

Derry Heritage Commission Scavenger Hunt Answers

1.

A mile east of the Derry traffic circle is **East Derry Village**, where the first Europeans settled in Old Nutfield in 1719. Some of those Ulster Scots Presbyterians are buried in Forest Hill Cemetery behind their First Parish Church, including Rev. James MacGregor (1677–1729), the settlement's first minister. The East Derry Historic District, including twenty-two later structures constructed between 1810 and 1929, was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1982.

2.

A state historical marker 2.3 miles south of Danforth Circle (originally a square named after the Danforth family of Derry, now simply the Derry Circle or Rotary) commemorates the 1728 birth, 0.6 miles farther east on Lawrence Road, of **General John Stark**, hero of Bennington during the Revolutionary War. Unable because of ill health to attend an anniversary reunion of that battle in 1809, he sent the toast, "Live free or die: Death is not the worst of evils." "Live Free Or Die" became the New Hampshire state motto in 1945 and has appeared on its license plates since 1971.

3.

The house of **Dr. Matthew Thornton**, one of New Hampshire's signers of the Declaration of Independence, was a stone's throw from the Londonderry Turnpike, opened in 1806, that connected Concord, N.H., to the Massachusetts border. The turnpike essentially created the commercial center of Derry's Lower Village that attracted the founders of Pinkerton Academy to locate their new school in the area. The Thornton house was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1971.

4.

Pinkerton Academy was incorporated in 1814, as the result of contributions by Major John Pinkerton and his brother Elder James Pinkerton. Its first building was completed in 1815, and the school accepted its first students that December. The will of James's son John Morrison Pinkerton, who died in 1881, left his entire estate to the academy, which enabled it to erect the Pinkerton Building in 1887. The two bronze plaques on either side of the main entrance were designed by Daniel Chester French.

5.

Chen's Chinese Restaurant followed the Sun Ho Chinese restaurant in the home purchased by dairy magnate Harvey P. Hood in 1858 across East Broadway from Hoodcroft Golf Course, which itself used to be part of the pastures for the herds of H. P. Hood & Company. Brown Bessie was the famous Jersey cow whose face graced Hood's milk wagons and later packaging. The large dairy barn adjacent to the house burned on Christmas day in 1962.

6.

Upper Village Hall in East Derry was dedicated on New Year's Eve, 1875, and served as town hall until 1909. Mrs. Pamela Nowell of East Derry (1805–1874) bequeathed \$2,000 to the town for a suitable building to be erected within a quarter mile of the First Parish Church. Occupants of the hall have included the George Upton post of the Grand Army of the Republic and the Women's Relief Corps; Taylor Library (1878–1930); East Derry Fire Station (1934–70); the Nutfield Grange until 1967; the Derrys Boys Club (1969–82); and the Red Star Twirlers.

7.

Local historian **Harriet Chase Newell** (1881–1976) was born in the house on 16 Crescent Street in Derry Village built in 1877 by her father, prominent mill owner Benjamin Chase (1832–1912), and lived in it with her husband, Dr. Charles E. Newell (1875–1924). Her historical works included the autobiographical *In Retrospect* (1967); *Through the Years with Central Congregational Church, Derry Village, N.H., 1837–1972* (1972), about her next-door neighbor in whose affairs she was quite active; and a series of five books on Derry houses: *Houses of Derry Village, N.H.* (1951); *Houses of the Double Range and East Derry, N.H.* (1954); *Houses of the English Range and Beaver Lake, Derry, N.H.* (1959); *Houses of West Derry, New Hampshire* (1963); and *Outlying Districts of Derry, New Hampshire* (1965).

8.

Echo Lodge No. 61 of the fraternal organization **the Odd Fellows** (International Order of Odd Fellows or IOOF) was founded in Derry in 1879. Its first lodge, in the new Pillsbury and Hardy block, burned in the great fire of August 1882. The rebuilt lodge at the corner of McAllister Court opened in 1884 and burned in 1897. Their third lodge in a four-story brick building at the current site of Cumberland Farms on East Broadway burned in 1963. Six months later, the Odd Fellows purchased the Church of the Transfiguration, Episcopal, building at 18 Oak Street, which was built around 1902 and is still standing.

9.

Benjamin Adams, Sr., nephew of Jacob Adams whose endowment established the Adams Female Academy on Lane Road in 1823, left Derry enough money at his death to erect the Adams Memorial Building on land donated by William Pillsbury and his son Rosencrans. Twice the building was gutted by fire, in 1914 and 1927. In 1982 it was listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The first train of the Manchester and Lawrence Railroad traveled through Derry on 13 November 1849, ushering in a new era of industrial expansion and economic prosperity. Today, the restored Adams Building is the home of the greater Derry Chamber of Commerce and other offices, the Derry Opera House, and the Derry Museum of History.

10.

West Running Brook, a tributary of Beaver Brook, was the site of the first log homes of Derry's forty-four original settlers, who arrived in April 1719. *West-Running Brook* (1928) was a book of poems published by Robert Frost, who lived in Derry from 1900 to 1911 and raised chickens on a farm on Rockingham Road (Rte. 28 Bypass; the old Londonderry Turnpike), before teaching English at Pinkerton Academy from 1906 to 1911. West Running Brook Middle School was opened in 1995. It stands one mile south of the Frost Farm (a New Hampshire state historic site since 1965, and placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1968). The first line of "West-Running Brook," the twenty-third poem in the volume, is "'Fred, where is north?'"

11.

Adjacent to **Shepard Park**, or the Shepard Family Conservation Area donated to the town by Shepard family members in 2000, is the 1921 Shepard Homestead (privately owned), where Rear Admiral Alan B. Shepard, Jr., was born on 18 November 1923. Shepard became an international hero for his successful suborbital flight in Freedom 7 on 5 May 1961, during which he became the first American and second human in space. Shepard returned to space as commander of Apollo 14, and was the fifth man ever to walk on the moon. On his second moonwalk, on 6 February 1971, of that mission to the hilly uplands 24 km north of the rim of Fra Mauro crater, he had smuggled in his space suit's utility pocket two golf balls and the head of a six iron, which he attached to the handle of his contingency sample return, a lunar excavation tool. With this makeshift club he took four one-handed swings. Topping and burying the first ball, he tried again, slicing it, for only a couple of feet. He solidly connected with his third swing, sending the ball off-camera on a fairly low trajectory. After dropping the second ball, he connected with another solid shot, sending the ball 200 to 400 yards, exuberantly joking that it went "miles and miles and miles." He brought the club head home, and it is currently displayed at the U.S. Golf Association's Hall of Fame in Bernards Township, New Jersey. Commander Shepard retired from NASA and the Navy on 1 August 1974 and died at his home near Pebble Beach, California, on 21 July 1998.

12.

Artist in Residence at White Pines College in Chester, the Emmy-award winning and internationally recognized mime, puppeteer, and Japanese Buyo dancer Nikki Tilroe lived in Derry with her husband RD Tilroe from 1997 until her death in 2005. She worked on television productions and in movies with Red Skelton, Marcel Marceau, Shari Lewis, and Jim Henson. From the late 1960s through the '80s, Nikki and RD ran the Frog Print Theater, a nonprofit puppet repertory company in Maine and then Canada, which they had founded and named after her most famous puppet, **Archie the Frog**. Many of her puppets have been exhibited in the Canadian Museum of Civilization and the Moscow Puppet Museum; Archie the Frog and others are preserved in the Derry History Museum, which also has on display an oil portrait of him and Nikki.

Unscrambled secret phrase: S P A C E T O W N U S A