"FIVE BROTHERS"

Besides the two alumni magazine articles in this folder, there are more articles on these five trees in the magazine. There are also several index cards for "Trees."
Memorial Trees.

The group of trees near the center of the Oval was planted by the Class of 1891. Frank E. Pomerâne and Frank W. Page arranged with Professor W. R. Lazenby, Professor of Horticulture and Superintendent of the Grounds, for the site, and with his assistance selected 7 trees, which the Class planted. Five of the trees survived and apparently are in fine condition.

There should be a bronze tablet to the Class of 1891 mounted on a granite boulder placed in the center or as near as possible to the center of the group of trees.
Frank W. Rane, '91, in the following letter tells how the group of trees in the oval near the Long Walk came to be known as the "Five Brothers." He was one of the students who helped plant the five trees mentioned in an earlier issue of the Monthly. This is the story:

"I have just been re-reading your Semi-Centennial number for June with the article, 'The Five Brothers' on page 88, this article evidently being an extract from a more extended one that had appeared in The Lantern."

"As I am undoubtedly the one referred to as being the only one whose name remains in the memory of the present generation as one of the planters of these trees, may I throw a little more light on the subject, as I recall matters, for campus history?"

"In 1890 the writer was elected Arbor Day orator for the Junior Class, it being the customary celebration on the part of the University classes under the leadership of Professor William R. Lazenby, to make the day one of interest. Besides the speaking, each class planted a tree on the campus, in which the individual members took part, each putting in a handful of soil, then giving the class yell or song and finally tying on the class color."

"In our selection of a place to plant our class tree, Frank E. Pomerene and the writer who were on this committee with others of the class, got permission from Professor Lazenby, Superintendent of the grounds to reserve the privilege of the space about our tree, for a group of trees for the Class of '91.

"My memory is not altogether clear just when and upon what occasion the remainder of our trees were planted. I believe it was in the spring of the Senior year of our class and probably upon Ivy Day. Some of the class may recall that the agricultural members of the class did the execution is quite likely, for I personally selected the specimens with Professor Lazenby's assistance, from a nursery that existed in a field across from the Spring, on the table land, about where the Lord Observatory was built later."

"I specialized in this line of work and remember, after taking out our group, Professor Lazenby not only made suggestions, but advised and was pleased with our interest. I feel quite sure the original number planted was seven."

"In later years there were plans to run a street through this spot, but Frank Pomerene, then a trustee, aided by Captain Cope and Professor Lazenby, all of whom are now deceased, were too familiar with the traditions and friendships of the Class of '91 to allow it."
More of the Five Brothers

Editor, THE MONTHLY:

The March issue of the MONTHLY gives the history of the Five Brothers group of trees on the campus. Kindly permit these additional remarks.

The Rans' version is substantially correct. The writer, if memory is serving rightly, was at the planting of a group of trees evidently the group referred to, at an Arbor Day observance in the spring of 1889 or 1890. I do not remember the entire matter concerning the "why" of this planting. It may have been a junior class idea but am inclined to think that it was some other purpose. K. C. Egbert probably can tell more about the matter. Professor Lazenby, superintendent of the campus, kept full notes of these plantings, these records are quite probably in existence. There were seven trees originally. There should have been an elm, and an oak, among the number. I think that I planted the elm because it had an abnormal root which we amputated without an anesthetic.

It occurs to me that the oak was named in honor of Joseph Sterling Morton, the father of Arbor Day.

Just why seven trees were chosen I do not remember, it certainly was symbolic of something as Professor Lazenby always had an idea appropriate to the occasion. It has been thirty years since I saw these trees, but I can well remember the event. It was on an afternoon, Friday I believe, partially cloudy and not very warm; by the sweat of our brows we dedicated these trees to the "New Forestry." I think Pomerene, and I know that Mr. Kelly and his ambulance were present at the ceremony.

In connection with this event a choice facetiae was coined that found its way into the Makio of '90 or '91.

CHAS. P. FOX, '90.
There's a fraternity on the campus the directory hasn't listed and which no directory will list. It's an arbor fraternity. It's known as "The Five Brothers" and it has its chapter on the campus in plain sight.

As you come up the Long Walk towards the Library, at the corner of the Long Walk and the path leading to the Physics Building there are five trees in a group.

In 1891, as today, seniors found it hard to decide what to do for the University. In the indecision, seven seniors in horticulture decided, on Arbor Day, to each plant a tree on the campus. Lead by Frank William Rane, they planted seven elms. Two of these died, leaving the group of five shown above. Rane has since been state forester of Massachusetts.
forestry work. Instruction in general forestry was required of all horticultural students in a course leading to a Bachelor of Science degree. Professor Lazenby taught all the courses.

In 1909 a separate Department of Forestry was established with two objectives: to educate and train men in forestry, and to promote forestry in Ohio. In addition to Professor Lazenby, Homer Thompson, now chief of the Department of Vegetable Crops at Cornell, was added to the staff. Under the new department, students were able to earn a degree in forestry. Within the next two years the staff was augmented by the addition of C. H. Goetz and Otto W. Pfueger.

By 1915 the department had seven instructors on its staff and had expanded to include graduate work leading to a degree of Master of Science in Forestry. But this year was the turning point in professional instruction at Ohio State. Professor Lazenby died in the summer of 1916 and no one was assigned to replace him. Professor Pfueger left in 1917.

In both 1915 and 1916 a class of eight men was graduated in forestry. There was only one graduate in 1917, and the four-year course was discontinued. From 1918 on the only forestry courses taught at the university were one in principles of forestry and one in farm woodlots taught by Professor Norman W. Scherer. When he left the university in 1930, it was believed that the institution should continue some forestry instruction since the state had about six million acres of land that should be devoted to wood production. Moreover, it was thought that students in agriculture who were to become county agents and farm managers should have training in handling the forest resource. In cooperation with other forestry institutions a plan was developed for providing the first two years of a regular forestry curriculum at Ohio State, and Professor E. C. Wiese-hugel was engaged to teach it.

Forty-five freshmen and sophomore students were majoring in forestry by 1935. An attempt was made, by student petition, to expand the course to a full four-year study leading to a degree. This attempt failed. From 1936, when Professor Wiesehugel left the university, until 1942, the two-year course continued under Professor Frank K. Beyer. When he left in 1942, the course was abandoned.

But like the "five brothers," forestry still has a place in the traditions of the Ohio State campus. Professor Oliver D. Diller, associate forester at the Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station has, since 1942, been employed on a part time basis to teach non-professional courses in forestry. Emphasis is now placed on a general course in forest conservation open to all university students and on farm woodland management for students in the College of Agriculture.

These elms symbolize 55 years of forestry at Ohio State University

Reprinted from AMERICAN FORESTS for January, 1947
the magazine of The American Forestry Association, Washington, D. C.
Part of Buckeye History Fades As One of ‘Five Brothers’ Dies

BY RONALD ISHOY 7-30-70

A legendary part of Ohio State fell Wednesday morning, as one of the “Five Brothers,” the name given to the five English Elm trees on the Oval, was cut down, completely afflicted with Dutch Elm Disease.

The tree was part of the group which was planted by members of the class of 1891, under the direction of Frank E. Pomerene (for whom Pomerene Hall was named), and Frank W. Rane, both members of that graduating class.

According to the plaque on the rock encompassed by the now, four, “brothers,” the two men and W.R. Lazenby, a botany professor at the University, arranged for the site, and selected the trees.

Seven Originally

Originally there were seven trees, one planted by the class of 1890, and six by the ’91 class. Two of the trees died.

The five remaining trees came to be known through the years as the “Five Brothers,” and no one is quite sure how the name came about.

The trees, the plaque says, were planted Spring Quarter of ’91, during the traditional Arbor Day.

The rock was placed within the miniature forest in 1966 by the Ohio Staters. The plaque explaining the history was added at that time.

According to University Landscape Architect Dean A. Ramsey, all of the “Five Brothers” are “weak” with the Dutch Elm Disease.

Died Gradually

The tree downed Wednesday, like the other four, died gradually, branch by branch, rather than in a few weeks, which is typical of the English Elm, Ramsey explained.

The tree has been “treated consistently,” using the methods described by agriculture experts, both national and local, Ramsey said.

DDT Not Used

The trees were sprayed with Methoxychlor, instead of DDT, which is “a more expensive material,” but much safer.

Ramsey’s comments, which came in a letter to Walter L. Hartman, director of the Physical plant, included the suggestion to replace the “Brothers” with Little Leaf Linden trees, “which, at present, seems to be relatively disease free.”

The disease fungus is carried by the elm bark beetle when it burrows in tunnels under the bark of the elm trees. The spores of the disease fungus are then deposited in the pieces, loaded into a truck, and taken away to wherever it is historical trees go, all. under the sad, watchful, boughs of its “brothers.”

And then there were four.
COLUMBUS, O., July 31.--Dutch Elm disease has taken its toll of an 80-year-old campus landmark at Ohio State University.

One of five stately elms in a group on the central Oval known as the "Five Brothers" was found infected with the fatal fungus and was removed by workmen Wednesday (7/29).

Many alumni nostalgically associate the trees with five unknown brothers, although there is no recorded reference to specific persons.

A plaque attached to a boulder at the base of the trees explains that a single tree was planted in 1890 in observance of Arbor Day and that the remaining trees were added the following year by members of the Class of 1891 as a class memorial.

Dean A. Ramsey, university landscape architect, who has faithfully tended the trees during his 10 years on campus, is pessimistic about chances for saving the remaining trees.

"We are removing the individual in which infection has been positively identified in hopes of saving the others," he says, "but chances for this are slim due to their close proximity."

He explains that the disease is spread by overlapping roots and by elm bark beetles.

(MORE)
Samples from the doomed tree, which has lately shown the characteristic symptoms of yellowed, withering leaves, were analyzed by the Plant Disease Clinic in the department of plant pathology which confirmed the infection.

Dr. Robert E. Partyka, extension plant pathologist, stated that experiments have been conducted with control measures for the disease but none have proved effective, despite occasional optimistic reports.

"Since I have been on campus for the past 10 years," says Ramsey, "these elms have been treated consistently for Dutch Elm disease using the standard methods described by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the university's experiment station and our own professors in the College of Agriculture.

"There is only one known effective method of reducing losses from this disease and it is by spraying healthy elms to prevent feeding by the bark-beetle carrier and destroying the breeding sources of this insect."

Ramsey said the elm bark beetle carries the elm disease fungus when it burrows in tunnels under the bark of the trees and the spores of the fungus are then deposited in the healthy elm.

Yellowing, wilted foliage is usually followed immediately by defoliation and death of the affected branches. The disease then spreads to the rest of the tree and the tree dies, often in a few weeks.

Ramsey compares the elm affliction to human disease in which the arteries are clogged.

"The fungus clogs the cells that transmit food and moisture to the tree limbs and branches, and slowly the trees die of drought

(MORE)
Five Brothers - 3

and lack of nutrition."

He says campus elms have customarily been sprayed with a mixture of Methoxychlor while the trees are still dormant in early spring shortly before leaves emerge.

"This spray has been used for about five years as a replacement for DDT because it is a much safer, although more expensive, material.

"As late as March 20 we received letters from the U.S. Department of Agriculture stating that still the only effective treatment for Dutch Elm disease is the use of Methoxychlor."

He has proposed a replacement program beginning this fall with a relatively disease-free tree such as the Little Leaf Linden.

The Five Brothers have been identified as Ulmus procera, or English Elm, he says.

Partyka says the American Elm is the most susceptible of the elm family to Dutch Elm disease. The organism which carries it was introduced into this country from Holland on logs shipped here.

Asiatic species are the least susceptible and English Elm somewhere between, he adds.

Ramsey says about 100 elms still remain but their numbers are slowly diminishing from the 500 individuals which once grew on campus.

Elms may live 150 years or more under ideal conditions, he says, but few reach that age in our present environment.

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(Contact: Dean A. Ramsey, 422-4910, or Robert E. Partyka, 422-1876)
Days are numbered for remaining elms

The last two trees which made up the group on the Oval known as the "Five Brothers" may possibly be cut down in the fall due to the effects of Dutch Elm disease, according to James G. Knapp, a technician at the physical plant.

However, Knapp said the trees will be replaced with oak trees.

Two of the "Brothers" were removed from their home in the midst of the Oval Monday after dying of disease according to Knapp.

One tree was removed in July 1970 after being stricken by the same disease.

Originally, there were seven trees. One was planted by the class of 1890 and the other six trees were planted by the class of 1891.

Over the period of years, two of the original seven died and the remaining trees came to be known as the "Five Brothers." To this day, however, no one seems to know why this name was given to the trees.

According to Knapp, the removal of the two trees Monday was an all-day task that required several men and much machinery. He said ground crews were still working on Wednesday to clear the area of debris left by the removal.

James H. Deeth, assistant landscape architect, who is responsible for the removal of the last two trees, was not available for comment.

A commemorative plaque, presented by Ohio Staters Inc. in 1966 and fixed to a rock near the trees, tells the origin of the "Five Brothers."
Dutch elm disease claims fifth 'brother'

Ohio Staters, Inc. and the Department of University Landscape Architecture plan to start a new family this spring to replace the five English elm trees nicknamed the brothers. They have stood on the Oval since 1891.

The last remaining brother was removed from its site on the Oval Monday, a victim of Dutch elm disease.

Originally, seven trees were planted on the spot, one a gift from the class of 1890 and the other six an Arbor Day observance by the class of 1891.

Two of the original trees were removed after being struck by lightning. The remaining five, for unknown reasons, became the Five Brothers.

In July, 1970, one of the trees was dying from Dutch elm disease. This appears as a wilting, yellowing or drying of foliage and results in defoliation and death of the affected branches. Infected trees usually die within weeks, but some die gradually, branch by branch, as is the case with the Five Brothers.

To prevent the death of the Five Brothers, all the elms on campus were treated with methoxychlor in the early spring. Despite this treatment, the five trees died and were removed.

To avoid recurring bouts with Dutch elm disease, the Five Brothers will be replaced by oak trees. One already has been planted. The others will join it as soon as the weather allows.

The Five Brothers are gone, but the Five Oak Cousins will carry on.
Dutch elm disease claims fifth 'brother'

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The Ohio State Lantern
The five cousins?

A LOST LANDMARK IS RESTORED with the replacement April 8 of the "five brothers," elm trees that had grown on the Oval. The trees were the victims of Dutch elm disease, which has decimated the variety in America. The second generation are red oaks planted to mark Ohio State's 300th commencement in June.

Placing one of the trees into its new home are, left to right, Bruce Rowe, groundskeeper 1, student workers Bill Winroth and Robin Slim, and Willie Newsome, groundskeeper supervisor. Dwight Wilson, another student worker, is hidden behind Newsome. All the employees are in Grounds Maintenance.
In the 1890s when Ohio State University was young, five stately elm trees stood in the center of the Oval. Known as the "Five Brothers," they served as an area of quiet repose for students to study and meet. They became a special and well-known campus landmark.

Through the decades the elms fell victim to disease and had to be removed.

The landmark has been returned to Ohio State. Five Eastern red oak trees with colorful ribbons tied around them will be dedicated during ceremonies at 2 p.m. Friday (6/5) on the Oval.

On Friday, the site will be renamed Commencement Grove. The ceremonies will feature speeches by President Edward H. Jennings; Ohio Staters president Kris Brockmann, a junior from Cincinnati; and Bill Wahl, manager of Community and Visitor Relations and co-chair of the 300th commencement celebration.

Commencement Grove is a project by Ohio Staters Inc., a campus service organization. Ohio Staters had the five red oaks planted this spring in honor of the university's 300th commencement, which will be held June 12 in Ohio Stadium. The organization selected the red oaks for their disease resistance.

For more information, contact Chris Cole of Ohio Staters at 294-3147.
by Patricia Mroczek

A campus landmark, lost through time, has been returned to Ohio State.

Five Eastern red oak trees were planted on the Oval this spring to replace the “Five Brothers,” five stately elms that for 80 years served as a favorite spot for students to study and meet.

The Five Brothers represented Ohio State’s living history, said Bill Wahl, director of the Office of Community and Visitor Relations and an unofficial University historian.

The story began in 1890, Wahl said. Professor William Lazenby and the Class of 1891 planted an English elm during Arbor Day ceremonies on the Oval. The class yell and song were presented as each of the 35 students tossed a ceremonial handful of soil during the planting.

The next year, the same class added six more elms at the site in the middle of the Oval. Two of the trees reportedly were destroyed by lightning shortly after planting, Wahl said.

The five remaining trees thrived. For many years, the elms offered the only shaded retreat on the sun-drenched Oval. Wooden benches beneath the elms seemed to beckon students to gather for study or even a romantic interlude.

The site became a favorite campus landmark.

“As the trees got older, people who saw them realized they were the living heritage of Ohio State,” Wahl said. “You could touch and feel the history of Ohio State in those elm trees.”

When Dutch elm disease began infecting trees on campus, the elms received special care. Despite that, the trees fell victim to the disease and were cut down one by one between 1970 and 1972.

A plaque was erected to tell future generations of the importance of the site. A grove of trees was later planted near the Main Library as a tribute to the brothers.

Then, in 1986, students in the campus service organization Ohio Stater’s Inc. began searching for a way to mark the University’s 300th commencement, which was conducted June 12 amid a gala celebration.

The students planted the five Eastern red oak trees and called them Commencement Grove. The oaks were selected for their disease resistance. The grove was dedicated June 5 on the exact site where the “Five Brothers” once stood.

“Commencement Grove not only recognizes an important tradition, but propagates a new one through the turn of yet another century,” Wahl added.
This unusual fraternity of English Elm trees was planted by the Senior Class of 1891. They were a well-known campus landmark and offered a shady place to rest or study. By 1972, they all succumbed to the Dutch Elm disease and were replaced by their "Oak Cousins" during the 300th Commencement. The oaks are known as "Commencement Grove."

# 3 - WHAT ARE THE "FIVE BROTHERS?"