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DENDROLOGY

"Grand-Scion" of Famous Elm To Replace Fallen Ancestor

A TREE that is a true Son of the American Revolution stands on the campus of the University of Washington, ready to "go back East" whence its parent came, to take the place of a famous ancestor, now dead.

It is the offspring of the great Washington elm of Cambridge, Mass., under which General Washington stood when he assumed command of the Revolutionary army, then besieging the British in Boston. This great tree stood as a living patriotic monument until at last old age and disease overcame it in 1923.

MEDICINE

Mexican Villages Where None But Children See

STRANGE diseases, scarcely known to science, are found in certain parts of Mexico.

In Tiltepec and neighboring Indian villages of the isolated Sierra of Ixtlán in Oaxaca, where the entire population is in a state of extreme physical degeneracy, almost every inhabitant becomes blind or partly blind by the time he is 14 or 15 years old.

This condition was discovered by José Larumbe, now director of the Military Hospital at Mexico City, several years ago. It has later been investigated by the Swedish Dr. Weissman, who, however, advanced no definite theory as to its cause, except to point out the inadequacy of the diet of the natives and the unhygienic conditions under which they live.

The region produces a little corn, and the listless Indians raise some coffee which they exchange for cotton cloth and a few other necessities. They eat tortillas and atole of corn, and chili and coffee. The village of Tiltepec, the worst afflicted of the area, lies at the foot of a shallow cemetery on a hill regularly washed down by the heavy rains of summer.

According to some, the affliction is a deficiency disease due to lack of certain vitamins or other essential elements, while others believe it is due to some blood condition or infection from the sting of insects.

Science News Letter, February 28, 1931

But before the old elm died it had left offspring. In the current issue of *American Forests*, Heister Dean Guie tells the story of one of its lines of descent.

Thirty years ago, Arthur J. Collins, a graduate of the University of Washington, was studying at Harvard. Seeing that the Washington elm could not live much longer, he obtained the consent of the city officials of Cambridge to have cuttings made for later transplantation to the campus of his Pacific Coast alma mater.

Two of these scions, set out in the same hole thirty years ago, are now the pride of the University of Washington campus, and top the four-story building in front of which their twin trunks rise.

To obtain the "grand-scions" for replanting in place of the original Washington elm, boxes filled with earth and moss were clamped around two of the best limbs. The mass of soil induced the sprouting of roots. The limbs could then be sawed off and planted in the ground as independent trees. They now await word from Cambridge, when they will be shipped back to the city where their grandsire achieved immortality in the stirring days of 1775.

Science News Letter, February 28, 1931



BOXES OF MOSS AND EARTH
Clamped round the limbs of the Washington Elm's offspring, were used to induce the growth of roots. The limbs were then sawed off as "second generation" trees.