

Notes to Consider...

History: Men Who Won the Original West, William Whitley
By G.S. Morris — 10 December 2018



I'm willing to bet the majority of my readers have driven down I-75 at the Mt. Vernon Exit; noted the brown "William Whitley House State Historic Site" road sign; and kept right on trucking. I freely admit it was not until a homeschool co-op field trip with my daughters this past summer that I'd finally visited "Sportsman's Hill." After touring, I'm of the opinion not less than a company of Kentucky's 149th Infantry should be billeted there to protect that state treasure.

A Virginian born in 1749, William Whitley engaged in more than thirty different fights with Indians, only once suffering a wound (the shooting off of the end of his prominent nose) prior to finally being killed in battle on 5 October 2013 during the War of 1812's *Battle of the Thames*. The leader of the charge of "Forlorn Hope"; a preponderance of evidence points to Whitley's dying act having been killing the famous Indian Chief Tecumseh during the charge near what is now Chatham, Ontario, Canada. In real-life *Lonesome Dove* fashion, a comrade brought Whitley's rifle, powderhorn, war belt, and loyal steed *Emperor* (who'd lost an eye and couple of teeth in the charge) all the way back to his widow at Sportsman's Hill near Crab Orchard. William Whitley's bones still lie under foreign sod not far from the spot where he valiantly fell.

Those years between Whitley's birth and death in battle were crowded. Whitley's service against the British and their Indian allies as a young man in the Northwest Campaign under George Rogers Clark resulted in western land grants of thousands of acres. Whitley used that land to barter the construction of his fortress-like home and other necessities. After his death in combat, his wife's auction of his worldly possessions amassed the widow less than \$1,000. William's wealth was stored up in his stately home, eleven children, and many acres of ground.

Whitley's chief service to his fellow man was safeguarding the Wilderness Road. Long before Adolph Rupp, Whitley knew the best defense was a good offense. Time and again in response to an Indian atrocity against settlers, Whitley would assemble an expeditionary force to visit war upon the Indians' home turf and engage in his favorite form of retribution: the taking of scalps. In fact, early on the morning of his death and at the age of 64, William Whitley had swam *Emperor* across the river from the American encampment in order to collect the scalps of two Indians he'd killed the day before; a man not to be trifled with.

Next Week: James Harrod

Happy 4th Birthday to Carson (after the Indian fighter) Claire Morris.

Community Christmas Party At Sand Gap Elementary

Friday, Dec 14th 5:00 to 7:00 pm.

Enjoy the display of a nativity scene while hearing about Jesus' birth and the true meaning of Christmas. Book Giveaway, Free Clothing Booth, Ugly Sweater and Best Apple Pie Contests. Santa will be there with gifts and for pictures. For More Info: 606-965-7613 or 287-7784

New Rates at Jackson County Transfer Station

To the citizens of Jackson County, due to the rising operational and replacement equipment costs, we are forced to raise the disposal fees at the Jackson County Transfer Station.

Beginning January 1, 2019, all permitted haulers monthly rates, for residential households, will increase to \$15.00 per month.

Monthly rates for those citizens who self-haul will increase to \$13.00. Total increase for those customers who pay by weight will increase by one-half cent to .045 cents per lbs. Although these increases are minimal, we regret any inconveniences this may cause. We strive to keep disposal costs as low as possible for the citizens of Jackson County.

If you have any questions, please contact the Jackson County Transfer Station at (606) 287-7688.

Inspirational Thoughts Into God's Word

By Lynetta Hunter

Construction vs. Destruction. To destruct means to cause deliberate, irreparable damage to something or someone, to destroy, tear down, destabilize, and put an end to a constructive purpose.

(Lamentations) The city of Jerusalem suffered destruction because of the people's sin and spiritual laxity. When the tearing down began, there was no forewarning of the extreme damage that would happen over time. If the people had of known how cold and forcible the enemy really was and how easily they, their children, their belongings, and their land could be violated and dishonored, they wouldn't have took Gods warning so lightly.

The people lost a lot during the Babylonian seize; place of safety, stable mentality, and their purpose as a nation. But most importantly, they lost their reputable and established spiritual identity with God, and then the spiritual downfall began. Their faithfulness to be His people and honor Him as their only God set them apart as a unique, blessed, and "lifted up above the world" people for everyone else to see and desire, and once that was gone, so was everything else. God had told them that their loyal faithfulness to Him was what He desired the most above anything else, but as a nation, they couldn't grasp the significance of His words (Is. 1:11).

Yards to Paradise

Pines, Spruce, Firs and Cedars—Landscaping With Conifers

By Max Phelps

Almost anywhere in America one can look out a window or along the highways and see pine trees. Spruce, fir, hemlock, and cedars may also be in the picture. Junipers, arborvitae, taxus, and certain other trees are nice large evergreens, but are not cone bearing. And, technically, ginkgo is considered a conifer, though you wonder if the botanist who decided that was having a bad day. Stately evergreen conifers add much beauty and usefulness to our yards, our forests and the whole earth, and this is never more evident than during the winter when deciduous trees are barren.

Pines give us lumber, pulpwood for paper (for the office, the classroom, and when you gotta' go), turpentine and other distillates for varnishes, anti-septic and cleaning uses. The pine cones and boughs are used for decorations. And the seeds are preferred by many birds and wild animals. Pine "nuts" are a delicacy; seeds of certain varieties of pine trees, such as pinyon pine, Swiss stone pine and Korean stone pine, are enjoyed by humans, too. The shade in summer, the protection from wind in winter (especially useful to birds that do not migrate southward when it gets cold), and the musical sounds of the breeze coming through the pine trees are all benefits we enjoy from pines.

The world's oldest known trees are Bristlecone pines. Ancient trees can tell us a lot about our world from the past, like the climate, years of calamities, and the like. A lot of people are yapping endlessly about global warming (I really think it's more about global control and ways to collect more taxes), but Eric the Red and his son Leif settled on Greenland before 1000 A.D. and started a colony as farmers for a few years. Leif Erickson (Eric's son) discovered Vinland or Newfoundland. If it wasn't warmer then in that part of the North Atlantic Ocean than it is today, farming on Greenland would not have been possible. Trees found in swamps or the bottoms of cold lakes in the north—lost by accidents probably by loggers of the time—have preserved many old growth trees which we can still do research on today.

The white pine is over-used by homeowners who want a fast growing evergreen. After 40 years when it is eighty feet tall and a threat to fall on the house, it doesn't seem to have been such a great idea. But, I've seen a grove of white pines, with all the lower limbs cut off, allow wind to blow under them and really cool off a seating area in summertime. They have their place in a modern landscape. Just use discretion.

Austrian pine, Japanese black pine, Ponderosa pine, limber pine and Scots pine are other pines one may encounter in people's yards. As mentioned earlier, the stone pines are dwarfish, and even provide tasty seeds if you beat the birds and squirrels to them. And many a yard has a dwarf mugho pine.

Hemlock (*tsuga canadensis*), is a very lovely tree that works well in many yards. It's not so fast to become too large, and it can even grow successfully in shade of other large trees. With hemlock, too much heat (don't plant it on the south side of a house with a brick wall for instance) can keep hemlock from doing well, as can soil that has too much alkalinity, such as limestone soils of the bluegrass. There is also the wooly adelgid insect to be concerned about.

Spruce trees (*picea*), especially Norway spruce, white spruce and blue spruce are very useful landscape plants. They are more tolerant of sweet limestone soils than most pine or hemlock. They also hold up well in windstorms, their pyramidal frames seeming to deflect winds. They make a super place for birds to hide in winter storms.

Fir trees (*abies*) are better for areas where summers are cool and damp, or at least nights aren't so muggy. Most firs can take really cold temperatures, but there are also some that can't and which thrive only in very specific climates. Among those for Kentucky, and parts of Tennessee and North Carolina, are white fir or concolor fir, Canaan fir, and the Turkish fir. Some of the most beautiful cones are born on fir trees.

Cedars (*cedrus*) are either Atlantic cedar, Cedar of Lebanon, or Deodar cedar. These are the true cedars, and make giant stately trees....although they can look rather skinny in their youth. Junipers, which produce seeds and not cones, are often called cedars, including the "red cedar" of the eastern states. Cedar lumber is usually from juniper trees in the United States. Atlantic cedars are blue, and are the hardiest. Cedar of Lebanon will survive 20 below, and Deodar cedars will do well to 5 or 10 below zero Fahrenheit.

The monkey puzzle tree is a conifer. And also has tasty nuts. This tree is for places that stay above zero in winter. It's a very spiny tree, with large cones and edible seeds. As I mentioned, ginkgo is considered a conifer. And there are other cone bearing trees, but these are primarily what one will find for consideration in the landscape.

Those who want natives, the Virginia pine, the hemlock and red pines may be collected from the wild and moved to your yard. But, hemlocks are for sale at nurseries for reasonable prices, and the local pines are not the best to place in the front yard.

For the collector, the experimenter, or the person who has to have something different, there are garden centers who cater to a high-end clientele that will carry a number of exotic evergreen trees. (Slow growing trees always have a higher price because of so many years somebody has invested in growing it to a good size for sale. Rare ones will also command a premium price.)

Landscaping that showcases large evergreen trees, especially the conifers, seems not to need a recommendation as it speaks well of itself. Everyone loves a stately evergreen tree in the right place. Consider one or several of these lovely trees next time you are planning some landscaping; the kids, the birds and squirrels and other wildlife will all be happy you did.

The author is a landscaper. Pondbuilder@hushmail.com or www.rock-castles.net