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Green Valleys Association

# PENN'S WOODS 1682-1982

The oldest trees in Pennsylvania, New Jersey,  
Delaware, and Eastern Shore, Maryland

edited by

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single tree it is certainly one of the largest in Pennsylvania." These two main branches are now held together by metal rods, and the tree, which dwarfs the three-story mansion, is grounded against lightning. The present owners indicate that this tree appears on original charts prepared by William Penn's surveyors. Unfortunately, a row of evergreen trees planted on the neighboring property line 30 years ago obscures the view one has of this beautiful, evenly spreading tree. A bronze marker commemorates its inclusion in Wildman's book. (Please ask permission of the owner to view the tree.)

### 11. White Oak

123 Grassmere (off Oak Hill Road), Bala, Lower Merion Township

CBH: 12'8" (Wildman: 12'4")

Estimated Age: 250-300 years

In 1932, this tree stood on an estate owned by a founder of the Pennsylvania Forestry Association, Mrs. John Birkinbine. She lived on Oak Hill Road in Bala (not Cynwyd as Wildman stated). After fifty years, houses on small lots surround the tree. Some of its longer branches have been removed or shortened, but the tree remains a beautiful specimen.

The owners of 123 Grassmere purchased their brand-new house in 1947 because they wanted the striking tree said to be "a sturdy sapling when the Pilgrims landed." This tree's small size relative to other white oaks in this book demonstrates that trees on solid rock grow slowly. This particular house has no basement. Basements of nearby houses were blasted from the solid bedrock on which this tree grows.

The tree, which can be seen from the road, has been given loving care through the years. It is fertilized every other year and carefully pruned as the need arises.

### 12. Red Oak

South side of Montgomery Avenue, 1 mile east of junction of South Gulph and Upper Gulph Roads, Upper Merion Township

CBH: 16'5"

Estimated Age: 250-300 years

Located on a private estate, this tree cannot be effectively seen from the public road. It has a spread of over 100 feet and is about 90 feet high.

Only a few yards away stands a beautiful black oak (CBH: 12'6") with a clear bole for 30 feet and a spread of 100 feet. Both trees are in excellent health.

These two trees are close to General Washington's encampment at Gulph Mills. His troops probably marched by them en route from the Battle of Germantown to Valley Forge in December 1777.

### 13. White Oak

4000 block of Township Line Road, near Collegeville

CBH: 18'0"

Estimated Age: 300 or more years

This oak has the typical full-rounded crown of the species. It sits in excellent health on level but well-drained soil. A young orchard grows within 30 yards, but there are no buildings closer than 100 yards. If circumstances do not change, the prognosis for a long life is excellent.