

Exploring Duxbury's Pilgrim Story: Alden House Historic Site



--	--	--	--	--	--

1 2 3 4 5 6

--	--	--	--

7 8 9 10

--	--	--	--	--

11 12 13 14 15

Located in Duxbury, 105 Alden Street
Time to Complete: 45-60 minutes
Leashed Dogs welcome
For more information, please visit www.alden.org
Surveyed and created by Teddy Stahl

During this year's 400th anniversary of the *Mayflower* voyage, journey back in time to explore the family homestead of celebrated *Mayflower* passengers John and Priscilla Mullins Alden. Discover the site of their original 17th century home and walk the paths they trod as you enjoy Duxbury's scenic beauty. Alden House Historic Site, owned and operated by the Alden Kindred of America, preserves and shares the Alden legacy and *Mayflower* Pilgrim spirit through guided tours of Alden House, educational programs, and genealogical research.

After parking in the main lot, walk up the path to the National Historic Landmark plaque. The plaque was given to the Alden Kindred by the United States Department of the Interior and is an important award. The property has been in the possession of the same *Mayflower* family since 1628 and is connected to the nearby Alden First Site, which is an important archaeological site. Also a factor was the cultural influence of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's poem, *The Courtship of Miles Standish*, which placed John and Priscilla Alden firmly in the national consciousness. The date of the award is marked on the plaque. The first letter of the last number of that year spelled out is Clue #2, Clue #8, Clue #13, and Clue #14.

Head out past the house and the cottage. The cottage was a part of a tea room built in the 1920s. This was when the Aldens first opened the house as a museum and the railroad brought visitors to the area. A sign marks the trail ahead. The first word on the sign is the surname of the famous family who lived here. The second letter of this surname is Clue #9 and Clue #10.

Follow the signs down to an open field. Walk to the pine trees on the far side of the field. There you will find a roped off area. In that area is the foundation of an earlier Alden house where *Mayflower* Passengers John and Priscilla and their family lived from the 1630s for over 50 years. They had 10 children! The foundation was discovered and excavated by Roland W. Robbins in 1960. The dig also unearthed a large number of Pilgrim and Native American artifacts, some of which are on display in the Alden House. To learn more about this history go to www.aldenfirstsite.org. The square space outlined in the foundation was called the root cellar and was where the family stored butter, cheese, vegetables, fruits, and other foods; the first letter of the word we use for this space today is Clue #1.

With the Alden First Site on your right, walk through the fence ahead and look for the sign marking the beginning of a path. The last letter of the name of this path on the sign is Clue #7 and Clue #12.

This path was the first official colonial highway in Duxbury. It was laid out in the 1630s making it almost 400 years old! At that time the path connected the farms of several Pilgrim families, the meetinghouse, and ran to the first Pilgrim settlement. The first letter of the Colony's name is Clue #15.

Walk down the path to where a small boulder with a plaque sits on the left. On the plaque is a quote from Rachel Carson. The 20th century environmentalist, who discovered the harm caused by the pesticide DDT, mentions someone from Duxbury. The fifth and sixth letters of this person's last name written on the plaque are Clue #4 and Clue #5 respectively.

Now you can either head back or take a short stroll through the rest of path, which loops around. Once you are back at the head of the trail retrace your steps to the Alden First Site. Next to the pine trees noted earlier, you should spot a granite marker with a bronze plaque. On the plaque is the name of the famous cooper for whom the site is named, the third letter of his first name and the third letter of his last name are Clue #3 and Clue #6 respectively.

Head back towards the Alden House. The house is thought to have been built by John Alden's grandson on land granted to the Aldens in 1628 and home to Alden family members until the 1920s. Look at the front of house as you emerge from the path. Notice the large windows. Houses were built facing south so that sunlight could better warm the house during the winter. If you peek into the window to the right of the door, you'll notice the large beam running along the center of the ceiling called the summer beam. This has been part of the house since it was first built around 1700. Now count the number of windows on this side; the first letter of the total number of windows on this side is Clue #11.

With the clue phrase revealed, head around the left side of the house and you will find the object referenced ahead and the location of the Clue Box.

We hope you enjoyed this Quest. For more information about the Aldens and the Alden House, please call (781)934-9092 or visit www.alden.org