

The Stockbridge Cottonwoods

Calumet County

We have all experienced the feeling, when we revisit the scenes of our childhood, that things are a lot smaller than we remembered them. Yet a man who lived all his life with two giant cottonwood trees in his front yard said the trees seemed just as large to him at age 67 as they did when he was a boy. Proof, perhaps, that living trees are one of the few things that can keep up with a person's changing perceptions of size.

The two trees stood a couple of miles south of Stockbridge and a half-mile west of Highway 55 in

Calumet County. The one in front of a small cemetery, shading the gravestones almost entirely from the morning sun, was the second largest cottonwood in the state at one time. Its companion tree, almost as large, stood in a farmyard a short distance away. Both trees were just about half a mile from the eastern shore of Lake Winnebago. Perhaps they were planted by the Stockbridge and Brothertun Indians, remnants of New England tribes that lived in New York State before moving to Wisconsin about 1834.