

# The Real and True History of Wood Badge

by

Beaver Patrol, Troop 1, Gilwell, NE-II-90

This is a true story.

Over ten thousand years ago, in the Woods of what is now Western Connecticut, there lived many loyal and hard working Animals:

The Bob Whites, Eagles, Foxes, Owls, Bears, Buffaloes, Antelopes, Wolves and Others.

But the noblest of the creatures were the Beavers. They were the Constructors, the Scholars, and the Business Creatures of the Land.

After the Beavers had signed a ten-year contract to clear a tract of Forest for farming, they set about doing their thing, cutting down trees and bushes. The work was tiring and the Beavers developed a great Thirst. One Beaver, by the name of Virgil (his friends and family always called him Gil), volunteered to dig for Water, since the Beavers were not near a Lake or Stream. Fortunately, after three hours of work, Gil struck Water and completed his Well. From that time forward, that Water source and all like it, was affectionately referred to as Gil's Well.

One day, tragedy struck. The Beavers had finished cutting down several hundred trees and came upon a field of Cotton bushes. The Beavers had never seen Cotton before. But they plunged in – they had a Contract and a schedule, and the land had to be cleared.

The Cotton bushes were quite hard, and many Beaver Teeth cracked and chipped. Horribly, one Beaver inhaled a Cotton ball and died, despite valiant first aid attempts by the other Beavers. The Cotton bush roots were particularly dangerous and the entire Beaver Clan soon became entangled in the roots, and could not escape. The Beavers were stuck in the Cotton roots for over a week. The only thing that kept them alive was their ability to turn themselves over once every 24 hours, so they would not dry out in the bright sunlight.

The Beavers called out for help.

*(Chorus: Help! Help! Help!)*

Flying high and low overhead, the Bob Whites, Eagles, Owls, and Buffaloes heard the Beavers call for Help, and flew away to get assistance. The Foxes, Bears, Antelopes, and Wolves rushed to help, but they were not successful. So they went off to find the Service Animals, who were certain to have the correct equipment for the rescue:

## The Badgers

Sure enough, the Badgers arrived well Prepared with ropes, saws, and know-how. After six hours, the Badgers had rescued the Beavers. All of the other Animals cheered, and carried the Badgers off on their shoulders for a Celebration (those Animals that had shoulders, that is).

The Beavers stayed behind and extracted the fellow Beaver who died from choking on a Cotton ball. In the Beaver tradition, they built a raft, and sent the dead Beaver over the dam.

*(Chorus: Damn! Damn! Damn!)*

The Beavers were so moved by the assistance from the Badgers that the Beavers set to work creating a monument to the Badgers out of the finest trees that the Beavers could cut. The Beavers created the Wooden Badger as a monument to their Rescuers.

Next the Beavers set about fixing their cracked and chipped Teeth. The Tooth Repair took some time, and for quite a while, the Beavers greeted each of those who still had to get their teeth fixed, with a hearty:

## Be Repaired

Then, remembering how they survived for the week in the Cotton roots by turning themselves over once every 24 hours, they posted signs around their camp that read:

## Turn Over Once A Day

Finally, the Beavers went back to the Cotton field and posted signs all around that said:

## Cotton Kills

Through the years, the Beavers continued to post signs, and honor the Badgers with Wooden monuments. Whenever they temporarily ran out of wood, they received the assistance of the Sheep, and created Woolen Badgers to honor their Rescuers. The Beavers also invented other sayings over time, including:

**Et tu Bruté**  
**How About Them Mets**  
**I'd Like to Buy a Vowel**  
**Live Long and Prosper**  
**Show Me the Money**  
**Not Available in New Jersey**  
**Things Go Better With Coke and**  
**The Check is in the Mail**

The Beavers also invented a number of important things:

**Toothpaste**  
**Formica**  
**The Tooth Fairy**  
**Tang**  
**Fire**  
**Toilet Seats and of course**  
**Chain Saws**

And the Beavers and all of the Other Animals lived happily in the Forest for ten thousand years until.....

Early in this Century, a Major Oil Company was drilling for oil and came upon a Beaver Lodge, filled with Beaver History Books describing the events of ten thousand years ago, the many signs, and stories. The Workmen knew they had a valuable find, and took the materials to the corporate headquarters of British Petroleum Company.

The Managers of British Petroleum (BP for short) looked at the materials, and thought long and hard. They came upon a brilliant idea: they decided that the best way to increase demand for their petroleum products and make tons of money was to encourage Adults to run around in the woods on weekends. That way, the Adults would have to burn Gasoline in Stoves and Lamps, use Propane willy nilly, and also use a lot of Gasoline driving from the Cities to the Country. But how to get Adults to run around in the woods. BP decided to create a program for Boys to run around in the woods, and they were sure that the Adults would soon follow.

So the Managers of BP decided to invent a person to be the nominal founder of this program for Boys. They found a kindly old gentleman to act as this person. He was a retired Sergeant in the British Army by the name of Alfred Scout. They changed his name to Baden Powell (BP for short). They purchased a Lordship for their creation to give him some credibility. They liked his last name so they used it when they called the Program:

### **The Boy Scouts**

British Petroleum used all of the creations (signs and sayings) of the Beavers for the new Boy Scout Program including:

**Turn Over Once A Day and**  
**Be Repaired and**  
**Cotton Kills and especially**  
**Damn, Damn, Damn**

*(Chorus: Damn! Damn! Damn!)*

But the advertising people in British Petroleum (BP for short) made some changes:

**Turn Over Once A Day**  
**Became Do a Good Turn Daily**

**And Be Repaired**  
**Became Be Prepared.**

British Petroleum and Baden Powell (BP and BP – same initials, a coincidence? I don't think so) created a new Training Program for the Adults to keep them focused away from the true reason for the Boy Scouts (to use more petroleum products) and called that Program Wood Badge (corrupted from Wooden Badger) although the participants are sometimes referred to as Wood Badgers.

British Petroleum (BP for short) got even more diabolical by creating uniforms for the Boys and Adults to wear made out of Polyester, a derivative of petroleum, and selling them in both winter and summer versions, to increase sales.

The Training Program – Wood Badge – would always be held at Gil's Well, eventually corrupted to Gilwell. BP (either one) was in some respects not very smart, as they couldn't count above one. So every Training Troop at Wood Badge became Troop 1. But in another respect, BP was very smart, as they named the Patrols in Troop 1 after the Animals that lived in the Woods of Western Connecticut ten thousand years ago.

The Beavers were not happy when they found out about the theft of their History and Traditions. But what could they do? Not much, although last week they filed suit on behalf of all of the Animals in the Forest, in Federal District Court, charging copyright, trademark, and patent infringement, against the Boy Scouts of America.

So, Boys and Girls, what have we learned? That the real purpose of The Boy Scouts is based on a conspiracy by all of the Major Oil Companies; that Baden Powell was a Sergeant; that the Boy Scout Motto is really Be Repaired; that the Slogan is really Turn Over Once a Day; that Gilwell is a place where you can get a drink of water; that we are all Wood Badgers; that Cotton Kills; and that the Beavers are the noblest of the Animals.

And that this is a true story.