andover Road

8. What year was the church established?

Baldwin House

The Baldwin House sits on Andover Road, looking to the west. It is assumed to be built between the years 1810 and 1811. For generations, the building remained under the ownership of the Baldwin family, until it came into the possession of Billerica Postmaster T. F. Lyons. During Lyons' ownership, the house held Billerica's first telephone switchboard.

Location: 16 Andover Road

9. How many chimneys does the Baldwin House have?



Thaddeus Brown House

Thaddeus Brown built his home after marrying to Susannah Crosby in 1832. The house sits on the corner of Andover Road and Boston Road. Before his death in 1839, he was a prominent doctor in the town, often working with Dr. Zadok Howe. The home was sold to Luther and Martha Faulkner in 1855, who also altered the house's appearance.

Location: 2 Andover Road

10. How many pillars does the Thaddeus Brown House have?

Marshall Preston House

An attorney, town clerk, postmaster, and selectman, Marshall Preston built his home in Billerica. It was purchased by Luther Faulkner in 1880. During the years 1881 to 1960, it was transformed into the parsonage for the Unitarian Church down the road.

Location: 404 Boston Road

11. Around what year was the Preston House built?

Howe School

A local architect, Daniel Bean, was responsible for the Howe School's construction in 1852. Upon his death, Dr. Zadok Howe, whom the school is named after, left a fund specifically for the creation of a school for Billerica. The school sits across from the current town hall, and looks just as it did while in operation, save for the removal of four corner chimneys.

Location: 390 Boston Road

12. What 2 other events are memorialized to the right of the Howe School?

Jonathan Danforth Homestead Marker

Jonathan Danforth was one of the town's very first settlers. His home was just northwest of the current location of the town center. Danforth built it himself in 1676. However, it was destroyed by a fire around the year 1885. The marker now in place stands approximately where the home would be today.

Location: 381 Boston Road

13. What was Jonathan Danforth's occupation?

Washington Oak Site

This site is famous around town as it marks George Washington's visit to Billerica on November 5th, 1789. Washington is said to have rested at the tree while on a trip through the area. The tree was given a plaque to commemorate the visit. The plaque includes an excerpt from Washington's journal, at one point mentioning "the town of Belarika." Unfortunately, the tree was damaged in Hurricane Gloria in 1985 and was changed to the current marker.

Location: 373 Boston Road

14. What year did the Billerica Historical Society incorporate the current marker?

Kohlrausch Fountain

The Charles H. Kohlrausch Jr. Drinking Fountain currently sits on an island at the intersection of Boston Road and River Street. Before the year 1930, the fountain could be found at the north end of the town common. The sculptor was Daniel Chester French. French is more known for some of his other works as an architect, including the seated Abraham Lincoln statue inside the Lincoln Memorial.

Location: Island of River Street

15. How many seashells can be found on the fountain?

Dr. William Bowers' House

The house is situated on the corner of Boston Road and River Street, right next to the Bennett Public Library. Dr. William Bowers bought the house in 1804, and the house remained within the family until 1871. The house left the Bowers' possession with the death of William's daughter, Fanny. Much of the building's exterior remains the same, although the interior was once rumored to have a hidden room in order to conceal people during the War of 1812.

Location: 1 Concord Road

16. How many shutters are there on the side of the house that faces the center?

Bennett Public Library

The Bennett Public Library was funded in 1880 by Eleanor Bennett who wanted it to memorialize her husband, Joshua. She offered \$5000 to build the library in hopes the town would match it. When the town declined Eleanor was still able to raise enough money thanks to family and friends. The stained glass rose window was a gift from her daughter, Ellen Holden, and the fireplace was a gift from her other daughter, Rebecca Warren.

Location: 3 Concord Road

17. What other color bricks accent the main stained glass window?

First Parish Unitarian Church

The First Parish Unitarian Church was built in 1797. To make the church face the correct direction, the building had to be turned 90 degrees using a cannonball and oxen in 1844. Among people to preach in the church is the first minister, Samuel Whiting, and at one point Ralph Waldo Emerson. When a fire burned the building in 1968, it had to be partially rebuilt to what it looks like today.

Location: 5 Concord Road

18. What year did the church officially gather?

Billerica Public Library

The building that functions now as the town's public library was originally the town hall beginning in the year 1895. It was abandoned as a town hall in 1989, and later transformed into a library. The cupola atop the building was struck by lightning July 7, 1993, and as a result had to be removed, restored, and then reinstalled.

Location: 15 Concord Road

19. What does the leftmost brick closest to the library say?

