

The Scythe Tree in Seneca County, New York. August 23, 1941



The Scythe Tree, a Civil War monument in Waterloo, New York. The tree is named for the scythe that James Johnson left in the tree before he decided to enlist in the Union army. It was a symbol of the life that was left behind when he departed, especially since Johnson never returned. During World War I it was used as a memorial for all departed soldiers. The tree is a Balm of Gilead, a kind of poplar.

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