

An Adventure With My Dad
By William Conboy

So there I was at my desk in my room bored to death. It was just after the memorial of my great, great, great, great-grandfather's death. After my family went to his grave Dad took us to a bank. He got a piece of paper out of a safety deposit box. He showed it to me when we got home. When he opened it there were clues all over the map which was a big map of the United States. He said his dad gave it to him when he was my age, but he wasn't interested in it. His dad told him it was a map to a national treasure. I studied the map carefully, and I knew exactly what I was looking at. It was a map we read about in social studies. My teacher told us that during the Revolutionary War the Americans looted treasure off a British ship that was about to sink. She told us they hid it using the Culper spy rings tunnel systems in Oyster Bay, Long Island but some of the treasure was re-hidden during the war of 1812. I told my dad he needed to take me to Raynham Hall. I told him all about the tunnels on the way. When he dropped me off I asked the historian if I could use the tunnels. He said yes since he owed me a favor. As I walked through the tunnel I saw a map on the wall that showed how to get around Oyster Bay. Soon I saw where I had to go to find the so-called treasure. There was a small room marked Treasure Trove. As I walked in, I saw one chest of treasure, and a clue attached to it. The clue read "go to the top of a large white tower". At first I didn't know what it meant, but soon I figured out it that it was the Washington Monument. I grabbed the chest and went out a different tunnel to meet Dad. I showed him the treasure, and told him how that we needed to go to the Washington Monument. He told me if Mom said okay, we can go. Soon enough she said yes and we were off.

While we were on our way, I noticed a key in the chest. I decided to hang on to it just in case. After the long drive from New York, we were in Washington. My dad said we need to get

to the top, so we ran as fast as possible. When we got to the top, I saw a keyhole in a brick. I thought about the key I found. I took it out, and sure enough it worked. A part of the floor opened up and it took us down to below the monument. When we got to the bottom, I saw a long hallway. My dad and I walked to the end of the hallway and we saw a problem. There was a spiky cage blocking the chest. It did have a lock on it so I took out the key. I tried it, and sure enough it worked. In the chest was yet another key so I made sure to hang on to it. Then I found another clue that said "you will find the next clue at the four faces". This clue stumped me at first, but then I figured out it meant it was at Mount Rushmore. I was thinking it would be too long of a drive so I suggested we take the train. On the way to the train, I felt someone was following me but I couldn't be sure. When we got on the train to South Dakota, I saw the historian from Raynham Hall. I went to speak with him, but he left to go to another train car. I was wondering why he was here. Could he be following me to the treasure? He could want it for himself. Luckily I left what we already found at home. I decided to sit back down and rest. Yet, I still couldn't take my mind off the fact that he could be following us. The next day I saw him again. This time he was talking to someone on the phone. He told the person "I am almost there". This made me even more suspicious. As we arrived, I saw him pick up a briefcase that looked like it came out of a spy movie. My dad and I walked to Mt. Rushmore with the man walking just behind us. When we got there, I saw him merge with the crowd and soon he was out of sight. As soon as he was gone, I started looking for a keyhole to put the key in. When I didn't see a keyhole, I thought this chest was going to be harder to find. Dad said maybe we should get on top of the mountain. I thought that actually could be it so we decided to take a climb. Once we got up top, I saw a keyhole on Theodore Roosevelt's face. It was right on top of his head. I didn't know exactly where this was going, so I got ready for the craziness to begin.

While I was getting out the key, I thought of why the historian from Raynham Hall was following us. I again thought he could be looking for the treasure. Maybe he figured out what we were looking for and decided to try to get it for himself. Just as I finished thinking it, I heard the click of a gun behind us. I turned around and saw the man from Raynham Hall. My dad pushed me down and I put the key in the keyhole. The platform lowered us in the some kind of treasure room with another chest, another key, and another clue. I grabbed everything and my dad took me out of the monument through the president's mouth. The historian was in hot pursuit as we climbed down the monument.

When we got on the ground, we ran down the street with the historian far behind us. I read the clue as we were running and it read "go to the large waterfall." I guess we are going to Niagara Falls. I am happy we are going back home again. I am also scared about that man coming after us. We got on the train and left for New York. This time when I got on the train with Dad, I didn't see the man.

The train ride took a long time. When we got home, I left the treasure and took the key. The car ride to Niagara Falls also took a long time. Once we got there, I saw the man again. I told Dad we had to find the treasure and fast. We ran to the Falls and I saw a keyhole in a rock on the side of the Falls. There was no way to reach it even if we were able to get on top of the Falls. Then I realized Dad had seen something and he pointed to a ladder. I went to grab it. The man was nowhere in sight so Dad held the ladder as I put the key in the keyhole. A smaller, yet still full chest popped out with a clue and a key. The man was now running at us. Dad pulled me down and we ran to the car. We got in and Dad drove me to his aunt's house that was close by. I did not know where this was going at first, but then I saw Dad run out with a gun. As the man from Raynham Hall pulled up in his black car, my Dad opened fire and popped his tires. Then Dad got in the car and started driving.

I read the clue and it said “go to the instrument of liberty.” “Of course, the Liberty Bell”, said Dad. We drove all the way to Pennsylvania. As we were going, I listened to the news and the reporter said a man chasing a child with a gun by Niagara Falls was arrested. They said the boy escaped safely. Now I do not have to worry about him anymore.

When we got to the Liberty Bell Center, it was extremely crowded. I had to push through something like twenty people to get to the bell. Once I got to the bell, I saw the keyhole in one of the bricks under it. I put the key in and sure enough a small chest, clue, and key popped out. The clue read “you will need all the keys to unlock the puzzle. Get to Paul’s house to see the end of your trouble.” It looks like I am headed for Boston. My Dad drove us home so I could grab all the thing I would need such as the keys.

It felt like a really long car ride to Boston. When we got to Paul Revere’s house, it was becoming very hard to find the keyholes. When we went in his bedroom, I saw something peculiar. It was one single keyhole. In put in a key and a platform slowly lowered. Then I saw a ladder. I climbed down and walked down a long corridor. At the end of the hallway, there was another keyhole. I put the key in, opened it and there was yet another lock. This time it was on a cage-like door. As I unlocked this one, I saw some traps on the wall and a skeleton at the end of the hallway. As I walked, arrows whizzed by my head. I ran as fast as I could. I heard my Dad fall so I went back for him. Together we ran to the end. There were two keyholes. When I put the keys in the keyholes, the cave started shaking. Then the wall in front of me fell down and I saw a huge treasure room. The treasure room was filled with gold, rubies and diamonds everywhere. Dad said “well now you have a good college fund son.” The treasure was great but the best part was the adventure I had with my Dad in finding it. I spotted another key and another clue. So I called my Dad and said “here we go again.”