

East Haddam

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Mr. G. F. Gravatt,  
Plant Industry,  
Beltsville, Maryland

Dear Sir:

I received several weeks ago a circular from the U. S. Department of Agriculture, from Beltsville, Md., on the matter of chestnut trees. I judge that the copy of the circular of the Department on this subject was sent to me as one who had obtained some chestnut shoots several years ago. I gave several of the shoots that were sent to me to friends of mine who had desirable location - two neighbors of mine in West Hartford and one of these trees is about 12 feet high, and I think had burrs last year. I also took some to the park surrounding the Nathan Hale School House, owned by the Sons of the Revolution, of which I have long been Secretary and an officer, in East Haddam, Connecticut, and I planted them there. They have been somewhat choked by some other growth, but they have come along. This tract of land used to be heavily timbered with the old chestnut growth and a number of the shoots <sup>from the burrs or seeds</sup> have come up, and about four years ago there was one tree that was up 30 feet high, and it was full of blossoms in late June, and I made a point to look at it in October, and it was blasted as brown as though a cyclone had struck it. I could not understand it, but I suppose it was a shoot which came up from one of the old stumps. I have a shoot growing near the salt water on Long Island Sound, at a small piece of shore property I have, and it is doing well, but it has grown very slowly and is only about 10 feet high now. I have two shoots in my back yard, but they have grown very little because it has been too wet.

I am connected with the Aetna Life Insurance Company, at Hartford, Connecticut, and they have a tree in the back yard which has been carefully nurtured, and it has had burrs on it, and it is I should say 20 feet high, but I think it is the only one of its kind on the spacious grounds.

I would like to see some growing on the Nathan Hale Park, at East Haddam, to sometime take the place of the fine old grove that was once there. I have set out a number of pines and spruces and all have done well.

Yours very truly,

Harry W. Reynolds  
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