

Legend of the Famous Patrick County, Virginia, Fairy or Luck Stones

In a quiet sunny glade, nestled among the rugged foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountain, in Patrick County, Virginia, a section made renowned by the fact that old King Powhatan once held undisputed possession there, was discovered a single quarry of the far-famed Virginia "Fairy" or "Lucky" Stones.

These little curiosities which range in size from one-fourth of an inch to 1½ inches, bear in the most unique form some shape of a cross which has been outlined by Nature's own hand. Many of them are of the St. Andrew variety, others Roman, while those most sought after are the Maltese.

In that weird spot, the only known place in the world where the little wonder-working gems are to be found, the good fairies flourished and had their workshop many hundreds of years ago. This you will probably say, was rather a strange place for Titania's subjects, but were you to visit this charming mountain region you would find every rock and tree infected with a glamour of romance.

As to the real origin of these little crosses of stone, comparatively nothing is known, as the leading scientists of the country have failed to throw any satisfactory light on the subject; but in that remote mountain section runs a very pretty legend to the effect that hundreds of years before King Powhatan's dynasty came into power, long before the woods breathed the gentle spirit of the lovely Pocahontas, the fairies were dancing around a spring of limpid water, playing with the naiads and wood nymphs, when an elfin messenger arrived from a strange city far, far away in the land of the dawn, bearing the sad tidings of the death of Christ, and when they heard the terrible story of the crucifixion they wept. And as their tears fell upon the earth they were crystallized into little pebbles, on each of which was formed a beautiful cross. When the fairies had disappeared from the enchanted spot the ground about the spring and the adjacent valley were strewn with these unique mementoes of that melancholy event.

Not even in the old world, with its quaint and curious lore, is a more beautiful legend to be found, and just how it originated no one knows, but for more than a century thousands of people have held these little crosses of stone in more or less superstitious awe, being firm in the belief that they will protect the wearer against witchcraft, sickness, accidents and disasters of all kinds.

Every stone is in some shape of a cross, and millions of people are now wearing them in various forms of jewelry.

It is well known that ex-President Roosevelt and ex-President Wilson, also other prominent people of this country, as well as some of the crown heads of Europe and prominent officers and men in the European war carried one or more of these little lucky pieces tucked snugly away about them.

See "The Trail of the Lonesome Pine," by John Fox, Jr. (page 174). The lover gives his sweetheart one of those stones, and you will note the luck it gives them.

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