

I need your help.



First, I need to tell you a little story. It has some stuff about our founding fathers, but I need you to pay attention, better than you did in history class. I'll try to keep it short and to the point. Trust me. This is important.

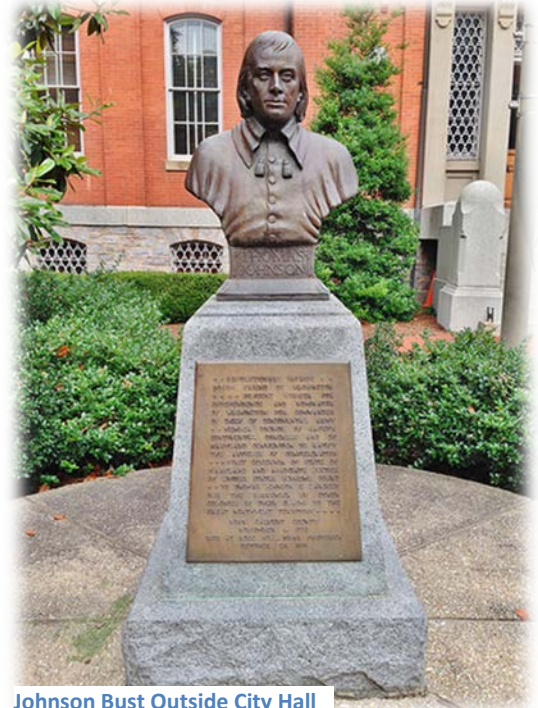
This is a story about Governor Thomas Johnson, General Thomas Jackson, and President Thomas Jefferson. It is a story about secret societies, sinister villains, and a whole lot of treasure.

Some historical figures were part of a secret society...

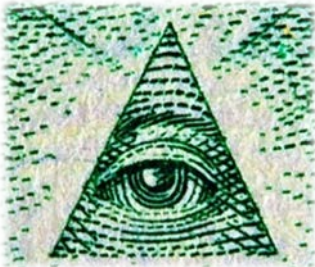
You have heard of Thomas Jefferson, right? Wrote the Declaration of Independence, our third president, all-around renaissance man? What you may not know is that he was a Freemason,

like me. In fact, they say he was the leader of a highly exclusive sect. Even we Masons don't know what they called themselves back then, but today, historians and conspiracy theorists alike refer to this select group as "The Illuminati," meaning "The Enlightened."

Jefferson met Thomas Johnson through a mutual friend you've also heard of: George Washington. Both Johnson and Washington were probably members of the Illuminati as well. I'm not sure if I should be telling you any of this, but you need to understand.



Johnson Bust Outside City Hall



In 1792, Jefferson was still Secretary of State and Johnson was rockin' a seat on the Supreme Court. They corresponded on a project known as "The Capitol." To the public, it was a million dollar venture to work on plotting and building the future Washington, D.C. But really, the objective was to hide a big chunk of the Illuminati's "capital" deep within secret vaults, in the form of precious metals and gems, to protect the wealth of the state-side masonic order during our country's fragile infancy.

...they hid treasure...

Even today, one million dollars is a lot of money. But back in 1792, a million dollars was an incredible sum. The present value of that kind of treasure is approximately \$50 billion, more than the Gross Domestic Product of many countries. It would be devastating if this fortune were to fall into the wrong hands. (More on that soon.)

ABOUT YOUR ADVENTURE

This adventure may take from 2-4 hours to complete, depending on the size of your group. Expect to walk at least 2 miles, mostly on sidewalks. Routes are bicycle-friendly and wheelchair accessible. This is a geocache (visit QR code), but anyone can do it (a GPSr device helps but is not required). A **smartphone** with web and camera will also be helpful.

Some later stages may only be accessed during that location's business hours. All locations welcome visitors, but may close by 4 PM. Complete the adventure and earn a commemorative pathtag coin! (One per household; while supplies last.)

Deepdish23 and Hixon would like to thank the City of Frederick for helping us set up this geocaching adventure. Permission has been granted by the various entities for placing physical containers or accessing information at these locations. Please respect those locations.





Rose Hill Manor

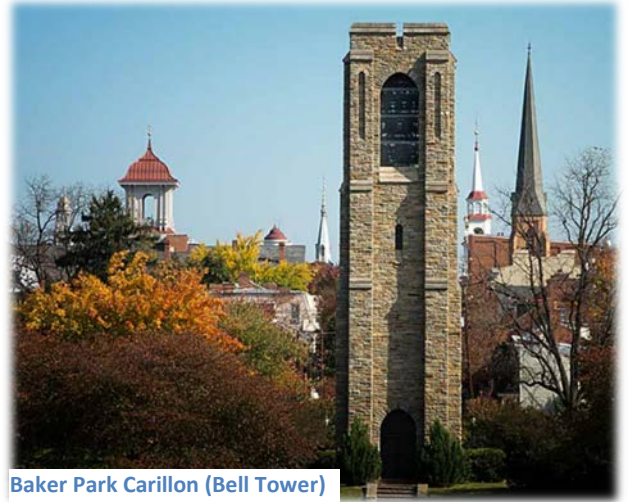
Who knows for sure if the project was successful, or if the treasure even still exists. Yet, all signs point to prosperity for these two gentlemen. Jefferson would go on to become the third President of the United States. He recommended Johnson for the prestigious position of Secretary of State, but Johnson declined, instead retiring to a large plot of land in Frederick, MD (now called Rose Hill Manor), presumably to watch over the fortune. Thomas Johnson was Maryland's first Governor, and remains a prominent figure in Frederick history to this day.

This was fine and dandy for about 80 years, until that whole Civil War thing happened. Some Masons wore blue, some wore gray, and they all worried that the other guys would make a run for the money.

Here's where the third Thomas J-son comes in: Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson. Stonewall Jackson liked his secrets. He was known to often use "compartmentalization" to guard against spies and turncoats. His soldiers each knew little pieces of a military operation, but no single person had the big picture, so one bad apple couldn't do too much damage.

Under Jackson's lead, the Illuminati decided to do the same thing to safeguard the treasure. The final location was split up into a series of clues and puzzles, maintained over time and divided amongst the family lines of two dozen of the organization's most senior members. The idea was that, should the Freemasons ever need to draw upon the treasure, the families could pool together their clues, solve the puzzle, and access the vaults. Otherwise, the solution would remain a mystery.

That time has come. You don't need to know why, but the guild must access the fortune... if it even still exists. And I think it does. So, just a couple days ago, the 24 families met under the shadow of the Carillon in Baker Park, and we began our work.



Baker Park Carillon (Bell Tower)

...made a puzzle to hide the location...



Mil Feaster

Then it happened. Really, *HE* happened: Hamilton "Mil" Feaster. Powerful, eccentric, and recently denied a bid for Grand Master, this dude is bad news. Spouting some story about family right, Mil is now trying to claim the treasure for himself! He has half the order in his pocket, and threatens anyone that gets in his way. I hope you are still paying attention, because this is where you come in. Fortunately, I saw this coming and purposely falsified my piece to the puzzle. Pretty clever, huh?

Feaster and his goons are off on a wild goose chase, but that will only last so long.

...bad guys want the treasure...

...you need to find it first to stop them.

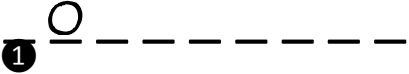
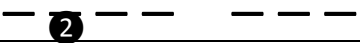
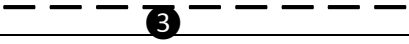
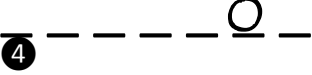
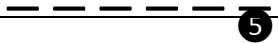
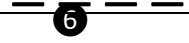
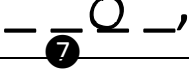
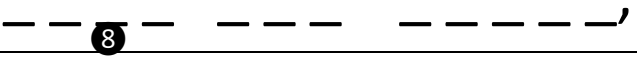
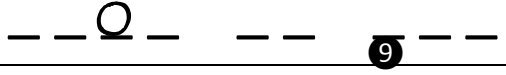

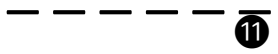
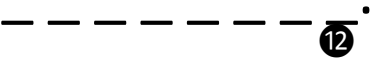
For now, I'm pretty sure we are the only ones with the correct clues. Using these clues, we can find the fortune first and try to move it to a new, safe location. I dare not seek the treasure myself for fear of being followed. I need your help. I know you do that geo-something business, and are highly skilled at finding hidden secrets. I also trust you implicitly.

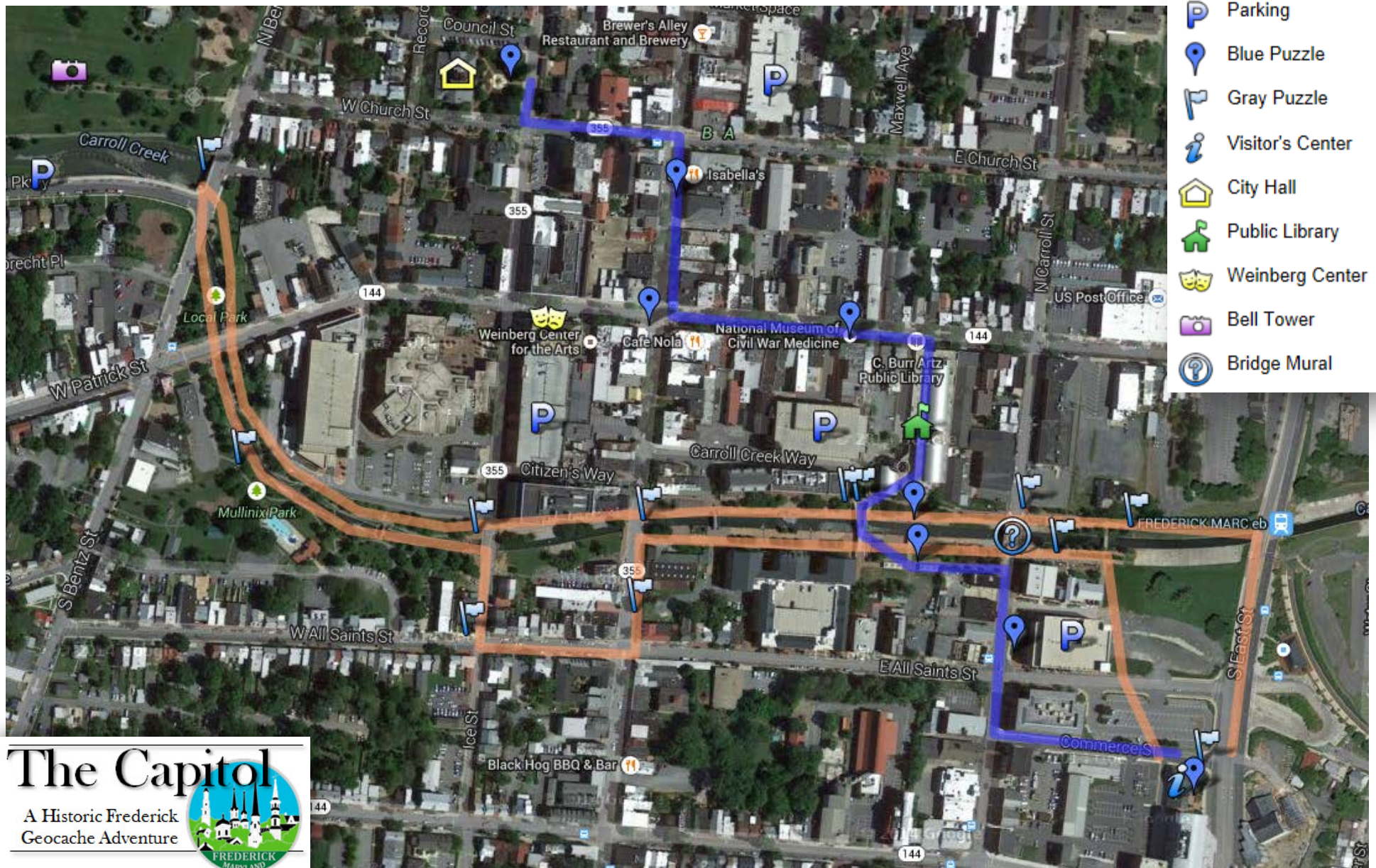
I'll stop ol' Millie and keep him off your trail. Please... take the true puzzle and solve it before it is too late. And, if you need a little extra motivation, I'm sure the Masons will grant you a small portion of the wealth for your troubles. Be safe, and do hurry.



Your adventure begins....

- Visit historical markers at the 12 gray flags (P). The orange loop is a suggested route (either direction).
 - The markers are small bronze etchings along paths and sidewalks, usually set in brick.
 - Geocachers can also use the waypoint coordinates to help find each marker.
- Figure out which clue pertains to each marker, solve the clues, and fill in the blanks with the answer.
- Once you have solved all the clues, together the answers tell you what to do next.

The campaign button is a secret compass, North facing up. Its words lean away from his ear, towards this cardinal direction:	① 
Not a sound can be heard on the 2 nd floor. Seek what follows 1745 on the 2 nd line.	② 
The famous man in the famous hat gives thanks to this place.	③ 
Remove letters contained in the banner from the phrase "COMMUNITY STILL IN A VISITOR" then use the added luster.	④ 
In the ____ of <i>social saints boasting within</i> .	⑤ 
<i>Individually excluded by me</i> , unscrambled.	⑥ 
<i>Pool</i> the 1 st two letters of the last line of the quote with the last two on the plaque.	⑦ 
A number, equal to half the rolling objects, hides in the first of these three words.	⑧ 
When you find an ear of corn, start with the second word, and skip the <i>G over</i> .	⑨ 
In <i>Jacob's</i> journal, use the opposite of the last word, then take the "red" out the word starting with "B."	⑩ 
<i>Simply a composite</i> of instances of the text's most used vowel, less the times it "appears" in the picture.	⑪ 
Take the 1 st character of the poem's 1 st line, 2 nd of the 2 nd line, etc. (apostrophes count). Switch S to H and unscramble.	⑫ 
JEFFERSON'S CIPHER CODE:	⑪ ② ⑤ ⑫ ① ④ ⑦ ③ ⑧ ⑨ ⑥ ⑩



The Capitol
 A Historic Frederick
 Geocache Adventure