

Last Green Valley

VILLAGE

Venture

Last Green Valley Village Venture

The Last Green Valley is a National Heritage Corridor, a treasure tucked a world away from the stress and bustle of the 21st century. Enjoy our delightful villages and their often ancient commons or greens, our historic sites and museums.

www.thelastgreenvalley.org

1 (866)363-7226 toll free

The Last Green Valley Village Venture would not be possible without the generous support of the Southbridge Savings Bank



Southbridge Savings Bank

Preserving the past, building for the future. Since 1848.

Additional funding was provided, in part, by the Connecticut East Regional Tourism District.



It's a "common"! No, it's a "green"!

The use of the terms "green" and "common," though interchangeable in meaning, occurred regionally according to at least one expert. In *Handbook of the Linguistic Geography of New England*, published by Brown University in 1939, Hans Kurath points out a regional dividing point, slightly diagonal and running northwest to southeast through the region. Those communities south of the line used the term "green," while those in the northern reaches preferred "common." On inspection of the 44 greens and commons listed in *For the Common Good*, there is general support for the premise. A diagonal line from the Massachusetts border southeast to Pomfret and Killingly mark the distinction between terms. Of course, there are always exceptions; Lisbon, Connecticut, has a town common; Webster, Massachusetts, has a town green.

The Town Common: A Heart of Green

Almost every town in The Last Green Valley has an open space, a town common or green, that has evolved over time. Originally they were undivided land held in common by the townspeople for use as the meetinghouse lot, a temporary holding ground for livestock and a training ground for the militia. In addition to the common or green, early settlements often had common pastures for grazing livestock and wood lots for harvesting firewood and lumber. Some commons held the burial ground and Sabbath Day houses, small shelters used on Sundays for warming people and meals between services. The tavern, school, jail, tradesmen's shops and other buildings that helped define a town's center usually surrounded the green.

Eighteenth-century commons tended to be poorly drained, filled with tree stumps and tumbling gravestones, and surrounded by roads filled with mud and ruts. However, in the late 19th and early 20th centuries these spaces evolved from their original use as common ground into the landscaped parks we know today. They gradually built town halls, libraries and places of worship around them. The common was often the point of departure for Civil War military units and, after the war, it was the chosen location for memorials to those that served and those that did not return. As part of the Village Improvement movement during the late 19th and early 20th centuries, many towns added fences, lampposts, flagpoles and fountains. In the 21st century the common serves as a center for outdoor community events: strawberry festivals, harvest fairs, antique and art shows, parades and memorials.

Today the commons in The Last Green Valley are often the only visual link with the original town plan. As the novelist John Updike wrote "towns have at their center an irregular heart of open grass" and "land held in common, as part of a manifest . . . lengthens the perspective of those who live within them." The towns of the Quinebaug and Shetucket Valley National Heritage Corridor, The Last Green Valley, invite you to visit and enjoy their "heart of green." Come and celebrate their past, share their present and preserve their future.

**A Guide Map to the Historic and
Scenic Town Commons & Greens
of The Last Green Valley**

Nearby Historic Houses & Museums

Some sites are open seasonally or have limited hours; call for details.

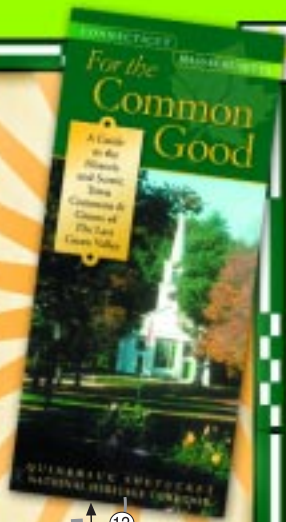
- 1 The Black Tavern** Center Rd., Dudley, MA (508) 943-8391
- 2 Blue Slope Farm & Country Museum** 138 Blue Hill Rd., Franklin, CT (860) 642-6413 www.blueslope.com
- 3 Brayton Grist Mill & Marcy Blacksmith Collection** Rte. 44 @ Mashamoquet St. Park, Pomfret, CT (860) 928-0304
- 4 Brick School House** Merrow Rd. @ Goose Lane, Coventry, CT (860) 742-9656
- 5 Brooklyn Historical Society Museum & Daniel P. Tyler Law Office** 25 Canterbury Rd. (Rte. 169), Brooklyn, CT (860) 774-7728
- 6 Clara Barton Birthplace Museum** 68 Clara Barton Rd., N. Oxford, MA (508) 987-5375 www.bartoncenter.org
- 7 CT Eastern Railroad Museum** Bridge St. off Rte. 32, Willimantic, CT (860) 456-9999 www.cteasternrrmuseum.org
- 8 CT State Museum of Natural History & Archaeology Center**, 2019 Hillside Rd., Storrs, CT (860) 486-4460 www.cac.uconn.edu
- 9 DAR Museum** 42 Rockwell St., Norwich, CT (860) 887-8737
- 10 Dr. William Beaumont House** 169 W. Town St., Lebanon, CT (860) 642-6579
- 11 Finnish-American Heritage Soc. Museum.** 76 N. Canterbury Rd., Canterbury, CT (860) 546-6671
- 12 Gertrude Chandler Warner Boxcar Museum** S. Main St., Putnam, CT (860) 963-0092 www.putnamct.us/putnamatglance/LocalLinks/GertrudeWarner.htm
- 13 Gov. Jonathan Trumbull House** 169 W. Town St., Lebanon, CT (860) 642-7558 www.ctssar.org/sites/lebanon_gov_trumbull_house.htm
- 14 Green School House** 8 Library Rd., Canterbury, CT (860) 546-6669
- 15 Gurleyville Gristmill** Stone Mill Rd., Mansfield, CT (860) 429-9023
- 16 Huntington Homestead** 36 Huntington Rd. (Rte. 14), Scotland, CT (860) 456-8381 www.huntingtonhomestead.org
- 17 Jillson House Museum** 627 Main St., Willimantic, CT (860) 456-2316
- 18 John Bishop House Museum** Rte. 169, Lisbon, CT (860) 376-2708
- 19 Jonathan Trumbull, Jr. House Museum** 105 W. Town Rd., Lebanon, CT (860) 642-6100 www.jtrumbulljr.org
- 20 Killingly Historical Center** 196 Main St., Danielson, CT (860) 779-7250 www.killinglyhistory.org
- 21 Lebanon Historical Soc. Museum & Visitor Center** 856 Trumbull Hwy, Lebanon, CT (860) 642-6579 www.LebanonCtHistSoc.org
- 22 Leffingwell House Historic Museum** 348 Washington St. and Rte. 2, Norwich, CT (860) 889-9440 www.leffingwellhousemuseum.com
- 23 Mansfield Historical Society Museum** 954 Storrs Rd., Mansfield, CT (860) 429-6575 www.Mansfield-history.org
- 24 Museum on the Green** Town Hall Rd., Union, CT (860) 684-7078
- 25 Nathan Hale Homestead** South St., Coventry, CT www.hartnet.org/als/nathanhale/
- 26 Old Sturbridge Village** Just off Rte. 20, Sturbridge, MA 1 (800) SEE-1830 www.osv.org
- 27 Prudence Crandall Museum** Rtes. 14 and 169, Canterbury, CT 06331 (860) 546-9916 www.chc.state.ct.us/Crandall%20Museum.htm
- 28 Putnam Elms** 191 Church St., Brooklyn, CT (860) 774-3059 www.PutnamElms.org
- 29 Revolutionary War Office** 149 W. Town St., Lebanon, CT (860) 916.1804 www.ctssar.org
- 30 Rider Tavern** 255 Stafford St., Charlton, MA (508) 248-3202
- 31 Roseland Cottage, Bowen House** 556 Route 169, Woodstock, CT (860) 928-4074 www.historicnewengland.org
- 32 Strong-Porter House** 2382 South St., Coventry, CT (860) 742-1419
- 33 Thompson Historical Soc. Museum** @ Ellen Larned Mem. Bldg., Rte. 193 Thompson, CT (860) 923-3200 www.thompsonhistorical.org/
- 34 Waldo Homestead** 96 Waldo Rd., Scotland, CT (860) 456-0708
- 35 Windham Textile & History Museum** Main St. @ Union, Willimantic, CT (860) 456-4520 www.millmuseum.org

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Be sure to pick up a copy of *For the Common Good* - a complete listing and guide to all of the historic and scenic town commons and greens of The Last Green Valley.



KEY

- # Town Greens & Commons
- # Historic Houses & Museums
- ★ Key Site - Exhibit Located at the Sturbridge Information Center
- Scenic Drives
- Common vs. Green Name Choice Dividing Line

List of greens/commons by circled number referenced on map:

- 1** Ashford Town Green
Rte. 44 and Fitts Rd.
- 2** Town Common of Brimfield
Rtes. 19 and 20
- 3** Brooklyn Green
Rtes. 6 and 169
- 4** Town Green of Canterbury
Rtes. 169 and 14
- 5** Chaplin Town Green
Rte. 198 and Chaplin St.
- 6** Charlton Common
Rte. 31 and Common Rd.
- 7** Veteran's Memorial Green of Coventry
Lake St., off Rte. 31, Coventry Village
- 8** North Coventry Green
Rtes. 44 and 31
- 9** Town Common of Dudley
Rte. 197 east from Rte. 31, follow signs to Nichols College
- 10** East Brookfield's Depot Square
Mechanics and Pleasant Sts.
- 11** Eastford Green
Rte. 198 and Old Colony Rd.



MA
RI

- 12 Franklin Green undetermined
- 13 Griswold's Pachaug Green
Rte. 138, Edmond and Bethel Rds.
- 14 Hampton Village Center
Rte. 97
- 15 Holland
Mashapaug Rd.
- 16 Killingly's Davis Park
Main, Reynolds and Broad Sts.
- 17 Town Green of Lebanon
Rtes. 87, 207 and 289.
- 18 Lisbon Town Common
Rtes. 169 and 138
- 19 Mansfield's Street
Rte. 195
- 20 Norwichtown Green, Norwich
Town St.
- 21 Little Plain Park, Norwich
Broadway, Union and Crossways Sts.
- 22 Bean Hill Green, Norwich
West Town St.
- 23 Chelsea Parade, Norwich
Broadway and Washington St.
- 24 Town Common of Oxford
Main St.
- 25 Plainfield's Memorial Park
Community Ave.
- 26 Town Green of Pomfret
Rtes. 44, 97, and 169
- 27 Preston's Common Lands undetermined

- 28 Rotary Park of Putnam
Rte. 44 and Kennedy Dr.
- 29 Putnam Heights Common
Rte. 21
- 30 The Scotland Green
Rtes. 14, 97 and Center St.
- 31 Southbridge Town Common
Mechanics St. off Rtes. 131 and 169 rotary
- 32 Sprague's Hanover Green
Main. St., Hanover
- 33 Sprague's War Memorial Park
Rte. 207 and Park Dr., Baltic
- 34 Sterling Hill Green
Sterling Hill Rd.

- 35 Town Common of Sturbridge
Rte. 131
- 36 Town Common of Thompson
Rtes. 200, 193 and Chase Rd.
- 37 Town Green of Union
Rte. 190 and Town Hall Rd.
- 38 Voluntown's Veteran's Memorial Park
Rtes. 165, 138 and 49

- 39 Webster Green
Rte. 12 and Church St.
- 40 Town Green of Windham Center
Rtes. 14 and 203
- 41 Woodstock Hill Common
Rte. 169 at Academy and Childs Hill Rd.
- 42 West Woodstock Common
Rte. 171, Bradford Corner and Bungay Hill Rds.

- 43 East Woodstock Common
Woodstock and Dr. Pike Rds. and Prospect St.
- 44 South Woodstock Common
Rtes. 169, 171 and Roseland Park Rd.

