



South Tyrol – Land of Myths and Legends

Birnwald Forest in Prettau

In ancient times, the vast and dense Birnwald Forest sprawled below Birnlücke Pass.

When the people of Prettau cut down the forest in order to burn it into charcoal, the Dairymaid of Kerrahütten warned that it would now be far too cold because it was the forest was holding back the frigid winds of the Tauern Mountains. The maiden's protests, sadly, were in vain.

The glaciers expanded to the point that the sun was seldom seen at Kerrahütte: before that time, it had shone all the way down the hallway of the alpine dairy and out the back door. The Dairymaid of Kerrahütte had to move, since she almost froze to death in the ice in snow. It has been "colder than a skirt" in Prettau ever since.