Now let your eyes travel from the electrical box toward the top of the tree. Under that seam in the bark is the electrical wiring for a spotlight at the top of the tree. The tree’s bark actually grew out and around the wire and patched itself back up again!

When this house was originally built it had no electricity, but instead used oil lamps to light the rooms. Gas-powered lighting became available in Milton as early as 1854. Inside the house you can still see some of the fixtures in the walls that cap the old gas lines. By 1903, Boston Edison had incorporated Milton into its electricity grid. The last letter in the utility that powered the light fixtures before electricity is CLUE #6.

You are almost done...

Return to the front of the house and walk past the front entrance. When you reach the corner before the North Porch, stop and find the plaque in the wall. You will see that the Forbes House Museum earned national landmark status in 1966. Who is responsible for awarding that designation? The organization’s name is on the plaque and the 4th letter of the last word in its name is CLUE #17.

You should only have two empty blanks left. Can you figure out the solution?

This saying is painted around the base of a very large Chinese export porcelain “election bowl” in the museum’s collection. It reads: **The Forbes’s for Ever.** The bowl is a beautiful example of porcelain handpainted by Chinese workers according to a Western commission. On either side of the bowl are depictions of Scottish estates and the inside of the bowl illustrates a Scottish thistle and ivy pattern. The nod to the Forbes’s Scottish heritage goes back to the late 18th century – Dorothy Murray, of Milton, married the Rev. John Forbes, of Scotland. And so we end this treasure hunt remembering where it all began for the Forbes’s of Milton!
Walk to the biggest tree in the front yard. This is a Beech Tree, and it is probably over 100 years old. How many steps does it take you to make one complete circle around the tree’s trunk?

Step out from under the Beech Tree’s leaves and find a spot that lets you see the top of the Forbes House Museum. There is an octagonal structure with many windows on the very top of the roof called a cupola. It provides a good view of Governor Hutchinson’s field across the street, the Neponset River marshes below, and Boston Harbor in the distance. Margaret Forbes, who lived here in the mid-1800’s, would have been able to watch for ships as they entered or exited the Harbor. Her sons, Robert Bennett Forbes and John Murray Forbes, would have sailed on some of those ships as they made their way to and from China.

What is the name of the octagonal structure on top of the museum? The 4th and 5th letters are CLUE #2 and CLUE #11.

Walk to the right side of the house and stand facing the North Porch. This house was built in 1833 by Robert Bennett Forbes and John Murray Forbes for their mother, Margaret, to honor the memory of their oldest brother, Thomas Tunno, who perished at sea in a typhoon. Perhaps that is why there is a very special shape on the porch hanging over the walkway to the side door. The 2nd and 4th letters of that shape are CLUE #5 and CLUE #19.

Now turn around and carefully cross the driveway. There are two statues flanking the short path that leads to the large Chinese bell. These statues are called Foo Dogs and they are traditionally positioned in pairs at the entrance of temples or homes. They are believed to protect against evil spirits. The male Foo Dog is typically on the left, and the female is typically on the right. Compare their two faces: can you see which one has the tongue hanging out? The 1st letter in the name of these special Chinese dogs is CLUE #1 and CLUE #13. The 3rd letter in their name is CLUE #14.

Just beyond the Foo Dogs is a Taoist bell, indicated by the tri-grams around the base. Monks outside the temples on major festivals would have rung bells like this to draw the devotion of worshippers and the awe of ghosts and gods. This bell was made during the Qing dynasty. Look inside the bell. What is missing? Bells with no clappers are called “chung” and they are struck from outside. The 6th letter of the missing part of this bell is CLUE #16 and CLUE #18.

Next, head down the driveway toward the carriage house and barn. Like most families of the time, the Forbes’s kept horses and would ride by horse and carriage to and from their other residence in Boston. The carriage house was designed in 1833 by Isaiah Rogers in the Greek Revival Style to match the house. In the 1880’s, James Murray Forbes and his wife Alice Francis Bowditch added the Shingle Style barn to the carriage house. It was designed by Peabody & Stearns, a premier architectural firm in the Eastern United States in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The third letter to describe the style of the barn is CLUE #10.

Follow the driveway past the barn toward Churchills Lane, but before you get to the Lane you will see two granite pillars on your right. Enter between the two pillars and walk down the hill to the Lincoln Cabin. Mary Bowditch Forbes, the last Forbes family member to live here before the house became a museum, was a great admirer of President Lincoln and an avid collector of Lincoln and Civil War memorabilia. She had her carpenter, Thomas Murdock, travel to Lincoln’s birthplace so that he could measure what was believed to be Lincoln’s log home and create an exact replica according to the original construction. Where was Lincoln born? Read the plaque on the side of the cabin. The last letter of his birth-state is CLUE #12. The first letter of the last name of the carpenter who built the cabin is CLUE #9.

Now it’s time to walk back toward the house. You can cut across the backyard, or follow the driveway back to the house. You want to wind up standing on the rear side of the South Porch. Do you see the door near the traffic cone? When the house was built, the small room behind the door housed the only bathroom. However, it was quite a luxury for the time, as most people were still using outhouses. The architect, Isaiah Rogers, was known as the “father of indoor plumbing” and this – along with the Tremont Hotel in Boston – were two very early examples of that innovation. The Forbes’s were lucky to have indoor plumbing in 1833, but not until the house was renovated in the 1870’s would they be able to enjoy running water above the ground level. The first letter of the last name of the architect is CLUE #3 and CLUE #15.

Now look up to the South Porch. This porch used to mirror the North Porch, but it was expanded with an hexagonal addition as part of the 1870’s renovations. The money to build the house originally came from Robert Bennet Forbes and James Murray Forbes’s success in the American China trade. Throughout the house there are many examples of the art and artifacts that they brought home with them. The intricate Chinese ceramic blocks in the upper balustrade are additional examples. They were painted to look as if they were carved from jade. Real jade is very hard and in the Chinese culture it symbolizes beauty, nobility and power. The 2nd letter of this valuable stone is CLUE #8.

Walk past the end of the porch toward Churchills Lane where you see a stone bench. Just past the bench, turn left and walk to the very large tree. Do you see the electrical box toward the base of the tree?