



Bennett, Bessie (?). *Herne's oak*. 1823. Folger ART Box B471 no.1.

This pencil drawing is a nineteenth-century imagining of Herne's oak, a quintessential image from an English folk tale first recorded in *The Merry Wives of Windsor*. With an oak as his home base, the horned Herne the Hunter haunts the forest surrounding Windsor, shaking his chains and causing cows to produce blood instead of milk. In the centuries following the play's debut, the quest to find the actual tree described in the legend occupied popular imagination. Today, an oak in Home Park near Windsor Castle is designated "Herne's Oak."

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