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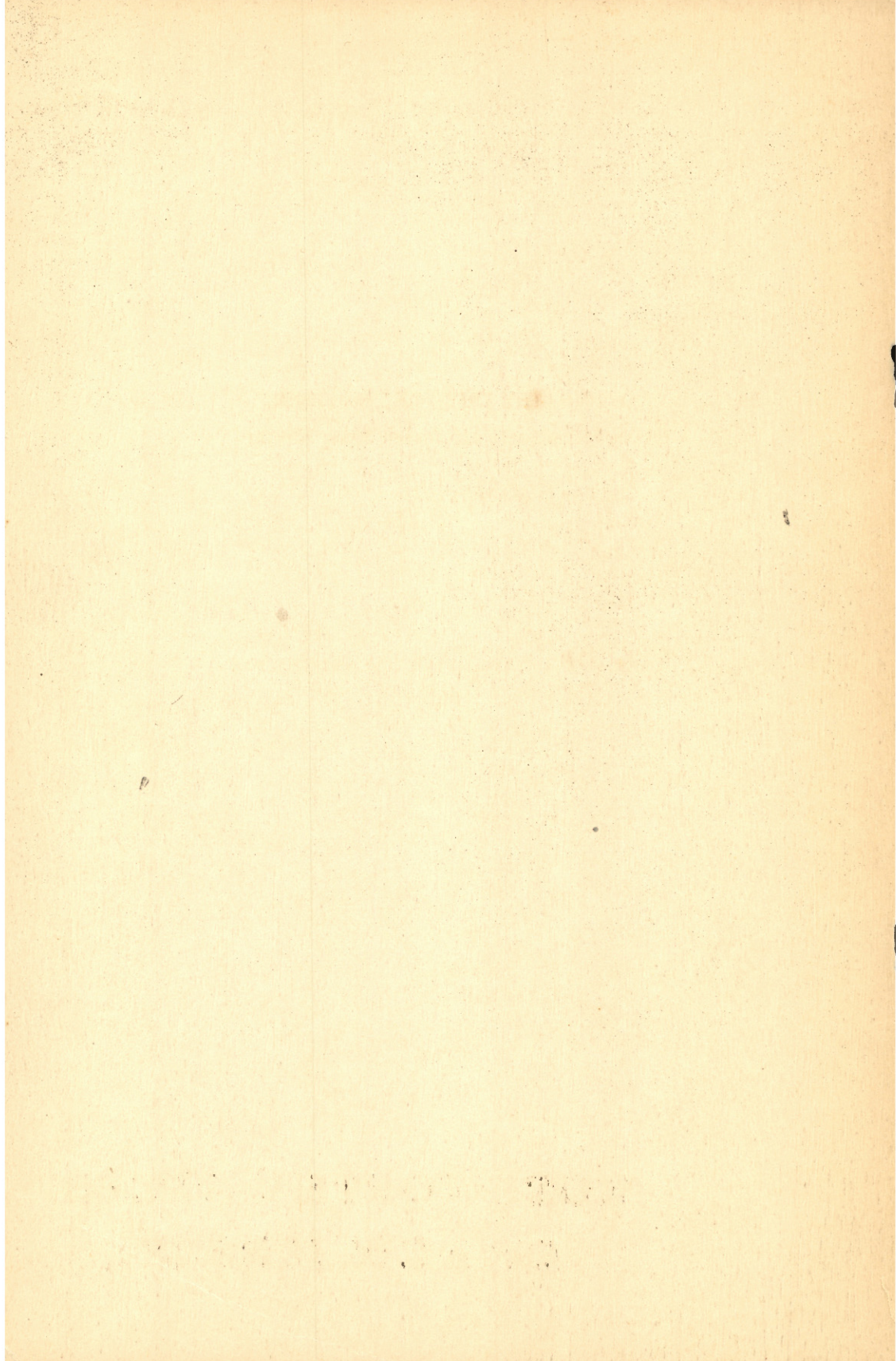
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**NOTEWORTHY TREES  
OF NEW JERSEY**



**NOTEWORTHY TREES OF NEW JERSEY**  
**Living Monuments of Garden State History**

Department of Conservation and Development  
Division of Forest and Parks  
Trenton, N. J.  
1937

First Edition

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## NOTEWORTHY TREES OF NEW JERSEY

### Living Monuments of Garden State History

From the rocky slopes of Sussex County to the sandy shore of Cape May trees grow and thrive today that have witnessed every phase of New Jersey's absorbing history. Some of them grew with the vigor of youth when Henry Hudson set foot on New Jersey soil in 1609. Others cannot claim such antiquity but are none the less worthy of fame. Many of the trees presented in this booklet are associated with the glamour of the American Revolution; others have less colorful associations.

Noteworthy trees grow everywhere: on wooded slopes and in swamps; in cultivated fields and abandoned fields; in small backyards and large churchyards; on city streets and open highways and along the river's bank. At least one thrives in a most unusual situation. A large hickory grows in the kitchen and extends through the roof of a wayside tearoom near Long Valley, in Morris County.

All of these trees are worth visiting; some for their history more than their beauty, others for their beauty more than their history. Many of them are white oaks and no other tree symbolizes the early American ideals of steadfastness of purpose, intrepidity and courage half as well as a venerable white oak. It is a tree with dense foliage, symmetrical crown, a profusion of massive limbs and one which is universally admired.

Fortunately many of these notable trees are found on public or semi-public property. The owners of those trees which are growing on private property have, as far as it is known, no objection to the public visiting them. In fact, they welcome interest in their old trees. Many of these famous tree owners appear to be more concerned with the vigor of their trees than with their own health.

This list is by no means complete, nor can it be said that these trees are the most noteworthy in New Jersey for this is a controversial point. The facts accumulated and funds available for printing, necessarily limit this booklet to its present size. The search for interesting and historic trees still continues and the plan is to revise this publication as additional facts are gathered.

## NOTEWORTHY TREES OF NEW JERSEY

Every effort has been made to secure accurate and trustworthy data. Factual information which can be authenticated or documented is so stated; otherwise the information is assumed to be legendary or traditional. The physical data given for each tree are, for practical purposes, correct at the moment since they were studied during the years 1936 and 1937.

A word of explanation should be added concerning certain information which is not recorded. The branch spread or crown spread has not been included, except in a few instances, because there is a surprising uniformity of spread among these old giants. The heights have not been included: height is in no way an indicator of advanced age, the heights of many of these large trees are very difficult to determine except by precise engineering methods; and many of them have been attended by tree surgeons and the height is no longer significant.

The determination of a tree's age based on a knowledge of growth or a comparison with trees of known age growing in similar situations is very likely to be incorrect. At best, the ages as given in this booklet are estimates and no claim is made for their accuracy.

The circumference measurements have been made with a diameter tape, at a standard point known as Diameter Breast High, equivalent to 4 1-2 feet from the ground; they are accurate, allowing for human frailties, to 1-10 of a foot.

To those who reverence Nature's handiwork and to those who are interested in New Jersey's colorful history, a visit to these living monuments should indeed be an inspiration.

.....

The Department is anxious to make the data as complete as possible and would appreciate additional information relative to these or any other trees worthy of note.

.....

### **ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

The Department wishes to express its appreciation to its many friends for their generous cooperation in supplying facts and suggestions for this booklet.

## NOTEWORTHY TREES OF NEW JERSEY

### **HOHOKUS ELM**

This old elm barely falls within the subtitle of this booklet. Although only the trunk and stubs of the huge limbs remain, it is technically alive, for a lone shoot two feet long, grows from the end of a limb.

This elm is located on the Franklin Turnpike and its huge roots extend into the roadway. Some years ago this road was paved and the roots were injured. If they had been protected by curbing possibly the life of this tree might have been prolonged.

This was a splendid specimen in its prime, with a massive trunk, huge limbs and a full vase-shaped crown. Although efforts were made to save this tree, it had become a source of danger to passing traffic and most of it was removed within the past year.

The elm lies on the route from Fort Lee to the post at Ramapo, used by General Washington and his troops (Ramapo lay between Suffern, N. Y., and Oakland, N. J.).

Species: Elm.

Circumference: 17 feet.

Age: 225 years.

Condition: Poor.

Location: Nearly opposite police headquarters on the Franklin Turnpike, Hohokus, Bergen County.

NOTEWORTHY TREES OF NEW JERSEY



**HOHOKUS ELM**

## NOTEWORTHY TREES OF NEW JERSEY

### WASHINGTON BUTTONBALL\*

This old sycamore, equal in size to the famous Burlington Sycamore, is located on an historic road over which Washington rode during the Revolutionary War. It is only a tradition that Washington rested under the shade of this tree. It is, however, a well established fact that he passed along this road in 1782.†

In July, 1782, General Washington went to Philadelphia to confer with Count Rochambeau on military matters. Their deliberations completed, Washington set out for his headquarters at Newburgh, New York. The night of July 25th he spent at Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. On the morning of the 26th he left for Newburgh by way of Easton, Pennsylvania and Hope, New Jersey. Bishop Ettwein of the Moravian Church, who was planning a visit to Hope, where the Moravians (United Brethren) had established a settlement some years before, offered to accompany Washington and his party as far as that place. General Washington was traveling without a troop escort. He was accompanied by Colonel Trumbull and Major Walker as aide-de-camps.

Once well on the road to Hope, Bishop Ettwein hurried ahead to make arrangements for the General's proper reception in the village while the remainder of the party rode on at a leisurely pace.

Tradition relates that about 11:00 A. M. Washington paused, dismounted and rested under the spreading limbs of this old tree. He rode on to Hope where he dined at the old stone hotel which is still standing.

Following dinner he looked about the place with interest and then proceeded to Sussex Court House (now Newton) where he presumably spent the night.

Species: Sycamore.

Circumference: 20.2 feet.

Age: 300-350 years.

Condition: Fair.

Location: On the main road from Bridgeville to Blairstown, about 1 mile south of Hope, Warren County.

\* The designations sycamore, buttonwood and buttonball are all common names for the same tree (*Platanus occidentalis*). Although the common name sycamore is used throughout this booklet in the text, the writer has not felt privileged to change local tree names of long standing as some confusion might result.

† Baker, William S. Itinerary of General Washington from July 15, 1775, to December 23, 1783. Philadelphia, 1892. Page 269.  
(Baker's authority is a MS. in the Moravian Archives at Bethlehem, Pa.)

NOTEWORTHY TREES OF NEW JERSEY



**WASHINGTON BUTTONBALL**

## NOTEWORTHY TREES OF NEW JERSEY

### **THE SHOE TREE**

Standing in the quiet town of Belvidere, this staunch old oak has a history unique among New Jersey's veterans. It has never witnessed the rhythmic march of soldiers, nor heard the roar of cannon or screech of musket shot; yet in a simple way it has served a useful purpose.

Years ago, possibly seventy-five or a hundred, shoes were scarce and country people commonly had but one pair. These were worn only on special occasions. It is related on good authority\* that it was then the custom of some people about Belvidere to walk to church on Sunday barefooted, carrying their shoes in their hands. When they came to this old oak, they sat beneath it and put on their shoes, before continuing to the churches which stood across the green. When services were over they retired to this tree and removed their shoes before continuing their homeward way.

It is reported, that this old oak has some connection with early surveys but no definite information is immediately available.

When the street, where this tree stands, was widened some years ago, the oak was left practically in the centre creating a traffic hazard. Local sentiment was sufficiently influential to prevent its destruction. A grass plot has since been developed between the tree and the curb and it is technically no longer in the street.

Species: White Oak.

Circumference: 14.6 feet.

Age: 250-300 years.

Condition: Excellent.

Location: At the end of Third Avenue, Belvidere, Warren County.

\* This story is told by Dr. George Wycoff Cummins of Belvidere. The story was related to him by his mother and a friend now deceased, both of whom saw this custom in vogue.

NOTEWORTHY TREES OF NEW JERSEY



**THE SHOE TREE**

## NOTEWORTHY TREES OF NEW JERSEY

### **BETTIN OAK**

Beneath this tree lie the remains of Captain Adam Bettin slain during a mutiny of the Continental troops in the American Revolution.

During the winter of 1780 the Pennsylvania troops were stationed at Jockey Hollow. They suffered great hardships and were dissatisfied with the terms of their enlistment. This discontent finally culminated in open rebellion and Captain Bettin was slain when he tried to restore order. General Anthony Wayne was threatened with death.

The mutineers started for Philadelphia where they intended to present their grievances before Congress. At Princeton they were met by Government authorities, who dissuaded them from proceeding further and settled their differences.

There is some doubt whether or not this tree was standing at the time of the mutiny. Red oaks grow with greater rapidity than certain other oaks and this one may be scarcely 150 years of age.

Species: Red Oak.

Circumference: 16 feet.

Age: 125-175 years.

Condition: Good.

Location: On Jockey Hollow Road, (known as Western Avenue in Morristown which lies about two miles distant), Jockey Hollow National Park, near Morristown, Morris County.

NOTEWORTHY TREES OF NEW JERSEY



**BETTIN OAK**

## NOTEWORTHY TREES OF NEW JERSEY

### **SAMUEL H. TUTTLE OAK**

This old oak occupies a unique location nearly in the centre of the roadway.

The following interesting facts are taken from Tuttle's "Bottle Hill and Madison".\*

"In the summer of 1858 Samuel R. Tuttle was opening Prospect Street through his property to join that of Mr. Henry Keep who continued the opening to the railroad at King's Road. One morning as he came upon the ground the workmen were preparing to cut down a large oak tree which stood nearly in the centre of the way. He checked them saying that it was too splendid a tree to destroy. 'But Mr. Tuttle you see it is right in the way' said the foreman. 'Never mind if it is, don't touch it' was the reply." The tree is still standing in 1937.

Species: White Oak.

Circumference: 11.6 feet.

Age: 175-225 years.

Condition: Excellent.

Location: Prospect Street, Madison, Morris County.

\* Tuttle, William, Parkhurst. Bottle Hill and Madison. Madison, 1917.

NOTEWORTHY TREES OF NEW JERSEY



**SAMUEL H. TUTTLE OAK**

**BRADBURN OAK**

This is a tree more of sheer beauty than of historic importance. The most striking feature is the abundance of massive lower limbs which are usually not present in a tree of such advanced age. These limbs extend more than fifty feet from the trunk in nearly every direction, practically on a horizontal plane. Many of them leave the trunk not over five feet from the ground. The trunk is short but gracefully curved. The crown is full and symmetrical. Without question, this tree ranks high in the list of the State's beautiful white oaks.

A tree as large and as old as this one must surely have a history. Efforts to discover any so far have been unavailing.

This tree stands on the grounds of the Bradburn Country Club. This property was formerly Brooklake Park, the palatial estate of Leslie Dodd Ward of a prominent family in Morris County.

Species: White Oak.

Circumference: 16 feet.

Age: 225-275 years.

Condition: Excellent.

Location: Two hundred feet from the entrance of the Bradburn Country Club in Madison, Morris County.

NOTEWORTHY TREES OF NEW JERSEY



**BRADBURN OAK**

## NOTEWORTHY TREES OF NEW JERSEY

### **HENTZ SASSAFRAS**

The Hentz Sassafras plainly refutes the idea held by a surprising number of people that the sassafras is little more than a shrub and never attains large size. It has been stated that this tree is one of the two largest sassafras trees in the world and its companion grows in Missouri. Inquiry on this point to state officials in Missouri has not been fruitful.

The singular distinction claimed for this tree is not true, for a larger sassafras grows in our own State in Cape May County. The sassafras at Rio Grande, Cape May County, is however, in poor condition and will soon succumb to the ravages of time.

The Hentz Sassafras has received excellent care and should live many years. It is well formed and supports a vigorous healthy crown. Sassafras normally reproduces itself prolifically. This tree is no exception as numerous progeny of this patriarch are found across the road.

Species: Sassafras.

Circumference: 14.6 feet.

Age: 200 years.

Condition: Excellent.

Location: Partly on the road right-of-way and partly on the property of L. S. Hentz, on Noe Avenue, Madison, Morris County.

NOTEWORTHY TREES OF NEW JERSEY



**HENTZ SASSAFRAS**

## NOTEWORTHY TREES OF NEW JERSEY

### **WASHINGTON WALNUT**

Standing within a few feet of the old Timothy Ball house built in 1743, this fine old tree is linked with Revolutionary days as well as more peaceable times.

This walnut is probably as old as the Ball House and it is said that Washington, who was related to the Balls, visited his cousins before and after the Battle of Springfield. According to tradition he hitched his horse to an iron ring which was attached to the trunk. The tree has since grown over the ring which is no longer visible. Some, among the older residents in the vicinity, remember when it could plainly be seen.

Within the Timothy Ball house there is a huge fireplace. The tale is frequently told that Washington when staying there overnight stabled his horse in this fireplace.

Another story relates that this tree once served as the dividing line between the Presbyterian congregations of Orange and Springfield; both towns lying approximately three miles from this tree. Those living north of the walnut were expected to worship in Orange, and those south of the tree, in Springfield.

Species: Black Walnut.

Circumference: 13.6 feet.

Age: 175-200 years.

Condition: Excellent.

Location: At the Washington Inn, on Ridgewood Avenue,  
Maplewood, Essex County.

NOTEWORTHY TREES OF NEW JERSEY



**WASHINGTON WALNUT**

## NOTEWORTHY TREES OF NEW JERSEY

### COLONIAL PLANE

Growing vigorously in the very heart of a great city this tree has witnessed many events in history. It stands in Military Park which was laid out early in the development of Newark.

Old engravings indicate that a row of trees, of which this is one, must have been planted before 1800. Gordon\* in his "History of New Jersey" says, "The town is laid out upon broad streets, and has a great and salubrious ornament in the greens or commons, which are shaded by noble trees and bounded by the principal avenues."

Possibly this tree witnessed events of the Revolution, if so, it saw Washington's troops encamp in Newark following their retreat from New York in 1776.

Trinity Episcopal Church, which stands in the Park not far from this tree, has an interesting anecdote connected with its inception. In the words of Gordon\* Newark supported among its churches: "One Episcopal church, with a large and increasing congregation, which was commenced about 1734 by Col. Isaiah Ogden and others, who left the Congregationalists in consequence of the rigor with which his conduct, in saving his grain in a wet harvest, by laboring on the Sabbath, was condemned."

Species: Oriental Plane.

Circumference: 12.7 feet.

Age: 150-175 years.

Condition: Excellent.

Location: Military Park (Broad Street side), Newark, Essex County.

\* Gordon, Thomas F. A Gazetteer and History of New Jersey. Trenton, 1834.

NOTEWORTHY TREES OF NEW JERSEY



COLONIAL PLANE

## NOTEWORTHY TREES OF NEW JERSEY

### **BASKING RIDGE OAK**

One of the most famous of New Jersey's ancient trees, this oak stands in the Presbyterian Churchyard at Basking Ridge. The most pronounced feature of this tree is its enormous branch spread of approximately 140 feet, unequalled by any other in New Jersey. The oak has been carefully preserved and its limbs and branches are supported by a host of wire cables, iron rods and braces. Barring accident, it should survive for many years.

Basking Ridge was settled about 1720 and a log meeting house near the oak tree was the first structure erected for public worship. This oak was undoubtedly a veteran of nearly 150 years at that time.

The tree is associated with stirring events of the Revolution, for near it General Charles Lee was captured by the British in 1776. It is also a tradition that the horses of a raiding party were tied to this old oak during a Tory raid in 1781.

Very interesting history of this period is found in the Memoirs of Eliza S. M. Quincy\* (nee Morton). The Morton family moved from New York City to Basking Ridge, during the British occupancy of the city and Miss Morton spent part of her girlhood in this delightful village. Many interesting tales are related in these memoirs, and one incident at least, must have taken place within the shadow of the old oak.

When word was passed that the British were expected to occupy the town, the practice was to leave the village and retire to the comparative seclusion of the outskirts until the British evacuated. On one occasion, the alarm was spread and an old servant woman very much excited, put on all her wearing apparel before fleeing. She so encumbered herself she could scarcely walk. She started up the hill and through the churchyard when she stumbled and fell. Being quite out of breath and weighed down with countless petticoats she was unable to regain her feet. Spying a figure in the darkness whom she believed to be a British soldier she cried, "O Sir, take all I have but spare my life." We may imagine her chagrin when the figure proved to be one of her own household, as anxious as she to flee the village.

Species: White Oak.

Circumference: 17 feet.

Age: 350-400 years.

Condition: Excellent.

Location: In the Presbyterian Churchyard, Basking Ridge, Somerset County.

\* Quincy, Eliza Susan. Memoir of the Life of Eliza S. M. Quincy. Boston, 1861.

NOTEWORTHY TREES OF NEW JERSEY



**BASKING RIDGE OAK**

# NOTEWORTHY TREES OF NEW JERSEY

## COUNCIL TREE

This tree, unusual in appearance but well preserved, is associated with the earliest history of Somerset County. On the fourth of May, 1681, the first land title in Somerset County was secured from the Indians. The land included chiefly what is now Bound Brook. It is a tradition that the purchase of this tract was consummated under this old oak.

The deed to this tract recorded in Perth Amboy\* recites "that Knoackama and Queromak, two Indian Kings, for the consideration of 100 pounds paid them in goods, at the foot of the same deed acknowledged by them to have been received of Captain Philip Carteret, Governor of New Jersey, John Palmer, a Staten Island gentleman, Gabriel Minvielle, Thomas Codrington, John White, John Delavelle, Richard Hall and John Royce, of the city of New York, did sell to them and their heirs, a tract of land on the north side of the Raritan river, beginning at the mouth of the rivulet called Bound Brook, and by the Indians Sacunk, and thence up along the river Raritan to a brook called Raweighweros; and from thence north to a stony hill; thence easterly to Metapes' wigwam; and thence southerly along the Bound Brook aforesaid to the beginning; as might more plainly appear by the trees marked by the grantors, and by the Indian deed recorded in Liber 1, page 146".

This old oak grows less than a mile from the Heights of Middlebrook where the American flag was first flown over the Continental Army, and where the army was encamped on several occasions, once over the winter.

The encampment was located on the First Watchung Mountain and this strategic location gave the Continental Army a decided advantage. The movements of the enemy could be very easily detected from this vantage point.

Species: White Oak.

Circumference: 16.6 feet.

Age: 300-350 years.

Condition: Excellent.

Location: On the property of Dr. Hird whose residence is located 100 feet west of the intersection of East Maple and Mountain Avenues, Bound Brook, Somerset County.

\* Office of the Surveyor General, Proprietors of East New Jersey.

NOTEWORTHY TREES OF NEW JERSEY



**COUNCIL TREE**

## NOTEWORTHY TREES OF NEW JERSEY

### **SHREWSBURY SYCAMORES**

These two sycamores stand in the street nearly opposite Old Christ Church in Shrewsbury. This town, settled about 1665, was one of the earliest permanent settlements in New Jersey.

No claim is made that these sycamores were living during the early history of the town. One newspaper account of twenty-five years ago states that they were planted on July 4th, 1776. In view of the probable age of these trees this story appears to be the conception of an over-enthusiastic patriot. A more reasonable tradition is, that they were set out by Wm. L. Lippincott, who planted trees extensively in Shrewsbury about the year 1800.

The Shrewsbury Sycamores probably lie very close to, if not actually on, the Minisink Trail and Burlington Path, two famous Indian trails from the Delaware River to the shore.

In 1930 these trees were very nearly cut down by official decree; only the concerted action of Shrewsbury's tree lovers prevented their destruction. A contemporary newspaper account\* furnishes a graphic description of the successful efforts to save these living monuments.

The county authorities decided that several trees in the street were in danger of falling and should be removed before a serious accident occurred. One tree, a pine, was felled before the citizens were aware of the Freeholders' plan. The people, principally the women, immediately organized themselves to prevent the felling of the two sycamores. They divided into two groups; one sought to give physical protection to the trees, the other went to confer with the county authorities at Freehold. Those protecting the trees succeeded in delaying the cutting for a short time, by artifice of one sort or another, and were in a desperate plight to know what to do next, when the committee returned from Freehold with a temporary injunction stopping the work. Following a mass meeting and conferences it was decided the trees should remain untouched.

Time has justified the position taken by these tree lovers. Nearly eight years after this affair the trees are standing in apparent good health.

Species: Sycamore.

Age: 125-175 years.

Condition: Good.

Location: In the centre of Sycamore Avenue, 500 feet east of the intersection of this street and State Highway Route No. 35, Shrewsbury, Monmouth County.

\* Red Bank Register, January 8, 1930.

NOTEWORTHY TREES OF NEW JERSEY



**SHREWSBURY SYCAMORES**

## NOTEWORTHY TREES OF NEW JERSEY

### TENNENT OAK

There are few trees that equal this old oak in rich historic background. This thrifty old tree grows at the very door of Tennent Church, one of New Jersey's famous landmarks.

Tennent Church, erected in 1751, was formerly known as the Presbyterian Church of Freehold. The present name was selected following the long and distinguished pastorate of the Rev. William Tennent, who is best known in history for his remarkable trance.

This old oak is associated with the Battle of Monmouth, one of the most famous engagements of the Revolutionary War. The battle was fought on a hot and oppressive Sunday in June, 1778.

General Charles Lee of the Continental Army had been ordered to attack the enemy with the advance guard which he commanded. The battle had scarcely begun, when General Lee made an inglorious retreat. General Washington, who was hastening to the scene with the main body of the army, approaching the battlefield found the Continentals retreating in the greatest disorder. His timely arrival turned defeat into victory. Washington,\* writing to John Augustine Washington, speaking of the battle said, "Which from an unfortunate and bad beginning turned out a glorious and happy day". Lafayette in his Memoirs said, "During this affair which ended so well, although begun so ill General Washington appeared to arrest fortune by one glance, and his presence of mind, valour, and decision of character were never displayed to greater advantage than at that moment".\*

It was at the Battle of Monmouth that Molly Pitcher took her husband's place at the cannon when he fell mortally wounded. She achieved everlasting fame and became the recipient of a pension for the remainder of her life.

Tennent Church lay in the midst of the battlefield and was subjected to severe cannonading. It was, doubtless, used as a field hospital during the battle.

We have some clue to the approximate age of the Tennent Oak. A few hundred feet away from the church, a white oak was felled some years ago. The annual rings are plainly visible on the stump and indicate this tree was 240 years old. Making an allowance for the larger size of the Tennent Oak, this famous tree must be nearly 300 years old.

Species: White Oak.

Circumference: 12.2 feet.

Age: 275-300.

Condition: Excellent.

Location: Within 100 feet of Old Tennent Church at Tennent, (near Freehold) Monmouth County.

\* Baker, William S. Itinerary of General Washington from July 15, 1775, to December 23, 1783. Philadelphia, 1892. Page 135.

NOTEWORTHY TREES OF NEW JERSEY



**TENNENT OAK**

### **GENERAL MERCER OAK**

Rich in historic background this old oak commemorates a notable battle of the Revolution for it stands in the very midst of the battlefield at Princeton.

Following the victory at Trenton in 1776, General Washington conceived the plan of marching to New Brunswick to seize the large supply of British stores which he knew were held there. Leaving camp fires burning brightly to deceive the enemy Washington started the march to Princeton in the dead of night. The army proceeded over the old Sandtown Road and through what is now Clarksville to circumvent the British pickets at Lawrenceville (then Maidenhead).

General Mercer was detailed to destroy the bridge over Stony Brook at Worth's Mills, to prevent British pursuit. While he was marching to the bridge, British Regiments, enroute from Princeton to Trenton discovered his presence and thinking General Mercer's detachment were soldiers fleeing from Trenton, turned to give battle. The hostile forces were about equal in number and each Army had two pieces of artillery. The battle commenced and the troops were soon engaged in hand to hand fighting. Washington hastened to the scene with the main body of troops and the British, in fear of being surrounded, fled from the scene of battle.

General Mercer was mortally wounded by British bayonets, and was left on the field supposedly dead. The story is related that he was carried to this old oak tree, where crude first aid was applied, and then to the house of Thomas Clarke, where he died a few days later. In this house, now owned by Dr. Henry E. Hale, the room in which General Mercer died is still carefully maintained in its original condition.

Species: White Oak.

Circumference: 14.2 feet.

Age: 200-250 years.

Condition: Excellent.

Location: At the Princeton Battlefield on Mercer Street, about one mile from the centre of Princeton, Mercer County.

NOTEWORTHY TREES OF NEW JERSEY



**GENERAL MERCER OAK**

### STOCKTON CATALPAS

Twisted and gnarled, the Stockton Catalpas have special significance, for they are intimately linked with Richard Stockton, a member of a notable family and one of the five signers of the Declaration of Independence from New Jersey.

"Morven", the Princeton home of Richard Stockton, was regarded during his occupancy as one of the most beautiful residences in the State. A wide variety of choice flowers and rare trees were planted on the grounds. It is believed that the long row of catalpa trees, which once stretched across the spacious lawn of "Morven", were planted by him some time after 1757 when he inherited this valuable plantation upon the death of his father, John Stockton.

Hageman\* in "Princeton and Its Institutions", says in reference to this traditional planting: "In verification of this fact we have, not only the tradition of the family, and the testimony of the trees themselves, but we have what seems to be a pretty direct declaration of Mrs. Stockton, his widow, who, in one of those elegiac odes which she wrote yearly on the anniversary of her husband's death, refers to these trees as having been reared by him".

In speaking of a singular feature of these trees Hageman says, "This long row of catalpas in front of "Morven" can only be viewed as a sacred memorial to the signer of the Declaration . . . these catalpas with the undeviating certainty of the seasons put on their pure white blooming costume every fourth of July and for this reason they have been called, very fitly, in this country, the 'Independence Tree'."

Only a few of these picturesque catalpas planted by this celebrated patriot are still standing.

Species: Catalpa.

Age: 170-180 years.

Condition: Fair.

Location: At the Princeton Battle Monument, (maintained by N. J. Com. on Historic Sites), Princeton, Mercer County.

\* Hageman, John Frelinghuysen. History of Princeton and Its Institutions. Philadelphia, 1879.

NOTEWORTHY TREES OF NEW JERSEY



**STOCKTON CATALPA**

### OLD YORK OAK

One of the largest oaks recorded in this State and possibly the tallest of the ancient white oaks, this tree stands in bold relief against the open countryside near Allentown. Neglected for years, public interest finally secured proper attention for this patriarch and it now receives excellent care.

This oak is situated on the Old York Road, a famous thoroughfare. In places this old road followed the earlier Burlington Path used by the Indians in traveling from Burlington to Shrewsbury.

The Old York Road was used for troop movements during the Revolution and the story is told, that a detachment of British soldiers encamped under this tree. This may be more than a tradition for on June 24th, 1778, at the Council of War at Hopewell, which preceded the Battle of Monmouth, General Knox wrote to Wm. Knox as follows: \*"Hopewell Township, New Jersey, 4 o'clock A. M., 25th, June, 1778—The enemy are now at Allen Town, about ten miles southeast of Princeton and we are about six miles north of Princeton, so that the two armies are now about nineteen or twenty miles apart. We are now on the march towards them, and their movements this day will determine whether we shall come in close contact with each other. We have now very numerous parties harassing and teasing them on all quarters."

Species: White Oak.

Circumference: 19.1 feet.

Age: 250-300 years.

Condition: Excellent.

Location: Along the roadside on the Allentown-Hightstown Road, Mercer County.

\* Baker, William S. Itinerary of General Washington from July 15, 1775, to December 23, 1783. Philadelphia, 1892. Page 133.

NOTEWORTHY TREES OF NEW JERSEY



**OLD YORK OAK**

### CROSSWICKS OAK

Part of this oak has been removed as the result of injury by lightning but it still retains a pleasing form and a thrifty vigorous crown. The oak stands within a hundred feet of the Friends Meeting House built in 1773.

This place of worship has a number of interesting features. The interior is partitioned into two rooms in order to separate the men from the women at meeting. This was once the regular practice of the Friends. The paneling of native white cedar, although untreated, has acquired a handsome sheen and color through the years. A modern heating system has been installed but there still remains intact an Atsion stove made at least 150 years ago at the notable Atsion Furnace in South Jersey.

The meeting house has historical connections, for in 1778 the Burlington County militia was stationed here. The marks of the soldiers tri-cornered bayonets can plainly be seen in the backs of the hard and uncomfortable pews. The imprints of musket butts show clearly on the wide floor boards. The meeting house was fired upon and struck by British cannon balls. One of them has been cemented in the wall approximately where it struck.

Crosswicks is associated with the Unami tribe of the Lenape Indians for it was once an Indian village known as Crossweeksung, which means "place of women." The site is still a fertile field for archeologists. About 1745 David Brainerd, the celebrated missionary, maintained a school and mission at this place.

Species: White Oak.

Circumference: 17.6 feet.

Age: 225-275 years.

Condition: Excellent.

Location: In the yard of the Friends Meeting House (orthodox) Crosswicks, Burlington County.

NOTEWORTHY TREES OF NEW JERSEY



**CROSSWICKS OAK**

### HARRISON OAK

Comparatively unknown until recently, this gigantic white oak is the largest tree in girth known to exist in New Jersey. One feels quite dwarfed beneath its huge limbs.

The tree branches into three enormous stems a short distance above the ground. As a young tree it may have consisted of several sprouts which have become fused into one short trunk through the years. The effect of this branching makes it difficult to measure its circumference at the standard point; measurements must be taken lower which increases the circumference. This tree is, however, so much larger than its nearest competitor that its singular distinction can scarcely be questioned.

The oak grows in the center of a cultivated field, under ideal conditions. Constant cultivation has the same effect upon a tree as upon any other plant; it increases the rapidity of growth. Consequently, it is believed that this tree is not nearly as old as its size indicates.

Mr. Richard Harrison, father of the present owner of the farm, measured this tree in 1911. The circumference at that time was 21 feet, 2 inches and today is nearly 25 feet, indicating diameter growth of one foot in 26 years. This is only a clue—not definite proof of this tree's age. Since trees grow faster in youth than during their mature years, it is assumed that this one is not more than 200 years old.

It is unfortunate that the Harrison Oak is badly in need of the tree surgeon's art. It is to be hoped that through the efforts of tree lovers, repairs can be made in time to save it.

Species: White Oak.

Circumference: 24.8 feet.

Age: 200.

Condition: Fair.

Location: On the farm of Thomas Harrison, between Chesterfield and Jacobstown, Burlington County. Inquire at Chesterfield for directions.

NOTEWORTHY TREES OF NEW JERSEY



PHOTO COURTESY TRENTON EVENING TIMES

**HARRISON OAK**

Page Thirty-eight

**BURLINGTON SYCAMORE OR SHIELD TREE**

Standing almost on the bank of the Delaware River, this huge sycamore commemorates the founding of Burlington, the principal town of West New Jersey in the early days of the Colony. Although filled with cement and shorn of many of its larger limbs, it clings grimly to life.

According to tradition the Shield, the first vessel to arrive at Burlington, moored to this tree. There is some assurance that the vessel actually moored to a tree; whether to this tree is problematical.

Quoting from Smith's History\* "In the tenth month O. S. 1678, arrived the "Shield", from Hull, Daniel Towes commander, one of the ships mentioned in the above letter, [John Crips to his brother and sister] and dropped anchor above Burlington, being the first ship that came so far up Delaware. Against Coaquanock [Indian name for Philadelphia] being a bold shore, she went so near in turning, that part of the tackling struck the trees; some on board then remarked it was a fine spot for a town: A fresh gale brought her to Burlington. She moored to a tree and the next morning the people came ashore on the ice, so hard had the river suddenly frozen".

In any case this tree is a living monument to the founding of Burlington and from this standpoint it is of little consequence whether or not this tradition is true.

Some historians allege that this tree was planted nearly a hundred years after the Shield landed at Burlington, by Adam Shepard, coachman to William Franklin a natural son of Benjamin Franklin and the last Royal Governor of New Jersey. In view of this tree's enormous girth and its probable age this theory is to be doubted.

Species: Sycamore.

Circumference: 20.3 feet.

Age: 300-350 years.

Condition: Fair.

Location: On West Delaware Avenue (also known as Green Bank), one quarter mile east of the Burlington-Bristol Bridge, Burlington, Burlington County.

\* Smith, Samuel. The History of the Colony of New Jersey. Burlington, 1765. Reprinted Trenton, 1890. Page 108.

NOTEWORTHY TREES OF NEW JERSEY



**BURLINGTON SYCAMORE OR SHIELD TREE**

**KING'S TREE**

This veteran sycamore, probably a vigorous young tree when Burlington was settled, is associated with the final resting place of King Ockanickon, a famous Indian chief of South Jersey. As chief of the Unami, or Turtle tribe, he inherited the right to rule over all the Lenni-Lenape nation in New Jersey. His relations with the white man, particularly the Friends, were most harmonious.

Although Indian chiefs were often referred to as kings, the term is in reality a misnomer. An Indian chief possessed none of a king's power and privileges as they are generally understood. He could exact no toll from his people; he had to hunt or starve; and he had no power to declare war or effect peace.

Indian government commonly descended through the female line, that is, a chief's successor was normally one of his sister's sons. It was, however, sometimes ordered otherwise and King Ockanickon as he lay dying, declared himself to the effect that, "It was my desire that my brother's son, Iakursoe, should come to and hear my last words for him have I appointed king after me."\* His instructions to his successor upon how to conduct himself were detailed and complete and showed Christian forbearance. He said in part, "Brother's son I advise you to be plain and fair with all both Christians and Indians as I have been."\*

It is believed that Ockanickon lies buried near this old sycamore tree in the Friends Burial Ground. It has been claimed that his burial was the second of record in the Friends Cemetery at Burlington. This fact cannot be established. However, Samuel Smith, New Jersey's famous historian, whose statements are generally accepted, says, "This king dying soon afterwards was attended to his grave in the Quakers burial place in Burlington with solemnity by the Indians in their manner, and with great respect by many of the English settlers; to whom he had been a sure friend."\* He died in 1682.

Species: Sycamore.

Circumference: 16.4 feet.

Age: 275-300 years.

Condition: Good.

Location: Friends Burial Ground in the rear of the Meeting House in Burlington, Burlington County.

\* Smith, Samuel. *The History of the Colony of New Jersey*. Burlington, 1765. Reprinted Trenton, 1890. Pages 148-150.

NOTEWORTHY TREES OF NEW JERSEY



**KING'S TREE**

## NOTEWORTHY TREES OF NEW JERSEY

### KEELER OAK

In certain respects this tree has no peer in the long list of New Jersey's ancient trees. Its foliage is dense, its crown full and shapely. For one of such size and advanced age it is probably the most perfect oak in the State.

A very interesting story concerns James H. Birch, who in 1862 established what was destined to become a world famous carriage factory in Burlington. He spent part of his boyhood on the Keeler farm. Throughout his life he worshipped this old oak and spent many hours beneath its generous shade. At his death, it was the wish of his family that his grave be lined with leaves from his favorite tree. His death occurred late in the fall and only a few leaves remained on the tree. The efforts of a public utility company in Burlington were enlisted and linemen placing long ladders against the tree, stripped by hand from the topmost branches, sufficient leaves to enable the family to carry out its desire.

The tree is also associated with Revolutionary history. Less than a mile from it, at Petticoat Bridge on December 22nd, 1776, a skirmish occurred between Continental troops and the Hessians under the command of Count Van Donop, in which the Continentals were victorious. The following day the Hessians in a counter attack were successful. The Hessians passed under the shadow of this oak, the limbs of which now shade the old road leading to Petticoat Bridge.

This bridge reputedly received its name from the fact that women sympathizers tore it up to prevent the passage of Hessian soldiers. Unfortunately for this tradition Petticoat Bridge is mentioned in the Burlington County road records as early as 1769, seven years prior to the Revolutionary engagements. "The Revolutionary Journal of Margaret Hill Morris"\* discusses the engagements at Petticoat Bridge in some detail but no reference is made to naming the bridge at that time.

In 1778 one John Fisher, a drummer in the British Army, was tried and convicted of desertion. His sentence read, that he was to be hanged "on the march" and it is believed this sentence was fulfilled about one-quarter mile east of the Keeler Oak while the British were enroute from Mt. Holly to Freehold.

Species: White Oak.

Circumference: 17.8 feet.

Age: 200-250 years.

Condition: Excellent, very vigorous and thrifty.

Location: On the property of Mrs. Lillie V. Keeler, on the Burlington Road 8-10 of a mile west of Columbus, Burlington County.

\* A very interesting Revolutionary document. The original is in the Library of Haverford College, Haverford, Pa., published in Bulletin of Friends' Historical Society of Philadelphia, May, 1919. Vol. 9, No. 1.

NOTEWORTHY TREES OF NEW JERSEY



**KEELER OAK**

**BARTRAM OAK**

This particular Bartram Oak is of singular interest to botanists and tree-lovers for in addition to being a large and old tree it is possibly the only representative of this species to be found in New Jersey. Although a few other Bartram Oaks have been known to exist in this State, the records indicate that all except this one have died or been destroyed. This tree grows in a dense patch of woodland, in a small private forest park near the centre of Mt. Holly.

John Bartram, for whom this species was named, was a famous botanist of two centuries ago. The first reference we have to the Bartram Oak is in a letter to this early botanist, from a friend in London, dated March 5, 1750-51. "Pray what is the reason I have no acorns from that particular species of oak that Doctor Mitchell found in thy meadow?"\*

For years, a single specimen growing near the banks of the Schuylkill River, at Philadelphia, was the only one known to exist. Later a few more were discovered in New Jersey and nearby states.

There was disagreement among botanists for many years concerning the status of this tree. Some believed it to be a hybrid, possibly between willow and black oak, and others regarded it as a distinct species. This tree is now recognized as a species (*Quercus heterophylla*) by many authorities. The late Charles S. Sargent, an eminent botanist, recorded it in his well known "Manual of the Trees of North America", and indicated his willingness to accept it as a species.

It is probable that this Bartram Oak at Mt. Holly was under observation by botanists in 1861; certain discrepancies in the written data about this tree indicate, however, that this assumption may be incorrect.

Species: Bartram Oak.

Circumference: 15.1 feet.

Age: 175-225 years.

Condition: Excellent.

Location: On the property of E. H. Levis, High Street, Mt. Holly, Burlington County.

Note: Although this private forest park is at times open to the public, permission to see this tree should be requested of Mr. E. H. Levis.

\* Proceedings, Surveyors Association of West New Jersey. Camden, 1880. See Notes on the Bartram Oak.

NOTEWORTHY TREES OF NEW JERSEY



**BARTRAM OAK**

### MOORESTOWN BUTTONWOOD

One of the principal landmarks of Moorestown, this sycamore stands in the Friends Burial Ground. Although the tree has received proper attention it shows signs of advanced age.

This tree grows close to what was formerly the King's Highway, or old Salem Road, which extended from Burlington to Salem; it was probably the first road laid out in Burlington County. The road was authorized in 1681 and construction was commenced in 1682.

In 1778 the old tree witnessed the passing of the British troops enroute to the Battle of Monmouth.

The original Friends Meeting House in Moorestown was built in 1700 not far from this tree. It is a matter of family record that this tree was planted by Henry Warrington in 1740, for his use as a hitching post while attending meeting. The exact size is not known, but it is reported to have been a good sized sapling when Henry Warrington planted it in its present location.

Species: Sycamore.

Circumference: 15.8 feet.

Age: 200-225 years.

Condition: Fair

Location: Friends Burial Ground, Moorestown, Burlington County.

NOTEWORTHY TREES OF NEW JERSEY



**MOORESTOWN BUTTONWOOD**

**MT. LAUREL OAK**

Many interesting tales are associated with this fine old oak which attains unusual height and is a tree of singular form. Normally, the branches of the white oak extend horizontally from the trunk and the tree assumes a mushroom-shaped form. The limbs of the Mt. Laurel oak, however, extend upward in a peculiar fashion and the tree resembles an urn in appearance. The tree is well preserved and healthy and it should survive for some time.

The tree stands a hundred feet from the historic Friends Meeting House at Mt. Laurel. The meeting house, the eastern end of which was erected in 1760, is one of two in Burlington County built of native ironstone. It is a splendid example of the places of worship erected by the Friends during the Colonial period.

The oak tree witnessed a troop movement during the Revolution. In 1778 a wing of the British army commanded by General Clinton, enroute from Haddonfield to Mt. Holly, passed along the "Great Road" which at that time ran north of the meeting house. Soldiers were quartered in the church on the night of January 19th. General Clinton stayed at a house a mile and a half away.

The oak tree stands directly across the road from Mt. Laurel, one of the few pronounced elevations in South Jersey. Many stories and legends are related about the "Mount" but perhaps the most unusual is the one told in DeCou's interesting volume, "Moorestown and her Neighbors."\*

"Prior to the establishment of telegraph lines between Philadelphia and New York, shortly after Professor Morse's invention in 1844, there was a line of signal towers across the state by which messages could be quickly sent from city to city. These were owned and controlled by William C. Bridges & Co., stock brokers and merchants of Philadelphia. The first station was located on Mount Laurel, the second on Arney's Mount which is located about three miles northeast of Mount Holly, but I am unable to state where the other stations were situated. Near the top of the tower which extended above the highest trees there was a small room for the operators who controlled the signals at the top by a system of ropes and pulleys."

Species: White Oak.

Circumference: 16.3 feet.

Age: 250-275 years.

Condition: Excellent:

Location: On the Friends Meeting House grounds at Mt. Laurel, Burlington County.

\* DeCou, George. *Moorestown and Her Neighbors*. Philadelphia, 1929.

NOTEWORTHY TREES OF NEW JERSEY



**MT. LAUREL OAK**

## NOTEWORTHY TREES OF NEW JERSEY

### **ELIZABETH HADDON YEWS**

These famous old yew trees, brought from England by Elizabeth Haddon, are in poor condition and destined before many years to be only a memory.

The story of Elizabeth Haddon,\* for whom Haddonfield is named, is one of great fascination. The daughter of a well-to-do Friend, she felt her life work lay in the new country. In 1700, as a girl of eighteen, she immigrated to America.

Elizabeth Haddon was a woman of great fortitude and character. By her material help and successful ministrations as a physician she added much to the slender comforts of pioneer days. She married John Estaugh, a young Quaker preacher, at Newtown Meeting according to the simple ceremony of the Society of Friends. John Estaugh left on a religious visit to Tortola, West Indies, died and was buried there in 1742.

It is quite certain that she brought from England, the yew trees which grow in her once famous garden. It is claimed they were planted in 1713 but this is not definitely established. Although she first came to America in 1700, she made three trips to England and it is possible she brought the trees with her on one of these trips.

Species: Yew.

Age: 200-240 years

Condition: Poor.

Location: On the property of Mrs. Samuel Wood, corner of Wood Lane and Merion Avenue, Haddonfield, Camden County.

Note: The present residence is not the original Elizabeth Haddon house; this was destroyed by fire sometime after her death. Some of the buildings still standing are believed to have been built during her occupancy of the property.

\* A True Narrative of the Early Settlement of New Jersey. Philadelphia, Christian Publication Office, 1898.

NOTEWORTHY TREES OF NEW JERSEY



**ELIZABETH HADDON YEWS**

## NOTEWORTHY TREES OF NEW JERSEY

### **GRISCOM HOLLY**

Regarded by experts as one of the most beautiful holly trees in the United States, this veteran is believed to have been standing in the earliest days of the Colony.

The farm on which this holly grows has been owned by a single family since 1731 when John and Anne Cooper, ancestors of the present owner, bought it. According to family history this tree was standing at this early date.

This remarkable specimen reaches unusual height and has a beautifully even conical form. One feature which makes the holly such a favorite at Christmas time is its clusters of bright red berries. The Griscom Holly has always been noted for its unusual profusion of fruit. A few years ago the tree was slightly damaged by a falling limb. Fortunately expert attention was available and no permanent harm was done.

Mr. Walter Griscom reports, that according to family tradition, the height of this tree has been measured, in times past, by means of the shadow which it cast. Unfortunately none of these data were preserved in writing.

Using a sprig from the Griscom Holly a staff artist of House and Garden Magazine designed the beautiful cover for the December, 1934, issue of this publication.

Species: Holly.

Circumference: 5.2 feet.

Age: 300 years.

Condition: Excellent.

Location: At "Greenfields", the property of Walter D. Griscom on the Mantua Pike about 1 1-2 miles south of Woodbury, Gloucester County.

NOTEWORTHY TREES OF NEW JERSEY



PHOTO COURTESY MR. WALTER D. GRISCOM

**GRISCOM HOLLY**

Page Fifty-four

## NOTEWORTHY TREES OF NEW JERSEY

### **HENDRICKSON OR MANTUA OAK**

Beautifully situated on a gently sloping bank, scarcely 100 feet from Mantua Creek, this unusually fine specimen of white oak is the third largest of record in New Jersey.

It is the most massive of the ancient oaks in the Garden State with huge limbs radiating in every direction. Again and again it has been struck by lightning and badly injured but, staunch as steel, it has recovered. No less than five lightning scars can plainly be seen today, some of them extending twenty feet up the trunk.

It is unfortunate that this magnificent tree is beginning to show the effects of age and badly needs attention. Only recently two large limbs have fallen leaving jagged and unsightly stubs.

From 1723 to 1910 the Hendrickson family occupied the farm on which this white oak stands. Mr. Howard C. Hendrickson, now 83 years of age relates interesting reminiscences about this old tree.

Mr. Hendrickson's grandfather was once offered \$500 for this tree for ship timber; the offer was refused because of his affection for the tree.

This tree is connected with the history of the Mantua Indians. The Mantuas, a tribe with 100 warriors\* are believed to have migrated from North Jersey. Mr. Hendrickson's great grandmother as a young girl often used to see the Mantua Indians hold council under this tree according to the story told him by his grandfather. Many Indian relics have been picked up near the old tree, while the plough has turned up tools of the Red Man in adjacent fields.

It is frequently claimed that large or old trees have been used for council purposes by the Indians. Often times there is nothing to support the story and it should be given no credence. In this particular case, however, the prominence of the Mantua Indians in this section, together with archaeological findings and the proximity of this oak to Mantua Creek indicate this story is quite plausible.

Species: White Oak.

Circumference: 19.9 feet.

Age: 350-400 years.

Condition: Fair.

Location: About a quarter of a mile from State Highway Route 45, on the property of Daniel Gaskill at the extreme end of First Avenue in Mantua, Gloucester County.

\* Smith, Samuel. The History of the Colony of New Jersey. Burlington, N. J., 1765. Reprinted Trenton, 1890. Master Evelyn's letter. Page 28.

NOTEWORTHY TREES OF NEW JERSEY



**HENDRICKSON OR MANTUA OAK**

### SALEM OAK

This venerable patriarch is the most distinguished of New Jersey's ancient trees and is one of unusual grace and beauty. The crown, exceptionally dense and heavy, arches gracefully in perfect symmetry. The tree is carefully preserved by the frequent attention of the tree surgeon. Some years ago one of the larger limbs, torn off in a storm, showed 275 rings of annual growth; this gives some clue to the age of this giant tree.

John Fenwicke who had purchased one-half of New Jersey for \$5000 in trust for Edward Byllings and others, in 1675 "set sail to visit the new purchase in a ship from London called the 'Griffith'; arriving after a good passage he landed at a pleasant rich spot, situated near Delaware by him called Salem probably from the peaceable aspect it then bore".\* The Griffith was the first English ship that came to West Jersey and none followed for several years. It is a tradition that John Fenwicke made a peace treaty with Indians near this old oak. The treaty was held inviolate, for no white man was ever killed by an Indian in Salem County.

In 1681 the Salem Monthly Meeting of Friends purchased of Samuel Nicholson and his wife Ann 16 acres of land and house of hewn logs for a meeting house and burial ground. The original log meeting house was used until 1699; then a larger brick house was built east of the oak and occupied until 1772, when the present meeting house on East Broadway was finished.

Species: White Oak.

Circumference: 19.5 feet.

Age: 350-400 years.

Condition: Excellent.

Location: Friends Burial Ground, Salem, Salem County.

\* Smith, Samuel. The History of the Colony of New Jersey. Burlington, 1765. Reprinted Trenton, 1890.

NOTEWORTHY TREES OF NEW JERSEY



**SALEM OAK**

**PARKER'S OAK**

Linked very closely with the old shipbuilding industry in Tuckahoe, for it barely escaped being cut into ship timber, this sturdy oak stands by the roadside, a monument to an industry now vanished.

This oak grows on the farm of Anthony Parker who followed the sea in his younger days both "before the mast" and as mate; later he retired to the comparatively uneventful life of a farmer. His father, also named Anthony Parker, was a shipwright at Tuckahoe two miles away. Tuckahoe, in its heyday, was a thriving town supporting no less than six shipyards engaged in building coasting vessels.

Years ago ship building was financed by local people who took a share in the vessel; perhaps a quarter, eighth, sixteenth, or even a thirty-second interest. As the cost of building an average schooner was from \$15,000 to \$20,000 even a sixteenth interest represented a sizeable sum of money. If a shareholder owned suitable timber, he commonly furnished part or all of his share in lumber instead of cash.

When Anthony Parker, the shipwright, was building a vessel about 1855, a shareholder named Steelman took him to see whether this old oak would be suitable "to make a vessel stem with". This tree was then so large that the shipwright said "it would be too much trouble to work it up" and it escaped the fate of many another South Jersey oak.

An old chain has been hanging for nearly 70 years from one of the tree's huge limbs. This chain was used, until recently, to suspend the hogs for scalding at the annual fall butchering always held on the farm.

Species: White Oak.

Circumference: 15:6 feet.

Age: 225-275 years.

Condition: Good.

Location: On the Anthony Parker farm in Estelle Manor,  
Atlantic County.

NOTEWORTHY TREES OF NEW JERSEY



**PARKER'S OAK**

**CAPE MAY SASSAFRAS**

Gnarled and picturesque, this old sassafras, a famous landmark in Cape May County, is struggling valiantly to retain its fast ebbing life. It is slightly larger than the Hentz Sassafras and holds the record in New Jersey and possibly in the world. Its only known competitors in this section of the United States, several large trees which formerly grew in Pennsylvania, are now dead. Until evidence of a larger tree of this species is presented, it may be regarded as the largest sassafras known.

The tree divides into three main stems a short distance above the ground. A few years ago one of these principal stems was torn away to the ground line. It is impossible to determine accurately the circumference of this tree in its prime.

There are certain interesting physiological phenomena concerning this tree. At four feet from the ground two huckleberry bushes grow vigorously, while in a crotch some twelve feet from the ground, a lone red cedar fights bravely for survival.

It is reported that this tree was a geodetic survey point in the early history of New Jersey. No evidence has yet been found to support this claim.

Species: Sassafras.

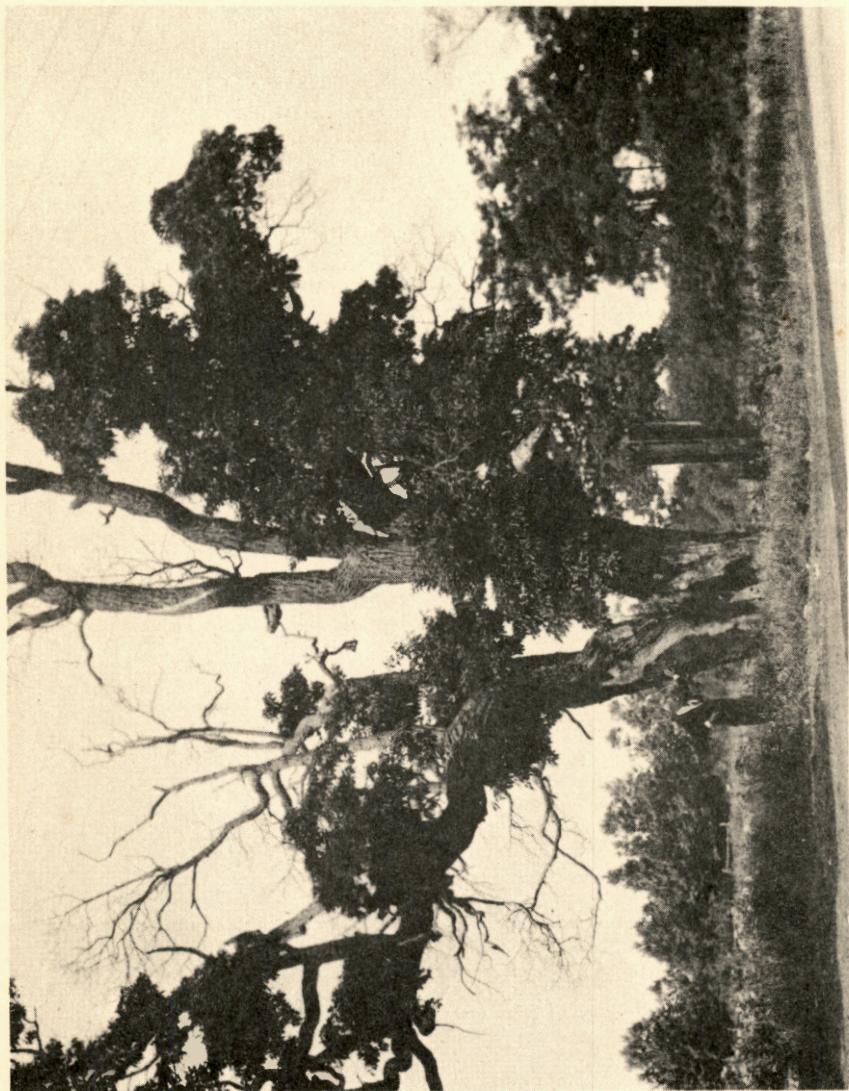
Circumference: 15.2 feet.

Age: Reported that this tree is known to be more than 250 years old.

Condition: Poor.

Location: On the property of Lewellyn Hildreth on the east side of State Highway Route No. 4 south of the village of Rio Grande, Cape May County.

NOTEWORTHY TREES OF NEW JERSEY



**CAPE MAY SASSAFRAS**

## I N D E X

NAME OF TREE	LOCATION	PAGE
BARTRAM OAK—Mt. Holly,	Burlington County.....	46
BASKING RIDGE OAK—Basking Ridge,	Somerset County..	22
BETTIN OAK—Morristown,	Morris County.....	10
BRADBURN OAK—Madison,	Morris County.....	14
BURLINGTON SYCAMORE or SHIELD TREE—Burlington,	Burlington County .....	40
CAPE MAY SASSAFRAS—Rio Grande,	Cape May County.	62
COLONIAL PLANE—Newark,	Essex County.....	20
COUNCIL TREE—Bound Brook,	Somerset County.....	24
CROSSWICKS OAK—Crosswicks,	Burlington County.....	36
ELIZABETH HADDON YEWS—Haddonfield,	Camden Co.	52
GENERAL MERCER OAK—Princeton,	Mercer County.....	30
GRISCOM HOLLY—Woodbury,	Gloucester County.....	54
HARRISON OAK—Chesterfield,	Burlington County.....	38
HENDRICKSON or MANTUA OAK—Mantua,	Gloucester Co.	56
HENTZ SASSAFRAS—Madison,	Morris County .....	16
HOHOKUS ELM—Hohokus,	Bergen County.....	4
KEELER OAK—Columbus,	Burlington County .....	44
KING'S TREE—Burlington,	Burlington County.....	42
MOORESTOWN BUTTONWOOD—Moorestown,	Burlington County .....	48
MT. LAUREL OAK—Mt. Laurel,	Burlington County.....	50
OLD YORK OAK—Allentown,	Mercer County .....	34
PARKER'S OAK—Estelle Manor,	Atlantic County.....	60
SALEM OAK—Salem,	Salem County.....	58
SAMUEL H. TUTTLE OAK—Madison,	Morris County.....	12
SHREWSBURY SYCAMORES—Shrewsbury,	Monmouth Co.	26
STOCKTON CATALPAS—Princeton,	Mercer County.....	32
TENNENT OAK—Tennent,	Monmouth County.....	28
THE SHOE TREE—Belvidere,	Warren County.....	8
WASHINGTON BUTTONBALL—Hope,	Warren County.....	6
WASHINGTON WALNUT—Maplewood,	Essex County.....	18

COVER PHOTOGRAPHS

Front Cover—

The Tatum Oak—At the time of its destruction by fire in 1915, reported to be the largest white oak in the United States.

Back Cover—

A Hickory tree growing through the roof of a tea-room near Long Valley, Morris County.

