

Where Do Warm Waters Halt, Part Two



Almost the Rest of the Story!

A paper by Douglas Meyer

This paper is the second part of Where Do Warm Waters Halt, and titled, “Almost the Rest of The Story”. The right turn, when you turned left.

In my paper, Where Do Warm Waters Halt, I used as an example, the Headwaters of the Rio Grande in Mineral and Hinsdale Counties Colorado. My example follows Clear Creek upstream. I took to the left in my example, Clear Creek South, now to the right Clear Creek North. Following Clear Creek North, could one discover a location where Forrest just might want his remains to rest and answer his question in the poem, “So why is it that I must go”?

If you think you have determined the general location, search all of the possibilities in that location. Maybe just maybe the second, third, or fourth possibility might be your “Final Story”.

As I have said in Where Warm Waters Halt, my perspective on how to evaluate the clues, is just that, my perspective. Folk’s can use as they may or just disregard. It’s been fun to speculate, but for me added fun is to share one’s theories and why. I would hope after the chest has been found, Forrest will share the true meaning of the nine clues and his thought process developing these clues, leading searchers to this special place.

There might be many places that might qualify as a special place to Forrest. Putting all of those places in my bucket of possibilities, I will be choosing one possibility from my bucket in this paper and asking, would this special place be located in the general location I used in my “part one”, the headwaters of the Rio Grande?

In this paper, I will be following the right turn up Clear Creek North. But the left turn would still be a possibility as I have discovered. Forrest has said a *“searcher could use logic to determine an important clue to the location of the treasure.”*

A Note to Mr. Fenn

Just for fun, I am sharing my thoughts on the “solve” with you first, then I plan on offering them (this additional paper; free) to others. I doubt that you have spent your valuable time reading my first paper, but if you did, know I appreciate your time and hope you might find this second paper of interest.

The Rocky Mountains are a beautiful place and from my armchair evaluation of the headwaters of the Rio Grande, this place has now become a special place for me and I hope to visit one day. I admire you for creating this additional exposure to this beautiful area and particularly the focus on family adventure.

Doug Meyer

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The Possibility

Forrest Fenn’s friend, Doug Preston’s comment, regarding the last clue that would be given.

Doug Present needs no introduction, he speaks of the early days of Forest Fenn’s idea of hiding the treasure. Some have suggested the Denver Museum quote is one of the most misinterpreted quotes out there. As the plan was to find Forest’s remains, with the treasure. “The final clue, he said (DP), would be where they found his car: in the parking lot of the Denver Museum of Nature and Science.” he wasn’t referring to the final clue in the poem being at or near the museum, but the last clue to indicate he went through with his plan.

The Denver Museum of Natural History (now **Denver Museum of Nature and Science**) played a significant role in the Folsom investigations and still holds the first documented association of humans and Pleistocene fauna in its collections, which are usually on display. The investigation marks a major change in the understanding of American prehistory: the realization that the ancestors of Native Americans have been on the continent since the **Pleistocene** (Ice Ages).

Pulling out of my bucket of possible special places, archeological sites, to see if one might fit in my general location. Why archeological sites?

The Passion

Forrest has said, “The spot where I hid the treasure was in his mind from the time he first started thinking about the chase. It is special to me and there was never another consideration. I was going to make it work no matter what. He also said, “In my reverie I often find myself stealing away to that place and I will always consider it to be mine alone.” And then has also said, “I knew exactly where to hide the chest so it would be difficult to find but not impossible”. The question; what could this spot possibly mean to Forest?

“I found that little arrowhead when I was nine and it sent me on a lifelong journey of adventure and discovery. I wondered who made it and caused it to be resting at my feet for 1,000 years, waiting for me to pick it up. I still feel the excitement of that day.” Forrest Fenn.

“What surprises me a little is that nobody to my uncertain knowledge has analyzed one important possibility related to the winning solve.” Forest Fenn

Can you picture Forrest sitting under a tree, by a trout stream, in the highest altitude Paleo-Indian campsite found in North America, imagining that the Folsom peoples camped and hunted in this location?

Forest has said in the Saharan desert of Libya he discovered thousands of war relics left over from the WW-II and in close proximity were stone projectiles and crudely made hand axes that could have been 30,000 years old. He said he was *“looking at conflicts piled on top of conflicts. Who can imagine how many...”*

Forest has been photographed numerous times in his home and has invited hundreds of folks into his house. What does one see in those photographs? Artifacts! And of course he owns the famous Fenn Clovis Cache.

The passions of one's life and the conflicts. Forrest wrote, in his article titled “The Mother of Indiana Jones”, published in the summer of 2000 regarding an article written by Joe Watkins titled "Salvaging Our Ethics."

To understand his passion and the conflict of that passion one should read this article. In the article Forest writes of the value collectors and avocational archeologists bring to the field. And at the end of the article he offers some advice and a few observations from Indiana Jones (Forrest Fenn) to the SAA.” (Society of American Archaeology).

The Conflict

The Clovis and Beyond Conference, held October 30-31, 1999 in Santa Fe, was sold out and registration was closed because the auditorium couldn't safely hold any more people. Mr. Watkins writes in his article titled “Salvaging Our Ethics, “A conference organizer has been accused of “mining” a pre-Contact pueblo that he owns for its archaeological material and American Indian groups argue that participation in a conference co-sponsored by him is in violation of the SAA's Principals of Archaeological Ethics Principle 3, concerning the commercialization of artifacts.”

Mr. Watkins asks the question; how did the collector get involved in the Clovis and Beyond Conference in the first place. In 1988 he purchased a collection of Clovis weapons and tools from a family member of the material's original discoverer. While the date and circumstances of the material's discovery are vague and ambiguous, it appears that the cache probably was discovered around 1902. That collector was Forest Fenn.

The passion for archaeology could be the answer to the question he asks in the poem, “so why is it I must go”? Let's analyze the possibility. If the answer to that question is his passion of archaeology, does your solve fit?

*So why is it that I must go
And leave my trove for all to seek?
The answer I already know,*

So now let's add the Conflict, does the conflict of that passion fit the poem?

I've done it tired, and now I'm weak.

I love the irony of finding his bones at an archeological site, and that is why I put this into my bucket of possibilities.

The focus of this second part is following Clear Creek North and asking the question if there are possible archaeology sites in my general location that the remaining clues could lead to the chest. A place he could sit, under a tree, by a creek full of trout, and see the Marvel Gaze of this beautiful area, the same beauty that early Native Americans also enjoyed. I would think the olive jar holding his autobiography might be the most valuable item in the chest. Will this document speak of his early years, as they have already been written, or will it speak of his passions and conflicts in his life, the final book in Forrest's Thrill of the Chase?

Could Archaeology be the X Factor in the Solve?

Forest describes himself as an avocational archeologist. There are probably very few archaeological sites in the Rocky Mountains that he is unfamiliar with. We, as the general public, rely on published findings and it has been estimated that between 60 and 75 percent of work completed in the field by professional archaeologists is not reported. And worse, many times the field notes are closely guarded secrets to keep others away. Could Forrest have developed a network of folks in the field who openly share information? Do you think Forrest might also explore the areas these finds are reported in?

In my efforts to try and locate possible sacred trees located in Mineral and Hinsdale counties, as described in part one, I was told by those that might know, those locations were not for public disclosure. I also spoke with folks in the counties historical societies regarding these possible tree locations and they were unaware of any.

My follow up question was archeological sites. I was told in the 1990's there was an archeological dig west of Creede that uncovered a Paleolithic site. At the time they kept the location a secret, and this contact did not know exactly where it was. As I have now discovered there are six sites in the general area described in my example. I have put these six sites into my bucket of possibilities. Two of those sites are described close, if not on North Clear Creek, and the third close to a tributary that feeds North Clear Creek.

The first site known as the Ayears Site, named after the family who reported the site, is on a gently sloping hillside at 10,200 ft. it lies on the northeast side of North Clear Creek, a short distance above North Clear Creek Falls. Not much has been published regarding this site.

The second site, which I will be using in my example, is the Black Mountain site about 3 miles upstream. The Black Mountain campsite is at 10,160 ft. at the base of a bedrock knoll on a level terrace elevated above North Clear Creek. The Black Mountain site is an exceptionally good camp location with regard to protection from the elements, proximity to a wide variety of resources, and convenient placement at an intersection of travel routes, man and beast. I have read the beautiful scenery adds greatly to the



enjoyment of being at this particular spot. As I have said in part one, this area is worthy of any National Geographic filmmaker's time and offers serene and tranquil confines in which to view the areas ever-eccentric wildlife. I am told this is an amazing place, high elevation, beautiful mountain meadows, amazing views and where trout fishing is just a part of it.

What I find interesting in Margaret A. Jodry's paper titled Paleoindian State, page 57, which I am sure everyone has read (chuckle), she reports, "Another fluted point (Clovis or Folsom?) reportedly came from the opposite side of North Clear Creek between Ayears and Black Mountain. (the third site) This location overlooks a small tributary just above its confluence with North Clear Creek. Then she adds, "A waterfall, a large natural lake, a warm spring, and a towering bedrock prominence (the

marvel gaze of Bristol Head) occur between the Black Mountain site and the confluence of North Clear Creek and the Rio Grande”, which I might add is 8.7 miles away and would qualify as not near the Rio Grande. Maybe just maybe, Forrest has read her paper.

My speculation is Mr. Fenn being an avocational archeologist is familiar with all of these sites. Driving distance between Santa Fe and Creede, approximately 4 hours. And of course the only way in (driving) is on highway 149.

Jodry writes in the same paper, The Rio Grande Basin has great potential for further investigations and along the eastern slope of the San Juan Mountains have received only cursory test excavations. Foothill settings on the Valley's west side are near springs and wetlands, as well as prime mountain sheep and bison terrain. Would this type of report get an avocational archeologists to drive 4 hours?

North Clear Creek Possibility

As the poems clues have lead us to and up Clear Creek, let's start by taking to the right up Clear Creek North and see if the clues line up.

The Continental Reservoir, pictured to the right is a part of the North Clear Creek drainage, into Clear Creek and then the Rio Grande.

The below is from part one, Where Warm Waters Halt. A quick evaluation to see if the clues line up with the Clear Creek North location.



As described in part one, Clear Creek and Clear Creek South and North I believe would line up with the poem. Looking further up Clear Creek North does it continue to line up?

From there it's no place for the meek

Clear Creek North is also no place for the meek and continues to line up with the clue, see part one.

The end is ever drawing nigh;

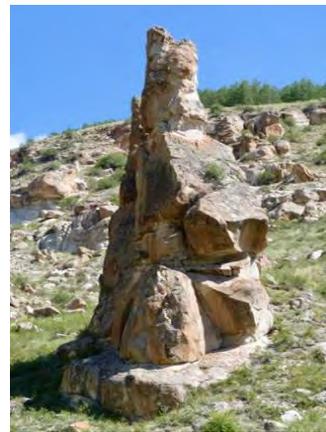
The end is ever drawing nigh, nigh meaning near vs left.

There'll be no paddle up your creek,

Continues to line up, again see part one.

Just heavy loads and water high.

North Creek Falls, Continental Reservoir and heavy loads like the pictures below.



As we get closer to the end lets revisit a few more clues taken from Part one.

“If you've been wise and found the blaze.” Is Forrest just making a statement to the searchers? So could Forrest be saying, If you've been responding sensibly and shrewdly (wise) in this quest and have been discovering the meaning of the clues (found) and found the blaze a (path or marking), then “Look quickly down, your quest to cease” Look quickly down, you have come to the end.

Then he adds a “But”, But tarry (delay, wait don't look down) scant (not quite a full measure of something) with marvel (are you filled with wonder or astonishment, something wonderful or marvelous) gaze, (to look at something or someone in surprise, admiration) and if you are, then look down and “Just take the chest and go in peace”. This should point us in the right direction, but still doesn't help rival the chest's final location.

Then the poem adds, as discussed above.

*So why is it that I must go
And leave my trove for all to seek?
The answer I already know,
I've done it tired, and now I'm weak.*

Here we evaluate the location of the archeological site. In my example Black Mountain 5HN55. Finding the bedrock knoll, which you can see on google earth, and standing on the level terrace elevated above North Clear Creek. Now let's look down. But tarry scant with marvel gaze. Do we see a towering bedrock prominence (the marvel gaze of Bristol Head) as Margaret A. Jodry describes in her paper of the site? Or a possible other marvel gaze. Look in all directions for the marvel gaze and put into your bucket each possibility.

The picture to the right I believe to be 5HN55, a blaze could be the bedrock knoll.

Then the poem concludes.

So hear me all and listen good,

“So hear me all and listen good”, the literal interpretation would be to pay special attention to the following: it will be worth the cold, you have to be brave, and you have to be in the wood, maybe to find a “blaze” and or chest. This could also mean what has already been said in the poem.



Your effort will be worth the cold. To the right of the knoll is Clear Creek North. Crossing the creek might be worth the cold.

If you are brave and in the wood. Crossing the creek might require you to be brave, if it is not safe, don't cross the creek, go around or find a safe place to cross. The Continental Reservoir above this location should regulate the flow. This creek is also a trout fishing stream. After crossing you would have to travel into the woods.

Note of consideration: Standing on the terrace above Clear Creek North, look for views that would present a marvel gaze, in my example Bristol Head, walking in that direction, it would be worth the cold of walking through Clear Creek North if you are brave and into the woods where he would give you title to the gold.

I give you title to the gold. To get title you must find the chest in the woods, and that location in the woods should also have a marvel gaze. Look for tree markings, piles of rocks, natural structures and maybe just maybe a piece of Forest Fenn's folk art, placed in a strategic spot.

In part one, it was discussed.

“Worth the cold” might mean you would have to travel through a creek bed or just simply a Rocky Mountain higher elevation (colder), closer to 10,200 ft., than say a lower elevation (warmer) of 5000 ft. Is your blaze location at a higher elevation?

“If you are brave and in the wood” I like this clue at the end, As Forrest traveled to the location in his car, from there, you will have to be brave and travel into the woods to find the blaze and chest. Is your blaze location close to where you would park your car and from there would you have to walk through the woods? Then again if you are a Native American Brave and in the wood, creating the Sacred Tree Blazes discussed above, maybe burial markers or Burial Trees.

“I give you title to the gold”. This could mean the chest is yours, or “title” could be a key word in locating the blaze. Private vs Public property and / or. (Earlier was discussed private or public lands.)

These were other possibilities in my bucket. My point, it is important to look at all your bucket possibilities when you get to the location of a decision, to go left or right, to look here or there, explore those other possibilities. For me something I can't even find the keys to my car in my own house, where did I put those keys, I have to look at all of the possibilities of where I might have put them.

Note of Consideration: The sites discussed are very close to private lands and some could be on private property. Know the area you will be searching, get maps that identify private from public land. Parking areas are close and it appears an 80 year old man could make this trip. Remember there is no need to move large rocks or climb up or down a steep precipice. This area is very family friendly.

In my dialog here, what I am using in my example is one of a number possibilities where following the poem one could end up. For me following the poem to this general location could result in a number of different paths, so again I put all those paths into my bucket.

My example is just one path, when searching a general location area, put all the possible paths you find in your bucket. The chest may be hidden at the end of one of these other paths. Look at all the different possibilities, plan your search, explore the other possibilities in that area, who knows you might have been 100% right until you chose the next possibility, going left when you should have gone right.

Conclusion:

Use this quest as an opportunity for discovery and adventure, full of family fun and the sharing of the Thrill of the Chase. Creating your own story of who, what, where, when and why.

My perspective on how to evaluate the clues, is just that, my perspective. Speaking only for myself, the search isn't about the treasure value, but about the value of discovery. After the chest is found I would hope Mr. Fenn might tell us all the true meaning of the nine clues and why this place is special.

As for my arm chair evaluation, I believe even if the general location is discovered within 200 ft. of the chest, one would have to be there to discover the chest's final location. With the number of different possibilities within a search area increases the difficulty. It would be a shame to be so close and not explore all possibilities.

As I have said in part one, I would hope that if folks pooled their resources the chest might be found in 2018. But of course the value of the chest and greed just might get in the way of that goal.

Why did Forest put a million dollars plus of his own value in a chest, hide it in the Rocky Mountains for all to find? Maybe just maybe there are more important things in life than money.

Good luck to all searchers and don't go where an eighty year old man would not go.

Doug Meyer

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The picture above I believe to be 5HN55, on Clear Creek North, maybe just maybe the blaze could be the bedrock knoll.