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History of Walnut.

It has been commonly stated and believed that walnut was not found in Europe before the Romans introduced it from Asia, and that the Circassian walnut which they brought in and planted became the English, French and Italian walnuts of the present time. Geological data worked out and compiled by Mr. Edward W. Berry, of John Hopkins University, and published by the Smithsonian Institution, throw serious doubt on the tradition that the Romans introduced walnut into Europe. On the other hand, it appears certain that walnut was in Europe some millions of years before the Romans appeared on the scene. The evidence is found in the records of geology, the imprints of leaves, fruit, flowers and twigs in rock strata, clays, peat and lignite. It can be taken for granted that where walnut leaves and fruit existed, there was walnut timber in the vicinity, and by that line of reasoning the existence of walnut is proved in many parts of Europe, and in geological ages running back to that known as Cretaceous. How long ago that was cannot be de-

finitely determined in years, for there is no known method of translating geological records into measured time. It is commonly believed, however, that the Cretaceous period was not less than 5,000 years ago.

This would place the walnuts among the oldest residents of the hardwood forests. Yellow poplar is as old, and hickory is not much younger. They are believed to have been among the first hardwood trees to appear on earth, but the pines are older. During the past time the different species of walnut grew entirely around the world in a belt corresponding in a general way with the North Temperate Zone, but extending into the Torrid Zone in places, and into the North Frigid Zone in Alaska and Greenland. The ancestors of our black walnut and butternut, and of Circassian walnut were in the ancient forests; and there were no fewer than two dozen other species of walnuts which left the imprint of their leaves in the rocks, but those walnuts have since perished from the earth.