

Live Oak Tree

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Near the banks of the Blanco River	Am Am	
Where the wind blows soft and free	G Am	
In a sage and cedar meadow	Am Am	
Stands an ancient live oak tree	G Am	
Before the wagons and the wires		F C
When the buffalo still ran free		G Am
Comanche babies first saw daylight		Am Am
Underneath the live oak tree		G Am

Dragging dust up from Laredo
Cowboys dreamed of liberty
Tied their horses by the water
Slept beneath the live oak tree
 A reckless bravo stole a pony
 Branded clear with the Double E
 The Ellis brothers caught that poor boy
 Hanged him high from the live oak tree

Thomas Riley built a cabin, said
“Mary Pierce, will you marry me?”
“I will marry you tomorrow
Underneath the live oak tree.”
 The oldest man in Blanco County
 Caught the train to eternity
 Wrote his will on a greenback dollar, said
 “Lay me down by the live oak tree.”

Flood and fire and bone-dry summers
Dust so thick you could not see
Scarred the land and scared the people
Did not touch the live oak tree.
 The wind still blows across the meadow
 The Blanco River seeks the sea
 And little children still find acorns
 Underneath the live oak tree

We wrote this song inspired by a magnificent old live oak in our back yard. Our daughter India and her singing partner Nikki, performing as the duo Wild Embers, do a beautiful version of it on YouTube. Here's the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4Wh3JO9k2Q>