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Our Vanishing Landscape

Eric Sloane

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This book made me nostalgic for things I never personally experienced. While short, it really pulled me into the content. I previously knew nothing of plank roads, or the importance of the miller in early settlements. I much enjoy books like these, and this is among the most interesting I've happened across in learning about early Americana. I have another two Sloane titles I'll be moving up the queue after thoroughly enjoying this one.
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I had this book many years ago in hardback, and like all books one wishes particularly to keep, it grew multiple feet and decamped when I wasn't looking. This book covers the colonial era mainly, and puts life into the everyday work that was living in that period. There are marvelous sketches throughout and the explanations convey a sense of living in a time before power everything and automation. There are covered bridges (and why they were so) and hand tools, apple orchards and hay saws, how roads were made and lands cleared. Leave a bright kid with this book and be prepared to answer a lot of questions.
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