About This Program

I’m Arrye Rosser, interpretive and education specialist at Cuyahoga Valley National Park. I’d like to thank everyone who helped fulfill my dream of bringing questing to Ohio. This project was made possible by the generous support of a 2010 Parks as Classrooms grant from the National Park Service and is a partnership between many organizations.

So far, more than 100 teachers, volunteers, and park staff have been involved in writing and field testing Canalway Quests. Our plan is to create more in the years ahead. If you would like to volunteer, contact me at cuva_questing@nps.gov

Special thanks to Emily Bryant and Steven Glazer.

The Ohio & Erie Canalway celebrates the rails, trails, landscapes, towns, and sites that grew up along the first 110 miles of the canal that helped Ohio and our nation grow.

For more information and to get copies of other quests, visit ohioanderiecanalway.com and search under Activities.

Canalway Quest

Seiberlings at Play Quest

Discover leisure activities enjoyed by Seiberling family and friends via this moderate walk around Stan Hywet.

Clues Continued...

Walk with water on left. Stop across from yonder wood dock. Picture the diving board that once occupied nearby spot. In past summers, Seiberlings played, fished, canoed, and swam. The water level was 10 feet deep; up to the dock’s base it ran.

Continue on path, keep left at T, left turn to cross two bridges here. Continue on path and turn right up set of stone steps near. At the end of a long narrow path an informative plaque, you’ll arrive. Underfoot you’ll notice that you’re standing near Pleasure Drive.

Head towards Tea Houses on high and walk across a bridge. A left and a right leads to CAUTION sign. Up 7 steps. Face left; the ridge! Secretly lift up corner rock at foot level. Remove quest box. Stamp your brochure, sign the logbook, and replace all, you clever fox.

Continue up stairs to where changing took place in two rooms. Even in summer, men and women wore wool bathing costumes.

“How” Rhymes with Croak

Continue up more stairs to the top where two Tea Houses are found. Cross over gravel onto grass. Pause where cement frames the ground. Here a fast-paced American game called roque was once played.

The name dropped the C and T from the English game of croquet. Like a pool table, the sunken court was smooth and firm with four corners. Short mallets shot balls through arched wickets, banking off the borders.

You’ve reached the finish line of this vigorous quest. Hope you’re not sore. Return to the Carriage House along Ribbon Drive, or continue to explore.

This quest was written by Toivo Motter of Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens with support from Arrye Rosser of Cuyahoga Valley National Park, architect Mark Gilles of Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens, and volunteers Danny Reiser, Pat Myers, and Jim Urban. The historic photos are courtesy of Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens.

revised April 2018
Planning Ahead

This treasure hunt takes about 60 minutes. Most surfaces are relatively level, but lawns and trails may be soft or muddy. There are uneven stone stairs in places. Walking shoes, a camera, and a sunhat are recommended. You will need a pen or pencil to sign the logbook. Some people prefer using their own signature stamp.

This quest is entirely outdoors. Note that the Estate has an admission price. Members are free. The grounds are open Tuesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Call 888.836.5533 or visit stanhywet.org for information about extending your visit with a house tour. Bring extra money if you want to visit Molly’s Shop & Café.

Getting There

Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens is at 714 North Portage Path, Akron, Ohio 44303. At Admissions, pick up a visitor’s guide containing an Estate Map to assist you on this adventure. Your quest begins by the fountain in the courtyard outside the admissions exit.

Clues

In 1915, from city to country the Seiberling family* came, moving into their new estate west of Akron. Stan Hywet is its name. A place where all were welcome was their generous intent. With friends, family, and business associates, many a day was spent. The estate was filled with beautiful places to feed soul and mind. A healthy body was also key, so facilities for recreation were designed. Indoors they built a pool called “The Plunge,” a sauna, and a gym. A healthy body was also key, so facilities for recreation were designed. Indoors they built a pool called “The Plunge,” a sauna, and a gym.

A Horse, of Course!

Face Molly’s Shop and Café which housed carriages and a stable. Where a prize stallion named “Lex” once stood, there’s now a table.

Chasing Golf Balls

At nearby Portage Country Club, wealthy golfers would mingle and play. Goodyear executives had their own course by Fairlawn Heights, thanks to F.A. At Stan Hywet, he built a four-hole challenge for family and guests. Here at Hole 1, sons Franklin and Penfield teed off their sibling contests.

Lawn Games

When young, Franklin and Penfield teed off their sibling contests. East of Hole 2, three putting greens were found, one in front of the manor. From the “hour” marks toward a central hole, players putted over bent blades. F.A. included this family-friendly game among the estate’s facilities, because “no matter what your age, there should be recreational activities.”

Tennis, Anyone?

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Left of double doors go to CARRIAGE HOUSE plaque (letters white). Below, a stone mounting block helped those challenged by height. Over Sand Run Metro Park, the estate’s bridle trails once did strew.

In a sunken area nearby, a game called lawn bowls was played. The winning team’s “bowl” stopped closest to where the “jack” stayed. Another contest on this court was a version of English croquet. F.A. and his in-laws wagered one cent per match on many a Sunday.

Cross the drive into the Elliptical Garden. You’re by Hole 3 at last. Face the manor. Turn right, then “chip” past the triangle of grass. Because “no matter what your age, there should be recreational activities.”

Winter brought family and friends together here to ice skate. Gazing upon the lagoon and its vista—a view unique and wild. The Seiberlings picnicked up on this “hidden aspect,” as it was styled, from the second, Look up and spot where a stone overlook was hewn.

Game, Set, Match

Pause at the first hydrant, on right, used to refill lagoons drained. Find the second one. The clay tennis court needed water to be maintained. F.A., daughters, sons, and even Gertrude, volleyed for serve on this slab. F.A., daughters, sons, and even Gertrude, volleyed for serve on this slab.

With your eyes, aim for Hole 2 at the intersection of two tree lines. Are you close? Did you slice? Well, if you did, please don’t grouse. Follow the ball or take a more direct route to the Manor House.

Tennis, Anyone?

Telephone the first, then “chip” past the triangle of grass. Cross the drive and gaze beyond the WELCOME sign. With your eyes, aim for Hole 2 at the intersection of two tree lines. Cross the drive. Stand and gaze beyond the WELCOME sign. With your eyes, aim for Hole 2 at the intersection of two tree lines. Cross the drive.

Pause at the top of the circle drive. On this round green, clock golf was played. From the “hour” marks toward a central hole, players putted over bent blades. F.A. included this family-friendly game among the estate’s facilities, because “no matter what your age, there should be recreational activities.”

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Face the manor. Turn right, then “chip” past the triangle of grass. Cross the drive into the Elliptical Garden. You’re by Hole 3 at last. After you “hole out,” look back toward the manor once more. From the “hour” marks toward a central hole, players putted over bent blades. F.A. included this family-friendly game among the estate’s facilities, because “no matter what your age, there should be recreational activities.”

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Beyond the court, an archery range with arroses fired toward trees. Continue on the path. Down stairs, keep right, past a garden Japanese. Take a right at the Y. Cross a dry waterway. Keep right on the stone path. Hurry along, but don’t fall in. This is no time for a cold bath!