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# WOODLAND FOLK- LORE

By.....  
Cecilia Rowe  
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**T**HE skillful woodsman needs no compass, for he can get his bearings on the cloudiest day or the darkest night by "the feel o' the bark" on trees or by "the lean o' the bush." The heat of the sun and the fury of the north winds incline trees and bushes alike to the south. This is particularly noticeable in tall trees standing out in the open. Again, it is commonly observed that the bark on the north side of trees is rougher than on the south side. On elms, oaks and maples moss grows on the north side, forming a furry coat against the biting blasts of winter. The sap is warmed up by the sun, and in the spring sugar makers tap the maples on the south side or wherever the sun can best act on the frozen spring of sweetness, usually the southwest.

Don't run to the woods or seek the shelter of tall trees during a thunderstorm. Such is the advice of a veteran of the fields. If caught in the woods in a storm, look for a cave or an overhanging rock under which protection may be found. Lightning strikes the tallest trees. In the absence



**PENN'S TREASY TREE AT PHILADELPHIA.** Of caves or large rocks the safest way is to crouch under a low bush or tree with stout, widespreading branches. There the limbs and trees blown down by the storm may be avoided.

Hickory and chestnut trees are scattered throughout forests usually and do not form groves by themselves. A chestnut grove is the ideal for shade and for a playground. The branches are large and spread laterally from the trunk, fairly inviting the youth to play and climb.

In pine groves there is seldom any undergrowth. The soil is very springy and light. Usually the trees stand so closely together that the ground is comparatively dry even after a prolonged downpour. Snakes and wild animals less frequently haunt these groves because of the lack of undergrowth and hiding places from each other.

Nervous persons should always examine small moss covered rocks and decayed logs before using them for seats. They may be the lurking places for snakes and other undesirable company.

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**VAN ORSDALL & ROSS**

Poison ivy usually chooses damp ground for its home, along stone walls and large sheltering rocks, though it is also found clinging to old trees in dense forests. The leaves grow in clusters of three. Poison ivy is with difficulty distinguished from the harmless variety, and the safest way for a novice is to let all stray vines alone.

Wild animals know by instinct when there is a man with a gun in the woods. Squirrels are particularly knowing in this respect. "The only way to kill a squirrel is to shoot him right in the face and be quick about it. Even then you may not hit him."

If lost in the woods at night, the best thing to do is to make a small clearing, build a rousing campfire to keep away wild animals, gather some boughs for a couch and lie down "with your soles to the east." If a searching party is out, they'll see the light from the fire or smell the smoke and thus be guided toward you. If you are not among friends, the fire will keep you safely over night, and you'll arise with the sun, invigorated and ready for a fresh start after a good night's rest. With the sun as a guide you can easily find your way out of the woods, whereas after dark you are more likely to walk "round and round in a circle."

Undergrowth is always thickest and most verdant in the vicinity of water. One may drink freely from all forest springs and running streams. The only water to be avoided is that of stagnant ponds and pools. In emergencies even this may be partaken of sparingly, but under no circumstance should it be taken without first having been filtered through cloth. For this purpose use a handkerchief, a part of the shirt sleeve or any cloth convenient. If a felt hat is worn, it will make the best filter.

However hopeless the situation may appear, always direct your supreme effort toward "keeping cool." Don't lose your head. Ninety-nine out of a hundred lives lost result from persons losing their heads. The woodsman's motto is, "Don't get rattled!"

**Trees and Summer Heat.**  
It seems safe to say that the hot waves in the west are more intense than they would be if the country from the Appalachian range through Indi-



**SURRENDER TREE, NEAR SANTIAGO.** ann, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas and Colorado to the Rockies were not treeless to so large an extent. Recent experiments seem to establish that point. Tests by the weather bureau at widely separated places on the same parallel of latitude have shown that the mean annual temperature is lower at the stations in the wooded districts than at those on the open plains. And, while that is true, it has also been found that the extremes both of heat and cold were greater on the plains than in the forests.

Forests, it is easy to see, act as wind-breaks both in cold and in hot weather, and thus they tend to moderate the temperature in the country surrounding them. If a careful study were made of the location of the forests in the western country a hundred or seventy-five years ago, it might be shown that they covered Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota to such an extent that they must have influenced the mean temperature of the whole prairie section and that their wholesale removal has brought about changed conditions for the inhabitants of the west.

**The Indigestible Banana.**  
"Next to pork," says a physician, "bananas are the most indigestible thing a person can eat, and if you will notice you will see them touched very sparingly by people with weak stomachs. If you can digest them, however, and don't mind the offensive odor, they are very nourishing, and one can make a meal on them that is in every way equal to a substantial lunch of bread and meat."

# FAMOUS TREES OF AMERICA

By Rodney Linholm  
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**S**OME trees charm the eye of the beholder with their magnitude or their picturesque quality or their beauty of outline and foliage, while others interest the mind by the stories they tell. Four trees noted for generations as souvenirs of important events in American history are the Washington Elm, the Charter Oak, the Council Tree and Penn's Treaty Tree. Recently the Spanish war has added the Surrender Tree at Santiago to the ranks of celebrated forest monarchs.

The Charter Oak, at Hartford, Conn., was reputed to be venerable at the time it became famous. Tradition says that it was over 600 years old when, in 1697, the daring spirits of the colony of Connecticut hid in its trunk the charter of their liberties as a ruse to avoid the surrender of the document to the king's officer, King Charles II. had granted the charter, and his brother and successor, the Duke of York, empowered Governor Andross to recall all New England charters and rule the colonies as one realm. The people of the colony of Connecticut refused to give up their rights, and when the charter was demanded hid it in the hollow trunk of the ancient oak. King James was driven from his throne and Governor Andross recalled, and the charter remained in full force. The old tree was destroyed by a storm in 1854.

Penn's Treaty Tree stood on the banks of the Delaware river at a place originally called Shackamaxon, but now Kensington, within the precincts of Philadelphia. Its history dates back to a day in November, 1682, when William Penn, the English Quaker colonist, met under its spreading branches the chiefs of the Delaware tribe of red men and concluded the famous treaty which became the foundation stone of the great commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Among other pleasant things Penn said to the children of the forest: "We meet in the broad pathway of good faith and good will. No advantage shall be taken on either side, but all shall be openness and love. We are all one flesh and blood."

The Indians listened with delight, for Penn was a new type of white man. They said, "We will live in love with William Penn and his children as long as the sun and the moon shall endure." The treaty was not sworn to, and it was never broken.

Penn's treaty tree was a spreading elm. It was long venerated for its associations, and Penn himself once tried to purchase the estate on which it stood. It was often painted, and copies of the original drawings are still in existence. During a gale in December, 1810, the venerable tree was prostrated and found by the rings in its trunk to be 280 years old.

Under the shades of another wide-spreading and glorious American elm



**THE CHARTER OAK AT HARTFORD.**  
Washington drew his sword on the 2d of July, 1775, and assumed command of the Revolutionary army. Washington's Elm now stands in the middle of a street in Cambridge and has many visitors, who are pleased to carry away as souvenirs scraps of its crumbling bark or falling leaves. At the time of the incident the tree stood at the north end of the Cambridge common and was then noted for its size and beauty. The Continental forces were ranged upon the common to receive their new chief.

For nearly three-quarters of a century, or from 1780 to 1849, the south had a historic tree in the famous magnolia which stood in Charleston in side of the line of old Revolutionary fortifications. The branches of this beautiful magnolia spread over 200

feet. The incident which made the Council Tree of Charleston historic was an unpleasant one for the Revolutionists, but the people of the city never ceased to venerate it. In 1780 General Lincoln commanded the garrison of Charleston during a siege by the British. In the early spring of that year the besiegers were re-enforced by a command under General Clinton, and Lincoln called a council of the leading men in Charleston to discuss the advisability of leaving the city to its fate and saving the army by retreating to the open country. This plan the citizens opposed, and Lincoln, finding the cause hopeless, soon afterward surrendered the troops and the city.

Conspicuous on the bit of landscape which is included in the San Juan Battlefield park at Santiago is the famous Surrender Tree, where General Shafter met the Spanish commander, Toral, and arranged for the surrender of the city. The tree is a celba, or silk cotton, and one of the largest in that region. The celba tree is never found in forests and usually stands in the open because it drives out all other varieties. It is quite as common an arboreal feature in the West Indies as the oak and elm in the United States.

All the conferences between the Spanish and American officers during the negotiations about surrender were held under the Surrender Tree. It was there that Generals Miles and Toral had their preliminary talk on the 13th of July, three days before the surrender. The celba stood midway between the lines. The surrender commissioners met at 2 o'clock in the afternoon, and after the details had been discussed and copies of the treaty prepared in Spanish and English the signatures were affixed. It was then 5 o'clock. The ceremony of surrender was witnessed by the general officers of both armies, with their staffs and a guard of 100 soldiers. At the same time General Shafter returned to General Toral the sword and spurs taken by the Americans from the body of General del Rey, the Spanish leader who fell in the defense of El Caney.

Other famous American trees were the Stuyvesant Pear Tree, which stood over 200 years at Third avenue and Thirteenth street, New York; Pontiac's Memorial Tree, at Detroit; Arnold's Willow, in the Hudson highlands; the Washington Cypress, at Norfolk, and the Miami Apple Tree, near Fort Wayne.

## EFFECTS OF VIBRATION.

**Wounds Have Been Healed by Sound Waves of a Violin.**

A man was conveyed to a hospital in Paris suffering from an accident which resulted in a serious wound. This wound refused to heal, and all the various treatments applied to it failed to effect the desired end. The man was attacked from time to time by violent paroxysms, and death appeared certain. At length the surgeon enlisted the services of a good violin player and treated the sufferer to a musical remedy. The patient's paroxysms ceased, and from that time the wound began to heal. The violin playing was continued at intervals till recovery was assured.

In another case the wound continued to suppurate despite all that could be done. The patient was calm and resigned, but nothing could be done for the wound. The violin was called into requisition in this instance also, and the instrument was played close to the injured part, which was bared for the purpose. The surgeon soon observed a change. The wound assumed a healthier appearance, and the process of healing began and progressed rapidly.

It is an undoubted fact that certain vibrations can effect cures, but the vibrations must be strictly in accordance with the malady or nature of the wound. Some enthusiasts go so far as to assert that the character of individuals can be changed by the constant application of the proper vibration.—Pearson's Weekly.

**How the Cobra Gives Warning.**

The most dangerous reptiles of India and Africa are the cobras. No snakes, not even rattlesnakes, are more dreaded, and with reason. As the rattlesnake warns the ear by its significant "rattle," so the cobras warn the eye by the mode in which they expand the upper part of the body when irritated. This expansion is produced by a sudden movement of the ribs of that region of the body. Usually they incline backward, but the animal when irritated makes them stand out at right angles to the body and so, of course, forces outward the skin which covers them. Thus the neck, or part just behind the head, becomes greatly expanded and flattened, as it also does, though in a less degree, in the Australian blacksnake.

This expansion is called a hood, and so the animals are called hooded snakes. In some of them there is on the back of the hood a dark mark, something like a pair of spectacles, and they have therefore been called spectacle snakes.

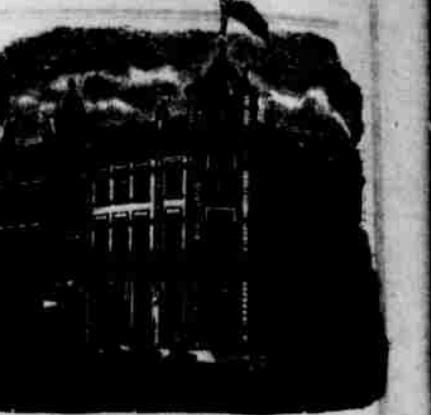
"That foolish Clarence has proposed every week for the last six months, but the way I answered him the last time will stop him, I think," said Flora in a confidential chat.

"Yes, he told me he would have to quit," said Mazie. "He thought he observed a perceptible weakening."—Indianapolis News.

# HOTELS.

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