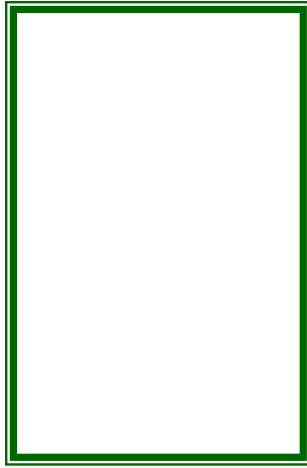


## QUEST GUIDELINES & HELPFUL HINTS

- Follow our poetry & a hidden treasure box you'll see!
- Unsure which way to go? A map's compass will put you in the know!
- Take your time and enjoy our rhymes; They will get you there every time!
- Trees & walls are just for show; climbing on them please don't go!
- Collecting & growing is our role; Sharing with you is our goal!
- If you feel you have to have it; Help us out & don't wreak havoc!
- Write it down; Let us know & we'll send seed when it is ready to go!



“Stamp of Completion”

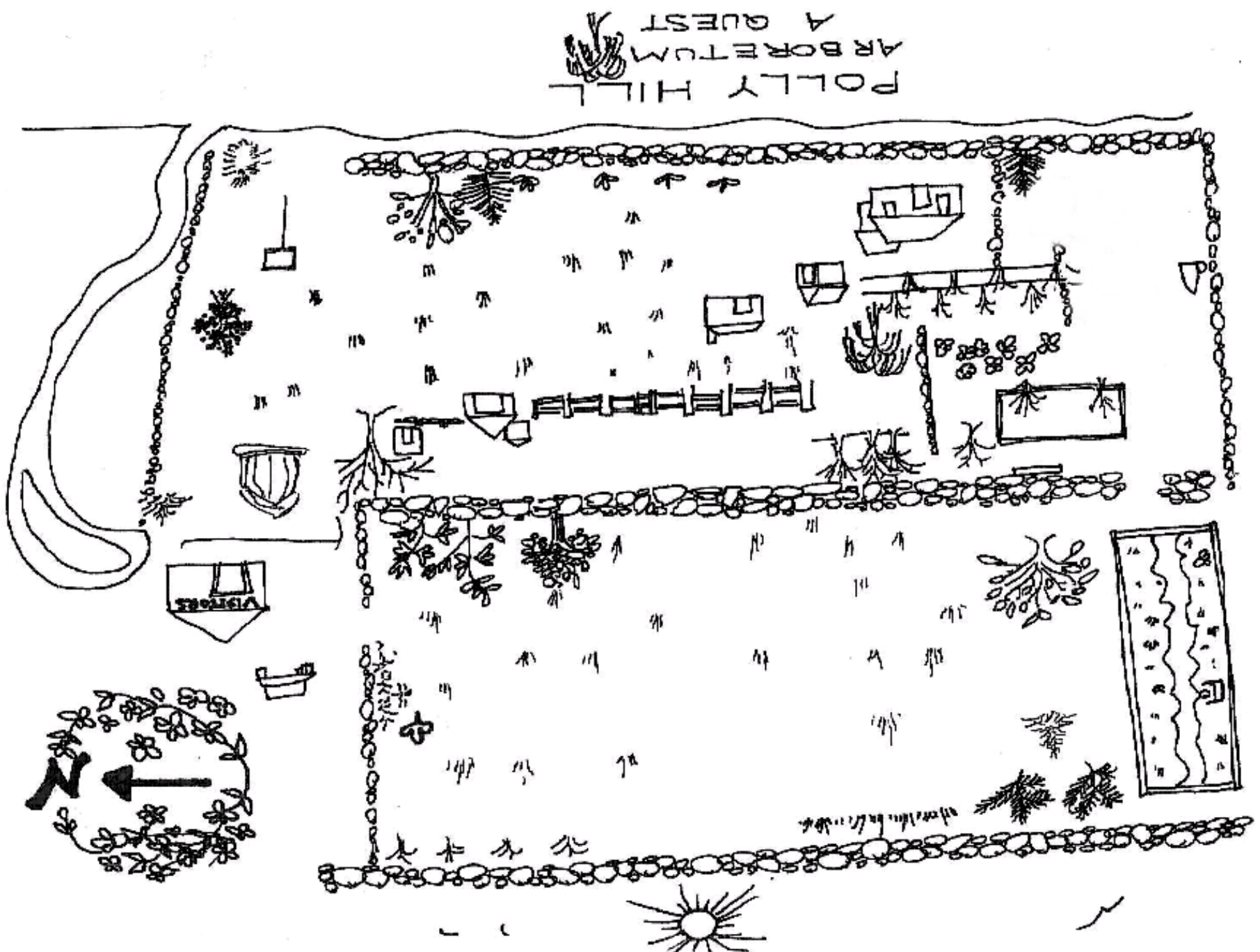
Stamp your card to complete the game –  
Remember to sign our book so we know you came.  
Take Polly's card to help you recall –  
The incredible woman who created it all!



# POLLY HILL & HER LAND “A QUEST”

“Questing has become one of the fastest growing recreational-educational activities on this side of the Atlantic. They are created to foster place-based education, stewardship, adventure, and fun. In the process of undertaking Quests participants celebrate and strengthen community life by forging lifelong connections to the distinct landscapes and cultural features of their home ground.”

Our quest shares Polly's spirit and story and we hope that you will be touched by her presence as you learn more about the history and plants of this special place! ENJOY!



Off shore by ferry from old Woods Hole ~  
A visit to Polly Hill's garden is your goal.  
In front of our lovely Visitors' Center ~  
Find two granite posts through which you must enter.  
Follow the flagstone pathway until you find ~  
Pillared pine pergolas covered with vine.

Next you will pass the best bathrooms in Dukes County ~  
Ahead red and white oaks provide the gray squirrels' bounty.  
Now go to where people stop and eat ~  
There look for beech trees with elephant feet.  
Way back long before Polly lived here ~  
Beech trees to the Wampanoag were held quite dear.  
Their high protein nuts and healing leaves ~  
Were used for food and to treat disease.

Beyond a holly find a break in the fieldstone wall ~  
Then to the right Vineyard history will surely call.  
Across from the longest needles of green ~  
A stand of sassafras trees will be seen.  
Bartholomew Gosnold came in 1602 ~  
In search of a cure—all that's edible too!  
He sought sweet sassafras with its three kinds of leaves ~  
Polly found them lovely, and kept these native trees.

Turn back and walk from whence you came ~  
And let us continue on with this game.  
Look for the Far Barn with doors open wide ~  
You will find an owl box high inside.  
In 1860, sheep were raised in this barn ~  
In a nearby mill their wool was spun into yarn.  
Outside stonewalls were built to keep the sheep in the field ~  
Rocks were piled high until the fences were sealed.

Go back out the door, watch your step; don't end up lame ~  
Be sure to pause at the place where one can light a flame.  
Built by Polly's mother who liked to entertain ~  
Here summer friends danced after the spring rain.  
Take your first right and then a quick left turn ~  
A seat in the peaceful bower you will soon earn.  
Here as you sit, observe the grooved locust posts ~  
Planted by farmers, this wood resists rot more than most.

From your seat in the bower turn left which is west ~  
Find a tree named 'David' in twenty-five steps or less.  
Starting first with pines and then on to holly ~  
One by one, every tree was numbered by Polly.  
On the north side, find a silver tag keeping things straight ~  
It shows the Latin name and numbers that contain a date.

Polly's scientific nature lets us now study at ease ~  
Well-kept records made scientist David Smith very pleased.  
To honor him, she gave this special magnolia his name ~  
Because thanks to his interest, a public garden we became.

Leaving 'David' behind, step on to the wide trail ~  
Go south past the barn and past the split rail.  
On through the stone wall until you can see ~  
The peeling bark of the first Stewartia tree.  
Native to Japan, Polly thought it would live here ~  
So in '67, she planted this seedling with others near.  
Observing and collecting gave Polly great success ~  
Discovering new cultivars that rate among the best.

Hush now, listen and you will hear ~  
The sound of the road which is very near.  
It is in this direction that you must go ~  
Toward a building with a roof sloping low.

Walk around the building to an open lawn ~  
You'll be looking east towards the dawn.  
Now bear right to the dogwood alley ~  
Head on down and don't dilly dally.

Look to the right where weeping trees are found ~  
Their graceful limbs cascade to the ground.  
They have been growing upside down for years ~  
Together they are named the Vale of Tears.

Continue down the alley and you will discover ~  
Trees that look the same but differ from each other.  
Find the *Cornus kousa* named for Polly, it is the best ~  
Stronger and more floriferous than the rest.  
When in bloom, 'Pollywood' steals the show ~  
This is one dogwood you should get to know.

Beyond a low wire fence and draped over stone ~  
You will find where a magnificent magnolia has grown.  
Planted from seed on this land ~  
This southern tree was named for Polly's man.  
In only nine years, 'Julian Hill' blossomed with white flowers ~  
We secretly suspect Polly has some special powers.

South and to the right, stop before the gate ~  
Stay out of the play pen it is not yet your fate.  
A quick right then left, the evergreens draw you in ~  
These conifers are a shelter from the cold north wind.  
The reason Polly planted these needled trees right here ~  
Was to protect the play pen, built to keep out the deer.  
She planted over twenty species here together.  
To make this living wall against the winter weather ~

Travel straight down this evergreen path until the end ~  
Turn right and look for our strange prickly primate friend.  
Many monkey puzzle trees in Chile do thrive ~  
Here on M.V., it's not as tall but does survive.  
Climbing up like a monkey may seem like fun ~  
But coming down, into trouble you will run.

At last your patience can now be rewarded ~  
Go into Polly's Play Pen you will not be thwarted.  
Julian dubbed Polly's workplace the Play Pen ~  
Since it is where she went again and again.  
For here, amazing azaleas Dr. Rokojo did send ~  
He was Polly's favorite pen pal friend.  
In books he did hide both seeds and their shoot ~  
The latter she named for their Japanese roots.  
The ones from seed which she grew ~  
Were named for family members ~ can you tell who's who?

Through the back door all the way to the front ~  
No time to rest now, let's continue on the hunt.  
We probably don't need to remind you ~  
But please remember to close the door behind you.

Walk straight back to the dogwoods once more ~  
And you will be at the Arboretum's core.  
Look to the right and there will be ~  
A very peculiar tall deciduous tree.  
Which like the dinosaurs was thought to be extinct ~  
But in '47 botanists' glasses did clink.  
In mountainous China *Metasequoia* again was found ~  
Now the Dawn Redwood resides in our Island ground.

Continue back down the alley and your steps will lead ~  
To a nursery where everything starts from seed.  
This simple garden where all the trees get their start ~  
Was perhaps the closest place to Polly's heart.  
Thousands of seedlings began in this space ~  
And we considered it a very sacred place.

So that your journey will not end in vain ~  
Walk north through the flowering dogwood lane.  
Watch right for the homestead's old grapevine ~  
And near to it a hidden box you will find.  
Look close to where the buildings comes together ~  
And there you will find the secret to our treasure!