Grove Park Inn
Built from granite boulders hewn from Sunset Mountain the Grove Park Inn opened in 1913. At its inaugural dinner, William Jennings Bryan declared that it had been “built for the ages.” In the decades since, it has become one of the South’s most famous and venerable resorts. The hotel was the vision of E.W. Grove, a St. Louis entrepreneur who made his millions in the 1890’s peddling an elixir called Grove’s Tasteless Chili Tonic. Modeled after the grand old railway hotels of the West, the Inn was built from a sketch made by Grove’s son-in-law, the enterprising Fred Seely (who would become its first general manager).

It took a crew of 400 men only 12 months to build the majestic landmark, dragging hundreds of tons of boulders up the mountainside with the aid of teams of mules, ropes and pulleys, wagons, and a lone steam shovel. Since 1913, the rocking chairs, immense stone fireplaces, and sweeping views of the Blue Ridge Mountains have charmed and relaxed their guests. F. Scott Fitzgerald, who resided in room 441 during the summers of 1935 and ’36 is just one of the many notable American luminaries to have stayed here, a list that includes Harry Houdini, Will Rogers, George Gershwin, Thomas Edison, Eleanor Roosevelt and Henry Ford. Not to mention eight presidents, from Woodrow Wilson to George Bush.

Wintering Into Wisdom
"Be true to your values, this I tell you from one who has wintered into wisdom."

Beowulf 1722~24