

# DEERING'S REVOLUTIONARY ADVENTURE

→ DEERING, NEW HAMPSHIRE ←  
EST. 1774



*A Scavenger Hunt Through History!*

*7 Stops*

Discover the heroes, farms and colonial history of Deering, NH with quilt squares to color, clues to find, activities to do and trivia to answer.

Explorer's Name:

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A REVOLUTIONARY TRAIL ADVENTURE

Est. 1774 · Deering, New Hampshire · Revolutionary Trail · Deering Historical Society



## Welcome, Young Explorer! 🚩

Welcome to **Deering's Revolutionary Adventure**! You are standing in one of New Hampshire's oldest and most special towns. Deering was first settled in the 1760s by brave pioneer families — Scotch-Irish immigrants who crossed wild forests and rivers to build homes, schools, and a community from scratch. By 1774, Deering was officially founded as its own town, just as the American colonies were rising up against British rule.

The very same people who built Deering's first farms and schoolhouses were *also* Revolutionary War heroes! Men like **Ebenezer Locke** may have fired the very first shot of the American Revolution, and families like **the Pattens** helped shape this town into what it is today. As you travel through Deering's 7 stops, you will walk in the footsteps of these remarkable people — and become part of Deering's living history!

### How to Play

- Visit each **Stop** on the map
- Read the **Clue** and find the answer
- Fill in your answer in the **space provided**
- **Collect a quilt stamp** for each quilt square colored in
- Earn your **Certificate of Completion** when all 7 stops are finished!
- Bring a **grown-up along** for the adventure

### What You'll Need:

- A pencil
- This booklet
- Walking shoes
- A sense of adventure!

#### THE EXPLORER'S PLEDGE

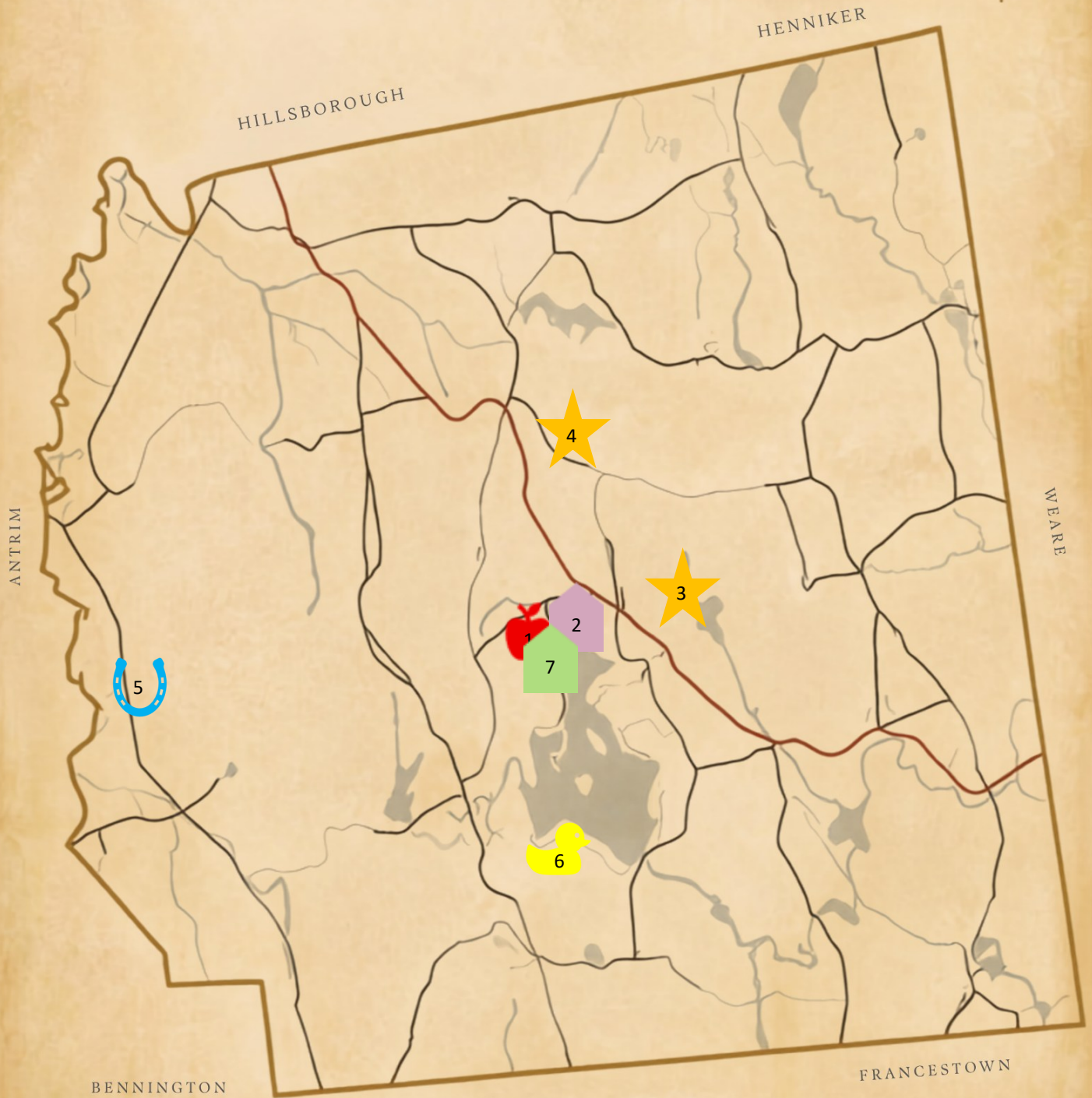
*"I promise to respect history,  
care for the land, and carry the spirit of Deering's heroes with me!"*

*Sign your name here:* \_\_\_\_\_

# DEERING, NEW HAMPSHIRE



A New England town map



*Follow the trail—all 7 stops are waiting for you!*



1. Deering Town Library—  
formerly the Center School-  
house



2. Deering Center Church—  
Built 1829



3. Goodale Cemetery—The  
Revolutionary War Hero  
Stop



4. Patten Family Cemetery—  
The First Family Stop



5. The 2nd NH turnpike  
Route—West Deering



6. Deering Reservoir—  
formerly Gregg Pond



7. The Old Meeting House  
Site—Town Hall

**Tip from Your Guide:**

Each stop has a clue, an activity, a trivia challenge , and a quilt square to color! Work through them in order or mis it up—the adventure is yours to design!



## STOP 1 - Deering Town Library—The School That Started It All

### Did You Know?



This building was once the **Center Schoolhouse**! In Deering's early days, children walked miles through snow and mud to learn reading, writing, and arithmetic. At one time, Deering had **ELEVEN** different public schools! The library moved here in **1926**.

### Your Clue:



“ Old schoolhouses were built with big windows on purpose—because candles were expensive and electric lights didn’t exist yet! Every window let I precious sunlight so children could read their lessons. Walk slowly around the outside of the library building and count every window you can find. “

I counted \_\_\_\_\_ windows on the library building.



### Activity — Colonial Handwriting!

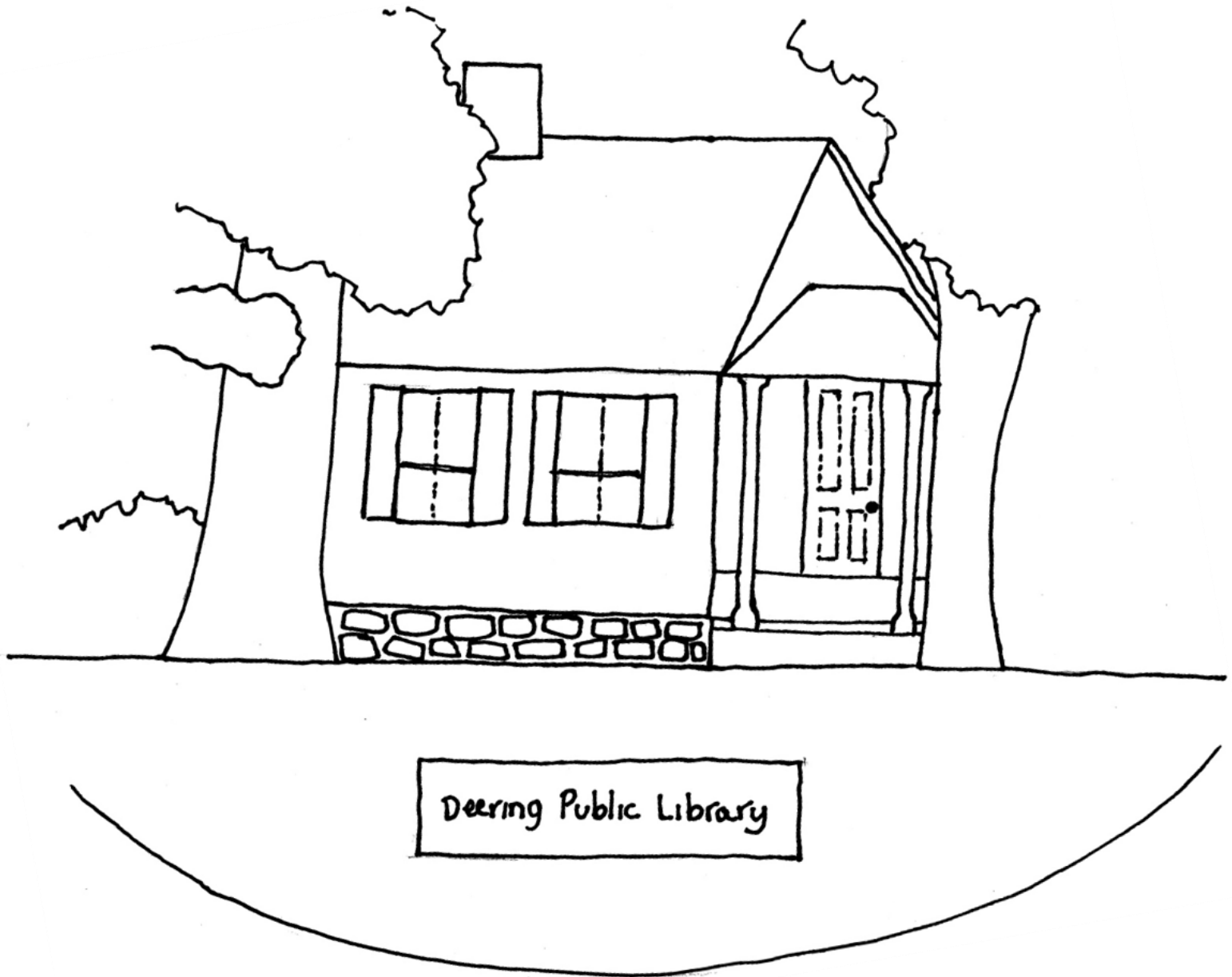
If you were a Deering child in 1790, you had to write with a **quill pen**! Practice your best colonial handwriting and write your name below as if you were signing the Declaration of Independence:



### Trivia Challenge — Circle the Answer!

How many schools did Deering once have?    **A) 3    B) 7    C) 11    D) 15**

★ STOP 1 QUILT SQUARE — Color Me In! ★



Colored in!



Stamp collect!



## STOP 2 - Deering Center Church— Built by the Community, For the Community

### Did You Know?



Deering's townspeople voted to build this church in **1829** — and a skilled builder named **Reuben Loveren** constructed it by hand. Before this church was built, Deering's first settlers gathered to worship in the Old Meetinghouse. Faith and community were woven together in colonial life.

### Your Clue:



"Churches were the heart of every colonial town. Look at this beautiful building. Look up and describe what you see at the top of the steeple."

I see:



### Activity — Sketch the steeple! Be a Colonial Architect.

Colonial builders like **Reuben Loveren** didn't have computers or blueprints — they built beautiful buildings using only their eyes, hands, and skill! Now it's *YOUR* turn to be an architect.

Stand back and look at the Deering Congregational Church carefully. In the big box below, sketch what you see! Then use the checklist to find and label as many features as you can on your sketch:

**Bonus Challenge:** Colonial buildings were designed to last 200+ years. Circle your answer: Do you think THIS building looks like it was built to last? **YES / NO** — Why?



### Trivia Challenge — Circle the Answer!

Where did Deering hold its **FIRST** town meeting in 1774?

**A)** Under a tree   **B) At the Old Meetinghouse**   **C)** In the local tavern   **D)** At a schoolhouse

★ STOP 2 QUILT SQUARE — Color Me In! ★



Colored in!

☐ Stamp collect!



## STOP 3 - HERO STOP: Goodale Cemetery — The Old Revolutionary War Cemetery

### Did You Know?



#### HERO SPOTLIGHT: MEET THE HERO — EBENEZER LOCKE

**Goodale Cemetery** — also called the *Old Revolutionary War Cemetery* — sits on a quiet dirt road in East Deering. Inside its stone walls rest soldiers who fought for America's freedom.

One of the most remarkable is **EBENEZER LOCKE**. According to a long tradition in Deering's town history (recorded in 1885), Ebenezer Locke may have **FIRED THE FIRST SHOT** at the Battle of Lexington on **April 19, 1775** — the famous "*Shot Heard Round the World!*"

He served in the Continental Army and refused to go home when Washington needed men most. He and his son stayed on for **90 more days** when others left. His gravestone reads:

*"Ebenezer Locke, Died September 12, 1816, Age 82 Years."*

### Your Clue:



"Revolutionary soldiers rested here after a lifetime of service. Find Ebenezer Locke's gravestone. How old was he when he died?"

Ebenezer Locke lived to be \_\_\_\_\_ years old.



### Activity — Minute Man Pack!

If YOU were a minute-man in 1775, what three things would you grab before running to Lexington?

**Draw or write them below:**

1.

2.

3.



### Trivia Challenge — Circle the Answer!

What is the famous name for the first shot of the American Revolution?

**A) The Big Bang   B) The Shot Heard Round the World   C) The Starter Pistol   D) The Liberty Bell Shot**

★ STOP 3 QUILT SQUARE — Honor a Hero! ★



Colored in!



Stamp collect!

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## STOP 4 - HERO STOP: The Patten Family Cemetery — A Founding Family

### Did You Know?



#### HERO SPOTLIGHT: MEET THE FAMILY — THE PATTENS

On **April 10, 1770**, **Samuel Patten** received the very **FIRST deed of land** ever recorded in Deering! That means his family was among the very first settlers of this town.

The Pattens were **Scotch-Irish pioneers** who came from Londonderry and Chester, NH. They cleared the land, built homes, raised families — and when the Revolution came, they answered the call. **Jonathan Patten**, Samuel's son, served in the Continental Army.

This cemetery honors the Patten family's legacy as **founders of Deering**. Without families like the Pattens, there would be no Deering today!



#### Your Clue:

"The Patten family helped build Deering from the very beginning. Look at the gravestone inscriptions here. What is the earliest year you can find on any gravestone?"

The oldest date I found: \_\_\_\_\_



#### Activity — Pioneer Arrival!

Imagine you are Samuel Patten arriving in Deering in **1770**. The land is wild forest! Write 2 sentences describing what you see and what you need to build first:

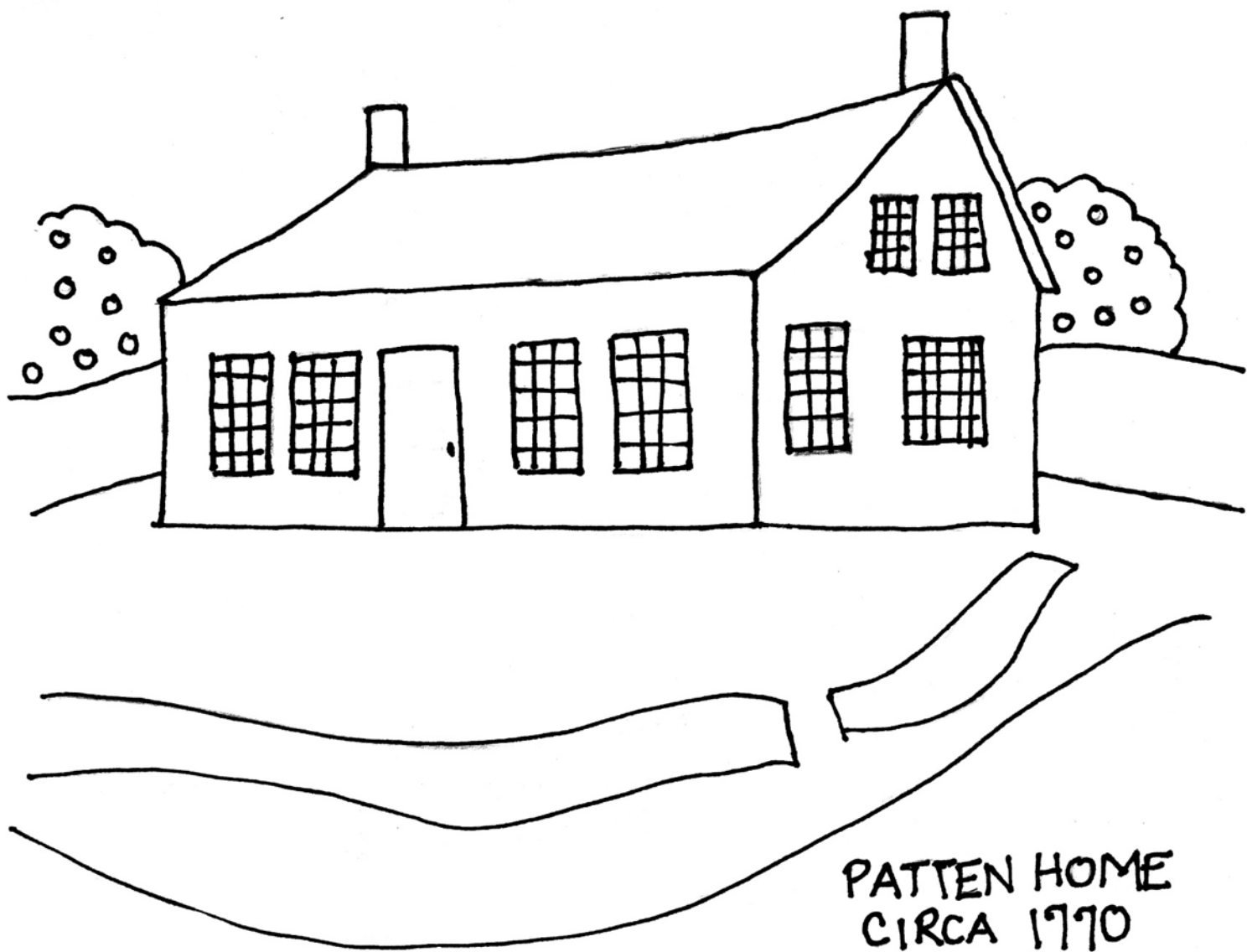


#### Trivia Challenge — Circle the Answer!

In what year did Samuel Patten receive the very first land deed in Deering?

A) 1621 B) **1770** C) 1812 D) 1850

★ STOP 4 QUILT SQUARE — Color Their Story! ★



Colored in!

☐ Stamp collect!

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## STOP 5 - The 2nd NH Turnpike—The Road That Connected a New Nation



### Did You Know?

Right after the Revolutionary War, New Hampshire built the **2nd NH Turnpike** — a major road connecting the then-capital of **Amherst, NH** all the way to **Claremont, NH**! It passed right through *West Deering*. Stagecoaches full of passengers and goods traveled this road, bumping along on dirt and gravel. This was the *highway* of its day — imagine riding in a bouncing wooden carriage for hours!



### Your Clue:

"Roads were the lifelines of the new nation. Stand on or near the old turnpike route. Look in both directions. What landmark can you see from here?"

From the old turnpike, I can see: \_\_\_\_\_



### Activity — Design Your Stagecoach!

Draw your own stagecoach in the box below and give it a name!



### Trivia Challenge — Circle the Answer!

What replaced the stagecoach as the main form of travel in Deering by 1870?

A) The automobile   B) **The railroad**   C) The steamboat   D) Hot air balloon

★ STOP 5 QUILT SQUARE — The Road of the New Nation ! ★



Colored in!

☐ Stamp collect!

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## STOP 6 - Deering Reservoir—From Gregg's Pond to the Reservoir

### Did You Know?



This beautiful reservoir was once called "**Gregg's Pond**," named after **Alexander Gregg** — a Deering Selectman who built the very first dam here in **1793**! Alexander Gregg was distantly related to two New Hampshire Governors: **Hugh Gregg** (1953–1955) and **Judd Gregg** (Governor 1989–1993 and Senator 1993–2011). In colonial times, water mills powered by rivers and ponds were like the *factories* of today — they ground grain into flour and cut logs into lumber.

### Your Clue:



"Water has always been important to Deering's story. Stand near the reservoir and look at the water. What wildlife do you spot?"

Near the reservoir, I spotted: \_\_\_\_\_



### Activity — Reservoir Nature Drawing!

Draw what you see at the reservoir right now — sky, water, trees, animals!

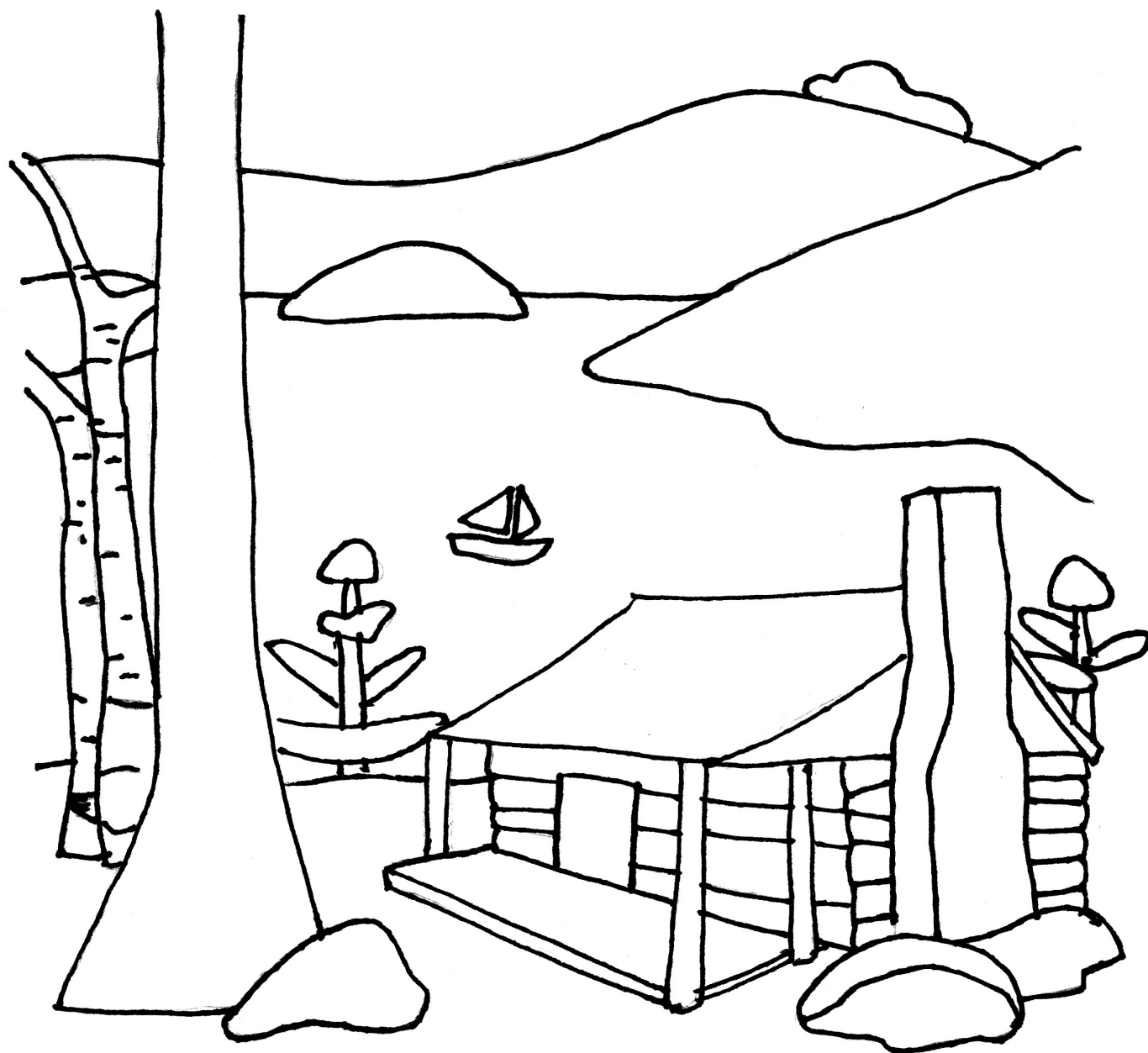


### Trivia Challenge — Circle the Answer!

What was Deering Reservoir once called?

A) Liberty Lake   B) **Gregg's Pond**   C) Patriot Pool   D) Mill

★ STOP 6 QUILT SQUARE — The Deering Reservoir Formerly Gregg's Pond ★



Colored in!

☐ Stamp collect!

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## STOP 7 - The Meeting House Site— Where Deering Made History Together



### Did You Know?

In **1784**, Deering's citizens formed a committee to find the right spot for a town meeting house. In **1788**, neighbors from **ALL surrounding towns** showed up to help raise the building — in just **TWO DAYS!** This meeting house was the heart of democratic life in Deering. Every major decision — from road repairs to school funding to Revolutionary War support — was made right here by *the vote of the people*.



### Your Clue:

"The meeting house was raised by a whole community working together. How many years passed between Deering's founding (1774) and the raising of the meeting house (1788)?"

It took \_\_\_\_\_ years.



### Activity — Your Town Meeting Proposal!

What would *YOU* put to a vote at a Deering Town Meeting today? Write your proposal and explain why it matters:



### Trivia Challenge — Circle the Answer!

How quickly was the Deering Meeting House raised with the help of neighbors?

A) One week   B) One month   C) **Two days**   D) Two years

★ STOP 7 QUILT SQUARE — The Deering Meetinghouse—The Town Hall Where Democracy was born ★



Colored in!

☐ Stamp collect!

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# DEERING'S REVOLUTIONARY HEROES

## *Hall of Fame*

These brave men and families shaped Deering and helped birth a nation.

### EBENEZER LOCKE

*Continental Army Soldier · Deering, NH*

- **Claim to Fame:** Possibly fired the first shot at the Battle of Lexington, April 19, 1775 — *"The Shot Heard Round the World."* Stayed with Washington's army at its most desperate hour; he and his son served an extra 90 days.
- **Buried at:** Goodale Cemetery (Old Revolutionary War Cemetery), East Deering
- **Fun Fact:** He and his son both served — real family heroes!

### CAPTAIN NINIAN AIKEN

*Captain, Deering Militia*

- **Claim to Fame:** In 1777, led **18 Deering soldiers** on a march to Acworth to help the army at Fort Ticonderoga. One of the early military leaders of Deering.
- **Legacy:** Proved that small towns like Deering were willing to send their men to defend American freedom.
- **Fun Fact:** 1777 was the same year the Stars and Stripes flag was officially adopted!

### THE PATTEN FAMILY

*Founding Settler Family · Deering, NH*

- **Claim to Fame:** Samuel Patten received the very first land deed in Deering on **April 10, 1770**. Scotch-Irish pioneers from Londonderry and Chester, NH who established Deering's earliest community. His son, Jonathan, served in the Revolution.
- **Buried at:** Patten Family Cemetery, Deering.
- **Fun Fact:** Without settlers like the Pattens, there would be no Deering to explore today!

## Remember Their Stories!

*"History is not just what happened in the past — it is the story of real people, just like you, who did extraordinary things."*



# My Discoveries Journal

*Write or draw about your favorite discovery today!*

1. The most surprising thing I learned today was....

1. My favorite STOP was because....

1. Draw a picture of your favorite moment from today's adventure:

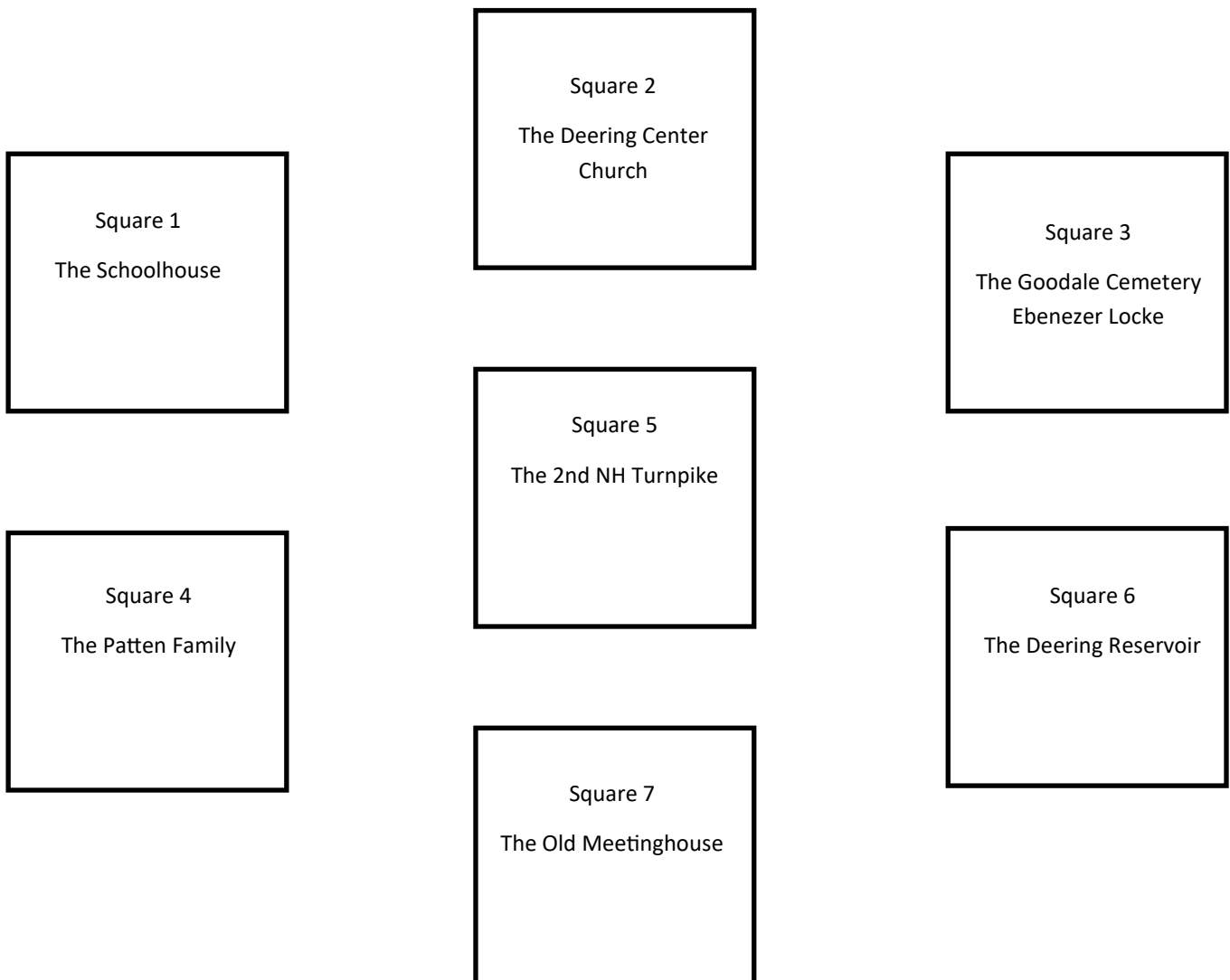
## Your Deering Quilt—A Patchwork of History

*Color all 7 squares and piece together the story of Deering!*

The **Deering Community Quilt** (exhibited in the Deering Center Church).

Each square tells a story.

Together they make Deering's quilt of history



*More Deering Quilt History found at [DeeringHistoricalSociety.org](http://DeeringHistoricalSociety.org)*



## This adventure was created by the Deering Historical Society in 2026.

If you'd like to explore more stories from our past, visit us anytime at **DeeringHistoricalSociety.org**. We love questions and curiosity—reach out however you like:

**Email:** DeeringHistoricalSociety@gmail.com

**Mail:** The Deering Historical Society, PO Box 682, Hillsboro, NH 03244

**Visit:** 251 East Deering Road, Deering NH 03244 (by appointment)



## Support Us & Join the Fun!

Our memberships help keep our nearly 200 yr. old building standing strong and support programs like this booklet, community events, and future exhibits.

### Membership Levels

- Student (under 18): \$5
- Single: \$30
- Contributing: \$100
- Sustaining: \$200

Memberships renew each year on **May 31st**. Our website can take memberships and donation payment.

The Deering Historical Society is a **501(c) nonprofit**, and every dollar helps us preserve Deering's stories for generations to come.



## Our Mission

Our mission is to help kids, families, and neighbors have fun discovering Deering's history. Together, we learn about the people and places that made our town special, care for their stories, and share them with future generations.

Deering's history is all around us—in its hills, old homes, stone walls, and family stories. When we explore the past together, every discovery can become a new adventure.

By exploring together, we make new friends, enjoy adventures, protect the places and stories that make Deering special, and help our town stay friendly, caring, and full of wonder.

Everyone can join the adventure and become part of Deering's story



## Sharing Deering's Story

We're a small but dedicated group, and while our archival space is limited, we're always grateful for offers of **small objects, documents, photos, and stories** connected to Deering's past. We consider each item carefully and appreciate anything that helps us celebrate and protect our community's heritage.



DEERING'S REVOLUTIONARY ADVENTURE

# CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION

*This certifies that*

\_\_\_\_\_

has bravely explored all 7 stops of Deering's Revolutionary Trail,  
honored the memory of our town's founding heroes, and earned  
the title of:

OFFICIAL DEERING HISTORY EXPLORER



Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Official: \_\_\_\_\_

