



# Burkittsville History Museum

MAIN STREET • BURKITTSTVILLE, MD

Investigator,

Since Rosemary is truly hellbent on doing this, and you're the one who's managed to help her get this far already, I'm going to do everything in my power to arm the both of you with as much information as possible.

I collected a few things I think will help you navigate the forest: three historical documents, a map, a magnifying glass, and a compass.

The three historical documents have each been taken from the Museum's archives. I'm including them because they each convey the experience of someone who spent a prolonged period of time in the forest and came out more or less intact. I hope they'll provide some guidance on how to get your bearings in the woods, and how to navigate between three of its major landmarks in particular once you do.

I imagine the map and its accompanying instruments will be useful on that front as well; as far as I'm aware, the map itself is the most geographically accurate account of the forest to date. That's including satellite imagery: digital imaging of the area has always proven to be a challenge.

There's actually a very interesting history behind the map and the man who made it. Emmanuel Ramos was a renowned surveyor and cartographer who was hired by a now defunct sawmill to chart out the area in 1953 after a number of the facility's employees began to complain that none of the maps of the area were accurate.

As the story goes, Ramos became obsessed with the forest during that period. When he turned in the map, he told sawmill officials that traditional directions don't work in the forest, and that instead travelers had to move according to the cues that the land itself gives them. He said he considered the cues to be cardinal.

That strikes me as a melodramatic way to describe the cartographic process, but I suppose that he'd earned the right at that point, seeing as he'd successfully charted a region that had confounded his colleagues for centuries. The record on Ramos gets a little hazy after that; he completely fell off the map, so to speak, within a year of completing the project.

The compass and magnifying glass I'm passing on to you belonged to Ramos as well. Maybe using them will help you see the forest the same way he did.

Alright, I admit that I'm rambling on about obscure historical facts so that I don't have to put my feelings into words. Detective, I want you to know that Rosemary is the strongest person I've ever met; she's managed to stand so tall, for so long, in the face of such unbelievable loss. But at the end of the day, she's only human, and the forces she's going up against aren't. Please, do the best you can to see her through this.

—Anthony

**HOURS:** TUE — FRI 11 A.M. — 6 P.M., SAT — SUN 12 — 6 P.M., CLOSED MON.