

The Tree with Many Names

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It has been called the Peace Tree, the Indian Peace Tree, the Treaty Tree, the Pow Wow Tree, the Council Tree, the Pilgrim's Sycamore, the Pilgerruh tree, the Moravian Sycamore, the Die Hard Tree, a Moses Cleaveland Tree, as well as a United States Bicentennial Tree. It is a historically significant American Sycamore tree within Cuyahoga Valley National Park. The tree is estimated to be between 350 and 400 years old.¹⁻⁴ As a result of its long history in the Cuyahoga Valley, it is no wonder that the tree has had so many nicknames.

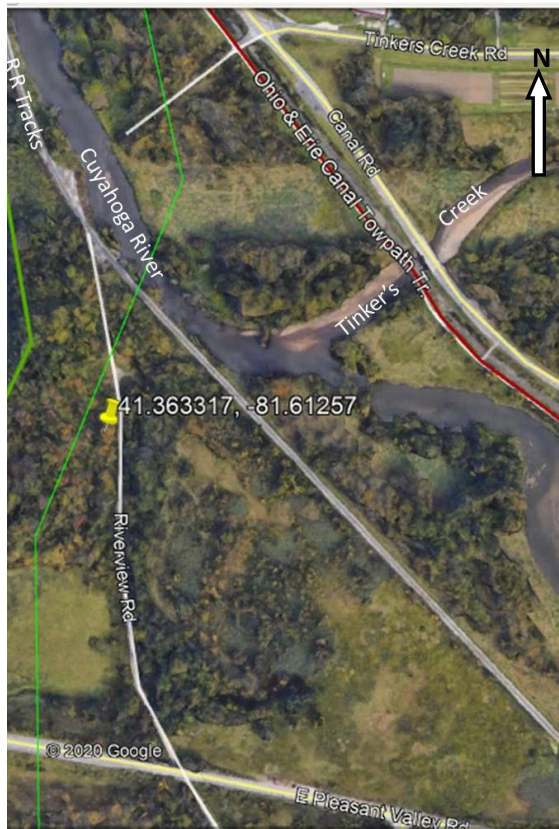


Figure 1. Current day map showing location of the historic sycamore tree (yellow pin). Source: Google Earth Pro.

Because there are inconsistencies and discrepancies among various books, newspaper articles, and on-line sources with respect to the location of this tree, and even if it is still living, we spent considerable effort confirming its identity. In November 2019, we located the old sycamore tree in Cuyahoga Valley National Park at N41.363317, W81.61257, which places the tree within the boundaries of the City of Independence. As shown in Figure 1, this site is on the west side of the Riverview Road extension, about 1100 feet due north of the Pleasant Valley Road overpass. The tree is also approximately 0.1 miles west-southwest of the confluence of Tinkers Creek and the Cuyahoga River, which is an important landmark for historical context.

This location is consistent with that of the historic "Giant Sycamore" in the detailed, hand-drawn sketch in Figure 2⁵ and with that of the "Council Tree," identified as #41 in the

map in Figure 3.⁶ Additional evidence corroborating the tree's location will be provided throughout this report. It should be noted that Reference 3 mistakenly reported the tree to be located at Canal and Hillside Roads. Reference 7 erroneously placed the tree on Riverview Road only 100 feet south of the railroad tracks near the bridge that once crossed the Cuyahoga River at the west end of Tinkers Creek Road. (The tree is actually about 650 feet south of the railroad tracks). This bridge may be seen in Figures 2 and 3, and the western landing for the bridge is apparent in Figure 1.

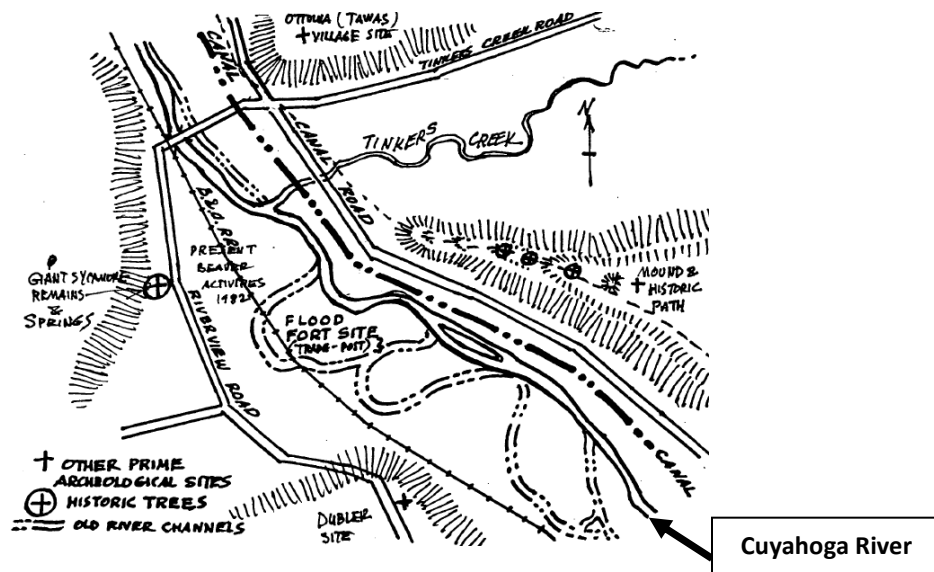


Figure 2. Detailed sketch by Joseph Jesensky showing location of the historic, "giant" sycamore tree on Riverview Road. From Reference 5. The tree is west-southwest of the confluence of Tinkers Creek and the Cuyahoga River.

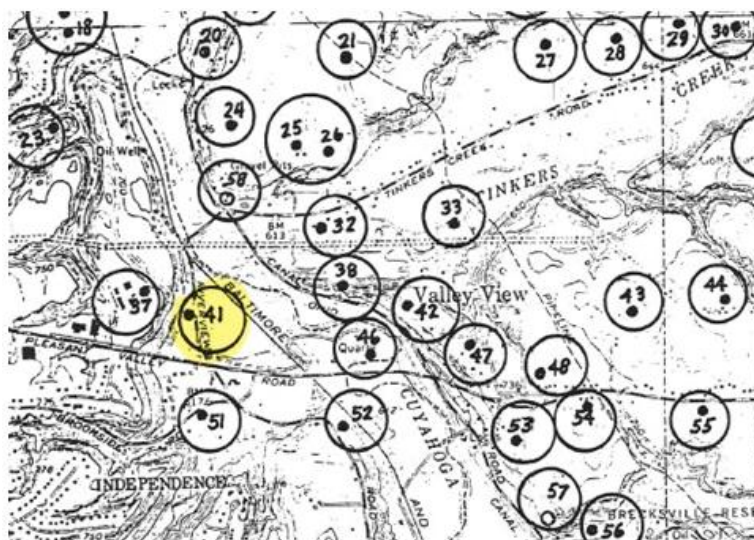


Figure 3. The Council Tree is labeled as #41 in this map of the Cuyahoga Valley. From Reference 6. The tree is on the west side of Riverview Road, approximately midway between Pleasant Valley Road and the bridge that once stood at the west end of Tinkers Creek Road.

We measured the tree to have an 82-inch diameter at breast height (DBH) in November 2019. As with many old sycamores that develop heart rot,⁸ the tree has become hollow (Figure 4). Multiple adults can stand inside the tree without touching its inner diameter. However, this sycamore is still very much alive; it has dense leafing and new branches continue to sprout from the trunk. The tree is the only large sycamore along that section of the Riverview Road extension and is clearly the same tree as the “Indian Peace Tree” photographed in 2007 in Reference 1 and in 2015 in Reference 4.



Figure 4. The Tree with Many Names in Cuyahoga Valley National Park on September 11, 2020. Photo credit: Becky MacKay

This report will provide confirmation of the identity of this historic tree, and will describe the folklore and document the history that produced so many names for this old sycamore.

The Peace Tree, Indian Peace Tree, Treaty Tree, Pow Wow Tree, and Council Tree

Much Native American folklore has been associated with this sycamore tree.^{1,3,7,9-10} It is said that the tree served as a meeting site, shelter, and resting place for Native Americans.^{1,7,10} Tradition also says that Native Americans from different tribes met at the tree to smoke the pipe of peace during hunting season.¹¹ Although former Cuyahoga Valley Historical Researcher Joe Jesensky typically did not put much stock in folklore, he found the lore about this particular tree to be worth noting,¹⁰ given the significant Native American activity in the area.

Sycamores were important to Native Americans because they indicated the presence of drinking water,¹⁰ and numerous natural springs were located near the Peace Tree.^{5,10}

The tree is reported to have been a marker for the Muskingum Trail,⁶ a section of which now follows State Route 21 through Richfield, Brecksville, and Independence.^{1,11}

The Peace Tree was very accessible to Native Americans, due to its proximity to the Cuyahoga River and to the Sagamore Trail. The Sagamore Trail was well-used by Native Americans as a short-cut to the Cuyahoga River.^{10,12} It was also used by fur traders and became a major route for pack horses moving supplies from Pittsburgh to Detroit before Cleveland was established.¹²⁻¹⁴

The Sagamore Trail branched off from the Mahoning Trail at current day Dunham and Alexander Roads. It followed a westerly direction along the northern ridge of Sagamore Creek, before turning north and heading toward the mouth of Tinkers Creek.¹² The path then crossed the Cuyahoga River and continued on its west bank, eventually reaching Lake Erie.¹²⁻¹³

The Pilgrim's Sycamore, Pilgerruh Tree, Moravian Sycamore, and Council Tree

Oral tradition says that this sycamore tree also sheltered Moravian missionaries during council with Native Americans.¹⁵⁻¹⁶ In August 1786, the Moravian missionaries and Native American converts settled for a short time in the Cuyahoga Valley. They established the town of Pilgerruh ("Pilgrim's Rest," in German), after surviving a massacre at Gnadenhutten in the Tuscarawas Valley of Ohio.¹⁷⁻¹⁸

The precise location of Pilgerruh has been the subject of debate.¹⁸⁻¹⁹ Archaeological studies conducted in 1936 and 1980 came to different conclusions regarding its location within the valley, although both studies concluded it was near present day Canal Road.^{6,18-19} Other interpretations placed Pilgerruh on the site of an abandoned settlement of an Ottawa tribe near the junction of Tinkers Creek and the Cuyahoga River or on high ground not far from that junction.^{15,17-22} However, any one of these sites would have put Pilgerruh within only 1.5 miles of the Council Tree.

The earliest known, specific reference to the above mentioned oral tradition can be traced directly to landowner John Geissendorfer. A sworn affidavit regarding the communication of this tradition was signed by Elmer B. Wight in 1930 and is given in Figure 5.¹⁵ Wight was a Civil Engineer, who had a keen interest in researching and mapping local historic sites.^{15,23} The affidavit indicates that about 35 years earlier John Geissendorfer described the tradition to Elmer B. Wight that the large sycamore, west of the mouth of Tinkers Creek, provided shelter to the Moravian missionaries while in council. The affidavit points out that Geissendorfer was an "elderly" man at the time of this communication. A mortuary notice²⁴ provides evidence that John Geissendorfer would have been about 67 years old when he relayed this tradition to Wight around 1895. This affidavit adds credence to the oral tradition, since it is connected to Geissendorfer, who lived at a time not too long after Pilgerruh had been established.

A F F I D A V I T.

compiled by Robert A. Burns
BURNS

THE STATE OF OHIO)
CUYAHOGA COUNTY.) ss.

Elmer B. Wight of the City of Cleveland, in said county,
being duly sworn, says:

That about thirty-five years ago, Mr. John Geissendorfer,
who at that time was an old man accompanied me to his farm which
was a part of Tract 3, Lots 18, 24 and 30 of Independence Township,
and by word of mouth imparted to me the tradition as herein set forth
and which relates to the large Sycamore Tree near the River Road and
directly west of the confluence of the Cuyahoga River and Tinkers
Creek:

"PILGRIM'S SYCAMORE

In 1786 this tree sheltered
Moravian Missionaries, while
in council, after disembark-
ing from canoes on nearby
Cuyahoga River. Pilgerruh
Village occupied site of an
Ottawa Indian town on plateau
above Canal and Dunham Roads".

and further saith not.

Elmer B. Wight

Sworn to before me and subscribed in my presence, this 6th
day of March, 1930.

Roland A. Baskitt
Notary Public.

ROBERT BURNS JR.
14114 KENNEDY AVE.
CLEVELAND OHIO 44137

NOT TO BE REPRODUCED
WITHOUT PERMISSION OF
THE CUYAHOGA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
10200 East Boulevard • Cleveland, Ohio 44108

Figure 5. Sworn affidavit of Elmer B. Wight in 1930 describing an oral tradition that was communicated to him about the sycamore tree and Moravian missionaries living in a nearby village. This oral tradition was provided by landowner John Geissendorfer around 1895. From Reference 15.

John Geissendorfer had another connection to the Pilgerruh tree: the tree was on his property, well before the national park was established. Geissendorfer owned Lot 24 in Tract 3 of Independence Township, per the affidavit in Figure 5¹⁵; this is also seen in historical maps from 1874 and 1903 in Figures 6²⁵ and 7²⁶, respectively. Lot 24 is west of the confluence of Tinkers Creek and the Cuyahoga River. Comparisons between Figures 1 and 2 and Figures 6 and 7 place the tree on the southeast corner of the Geissendorfer property, which is west-southwest of the confluence. Confirmation of the tree's location was provided by Wesley Gaab,²⁷ author and Charter Member of the Independence Historical Society, who says that he used to play in the tree as a boy in the 1930's and that the tree was on the Geissendorfer farm.

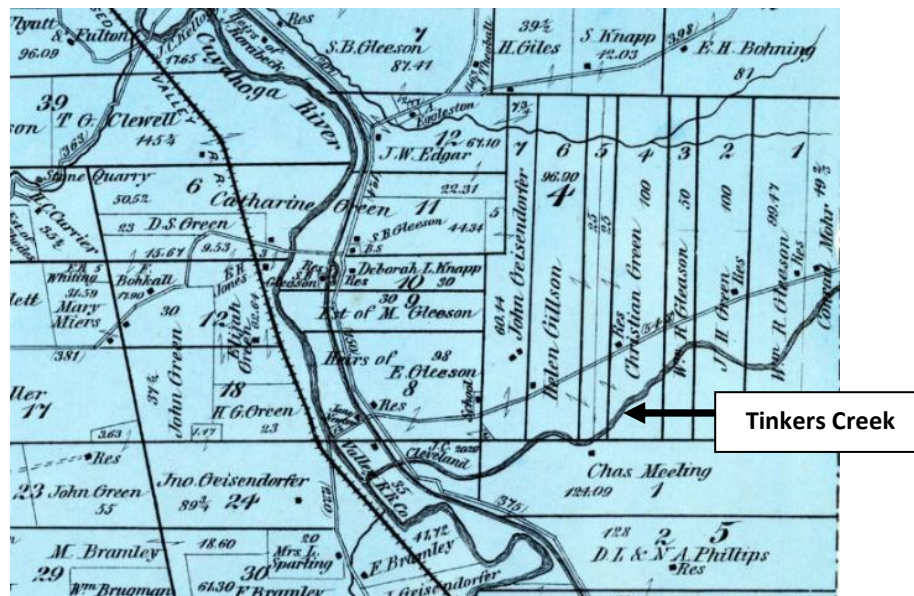


Figure 6. Historical map from 1874 showing John Geissendorfer's property, Lot 24, on Riverview Road. From Reference 25. The mouth of Tinkers Creek may be seen on the map where it splits the label, "Valley RR Co."

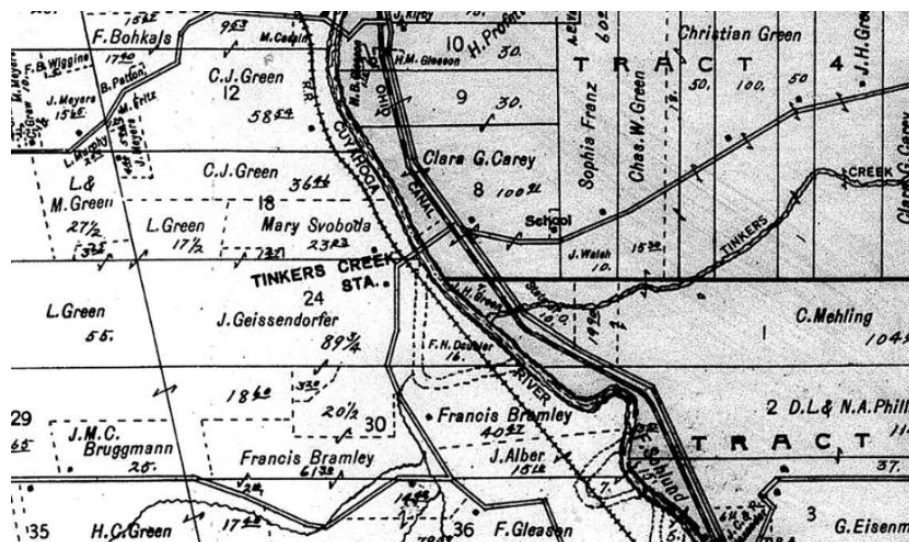


Figure 7. Historical map from 1903 showing John Geissendorfer's property, Lot 24, on Riverview Road. From Reference 26. The Geissendorfer property is west of the confluence of the Cuyahoga River and Tinkers Creek.

The Daughters of the American Revolution (D.A.R.) was involved in conservation and tree planting efforts,²⁸⁻²⁹ similar to other women's organizations in the early to mid-1900's³⁰. It was reported in November 1932 that the Conservation Committee of the Western Reserve Chapter of the D.A.R. became interested in protecting the "Pilgerruh tree," as it was thought at that time to be the "oldest tree in Cuyahoga County."²⁹ Other newspaper articles in 1932³¹ and 1938⁷ reported that the "Moravian sycamore" on River Road (prior name of Riverview Road³²) was marked by a tablet of the D.A.R. Records showing the exact date that the D.A.R. sign was erected could not be found, but based on References 29 and 31, it occurred on or before March 1932.

In 1938, photographs were taken of the "Pilgrim's Sycamore" that was described as being located on the west side of the Cuyahoga River on River Road near Dunham Road.³³⁻³⁵ It should be noted that Dunham Road was the former name of Tinkers Creek Road,³² and the western end of this road was connected at this time to River Road via a bridge that crossed the Cuyahoga River. The image in Figure 8³³ shows a male in period clothing reading a large, rustic-looking sign by the historic sycamore tree on October 7, 1938. It is obvious that the tree trunk is large in diameter and has densely-leaved lower branches.



Figure 8. Photograph H-408 of a male reading the large rustic sign by the Pilgrim's Sycamore on October 7, 1938. (Source: The Cleveland Museum of Natural History³³).



Figure 9. Photograph H-410 of a woman reading the sign by the Pilgrim's Sycamore in November 1938. (Source: The Cleveland Museum of Natural History³⁴).

The photo in Figure 9³⁴ shows a woman in November 1938 near the large sign in front of the tree that is labeled, “The Pilgrim’s Sycamore.” This is the sign that was erected by the D.A.R. Although the title of the sign is clear in Figure 9, the inscription beneath the title cannot be read in the photo. Also present is a small metal plate fixed to the horizontal beam from which the large sign is suspended. Unfortunately, the inscription on the plate also cannot be read in the photo. After careful inspection of Figures 8 and 9, degradation to the tree trunk is apparent behind the large sign, and the orientation of this damage matches that for the major opening in the trunk shown previously in Figure 4. Wesley Gaab vividly remembers that when he first saw the tree with his cousin in 1932 it was “hollow like a chimney.”²⁷

A 1946 Plain Dealer article reported that the Western Reserve Chapter of the D.A.R. had placed a sign by the Pilgrim’s Sycamore tree “long ago.”³⁶ Furthermore, the article revealed that a local resident, Albert W. Kelly of Nelson Avenue, wrote down the sign’s inscription “many years ago”³⁶ after the sign had become faded and barely readable. According to Mr. Kelly, the sign read:

“The Pilgrim’s Sycamore

*Columbus might have seen this tree. In 1786 this tree
sheltered Moravian missionaries. While in town where
disembarking from canoes on near-by Cuyahoga River, they
established the village of ‘Pilger Ruh’ on the site of an Ottawa
Indian town on the plateau above canal on Dunham Road.
Protect this tree.”³⁶*

This inscription is very similar to the oral tradition relayed by Elmer B. Wight in his sworn affidavit of 1930, given previously in Figure 5¹⁵. Since the affidavit was taken in 1930, about 35 years after the original communication, and the D.A.R. sign was erected by 1932, one wonders if the timing suggests that these two events were connected in some way.

Figure 10³⁵ shows another photograph of the Pilgrim’s Sycamore and the surrounding landscape in November 1938. It is apparent that the top of the tree is significantly damaged. Key landmarks may be seen in the photo, which helps to pinpoint the precise location of the Pilgrim’s Sycamore. A railroad crossing sign is in the background of the photo beyond the curved road to the north. The railroad crossing was near the intersection between River Road and the west end of the bridge, as shown in a 1927 historical map in Figure 11.³² The dirt path up the hill in the photographs in Figures 9 and 10 is a driveway up to the Geissendorfer farm,²⁷ which appears to be illustrated in the map in Figure 11³² as a pair of curved and dashed, parallel lines. These landmarks all provide further confirmation of the specific location of the Pilgrim’s Sycamore.



Figure 10. Photograph H-409 showing a full view of the Pilgrim's Sycamore in November 1938. (Source: The Cleveland Museum of Natural History³⁵). Note the damage to the top of the tree, a railroad crossing sign in the distance, and a dirt driveway going up the hill on the left.

The Die Hard Tree

The sycamore received a potentially devastating blow, when highway workers used dynamite to blow off the top of the tree.^{10,16,36} Large branches of the sycamore hung over Riverview Road and were thought to be a hazard to traffic.¹⁰ There was a concern that the tree might topple over and cause personal injury.¹⁶ The timing of the blast was reported to be “a few years” prior to 1946.^{16,36} Although the top of the tree looks significantly damaged in Figure 10³⁵, Reference 37 indicates that the blasting was done in 1940.

Despite the dynamite blast, the Die Hard tree continued to grow. As Joe Jesensky wrote in 1999, “That (dynamite blast) should have been the end of it, but it wasn’t. It grew new leaves and continued to thrive. Some of the local people call it the die-hard tree because it simply won’t die.”¹⁰

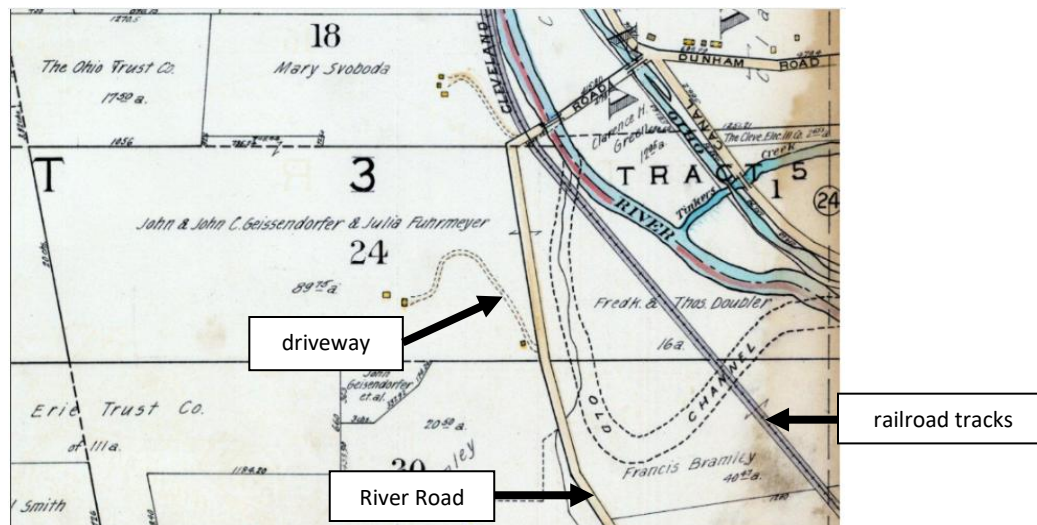


Figure 11. Historical map from 1927 showing a driveway to the Geissendorfer farm in Lot 24 in Tract 3. From Reference 32.

Moses Cleaveland Tree

Moses Cleaveland and his party arrived at the mouth of the Cuyahoga River to survey the land east of the Cuyahoga River for the Connecticut Land Company on July 22, 1796.³⁸ Moses Cleaveland is credited with being the founder of the City of Cleveland. In 1946, to commemorate the City of Cleveland's 150th anniversary, the Cleveland Sesquicentennial Commission sought to discover and label 150 native trees that were part of the forest at the time of Moses Cleaveland's landing.³⁹ Thus, they needed to find trees that were over 150 years old. The Commission appointed the Committee on Moses Cleaveland Trees, which was chaired by Arthur B. Williams, Curator of Education at the Cleveland Natural History Museum. As Williams described, these trees "would be the only living witnesses to the historic arrival of Moses Cleaveland 150 years earlier."⁴⁰⁻⁴¹

The public was asked to participate by nominating old trees throughout Cuyahoga County, and 242 trees were nominated.³⁹⁻⁴¹ The diameter at breast height (DBH) of each tree was measured to judge the probability that the tree was 150 years old or more. Besides its probable age, accessibility of the tree was a major factor for selection, so that the tree could be viewed and appreciated by the public.^{39,41} As a result, many Moses Cleaveland Trees were located along highways, streets, park trails, and other places where they would be easily seen. Williams also considered the tree's healthy appearance, beauty, or ruggedness.⁴¹ After a critical evaluation of each nominated tree, the committee selected 150 trees deemed to have been living 150 years earlier when Moses Cleaveland first arrived.

This sycamore was one of the trees designated as a Moses Cleaveland Tree. Prominent aluminum labels³⁹⁻⁴² were attached to each of the 150 trees selected. In addition to the tree's common and scientific names, the following description was etched into the labels in 1946:

THIS IS A MOSES CLEAVELAND TREE

*It was standing here as a part of the original forest
when Moses Cleaveland landed at the mouth of the Cuyahoga
River July 22 1796. Let us preserve it as a living memorial
to the first settlers of the Western Reserve.*

*The Sesquicentennial Commission*³⁹⁻⁴²

Wesley Gaab remembers a metal plate attached directly to the sycamore tree, but said it looked like it had been pried off shortly after being placed on the tree.²⁷

Arthur B. Williams kept a card for each Moses Cleaveland Tree, documenting its size, location, and any special characteristics or history that distinguished the tree.^{16,41,43} The digitized card for this sycamore tree is shown in Figure 12^{16,43} and describes its location on Riverview Road near the juncture with Tinkers Creek Road. The DBH of this tree was measured at 75.0 inches in 1946.^{16,40,43} Williams noted on the card that tradition says the Moravian missionaries met under this tree to make a treaty with Native Americans and that the tree top had been blown off with dynamite a few years prior to 1946.^{16,43} He also wrote on the card in June 1946 that “the remaining stump is nothing more than a shell, but there is great vitality apparently still in the old tree, and a great many small twigs have grown out from the shell.”^{16,43} In 1949, Williams added that “branches from the rim of the hollow stub are now attaining considerable size.”^{16,43}

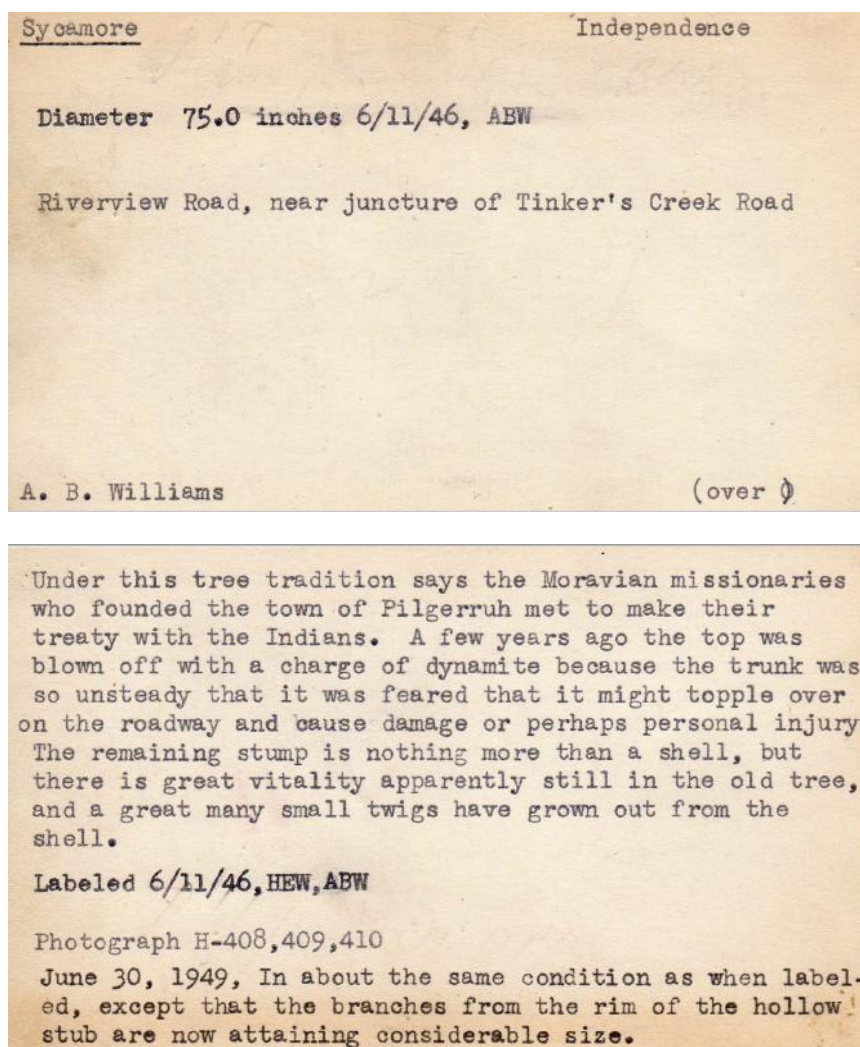


Figure 12. Front and back of Arthur B. Williams' card for the Moses Cleaveland Sycamore Tree in Independence, Ohio. (Source: The Cleveland Museum of Natural History.¹⁶)

In 1971, in celebration of Cleveland's 175th birthday and in honor of A. B. Williams, the Early Settlers Association (ESA) of the Western Reserve formed a committee to locate and assess the original 150 Moses Cleaveland Trees.^{41,43,44} The old sycamore tree was located by the ESA in 1971, and was found to be "still living",⁴⁴ but was described as being a badly rotted shell filled with rubbish, stones, and all sorts of litter.⁴³⁻⁴⁵ Its DBH was reportedly measured by the ESA at 76 inches in 1971,⁴⁴⁻⁴⁶ which was surprisingly only slightly larger than that measured in 1946. Although a data table from the 1971 effort lists a 76-inch DBH for this sycamore tree, the text in the same reference indicates the tree's circumference was 20 feet and 9 inches.^{44,46} This latter dimension converts to a diameter of 79.3 inches, which seems more plausible, relative to the 1946 and our 2019 DBH measurements of 75 and 82 inches, respectively. Reference 44 also states that this "once great" sycamore received shameful treatment and is an example of "man's...disregard of a fine old tree".

Subsequent reports described the condition of this tree in a similar fashion, or even worse. John Michalko reported in 1971 that "a vigorously branched stump is all that remains."⁴⁷ Forty-one years later, an on-line source in 2012 referenced the Michalko article, thereby promoting the notion that the tree was "nothing but a stump."⁴⁸ In 2018, a lengthy cleveland.com article referenced the 1971 ESA evaluation and the Western Reserve Land Conservancy records and indicated that this sycamore was an empty shell filled with rubbish, stones, and litter; this article listed the tree as "gone."⁴³

References 43 and 48 summarized the location and condition, if known, of each of the original 150 Moses Cleaveland Trees. These easily accessible on-line references from 2018 and 2012 also had the effect of dissuading people (including the authors) from searching for this particular sycamore tree, since it was reported to be gone. But as Mark Twain said famously, "The reports of my death are greatly exaggerated," and the same can be said of this Moses Cleaveland Tree. It is very much alive, as will be described in further detail in the final section of this paper. In October 2020, an on-line interactive map generated in the resurrected Moses Cleaveland Tree Project on the ESA website⁴⁶ updated the sycamore tree's condition and its location, which are now consistent with our descriptions and GPS coordinates. At the time of this writing, Reference 46 lists the 1971 DBH measurement at 76 inches based on the original ESA data tables.

United States Bicentennial Tree

In 1976, the historic sycamore tree received another distinction, according to Wesley Gaab.^{1-4,27} The 1976 Bicentennial Committee of the United States searched for trees still standing that were alive at the time of the American Revolution in 1776. Scientists qualified this sycamore as a U. S. Bicentennial Tree after estimating its age.^{1-4,27} The tree is estimated to be between 350 and 400 years old today.¹⁻⁴ It is believed to be one

of only ten trees in northern Ohio^{1-4,27} old enough at the time to have been selected as a U. S. Bicentennial Tree.

The ESA appears to have been involved in the U. S. Bicentennial Tree Project, based on a finding aid⁴⁹ for ESA records archived at the Western Reserve Historical Society Library. We sought to confirm the sycamore tree's selection as a U. S. Bicentennial Tree in these archives. However, the records have not been accessible for over a year due to the coronavirus pandemic, and no other sources were found to confirm that this tree was selected for this distinction.

Confirmation that This Tree is the Tree with Many Names

We have corroborating evidence that confirms that the sycamore tree in Figure 4 is the Peace Tree, the Pilgrim's Sycamore, a Moses Cleaveland Tree, or any of its other names, based on the following:

- Its confirmed location along Riverview Road relative to the confluence of Tinkers Creek and the Cuyahoga River
- Its location relative to that indicated on sketches and maps from independent sources (Figures 2⁵ and 3⁶)
- Historical maps from 1874-1927 showing roads, rivers, property lines, and driveways
- The 1930 affidavit of Elmer B. Wight
- Wesley Gaab, Charter Member of the Independence Historical Society and author of a book on the history of the City of Independence, who provided personal accounts of the tree
- The 1938 photographs³³⁻³⁵ from The Cleveland Museum of Natural History which enabled comparisons to present day landmarks that included the:
 - Distance of the tree from the road
 - Distance of the tree from, and orientation to, the hillside and driveway on the former Geissendorfer farm
 - Railroad crossing beyond the curve in Riverview Road to the north
- Apparent degradation to the tree trunk in Figures 8³³ and 9³⁴ which faces the same direction as that for the major opening of the tree trunk seen in Figure 4

An Admired Landmark in Independence

The Tree with Many Names has been a much admired landmark over its lifetime in the Cuyahoga Valley. Presentations describing its legends and history have been given to the public over at least a 70-year period in Independence, Ohio.^{3,9} Crafters in the City of Independence memorialized the tree in 1976 for posterity by representing it in a

Cuyahoga Valley quilt that was later displayed by the Women's City Club of Cleveland.¹¹

Local residents were well aware of the historic sycamore throughout the 20th century,²⁷ due to word of mouth combined with newspaper coverage. During the 1900's, people often visited the tree with family and friends. "Everybody knew about the tree," says Wesley Gaab.²⁷ The location of the tree made it very accessible through the mid-1900's, because it was on a well-used road that provided direct access to a bridge that crossed the Cuyahoga River. It should be noted that the tree cannot be reached as easily now. The bridge that crossed over the Cuyahoga River at the west end of Tinkers Creek Road is gone, and the Riverview Road extension is no longer a maintained, public road for vehicular traffic. This section of Riverview Road has a locked, national park gate across the southern entrance, and only foot traffic is allowed in this now remote section of the park.

Such large old hollow trees have stimulated people's imaginations over the years. In the mid-1930's, when this sycamore was on the Geissendorfer property, a young Wesley Gaab of Independence actually *cooked hotdogs inside* the large sycamore with his friends. "That was the thing to do back then...roast marshmallows or hotdogs in the tree. I did hot dogs." says Wesley Gaab.²⁷ Seven decades later, in the early 2000's, Gaab provided historical tours highlighting major landmarks in the City of Independence, which included well over 50 trips to this much admired tree.^{4,27} However, later in life, the more mature Wesley Gaab *did not* roast hotdogs in the tree!

Certainly, today, the old sycamore still has a hollow trunk, but it is hardly a short, diminutive "stump." It is also no longer filled with garbage. In the winter, the tree does look barren without its leaves, and perhaps even dead. In stark contrast, in the summer and early fall, the old tree looks very much alive with a full complement of leaves, a height well over 100 feet, large upper branches, and new branches sprouting from the trunk. Its current DBH of 82 inches shows that its girth continues to expand as well. The vegetation surrounding the tree in summer and fall partially obscures the tree when viewed from the Riverview Road extension, but the magnificence of the tree becomes quite apparent when viewed up close. The diameter of the trunk is impressive, the wall thickness is substantial, and the leafing is very vigorous. One gets a sense of history standing next to it, since the old, but vibrant, sycamore has "witnessed" so many changes to the valley over hundreds of years.

In 1946, Arthur B. Williams hoped that many of the original 150 Moses Cleaveland trees would still be standing for the City of Cleveland's bicentennial some 50 years later.⁴⁰ The Die Hard Tree did that and more. For something that has lived as long as this tree has, it would be a shame for it not to continue to thrive as long as possible. A sycamore tree that sprouted today would not achieve this same size until the year 2400! A very

large branch, about one foot in diameter and 40 feet long, is approaching the road and will soon be hanging over the road. As long as there is no dynamite in the tree's future, there's a decent chance that the Tree with Many Names can survive another 50 years!

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