

Painted Forest Quotes

“My friend, we are no longer in the busy world. We have left its turmoil, strife, and selfishness. We are now in the primeval forest, amid God’s first temples. Here in solitude, man adores Nature, and worships Nature’s God. Here humanity has scope and breathing space. Here the uncrowded individual grows in strength and grandeur as the sturdy oak. Among the Neighbors of this forest we will find true brotherly love.”

Ritual of the Modern Woodmen of America

“I am Death! Relentless and unsparing! I visit the cradle and take the smallest of humanity, leaving the mother to wail and mourn. The strongest of men are crushed beneath my blow. Neither the palace nor the hovel are free from my hand. Fortune has no exemption from my mandate, nor does fame stay my coming. I strike where I like, when I please, and whom I desire. I have remained here that I might turn you (pointing to candidate) into lifeless clay. I have but to breathe upon you, and all that you are, or all that you hope to be, shall be gone. The work you have planned must go unfinished, and those whom you love shall hold you only as a memory.”

Ritual of the Modern Woodmen of America

“The working tools of this Society are the Beetle (mallet), Axe, and Wedge. By practical artisans these tools have been used to clear the forests and let civilization, commerce, and the arts occupy the ground.”

Ritual of the Modern Woodmen of America

“The official emblem of the Society is a design representing the cross section of a log, upon which is placed a Shield, Beetle, Axe, and Wedge, and the letters M. W. A. It is the badge of protection and brotherhood. Every true Neighbor will wear this emblem and thus proclaim to the world his allegiance to these men who have banded together for such noble purposes.”

Ritual of the Modern Woodmen of America

“The motto of this Society is “Pur Autre Vie,” (pronounced per awtra vee) a term signifying “for the life of another.”

Ritual of the Modern Woodmen of America

“Helping others in times of hardship. That’s what Joseph Cullen Root set out to do in 1883 when he founded Modern Woodmen of America, a fraternal life insurance organization. Root wanted to eliminate the financial burden families face when a man died leaving a widow and children.”

Modern Woodmen: Past and Present

“Modern Woodmen of America was founded by Joseph Cullen Root in Lyons (now part of Clinton, Iowa.) Root believed his new fraternal life insurance society would “clear away financial problems and bring much good to members and their widows and orphans. Seeing an analogy between his society and the land-clearing work of pioneer woodmen, Root chose the name Modern Woodmen, adding “of America” as a patriotic touch.”

History of Modern Woodmen of America