

Draft Copy:

# VENERABLE VETS in CARLISLE

A self-guided tour to meet some non-human neighbors



*Photo by Ellen Huber, courtesy of the Carlisle Mosquito*

Oaks are more than welcome in Carlisle; what's more, they are allowed to age gracefully in place. This example, the so-called Highland Oak, is perhaps the most iconic member of the community. Standing before the old Highland School Building at 113 School Steet, it has held pride of place during the 2020-2022 Covid-19 pandemic.

Here, following Covid guidelines, Carlisle School Superintendent Jim O'Shea speaks to the socially distanced Middle School staff gathered under the Highland Oak on August 31, 2020. Many classes from the Carlisle Elementary and Middle School have subsequently taken advantage of its hospitality for outdoor activities during this period.

April 23, 2022

## Gleason Library's Red Oak



The photograph of the 1896 dedication of the Gleason Public Library at 22 Bedford Road shows no trees, so this example on the library's west facade is at best 125 years old. The shrubberies date from the circa 2000 renovation, in which the library was expanded and updated. A volunteer at the circulation desk is a regular on the forest walks offered by Tom Wessels, and she reported learning that red oaks are so called because the bark between the raised striations is pinkish – or is it because of the red buds in late April, shown here?

## The Great Oak at Great Brook State Park



An antique schoolhouse on the hilltop on Lowell Street (at the Curve Street intersection) is dwarfed by another truly ancient and awesome oak, handsomely sited to provide summer shade

## Guardian of the Elliott Preserve



Drive, ride or walk to the Elliott Concord River Preserve on Skelton Road, pull into the parking lot on your right, turn around and pay your silent respects to this venerable giant across the field, which fronts the mixed forest lot that encloses the trail to the river. The riverfront is adjacent to an extension of the Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge, which in turn adjoins the acreage off Foss Farm near the Bedford bridge on state route 225. Nature is connected.

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We want your inputs – fun facts, dates, questions, trivia, comments, memories about trees in our community. We welcome your help to tell the stories of these venerable vets and other forest favorites. We hope to fill the final version of this document with your observations.

Email to [joeths@comcast.net](mailto:joeths@comcast.net)

[More to come; stop back!]