

**A GUIDE TO UCNJ UNION  
COLLEGE OF UNION  
COUNTY, NJ'S  
HISTORIC  
TREE  
PROJECT**



**UCNJ**

**Union College of  
Union County, NJ**

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**THE LOCATIONS OF THE TREES DESCRIBED IN THIS BOOKET ARE INDICATED ON  
THE MAP ON THE BACK COVER**

## **INTRODUCTION TO THE HISTORIC TREE PROJECT**

The Historic Tree Grove located near the Sperry Observatory on the Cranford Campus is part of a long-term Historic Tree Project at UCNJ Union College of Union County, NJ. Each of the trees is a seed or cutting- grown offspring of a tree noteworthy in American history. They were transplanted into the Grove beginning in 1997 from a nursery established on Campus near the Kellogg Greenhouse in 1995. For us and for future generations these trees will serve as reminders of significant individuals and events in our country's history.

The idea of collecting seeds and growing seedlings of historic trees began in the 1970's when American Forests (the Nation's oldest nonprofit citizens' conservation organization) was collecting data on the locations of historic trees in America for our bicentennial celebration. American Forests once made seedlings of these trees available to foster an appreciation for trees in general, and our country's rich history.

This project has been funded in part by a grant from the Division of Parks and Forestry of New Jersey's Department of Environmental Protection, allowing UCNJ to purchase some of the historic tree seedlings American Forests offered.

The emphasis of this project has now shifted primarily, but not exclusively, towards collecting and growing the offspring of trees significant in New Jersey's history. The nursery near the Kellogg Greenhouse is in part devoted to the goal of growing these seedlings before the parent trees are lost forever. A visit there will give you the opportunity to see the latest trees to be included in this project. One seedling of each historic tree will eventually be transplanted from the nursery into the Grove. If you know of an historic tree in our state that is not represented in our Grove, please bring it to my attention. I am always interested in expanding our collection.

Since many (sometimes hundreds) seedlings grow from the seeds UCNJ collects from historic trees in New Jersey each year, the College has been able to occasionally offer seedlings to schools, municipalities, and historic organizations in Union County and throughout our State. Planted on school grounds, in parks, and at other public places, the seedlings give many people the chance to participate in saving pieces of New Jersey's history.

This project, along with the College's Arboretum of over 160 tree species, can enhance your knowledge of trees and nature. For more information, please contact me.

**Dr. Tom Ombrello**  
**Biology - STEM Division**  
**Science Building – Room S201-4**  
**UCNJ Union College of Union County, NJ**  
**1033 Springfield Avenue**  
**Cranford, New Jersey 07016**  
**Phone: (908) 709-7556**  
**email : [ombrello@ucc.edu](mailto:ombrello@ucc.edu)**

2024 edition

A COPY OF THIS BOOKLET CAN ALSO BE SENT TO YOU ELECTRONICALLY.  
Contact me at the email address above.

## **PREFACE TO THE 2024 EDITION**

Recently there have been some changes in UCNJ's Historic Tree Grove. The Emerald Ash Borer insect, an Asian species accidentally introduced into Michigan in 2002, reached New Jersey a few years ago. Once an ash tree is infested, there is little hope for its survival. Only two ash trees were planted in the Grove. The Berkeley Plantation White Ash (Historic Tree #10) became infested with the Emerald Ash Borer and died in 2020. The remaining ash, the Harriet Beecher Stowe White Ash (Historic Tree #34) died in 2021. Emerald Ash Borers can only survive in ash trees, so the rest of the trees in the Grove will be unharmed by this destructive insect. However the Spotted Lantern Fly, another insect that was accidentally introduced into Pennsylvania in 2014 has now reached New Jersey. This insect can feed on many tree species. It remains to be seen if this insect becomes another destructive pest in our area. The tremendous amount of international trade that occurs today offers many opportunities for plant pests (insects and diseases) to hitch a ride to North America. Those that become pests do so because the natural controls of these species are left behind in their native continents, and once here the populations of these pests can increase exponentially. The US Department of Agriculture does its best to prevent the introduction of non-native species, but it is a daunting task.

Despite these losses, the Grove continues to expand. A new tree has been added to the Grove this year, an offspring of the Point Breeze Osage Orange (Historic Tree # 107).

Since the UCNJ Historic Tree Project began in 1995, numerous trees in the Grove have become "orphans" in that the parent tree from which each was propagated has been lost. Among them are:

Gettysburg Address Honey Locust (#20)  
Charter Oak (#57)  
Salem, NJ White Oak (#76)  
Cranford Pepperidge Tree (#82)  
Newark, NJ Washington Sycamore (#87)  
Basking Ridge White Oak (#88)  
Mercer White Oak (#89)  
Tennent White Oak (#90)  
Annapolis Liberty Tree (#103)  
The Seeing Eye European Beech (# 105).

There are several other parent trees that are now declining from old age.

The offspring of these trees can help us to continue to remember the significance of their parents and their connection to history. In addition, from a biological perspective, at least some if not all of the genes of the parent trees continue to be represented in their offspring. The parent trees lived for centuries, often under adverse conditions. One could argue that it is worthwhile to save these genes for the future, perhaps someday being incorporated into tree breeding programs striving to produce vigorous, long-lived trees.

## TREES IN THE HISTORIC TREE GROVE

*(Revised: 2024)*

<u>UCNJ NUMBER</u>	<u>TREE NAME</u>
2.	Washington American Holly
3.	Mount Vernon Red Maple
4.	Mount Vernon Sweet Buckeye
6.	Montpelier Red Maple
7.	Abraham Lincoln Overcup Oak
8.	President Lincoln White Oak
9.	Springfield Cemetery White Oak
11.	Grover Cleveland Red Oak
12.	Woodrow Wilson Hackberry
13.	Harry S. Truman Siberian Elm
14.	Lyndon B. Johnson Winged Elm
15.	Manassas Red Oak
17.	Antietam Sycamore
18.	Bigelow's Battery Swamp White Oak
19.	Ulysses S. Grant Sycamore
20.	Gettysburg Address Honey Locust
26.	Independence Hall Black Locust
27.	Nathan Hale Northern Red Oak
28.	Lafayette Sycamore
29.	Valley Forge River Birch
32.	John Paul Jones Paper Birch
37.	Helen Keller Water Oak
39.	Washington Irving Sycamore
40.	Edgar Allan Poe Hackberry
43.	Navajo-Apache Cottonwood
45.	Maquon Bur Oak
46.	Samuel F.B. Morse Sycamore
47.	Moon Sycamore
51.	Booker T. Washington White Oak
52.	Martin Luther King, Jr. Sycamore
54.	Alex Haley Silver Maple
57.	Charter Oak
58.	Robin Hood English Oak
61.	Cyrus Hall McCormick Catalpa
62.	America's First Delicious Apple
64.	Napoleon Weeping Willow
66.	FDR White Oak
67.	Minuteman Silver Maple
68.	Sergeant Alvin York Tulip Poplar
69.	Dwight D. Eisenhower Cottonwood
70.	Lindbergh Red Maple
71.	Grover Cleveland Sycamore
73.	Clinton, NJ Sycamore
74.	Tidal Basin Cherry
75.	Shoemaker Holly
76.	Salem, NJ White Oak
77.	Liberty Hall Catalpa

78.	<b>Liberty Hall Magnolia</b>
79.	<b>Liberty Hall Buckeye</b>
80.	<b>Tea Burning Monument Ginkgo</b>
81.	<b>Carranza Memorial Pitch Pine</b>
82.	<b>Cranford Pepperidge Tree</b>
83.	<b>Keeler White Oak</b>
84.	<b>Ball Black Walnut</b>
85.	<b>World Trade Center Sycamore</b>
86.	<b>Liberty Hall Horsechestnut</b>
87.	<b>Newark, NJ Washington Sycamore</b>
88.	<b>Basking Ridge White Oak</b>
89.	<b>Mercer White Oak</b>
90.	<b>Tennent White Oak</b>
91.	<b>Stamp Act Sycamores</b>
92.	<b>Joyce Kilmer White Oak</b>
93.	<b>Hope, NJ Sycamore</b>
94.	<b>Chief Ockanickon Sycamore</b>
95.	<b>Thomas Jefferson Indian Blood Peach</b>
96.	<b>Belvidere, NJ Shoe Tree</b>
97.	<b>Robert Frost Horsechestnut</b>
98.	<b>Robert Frost Sugar Maple</b>
99.	<b>Bound Brook, NJ Council Oak</b>
100.	<b>Oklahoma City Survivor Tree</b>
101.	<b>Governor Joel Parker Holly</b>
102.	<b>World Trade Center Survivor Pear</b>
103	<b>Annapolis Liberty Tree</b>
104	<b>Clement Oak</b>
105	<b>The Seeing Eye European Beech</b>
106	<b>Valley Forge Sycamore</b>
107	<b>Point Breeze Osage Orange</b>

### **WHY ARE THERE NUMBERS MISSING FROM THIS LIST?**

A number is assigned to a tree when it is planted in the Historic Tree Grove. If a tree dies, its number is never reassigned to another historic tree. This prevents the confusion that could come about from a number representing more than one tree that ever grew in the Grove. The Historic Tree Grove is in a sense a living museum, and nothing lives forever. Storms in 2011 and 2012 destroyed several trees. Some trees, especially those grown from seeds collected outside New Jersey, are not adapted to our locale and succumb to insects, diseases, or other unfavorable environmental conditions. The above list reflects the trees present in the Grove at the time of publication.

## Historic Tree #2

### WASHINGTON AMERICAN HOLLY

The Washington American Holly grows at the Virginia home of George Washington, the nation's first president and commander of the Colonial Army that won the American Revolution. When Washington retired, it was an act that gained attention both at home and abroad. For Washington, however, it was a chance to return to the tranquil acres of his beloved Mount Vernon. Virginia, the "*infant, woody country*," offered new opportunities for Washington. The Little Hunting Creek Farm was his favorite parcel of land. It had been deeded to his older brother, Lawrence, when Washington was 7 years old. Lawrence changed the name of the plantation to Mount Vernon in honor of his friend, Admiral Edward Vernon, a British Naval Officer. In 1792, Washington established an area at Mount Vernon specifically for "*any and all kinds of plants fit for hedging*," according to his journal entries. This tree grew from a seed taken from an American Holly in those hedges, and was planted into UCNJ's Historic Tree Grove in 2004.

*(text adapted from American Forests)*

## Historic Tree #3

### MOUNT VERNON RED MAPLE

This tree was grown from a seed collected from the Red Maple Tree at the Mount Vernon, Virginia home of George Washington, and was planted into UCNJ's Historic Tree Grove in 1997. (See Historic Tree #2.)

## Historic Tree # 4

### MOUNT VERNON SWEET RED BUCKEYE

This tree was grown from a seed collected from the Sweet Red Buckeye tree at the Mount Vernon, Virginia home of George Washington, and was planted into UCNJ's Historic Tree Grove in 1997. (See Historic Tree #2.)

## Historic Tree #6

### MONTPELIER RED MAPLE

The President James Madison Red Maple stands at Montpelier, the sprawling Orange County, Virginia estate of one of the nation's founders. Madison spent much of his life at Montpelier formulating his thoughts about democracy and government. Although he served two terms as president, his greatest contributions to the United States were his writing of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. Madison was a great orator who relied on his speech rather than a commanding presence to put forth his ideas. This tree grew from a seed taken from the President James Madison Red Maple, and was planted into UCNJ's Historic Tree Grove in 1997.

*(text adapted from American Forests)*

## Historic Tree #7

### ABRAHAM LINCOLN OVERCUP OAK

The Abraham Lincoln Overcup Oak shades the yard of the Hardin County, Kentucky home where the nation's 16<sup>th</sup> president lived as a boy. Abraham Lincoln's parents, Thomas and Nancy, bought the home, called Sinking Spring Farm, for \$200 in December, 1808. The couple's first child, Sarah, was a year old and Mrs. Lincoln was pregnant with another child. Abraham Lincoln was born in a one-room log cabin on February 12, 1809. The cabin was probably a typical frontier dwelling, about 18-by-16 feet, with a dirt floor, one window and one door, a small fireplace, a shingled roof, and a low chimney made of clay, straw, and hard wood. From these humble beginnings came one of America's great leaders, who would guide his nation through its Civil War. This tree was grown from a seed taken from the Abraham Lincoln Overcup Oak, and was planted into UCNJ's Historic Tree Grove in 1997.

*(text adapted from American Forests)*

## Historic Tree #8

### PRESIDENT LINCOLN WHITE OAK

During the presidential race of 1840, Abraham Lincoln campaigned in Albion, Illinois as a Whig elector for General William Henry Harrison, who was in the midst of the "*Tippecanoe and Tyler Too*" campaign. Lincoln spoke to a crowd in an oak grove owned by General William Pickering. The branches of the oaks provided a cool area for the onlookers. Lincoln's great orations throughout the campaign helped Harrison win the presidency. The grove of white oaks still stands as a living memorial to the early career of the man who would later lead his nation through the Civil War. This tree was grown from a seed taken from the President Lincoln White Oak in the Albion grove, and was planted into UCNJ's Historic Tree Grove in 1997.

*(text adapted from American Forests)*

## Historic Tree #9

### SPRINGFIELD CEMETERY WHITE OAK

On May 4, 1865 President Abraham Lincoln was laid to rest in Springfield, Illinois after he was assassinated by John Wilkes Booth. Lincoln had a strong connection to Springfield and it is hallowed by his mark. To this city he went as a young man. It is where he was married and started his legal career. He led the fight to move the capital of Illinois to this city. His farewell address to Illinois was delivered from the platform of a train at Springfield in 1861. The Lincoln Tomb and Monument are located in Oak Ridge Cemetery, where ancient White Oaks shade them. This tree was grown from a seed collected from one of those White Oaks, and was planted into UCNJ's Historic Tree Grove in 2004.

*(text adapted from American Forests)*

## Historic Tree #11

### GROVER CLEVELAND RED OAK

As the only president born in New Jersey, Grover Cleveland holds a special place in the hearts of our State's residents. The son of the pastor of the Caldwell Presbyterian Church, he was born on March 18, 1837 in "*The Old Manse*," the parsonage located at what is now 207 Bloomfield Avenue in Caldwell, New Jersey. Named for the first pastor of the church, Stephen Grover, the future president moved to New York State with his parents in 1841. He studied law, became a lawyer, and held a number of elected positions in New York State. He culminated his career with his election as 22<sup>nd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> president of our country.

Some interesting facts about Grover Cleveland include his being the first United States President to be married in the White House, and the only president to serve non-consecutive terms (having been defeated in his re-election bid to become the 23<sup>rd</sup> president). He is also the only president buried in New Jersey (in Princeton). This tree grew from a seed collected from the Red Oak in the yard of Grover Cleveland's birthplace, and was planted into UCNJ's Historic Tree Grove in 2002.

## Historic Tree #12

### WOODROW WILSON HACKBERRY

The President Woodrow Wilson Hackberry stands at the Staunton, Virginia birthplace of the nation's 28<sup>th</sup> president. Woodrow Wilson was born in 1856, the son of a Presbyterian minister. Wilson was the nation's first international leader. His vision of world peace was outlined in his famous "Fourteen Points," an address to Congress on January 8, 1918. He campaigned for reelection on the slogan, "*He kept us out of war.*" However, he finally succumbed to the pressures of war after four American ships were sunk by the Germans during World War I. Addressing Congress, Wilson asked for a declaration of war, saying, "*It is a fearful thing to lead this great peaceful people into war.*" Wilson was recognized as a peacemaker, however. He won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1919. He was also an author, scholar, university president, governor and statesman. His Staunton home is now a National Historic Landmark. This tree grew from a seed taken from the Woodrow Wilson Hackberry in Staunton, and was planted into UCNJ's Historic Tree Grove in 1997.

*(text adapted from American Forests)*

## Historic Tree #13

### HARRY S. TRUMAN SIBERIAN ELM

Born on May 8, 1884 in Lamar, Missouri, Harry Truman moved to Independence at age six and regarded that city as his home town. He soon met 5-year-old Bess Wallace, his life-long love, who became his wife 29 years later. The newlyweds lived with Bess' parents in the elegant house that her grandfather had bought in 1867 and it was here that their daughter, Mary Margaret, was born in an upstairs bedroom. On the eve of his election in 1948, Harry addressed the nation by radio from the living room and it was here that he received news of the invasion of North Korea in 1950. Following his administration as 33<sup>rd</sup> President, he and Bess returned to 219 North Delaware Street where he lived until death in 1972. Ten years later, Bess Truman died and bequeathed the house to the nation her husband so proudly served. This tree grew from a seed collected from the Harry S. Truman Siberian Elm in the southwest quadrant of the yard surrounding the Independence, Missouri, home, and was planted into UCNJ's Historic Tree Grove in 1997.

*(text adapted from American Forests)*



## Historic Tree #14

### LYNDON B. JOHNSON WINGED ELM

The old President Lyndon B. Johnson Winged Elm tree stands in Johnson City, Texas, marking the birthplace of the nation's 36<sup>th</sup> president. One of Johnson's greatest pleasures while he was president in the 1960s was to take visitors on tours of the Texas hill country where he was born and began his political career. He was a teacher, senator, vice president and president. Johnson once said of his presidency, *"I don't want to be remembered as a president who built empires and sought grandeur. I want to be the president who educated young children, who helped feed the hungry, who helped the poor to find their own way."* He sought to build *The Great Society* by enacting Medicare and expanding Social Security benefits. The Johnson administration was also renowned for the many beautification projects of the president's wife, Lady Bird Johnson. This tree was grown from a seed taken from the President Lyndon B. Johnson Winged Elm, and was planted into UCNJ's Historic Tree Grove in 1997.

*(text adapted from American Forests)*

## Historic Tree #15

### MANASSAS RED OAK

The Manassas Red Oak stands in silent tribute to the brave Americans who fought and died in the two historic Civil War battles best-known as the first and second battles of Bull Run. In the first battle in Manassas, Virginia, fought in 1861, one of the South's most famous generals, T.J. Jackson, earned his reputation. Jackson "stood like a stone wall" against the Union advance at Henry House Hill. "Stonewall Jackson" went on to become a legend. The North and South clashed again at Bull Run in 1862. Again, the South emerged victorious in one of the most famous battles of the Civil War. This tree was grown from a seed taken from the Manassas Red Oak, and was planted into UCNJ's Historic Tree Grove in 1997.

*(text adapted from American Forests)*

## Historic Tree #17

### ANTIETAM SYCAMORE

The huge Antietam Sycamore is a living witness to America's bloodiest day, when 23,000 people were killed or wounded at the Civil War battle of Antietam Creek in Maryland on September 17, 1862. The tree stands at the end of Burnside Bridge, where Union troops forced a crossing against stubborn Confederate resistance. After the battle, a Union soldier said, *"No tongue can tell, no mind can see, no pen can portray the horrible sights I witnessed this morning."* Confederate General Robert E. Lee led his soldiers to the Maryland battlefield unaware that a copy of his marching orders had fallen into Union hands. Still, the battle which followed ended in a draw. This tree was grown from a seed taken from the Antietam Sycamore, and was planted into UCNJ's Historic Tree Grove in 1997.

*(text adapted from American Forests)*

## Historic Tree #18

### BIGELOW'S BATTERY SWAMP WHITE OAK

The Bigelow's Battery Swamp White Oak witnessed some of the fiercest fighting at Gettysburg, the pivotal battle site of the Civil War. Union General Daniel Sickles established his headquarters under the tree at Trostle Farm on July 2, 1863. A sketch made at the time of the battle by a soldier in Captain John Bigelow's Massachusetts artillery battery shows the tree shading Sickles and his staff as he issued orders. Advancing Mississippi infantrymen overran the battery which lost almost half of its 92 men, four of its six guns and 80 of its 88 horses. This tree was grown from a seed taken from that Swamp White Oak, and was planted into UCNJ's Historic Tree Grove in 1997.

*(text adapted from American Forests)*

## Historic Tree #19

### ULYSSES S. GRANT SYCAMORE

Ulysses Simpson Grant, our 18<sup>th</sup> president, was born at Point Pleasant, Ohio on April 27, 1822. His father, a tanner, moved the family to Georgetown, Ohio. Grant entered West Point in 1839 and later served in the Mexican War. His military fame came later during the Civil War when, in 1864, following a bloody campaign south, he crossed the James River and laid siege to the vital railroad center of Petersburg. The siege lasted nine months and was the longest military operation of the War. Seven miles to the north, Grant established headquarters at City Point (now Hopewell) on a bluff overlooking the confluence of the James and Appomattox rivers. Lincoln visited Grant there in June 1864 and reviewed the Union troops. The yard of Ulysses Grant's headquarters was shaded then, as it is now, by a huge sycamore. This tree grew from a seed collected from the high limbs of the Ulysses S. Grant Sycamore, and was planted into UCNJ's Historic Tree Grove in 1997.

*(text adapted from American Forests)*

## Historic Tree #20

### GETTYSBURG ADDRESS HONEY LOCUST

Shortly after the great Civil War battle of Gettysburg, in July 1863, the governor of Pennsylvania, Andrew Curtin, commissioned lawyer David Wills to acquire land for a soldiers' cemetery. Wills purchased 17 acres on Cemetery Hill, one of the landmarks of the Union line during the battle. The cemetery dedication was planned for November 19, 1863 with the chief speaker to be famed orator Edward Everett. Lincoln was also invited to "make a few remarks." On the 19<sup>th</sup>, following a procession from the town uphill to the new cemetery, Everett spoke for two hours from a speaker's platform which stood near this tree. Lincoln's "few remarks" were brief but pithy. In fact, photographers were still setting up their cameras when he concluded. The Gettysburg Address would become known as one of the greatest speeches in American history. Today, the cemetery is the final resting place for 5,500 veterans of all wars. The Gettysburg Address Honey Locust was found on a prominent hilltop, about a hundred yards from the spot where Lincoln spoke. Unfortunately a severe storm on August 7, 2008 damaged 70-80 percent of the tree. The upper branches were lost, but the tree continued to survive until a few years ago. The tree in UCNJ's Historic Tree Grove grew from a seed collected from the Gettysburg Address Honey Locust in the 1990's.

*(text adapted from American Forests)*

## Historic Tree #26

### INDEPENDENCE HALL BLACK LOCUST

The Independence Hall Black Locust stands majestically at the entrance to one of the most important buildings in American history. In the years leading to 1776, disputes between the American colonists and King George III of England increased. Shots were fired in Lexington and Concord, and though few wanted an armed conflict with England, that became inevitable. In 1776, the Second Continental Congress met in a hall in Philadelphia to create the Continental Army and choose George Washington as its leader. On July 4, in that same hall, the Declaration of Independence was unanimously adopted. After the Revolutionary War, the Articles of the Confederation, which established the framework of government, were ratified in Independence Hall. The United States Constitution was then written in 1787. This tree was grown from a seed taken from the black locust located outside Independence Hall, and was planted into UCNJ's Historic Tree Grove in 1997.

*(text adapted from American Forests)*

## Historic Tree #27

### NATHAN HALE NORTHERN RED OAK

The Nathan Hale Northern Red Oak shades the boyhood home of the American patriot who spoke the words, *"I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country."* Nathan Hale was born in Coventry, Connecticut on June 6, 1755. He graduated from Yale University in 1773. He was a captain of the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War. At age 21, he was captured by the British and confessed to being a spy. Just before being hanged at 11 o'clock on September 22, 1776, he spoke the famous words that inspired his countrymen through the difficult years of the revolution. By coincidence the tree that served as his gallows was also a Northern Red Oak. The boyhood home where Hale grew up was built in 1746 by his father, Deacon Richard Hale. This tree was grown from an acorn collected beneath the Nathan Hale Northern Red Oak in Coventry, and was planted into UCNJ's Historic Tree Grove in 1997.

*(text adapted from American Forests)*

## Historic Tree #28

### LAFAYETTE SYCAMORE

The 111-foot Lafayette Sycamore towers over the Brandywine Battlefield Park in Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania. The tree's limbs stretch out 60 feet from its massive trunk, which measures 220 inches in circumference. The tree was already 168 years old when it sheltered troops led by Generals Washington and Lafayette in the battle of Brandywine in 1777. The imposing Sycamore is named for the dashing young Frenchman, the Marquis de Lafayette, who lay against its rough bark while his wounded leg was dressed. This tree grew from a seed taken from the Lafayette Sycamore, and was planted into UCNJ's Historic Tree Grove in 1997.

*(text adapted from American Forests)*

## Historic Tree #29

### VALLEY FORGE RIVER BIRCH

The Valley Forge River Birch is a descendant of a tree that grew at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania during the winter of 1777-1778. George Washington and his Continental Army camped here near the Schuylkill River to wait out the inclement winter weather before they resumed battling the British in 1778. Upon arriving in December 1777 to find little to support them, Washington wrote *“To see men without clothes to cover their nakedness, without blankets to lie upon, without shoes . . . without a house or a hut to cover them until those could be built and submitting without murmur, is proof of the patience and obedience which in my opinion can scarcely be paralleled.”*

The 12,000 weary troops managed to build log huts and find sufficient firewood to sustain them until leaving in June 1778, and probably harvested this tree’s ancestor for that use. The Valley Forge River Birch growing in UCNJ’s Historic Tree Grove is a seedling offspring of a River Birch that grows at Valley Forge. It was planted into the Grove in 1997.

See Historic Tree #106 to learn about a tree that witnessed these events and survives to this day, the Valley Forge Sycamore.

*(text adapted from American Forests)*

## Historic Tree #32

### JOHN PAUL JONES PAPER BIRCH

The John Paul Jones Paper Birch grows at the Portsmouth, New Hampshire home that once served as a residence for the man known as the father of the U.S. Navy. The home was built in 1758 by Captain Gregory Purcell. When he died in 1776, his widow was forced to take in boarders. One of them was John Paul Jones, the commander of the frigate “*Ranger*.” From this residence, Jones supervised the fitting of the “*Ranger*” and later, the “*America*.” Jones, a hero of the Revolutionary War, never owned a home on land. He is buried in the chapel at the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. This tree grew from a seed taken from the John Paul Jones Paper Birch, and was planted into UCNJ’s Historic Tree Grove in 2012.

*(text adapted from American Forests)*

## Historic Tree #37

### HELEN KELLER WATER OAK

Helen Keller studied nature by climbing trees in the yard of her Tusculumbia, Alabama home. The towering Helen Keller Water Oak may have been one of those trees. She wrote of her tree-climbing in a memoir titled, “*The Story of My Life*.” Her life was one of tragedy and triumph. She was born in 1880 and lost her sight and hearing at the age of 19 months. She became an unruly, nearly savage child. Doctors told her parents she would be unable to function in the world. But when Helen Keller was 7 years old, her life was transformed. Anne Sullivan, a 20-year-old graduate of The Perkins School for the Blind, began the extraordinary task of teaching Helen Keller to communicate and to study the world around her. This tree grew from a seed taken from the Helen Keller Water Oak, and was planted into UCNJ’s Historic Tree Grove in 1997.

*(text adapted from American Forests)*

## Historic Tree #39

### WASHINGTON IRVING SYCAMORE

Born in New York City on April 3, 1783, Washington Irving was named by his British-born parents for General George Washington. Irving traveled extensively in this country and abroad, served in diplomatic positions at American embassies in Europe, and wrote numerous books of fiction, history and biography. However, he is best remembered for his stories, “*The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*” and “*Rip Van Winkle*.” After returning from Europe Irving purchased, in 1835, the small stone cottage in Tarrytown, New York that was to become Sunnyside. During the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, the cottage was owned by a branch of the Van Tassel family, the name Irving immortalized in “*The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*.” Sunnyside’s setting, overlooking the Hudson River, combined with winding pathways, sheltered groves, beautiful gardens and a pond he called his “*little Mediterranean*” create a truly romantic landscape over which stands the Washington Irving Sycamore. This first internationally successful American author’s home remains today much as it was in his final years in the historic Hudson River Valley. This tree grew from a seed taken from the Washington Irving Sycamore, and was planted into UCNJ’s Historic Tree Grove in 1997.

*(text adapted from American Forests)*

## Historic Tree #40

### EDGAR ALLAN POE HACKBERRY

In the Enchanted Garden at the Edgar Allan Poe Museum in Richmond, Virginia grows the magnificent Edgar Allan Poe Hackberry. The beautifully-landscaped gardens were created from descriptions in Poe’s poems, “*To One In Paradise*” and “*To Helen*.” The Old Stone House where the museum is located is only a few blocks from where Poe lived. One of the most prolific writers of his times, Poe was raised, married, and first gained national recognition in Richmond. He is most remembered for his dark tales such as “*The Raven*,” “*The Pit and the Pendulum*,” and “*The Tell-Tale Heart*,” This tree was grown from a seed taken from the Edgar Allan Poe Hackberry, and was planted into UCNJ’s Historic Tree Grove in 1997.

*(text adapted from American Forests)*

## Historic Tree #43

### NAVAJO-APACHE COTTONWOOD

Troops under command of Kit Carson invaded the Mescalero Apache and Navajo homelands in the New Mexico Territory in 1862. The captives were forced to march to Fort Sumner, in some cases a distance of over 400 miles. The Navajo have since referred to this removal as “*The Long Walk*.” A desperate need for fuel at the Fort and Bosque Redondo Reservation caused General James H. Carleton to begin a reforestation effort. In October, 1863 the General ordered five thousand cottonwood trees to be planted to strengthen the ditches around the Fort. Between December, 1863 and April 1864 over 12,000 trees were planted, and approximately 30 of the original cottonwoods planted by the Navajo and Mescalero remain today. This tree grew from a seed taken from one of the remaining Navajo-Apache Cottonwoods, and was planted into UCNJ’s Historic Tree Grove in 1997.

*(text adapted from American Forests)*

## Historic Tree #45

### MAQUON BUR OAK

The town of Maquon is located near Spoon River in west-central Illinois. The town had been an Algonquin Indian village and a center of tribal activity before American settlers arrived. After the Black Hawk War, the federal government moved the Indians farther west. When settlers arrived in the middle 1830s, only a few Indians remained. Among them was an aged couple too frail to make the journey. It was agreed they should remain to spend their last days. They had a tepee by a small stream where a spring gave them fresh, clear water. They died at the site. The Maquon Bur Oak that shaded them still stands today among sister oaks. The village has grown around the site, but the area of the tepee is essentially as it was in the 1830s. This tree was grown from a seed taken from the Maquon Bur Oak, and was planted into UCNJ's Historic Tree Grove in 1997.

*(text adapted from American Forests)*

## Historic Tree #46

### SAMUEL F.B. MORSE SYCAMORE

The handsome Samuel F.B. Morse Sycamore stands at the Poughkeepsie, New York home of the man who developed the Morse Code, which is still used by amateur radio operators and Navy signalmen. Samuel F.B. Morse, with the help of New Jersey resident Alfred Vail, invented the magnetic telephone in 1837. He sent the first telegraphed message from Washington D.C. to Baltimore on May 24, 1844. The message said "What hath God wrought?" Morse was also recognized as a painter and philanthropist and was mourned by the nation at his death in 1872. This tree grew from a seed taken from the Samuel F.B. Morse Sycamore, and was planted into UCNJ's Historic Tree Grove in 1997.

*(text adapted from American Forests)*

## Historic Tree #47

### MOON SYCAMORE

On January 31, 1971 Apollo 14 set off for the moon carrying Alan Shepard, Edgar Mitchell, and Stuart Roosa. Also on board were hundreds of tree seeds, stored there by Roosa, a former forest fire smoke jumper, in a tribute to the U. S. Forest Service. Most of the seeds germinated when sown back on Earth after the flight. In 1975 and 1976 the seedlings were distributed throughout the country and the world in honor of our country's bicentennial celebration, but few records were kept on where they actually were sent. No one knows for sure how many of these trees still survive, but unless humans return to the moon, they may soon be the only living things left that have made that journey. On April 9, 1976 one of these trees was planted at the Indiana Statehouse in Indianapolis. In March 2011 seeds were collected from that American Sycamore tree and grown in UCNJ's greenhouses and nursery. In April 2015 one of these offspring of an original Moon Sycamore was planted in the Historic Tree Grove.

## Historic Tree #51

### BOOKER T. WASHINGTON WHITE OAK

Booker Washington was born in 1856 to Jane Ferguson, a slave and cook on the James Burroughs plantation in Hardy, Virginia. At age 9, Booker was among the group gathered beneath the trees in a local park, and first learned of his new freedom when the Emancipation Proclamation was read. After emancipation, the family moved to Malden, West Virginia, where Booker worked at a salt furnace and in coal mines. As an adult he gained national prominence in the field of education and as an author. He founded the Tuskegee Institute in 1881 and promoted education as the means of social integration of Blacks. In 1908, he made a nostalgic visit to the site where he first learned of his freedom. A sense of urgency to preserve the trees was heightened by the severe winter of 1994, during which time the park lost one of a pair of 200-year old white oaks. The last remaining white oak still stands as a witness to Dr. Washington's boyhood days. This tree grew from an acorn taken from the Booker T. Washington White Oak, and was planted into UCNJ's Historic Tree Grove in 1997.

*(text adapted from American Forests)*

## Historic Tree #52

### MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. SYCAMORE

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Sycamore stands in front of Brown Chapel AME, a church in Selma, Alabama where the dedicated young minister made stirring speeches about civil rights. Those who listened were often prompted to action. In 1965, led by King, hundreds of people marched 50 miles from Selma to Montgomery, the state capitol, marking one of the high points of the civil rights movement of the 1960s. This tree was grown from a seed taken from the Martin Luther King, Jr. Sycamore, and was planted into UCNJ's Historic Tree Grove in 1997.

*(text adapted from American Forests)*

## Historic Tree #54

### ALEX HALEY SILVER MAPLE

Alex Haley's roots reach back to his home in Henning, Tennessee. As a boy, Haley spent summer evenings on the front porch listening to his grandmother, Cynthia Palmer, tell him about ancestors Kunta Kinte and others who became characters in his Pulitzer Prize winning novel, "Roots." The Alex Haley Silver Maple stands in front of Haley's boyhood home. The tree's limbs spread out over the yard. Although Haley died in 1992, his legacy continues to provide inspiration to all Americans. This tree grew from a seed taken from the Alex Haley Silver Maple, and was planted into UCNJ's Historic Tree Grove in 1997.

*(text adapted from American Forests)*

## Historic Tree #57

### CHARTER OAK

In 1662 England's King Charles II granted Connecticut a colonial charter, permitting self government. By the early 1680's King James II became concerned with how independent the colony had become, and in 1687 annulled the charter and ordered Sir Edmond Andros, the Governor of the Dominion of New England, to take a group of soldiers to Hartford to retrieve the charter and appoint new leaders. A few evenings after his arrival, Andros met with the Colony's Governor and Legislators in a room dimly lit by candles. The charter was opened on the table when, according to legend, the candles were suddenly extinguished. When they were relit, the charter was gone. Captain Joseph Wadsworth had picked up the charter during the confusion of darkness and fled to hide it within the hollow trunk of a large old White Oak. Andros nevertheless assumed control of the colony, but never retrieved the charter. The document was saved and later was utilized as the State's constitution both before and after the Revolution. The tree in which it had been hid that fateful evening forever more was known as the Charter Oak, and became the most well known and beloved tree in Connecticut.

In 1856 a storm toppled the tree, and its age was estimated to be between 800 and 1000 years. An offspring of the tree was planted in Hartford as a replacement, and that tree survived until 2023. As a testament to how close the original tree still is to the hearts of Connecticut's residents, it was chosen to serve as the symbol of their State when the Connecticut quarter was minted in 1999. This tree is a "grandchild" of the Charter Oak, grown from a seed collected from the Charter Oak's offspring, and was planted into UCNJ's Historic Tree Grove in 2004.

## Historic Tree #58

### ROBIN HOOD ENGLISH OAK

The Robin Hood English Oak that grows in New York is a descendant of a famous tree in England's Sherwood Forest, the home of the Robin Hood legends. The dense cover of trees in Sherwood Forest was said to give him cover as he robbed from the rich to give to the poor. The legend says that before each raid, Robin Hood would meet in secrecy with Little John, Will Scarlet, and other members of his outlaw band under the knotted, twisted Major Oak. In 1926 Professor Nelson C. Brown collected an acorn from the Major Oak and planted it on the campus of the State University of New York College of Environmental Sciences. The acorn grew into a sprawling tree that still stands today. This tree grew from a seed taken from the Robin Hood English Oak, and was planted into UCNJ's Historic Tree Grove in 1998.

*(text adapted from American Forests)*

## Historic Tree #61

### CYRUS HALL McCORMICK CATALPA

The Cyrus Hall McCormick Eastern Catalpa shaded a Virginia workshop where an important farming tool was invented in the early 1800s. The Shenandoah Valley was home to hundreds of farming families at that time. They relied on back-breaking labor to sow and reap their crops. But a farmer named Robert McCormick knew there had to be a better way to harvest grain than the centuries-old method of using a scythe. In the family workshop, McCormick's son Cyrus mounted cutting blades on a spinning reel. His Virginia Reaper, drawn by a horse, cut grain in a fraction of the time it had previously taken, and revolutionized agriculture. This tree was grown from a seed taken from the Cyrus Hall McCormick Eastern Catalpa, and was planted into UCNJ's Historic Tree Grove in 1997.

*(text adapted from American Forests)*



## Historic Tree #62

### AMERICA'S FIRST DELICIOUS APPLE

Winterset, Iowa is home to the first tree bearing apples called “*Delicious*.” In the years following the Civil War, the people of Iowa had passed the pioneer stage. The soil was modified by tillage and extensive fields of corn had broken the windsweep of earlier prairie days. In the 1870s Jesse Hiatt lived in a one-room log cabin with his wife and ten children. One day he noticed a chance seedling that appeared vigorous, but was out of row with the apple trees he had planted. He cut the tree down but the next spring it was up again and larger than before. Six years later it produced fruit which caused Hiatt to exclaim, “*Ma, this is the best apple in the whole world!*” He called the elongated fruit “*Hawkeye*.” The rights to the apple tree were bought in 1894 and it was renamed the “*Delicious*” apple by the Stark Brothers Nursery of Missouri. In 1922 a monument was erected in City Park in Winterset, dedicated to the well-loved apple. “*Delicious*” apples of various colors were the most grown apples in the US for over 75 years. “*Delicious*” apples were hybridized with other apple varieties to yield the better tasting “*Gala*” apple, which currently is the most grown apple in our country. The apple tree in the UCNJ Historic Tree Grove grew from a seed taken from the fruit of a second-generation of America’s First Delicious Apple Tree, and was planted into UCNJ’s Historic Tree Grove in 2004.

*(text adapted from American Forests)*

## Historic Tree #64

### NAPOLEON WEEPING WILLOW

Napoleon Bonaparte, born on August 15, 1769 in Corsica, was a military genius. He was crowned Emperor of France in 1804. Napoleon conquered a large part of Europe and did much to modernize the nations he ruled. His devotion to the principles of Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity was admired by many of the people he conquered. To this day, the impact of the *Code Napoleon* is evident in the laws of almost all European nations. After his disastrous Russian Campaign, Napoleon was exiled to the Island of Elba, but he soon made a dramatic comeback. In 1815, after he was defeated at the Battle of Waterloo, Napoleon was exiled to the Island of St. Helena where he died on May 5, 1821. He was first buried on St. Helena in the shade of the Napoleon Weeping Willow. The Emperor’s remains now rest in Paris at Les Invalides. This tree was grown from a cutting of the Napoleon Weeping Willow.

*(text adapted from American Forests)*

## Historic Tree #66

### FDR WHITE OAK

The Franklin D. Roosevelt White Oak stands on the beautiful Hyde Park, New York estate where the president, who led the nation out of the great 1930’s depression, yearned to return. Shortly after his nomination for an unprecedented fourth term as president, Roosevelt wrote to the chairman of the Democratic Party that he would serve again if needed. Still, he wrote, “*All that is within me cries out to return to home on the Hudson River.*” During his presidency, Roosevelt led an attack to cure the country’s economic woes with his “New Deal.” He counseled the ailing nation with his “fireside chats” on radio. Roosevelt was one of America’s great leaders who, though himself crippled by polio, brought the nation through difficult economic times and World War II. This tree was grown from a seed collected from an old White Oak growing on the front lawn of FDR’s home, and was planted into UCNJ’s Historic Tree Grove in 2004.

*(text adapted from American Forests)*

## Historic Tree #67

### MINUTEMAN SILVER MAPLE

The Minuteman Silver Maple spreads its branches over a historic Massachusetts battlefield. On April 19, 1775 on a country road outside Boston the citizen-soldiers of the American colonies first met in battle with the British. At North Bridge, which fords the Concord River, the colonial militia, sworn to be “*ready in a minute*,” fired the “*shot heard around the world*,” beginning the Revolutionary War. This tree was grown from a seed taken from the Minuteman Silver Maple, and was planted into UCNJ’s Historic Tree Grove in 1997.

*(text adapted from American Forests)*

## Historic Tree #68

### SERGEANT ALVIN YORK TULIP POPLAR

The Sergeant Alvin York Tulip Poplar grows near the gravesite on the Nashville, Tennessee farm of the man once called “*the greatest hero of World War I*.” Alvin C. York was born in 1887 to a poor farm family in Tennessee. As a boy he learned hunting and sharp shooting skills that served him well during the battle of the Argonne. York so intimidated the German forces he faced at the Argonne that they surrendered. York, with only six companions, marched 132 German prisoners to the American lines. Marshall Foch later said of York, “*What you did was the greatest thing accomplished by any private soldier of all the armies of Europe*.” After WWI the Nashville Rotary Club raised the funds to purchase a 400 acre farm for their financially strapped local hero. York spent the rest of his life there. The tree in this Grove grew from a seed taken from the Sergeant Alvin York Tulip Poplar, and was planted into UCNJ’s Historic Tree Grove in 1997.

*(text adapted from American Forests)*

## Historic Tree #69

### DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER COTTONWOOD

The President Dwight D. Eisenhower Cottonwood stands at the Denison, Texas birthplace of the nation’s 34<sup>th</sup> president. Dwight D. Eisenhower or “*Ike*,” as he became more popularly known, moved through the ranks of the Army, proving himself a decisive leader and military strategist before becoming a five-star general in 1945. Although he was a war hero, Eisenhower never expressed any political interest. Still, the Republican Party nominated him for president in 1952. Eisenhower was the first president to become a licensed pilot and the first to appear on color television. This tree was grown from a seed taken from the President Dwight D. Eisenhower Cottonwood, and was planted into UCNJ’s Historic Tree Grove in 1997.

In 2010 Mr. Michael Cistaro, a student in Dr. Lawrence Hogan’s Western Civilization course at UCNJ, noted the significance of this tree being #69 in the Historic Tree Grove. Mr. Cistaro had proudly served aboard the Nuclear Aircraft Carrier CVN-69 Dwight D. Eisenhower. The author was unaware of the significance of 69 to Ike when the number was assigned to this tree in 1995.

*(text adapted from American Forests)*

## Historic Tree #70

### LINDBERGH RED MAPLE

Charles A. Lindbergh was born in Detroit, Michigan on February 4, 1902. His father practiced law in Little Falls, Minnesota, where Charles spent his childhood years. He fondly recalled his early days on the family farm. *“I spent hours lying on my back in high timothy and red top”* he wrote, *“watching white cumulus clouds drift overhead. How wonderful it would be, I thought, if I had an airplane - wings with which I could...ride on the wind and be part of the sky.”* The dawn of aviation entranced him from youth even though his family discouraged a career as an airman. Lindbergh is most remembered for his brave solo flight across the Atlantic Ocean which began on May 20, 1927 and finished in Paris the following day. Years later, the highly publicized kidnapping and murder of his infant son in Hopewell, New Jersey was a deep tragedy. This tree grew from a seed taken from the Charles Lindbergh Red Maple that stands at his boyhood home in Little Falls, Minnesota. It was planted into UCNJ’s Historic Tree Grove in 1997.

*(text adapted from American Forests)*

## Historic Tree #71

### GROVER CLEVELAND SYCAMORE

This tree grew from a seed collected from the large American Sycamore in the backyard of Grover Cleveland’s birthplace (See Historic Tree #11 for more details).

## Historic Tree #73

### CLINTON, NJ SYCAMORE

The quaint and historic town of Clinton, NJ is home to a huge American Sycamore that was most likely there before the town was settled. It grows on the east bank of the South Branch of the Raritan River, near the town’s Old Red Mill. It may be the largest tree in NJ, but this cannot be verified. The tree is embedded in a retaining wall along the river, and it is impossible to measure the trunk’s circumference accurately. At 105 feet in height, it is the tallest tree in Hunterdon County. The New Jersey Shade Tree Federation admires the tree’s size and form so much that they chose its likeness to appear on its award plaques. The tree found in UCNJ’s Historic Tree Grove was grown from a seed collected from the Clinton, NJ Sycamore, and was planted into the Grove in 2003.

## Historic Tree #74

### TIDAL BASIN CHERRY

One of the springtime attractions in Washington, DC is the spectacular floral display of the numerous cherry trees throughout the city, and especially around the Tidal Basin. The original planting of several thousand trees dates back to 1912 when the city of Tokyo, in a gesture of friendship between Japan and the United States, presented the trees to our country. The then first lady, Helen Herron Taft, planted the first tree next to a bronze marker bearing the inscription: *“Japanese Cherry (Prunus yedoensis). A gift from the City of Tokyo planted March 29, 1912 by Mrs. William Howard Taft in the presence of the Ambassador of Japan and Vicountess Chinda.”* Since then, many additional flowering cherry trees have been planted around the city, and those lost to old age and accidents are replaced. This tree was grown from a cutting taken from one of the original Tidal Basin Cherry Trees, and was planted into UCNJ’s Historic Tree Grove in 1999.

## **Historic Tree #75**

### **SHOEMAKER HOLLY**

An ancient American Holly tree grows between the northbound and southbound lanes of the Garden State Parkway at mile marker 23 in Cape May County, NJ. Known as the Shoemaker Holly, the rest area in which it is found is named for it. The tree was discovered during the construction of the Parkway in the early 1950's, and was initially scheduled to be removed to make way for the road. Citizens in Cape May County requested that the tree be saved, and to accommodate the tree the opposing lanes were separated enough to allow the tree to remain untouched. A rest area, now infrequently used, was also constructed at the site.

The Shoemaker Holly, named for the former owner of the land on which it grows, is the most famous tree in Cape May County. At more than 300 years of age it is the oldest American Holly in NJ. There are only a few older American Hollies in the entire world. Its trunk has a 30 inch diameter and stands 60 feet tall. Unfortunately the tree is in poor health, and may not be with us too much longer. The Shoemaker Holly in UCNJ's Historic Tree Grove is a cutting-grown clone of the original tree, and was planted into the Grove in 2004.

## **Historic Tree #76**

### **SALEM, NJ WHITE OAK**

The Salem White Oak was a venerable 500-600 year old tree located in the cemetery of the Friend's Meeting House in Salem, NJ. It grew near to where John Fenwicke made a peace treaty with the local Native Americans shortly after he purchased half of New Jersey for \$5000 in 1675. Working with Edward Byllings and other backers, a small colony of Quakers was established by Fenwicke at Salem, and the treaty was never violated. No colonists were ever killed by Native Americans in Salem County. One of the oldest and largest trees in NJ, the Salem Oak was damaged by storms in the early 2000's and started to decline. On June 6, 2019 the tree unexpectedly collapsed and died as a result of significant internal decay. The tree found in UCNJ's Historic Tree Grove was grown from an acorn collected from the Salem Oak, and was planted into the Grove in 2003.

## **Historic Tree #77**

### **LIBERTY HALL CATALPA**

Liberty Hall is one of the most historic buildings in Union County. The home of New Jersey's first elected governor, William Livingston, it is now open as a museum. One can take a guided tour through the mansion, and walk the beautifully landscaped grounds. Many of the trees there were planted back in the 1770's when the house was built. One such specimen, a very old Catalpa tree, graces the front yard. Liberty Hall is located on Morris Avenue in Union, NJ, across the road from Kean University. The University was built on land that was once part of Liberty Hall's working farm. A tree grown from a seed collected from the Liberty Hall Catalpa can be found in UCNJ's Historic Tree Grove. It was planted into the Grove in 2003.

## Historic Tree #78

### LIBERTY HALL MAGNOLIA

This tree was grown from a seed collected from the row of Sweetbay Magnolias that graces the front entrance of Liberty Hall in Union, New Jersey, and was planted into UCNJ's Historic Tree Grove in 2003. (See Historic Tree #77 for more details)

## Historic Tree #79

### LIBERTY HALL BUCKEYE

This tree was grown from a seed collected from an old Yellow Buckeye growing on the grounds of Liberty Hall in Union, New Jersey, and was planted into UCNJ's Historic Tree Grove in 2003. (See Historic Tree #77 for more details)

## Historic Tree #80

### TEA BURNING MONUMENT GINKGO

As children most of us learned in a history class of the Boston Tea Party that took place prior to the American Revolution. Few of us learned of a Tea Party that occurred right here in NJ. On December 22, 1774, some two dozen patriots donned in Native American outfits burned a large quantity of imported British tea in the market square of Greenwich (pronounced "Green-Witch") in Cumberland County. The tea had recently been unloaded from the British ship *Greyhound*. It was originally destined for Philadelphia, but the Boston Tea Party and other violent acts against imported British goods over the previous year convinced the ship's Captain to land at Greenwich, a town with known Tory residents. After the Tea Party, several of the "Indians" were arrested. Two trials were held, but in both cases the juries were made up of colonial sympathizers and everyone was acquitted.

Greenwich is a small picturesque village that looks more like a quaint colonial town in rural New England than a locale in NJ. The wide main street called Greate Street is lined with shade trees and beautiful old homes, some dating back to the 1600's. The town is proud of its history and takes pride in the community's appearance. In 1908 a monument was dedicated at the site of the tea burning. Several Ginkgo trees were planted around the monument, and still grow there today. In 2008 a tree grown from a seed collected from one of those Ginkgos was planted into UCNJ's Historic Tree Grove.

## Historic Tree #81

### CARRANZA MEMORIAL PITCH PINE

In 1928 Emilio Carranza, a Captain in the Mexican Air Corps and the most famous airman in the country, was chosen to replicate Lindbergh's nonstop flight between Mexico City and Washington, DC. Carranza, piloting a Ryan monoplane similar to Lindbergh's *Spirit of Saint Louis* was forced to land in North Carolina due to fog. He was still considered a hero when he reached Washington, and even had lunch with President Calvin Coolidge. Since he was a nephew of a former President of Mexico, as a good will gesture he flew with Lindbergh, their planes side by side, around the Eastern US for a month.

On July 12, 1928 he took off from Roosevelt Field on Long Island for a nonstop return flight to Mexico City. Its distance would have been second only to Lindbergh's flight between NY City and Paris the year before. The weather that day was stormy, and he was advised to postpone his trip. Nevertheless Carranza took off with his plane heavily burdened with fuel. During a violent storm he crashed into New Jersey's Pine Barrens and was killed instantly. Blueberry pickers found him the next day. He was buried in Mexico as a national hero and Mexican schoolchildren raised money to build a stone monument at the site of the accident. To this day on every July 12<sup>th</sup> a memorial service takes place at the Monument in Burlington County, with representatives of the Mexican government and US Armed Forces. The Mexican and American anthems are sung by those in attendance to honor the aviator nicknamed "*The Lindbergh of Mexico.*"

In his book *The Pine Barrens*, John McPhee recalls visiting the Monument with a Pine Barrens resident who heard the crash. The old-timer noted that the plane hit the large old Pitch Pine that still stands at the Monument site. A tree grown from a seed collected from the Carranza Memorial Pitch Pine can be found in UCNJ's Historic Tree Grove. It was planted there in 2010.

## Historic Tree #82

### CRANFORD PEPPERIDGE TREE

The Cranford Pepperidge Tree once grew in a park on Lincoln Avenue West near the corner of Benjamin Street. It was the official tree of both Cranford and Union County. Affectionately known as "Old Peppy," it was probably the largest tree of its kind in the northeast United States, and had been cited as one of the finest specimens of its kind in the world. Cranford has grown some trees of historic significance, with a connection to "Old Peppy's" location. It grew on what was an estate that is said to have supplied lumber to refurbish "Old Ironsides," the U.S.S. Constitution, in 1812. The name Pepperidge Tree is just one of several common names for the species *Nyssa sylvatica*. The species is more frequently known as Black Gum or Sour Gum or Black Tupelo in other regions of our country. The well known Pepperidge Farm Bakery, however, is named for the two large members of this species growing on the Connecticut estate of its founder.

A tree grown from a seed collected from The Cranford Pepperidge Tree was planted into UCNJ's Historic Tree Grove in 2005. Several other offspring were given to Cranford, and have been planted at several locations around the town. In the early 2000's storms, old age, and decay seriously damaged and weakened "Old Peppy". In April 2015 Cranford removed the tree, due to safety concerns. Many local residents miss the tree, but can take solace knowing that it is still locally represented by the next generation.

A cross-section of "Old Peppy's" trunk, cut near ground level, was given to UCNJ in 2015. A count of the annual rings indicated that the tree germinated from a seed in 1788, and stood for 227 years. "Old Peppy" did not actually die in 2015. Since it was cut down, numerous shoots have sprouted from the still living root system. A research project is currently underway to encourage those shoots to develop their own root systems, so they can be transplanted to suitable locations. If successful, "Old Peppy" would be cloned, with genetically identical offspring continuing the tree's legacy.

## Historic Tree #83

### KEELER WHITE OAK

The massive Keeler White Oak grows along Petticoat Bridge Road outside of Columbus in Burlington County, NJ. The tree's name is derived from the Keeler family that farmed the land for five generations. The tree was a witness to a Revolutionary War skirmish on December 22, 1776. On that day Continental troops engaged Hessian soldiers under the command of Count Van Donop at Petticoat Bridge. The Continentals won that day, but on the next day the Hessians were the victors and marched up the road passing under the limbs of this tree. Legend has it that Colonial women dismantled the bridge to prevent the passage of the Hessian troops, and that is how the bridge and road received their names. It is a great story, but probably untrue since the bridge and road appear in Burlington County road records that predate the Revolutionary War.

Another interesting bit of history connected to the Keeler Oak involves James H. Birch, who spent part of his boyhood on the Keeler farm. In 1862 he founded a carriage factory in Burlington, NJ that became world famous and made him wealthy. By the early 1900's Birch employed hundreds of workers in his 15 acre factory and was producing 100,000 carriages a year. He developed mass production techniques that caught the attention of Henry Ford. Ford asked him to manufacture the bodies for his automobiles. Unfortunately, Birch believed that automobiles were a passing fad, and that nothing would ever replace the horse-drawn carriages he made. He declined Ford's offer. Birch's carriage factory was out of business by 1918. Birch always admired the Keeler White Oak under whose shade he spent many hours as a child. When he died, his family wished to line his grave with the leaves of his favorite tree. It was late autumn, and the only leaves left on the tree were high up and out of easy reach. A public utility company volunteered their linemen to scale the tree and gather enough leaves to honor the wish of this local celebrity's family.

The Keeler White Oak in UCNJ's Historic Tree Grove was grown from an acorn collected from the original tree, and planted into the Grove in 2005. The original tree is no longer surrounded by farmers' fields. Suburbia has developed around it in recent years, but the tree has been protected and seems to be thriving.

## Historic Tree #84

### BALL BLACK WALNUT

The Timothy Ball Black Walnut grows in front of the Ball home in Maplewood, NJ. It was here that George Washington hitched his horse to a ring on the tree while visiting relatives both before and after the Battle of Springfield. The tree also served as the dividing line between the Presbyterian congregations of Orange to the north and Springfield to the south. A nut collected from the Ball Black Walnut grew into the tree found in UCNJ's Historic Tree Grove. It was planted into the Grove in 2007.

## Historic Tree #85

### WORLD TRADE CENTER SYCAMORE

None of us will ever forget September 11, 2001, when a brutal act of terrorism destroyed The World Trade Center, killing thousands of innocent Americans. Amazingly, some trees near the site in lower Manhattan survived the devastation and produced seeds that autumn. On April 5, 2002 seeds were collected from several of the surviving trees closest to the site. Even though they were encased in dust, the Sycamore seeds germinated in UCNJ's greenhouses. One of them was planted into UCNJ's Historic Tree Grove in 2005.

The parent tree witnessed one of the worst moments in American history, and its offspring will serve as a memorial and reminder of the tragedy that touched all of us. As this tree matures it could be viewed as a symbol of recovery and renewed hope.

## Historic Tree #86

### LIBERTY HALL HORSECHESTNUT

The Liberty Hall Horsechestnut, one of the most noteworthy historic trees in Union County, grows near what is now the front entrance of Liberty Hall in Union, NJ. In 1770, two years before the building was constructed, Governor William Livingston's daughter Susan planted this tree in what was to be the backyard of the mansion. At the time Horsechestnuts were uncommon in North America, having been introduced from Europe into the Philadelphia area just a few years earlier. The species had a long history of use in Europe as a lawn or street tree, prized for its beautiful spring flowers. In the 18<sup>th</sup> century it was a rare and exotic tree in New Jersey. A tree grown from a seed collected from the Liberty Hall Horsechestnut can be found in UCNJ's Historic Tree Grove. It was planted there in 2007. (See Historic Tree #77 for more details)

## Historic Tree #87

### NEWARK, NJ WASHINGTON SYCAMORE

Newark's oldest and most historic tree died and was cut down in 2013. Disease, old age, decay, and strong winds had reduced this once majestic Sycamore tree to not much more than a stout trunk and a few branches in the last years of its life. Known as Washington's Tree, it grew in the city's Military Park, and witnessed some interesting American history. In November of 1776 General George Washington and his troops camped near the tree during their retreat across New Jersey, pursued by General Cornwallis and his British forces. Legend has it that Thomas Paine, traveling with Washington, began writing *The American Crisis* with its famous line "*These are the times that try men's souls*" beneath the boughs of this tree.

An offspring of the tree grows in UCNJ's Historic Tree Grove, having germinated from a seed collected from the parent tree in 2002, and planted into the Grove in 2007.



## Historic Tree #88

### BASKING RIDGE WHITE OAK

In 1717 Scottish settlers built a log cabin chapel behind a large White Oak in Basking Ridge, NJ. The Presbyterian congregation thrived, as did the tree. A churchyard developed under its boughs and an elegant church was built next to it, replacing the simple chapel. The church is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. In 1775 colonial soldiers drilled at the parsonage and around the church, and George Washington is said to have rested beneath the tree with his troops as they made their way from Morristown to points south. On one visit Washington established a smallpox hospital nearby in town. Local residents were actively involved in the Revolution, and 35 Revolutionary War veterans are buried in the churchyard. Over the centuries the tree was carefully maintained as a living symbol connecting worshippers to the area's earliest settlers. With a height of 97 feet, a branch spread of 156 feet, and a trunk circumference exceeding 20 feet the tree was a prominent feature of the town and probably the most majestic tree in our state. Its age was estimated to be about 600 years.

In the early 2000's the tree slipped into a state of decline, and died in 2016. In April 2017 an 18 foot tall offspring of the tree was donated and transplanted from UCNJ's Historic Tree Grove to the grounds of the Basking Ridge Presbyterian Church. There it will continue the legacy of its parent. The offspring was one of many germinated from acorns collected in 2001 and grown at UCNJ. A sibling offspring, grown in the College's plant nursery, was transplanted into the Grove in April 2018, into the exact location where its donated sibling once grew.

The wood from the original tree was not wasted. A well-known furniture company in Hillside, NJ will turn it into quality furniture and other items. The company's woodworkers were able to count the annual rings in a section of the tree's trunk. They determined that the tree started its life in 1398, and stood for 619 years. In addition, as the tree's wood was being milled, an ancient lead musket shot was found embedded within the trunk. Under what circumstances it ended up in the tree's trunk will never be known. If it could speak it might have an interesting story to tell.

## Historic Tree #89

### MERCER WHITE OAK

The Mercer White Oak once grew in the middle of the 85 acre Princeton Battlefield Park. The ancient tree witnessed one of the American Revolution's pivotal battles that took place around it on January 3, 1777. George Washington's army had been victorious at Trenton a little over a week earlier and now Brigadier General Hugh Mercer and his soldiers engaged the British on the farm of Quaker Thomas Clarke. Mercer was severely wounded and legend has it that he was attended to beneath the tree, insisting that he remain on the battlefield until victory was assured. Once the British retreated Mercer was cared for at the Clarke farmhouse, but he died nine days later. Our state's Mercer County was named in his honor.

The Mercer Oak was one of the most prominent features of the park. The 250-300 year old tree was in poor shape, but it still came as a surprise to most people when it completely collapsed and died on March 3, 2000. One of its offspring was planted at that exact location to replace it. Another of its offspring, grown from an acorn collected from the Mercer Oak a few years before its demise, can be found in UCNJ's Historic Tree Grove. It was planted there in 2007.

## Historic Tree #90

### TENNENT WHITE OAK

The Tennent White Oak once grew in the cemetery next to the Old Tennent Presbyterian Church adjacent to the Monmouth Battlefield site in Monmouth County, NJ. On June 28, 1778 the ancient tree witnessed one of the largest battles of the Revolutionary War, with over 10,000 soldiers on each side. Casualties were attended to in the church, and many of the dead, both American and British, were buried near the tree in the cemetery. The battle lasted the better part of the day, and the searing heat (over 100 degrees) probably took as much of a toll on the soldiers as did the fighting. The outcome was considered by most to have been a draw but the Americans, having been trained just months earlier by General Steuben on European open field battle tactics, proved they could take on the regular British Army and force it to retreat.

Several individuals are remembered for their actions that day. General Washington, atop his white steed, rallied Major General Charles Lee's fleeing troops to turn around and engage the British. While Lord Sterling is credited with his effective use of artillery during the battle, another legendary person is best known for her artillery exploits. Molly Pitcher, accompanying her artilleryman husband, successfully manned his gun for the rest of the battle after he was killed. Her fame spread throughout the colonial army, and although even her actual existence is questioned by some, she remains as one of the most famous women of the Revolutionary War.

The current Old Tennent Presbyterian Church dates back to 1751 but the land it sits on, and the cemetery around it, was purchased in 1731. The area was known as White Oak Hill because of the abundance of that tree species on the site. The Tennent White Oak was the only tree left from that era. During the Memorial Day weekend of 2006 a large limb was lost, and the tree declined thereafter. It died and was removed in 2019. An offspring grown from an acorn collected from the Tennent White Oak was planted into UCNJ's Historic Tree Grove in 2007.

## Historic Tree #91

### STAMP ACT SYCAMORES

As the American colonists found themselves more self-sufficient and less dependent on Britain, they developed their own governing bodies. In retaliation, the British imposed duties on lumber, food, molasses, and rum under the Sugar Act of 1764. In 1765 the Stamp Act required the purchase of revenue stamps to help defray the cost of maintaining British troops in America. This led the colonists to exclaim "taxation without representation." In October 1765, nine of the colonies adopted the Declaration of Rights. The Stamp Act was repealed by Britain on March 17, 1766, and to commemorate the event two Sycamore trees were planted at Princeton University, where they still grow today. They are located on Nassau Street near the Maclean House, the residence of the University's president in 1766. The tree in UCNJ's Historic Tree Grove was grown from a seed collected from one of the Stamp Act Sycamores.

*(text adapted from American Forests)*

## Historic Tree #92

### JOYCE KILMER WHITE OAK

*“I think that I shall never see, A poem lovely as a tree.”* These opening lines of Joyce Kilmer’s *Trees* are widely recognized in the United States. Millions of grade school students across the nation have studied and even memorized this best known poem by Kilmer. Born in New Brunswick, NJ, Kilmer lived in our state for 20 of his 31 years before being killed in action in France during WW I. Kilmer attended Rutgers University for two years, and legend has it that his inspiration for writing *Trees* was a huge White Oak growing on the grounds of the University’s College of Agriculture. The tree succumbed to old age in 1963, in spite of valiant efforts by University horticulturists to keep it alive. A few years before its death acorns collected from the tree were germinated. Two of the resulting trees grace the Rutgers campus today. The Joyce Kilmer White Oak found in UCNJ’s Historic Tree Grove is a “grandchild” of the original, having been grown from an acorn collected from one of Kilmer Oak’s offspring in 2000.

## Historic Tree #93

### HOPE, NJ SYCAMORE

One mile south of the historic Moravian village of Hope, NJ a Sycamore tree with a connection to George Washington grows beside Route 519 in front of a beautiful stone house built by the Swayze family in 1759. July 26, 1782 was a sweltering day as General George Washington approached Hope while making his way from Philadelphia to Newburgh, NY. A Moravian Bishop accompanying Washington asked to go ahead and alert the town so a proper reception could be arranged. At about 11 AM Washington stopped at the then 125 year old tree, dismounted, and rested beneath its spreading limbs. The house was vacant and Washington did not meet the Swayze family. They were Loyalists and had relocated to Canada during the War. Washington eventually continued on into Hope, where he was warmly received and dined at a stone inn that still stands. The tree grew over the next two centuries and today has an enormous trunk, over 23 feet in circumference. But, it has lost a significant portion of its height due to a lightning strike several decades ago, and more recently to insect damage. The tree is well cared for and probably will live for many more years. The tree in UCNJ’s Historic Tree Grove was grown from a seed collected from the Hope, NJ Sycamore. It was planted there in 2011.

## Historic Tree #94

### CHIEF OCKANICKON SYCAMORE

The city of Burlington, NJ, situated along the Delaware River, has many historic sites. As one of the first locations where European colonists settled in NJ, the city’s history extends back to 1624. One of its more noteworthy sites is the Friends Meetinghouse built by Quakers at what is now 341 High Street. The original 1685 hexagonal building was replaced by the current brick structure in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, and today it is still in use with seats and tables dating back to the American Revolution.

In the cemetery behind the building an ancient sycamore nearing the end of its life shades the 1681 grave of Chief Ockanickon. He was the Chief of the Mantas Tribe of the Lenape, who helped the early colonists when they first arrived in the area. A boulder bearing his mark indicates his resting place. A bronze plaque nearby notes his last words: *“Be plain and fair to all, both Indian and Christian, as I have been.”* The tree in UCNJ’s Historic Tree Grove was grown from a seed collected from the Chief Ockanickon Sycamore in 2005.

## Historic Tree #95

### THOMAS JEFFERSON INDIAN BLOOD PEACH

Although peaches (*Prunus persica*) are native to Asia (probably China) they were spread along the trade routes into the Middle East, North Africa, and Europe many years ago. In the 16<sup>th</sup> century they were brought to North America and planted in what is now Alabama and Florida by early colonists. Native Americans found the fruits to be tasty and the trees easy to grow. They spread the species from tribe to tribe through trade. The seeds were also spread by animals, and peaches could often be found growing abundantly in the wild. This led to the 17<sup>th</sup> century misconception that peaches were indigenous to North America.

Prince Nursery in Flushing, NY (now part of Queens, NY) was selling named varieties of peaches by 1774. George Washington purchased some, but Thomas Jefferson was so impressed with peaches that he purchased many. He had over 1100 planted at his Monticello plantation, forming a living fence around his gardens. One type he favored was known as the Indian Blood Peach. Native Americans were the first to cultivate it. The Indian Blood Peach probably came into existence as a chance hybrid in the wild. The skin is a rich red color and the flesh is marbled with prominent red veins. Fragrant and tasty, it was widely adopted by the colonists for many culinary uses, from jams and baked goods to ice cream. Today the Indian Blood Peach is an heirloom variety, grown more by hobby gardeners than commercial orchardists. This variety does not withstand the rigors of long distance transportation, and its shelf life is relatively short, so it receives little attention from supermarket chains. It is occasionally offered by roadside farm stands.

The Indian Blood Peach being grown in UCNJ's Historic Tree Grove was germinated from a seed collected from a tree near Monticello, Virginia. It was planted in the Grove as part of UCNJ's Founder's Day Celebration in October, 2010. While it cannot be confirmed that this tree is a descendant of the Indian Blood Peaches grown by Jefferson, it is certainly the same variety he grew over 200 years ago.

## Historic Tree #96

### BELVIDERE, NJ SHOE TREE

An old White Oak known as the Shoe Tree grows along (and partially in) Oxford Street in the town of Belvidere, NJ. As the county seat of Warren County, Belvidere has a long history, dating back to when it was the local village surrounded by the many farms found in this rural portion of our State. Back then many of the local inhabitants were not wealthy and resources were scarce. It is for these reasons the Shoe Tree gained its fame. On Sundays, people would travel to town for church services, many walking from their homes in the surrounding countryside. Since shoes were expensive, and not easily replaced, many would walk barefooted to town, carrying their shoes. In the shade of this huge oak tree they would stop, put on their shoes, and then continue to their house of worship. Later, on the way back home, they would stop under the tree again to remove their shoes before continuing. This extended the useable life of these valued possessions.

As Belvidere grew, the lane along which the tree stood became a roadway. When plans to widen Oxford Street were developed, the tree was in the way and was scheduled to be removed. Townsfolk appreciating the interesting local history associated with the tree fought to save it. They prevailed. When the road was initially widened, the tree was actually growing in it. Today, the tree juts out into the road, but is protected by curbing and a guardrail. Still, the trunk shows scars from encounters with automobiles. The Shoe Tree does not represent an important part of NJ history, but is a vivid reminder of the times when many NJ residents, especially farmers, led simple lives with limited means.

The Shoe Tree found in UCNJ's Historic Tree Grove was germinated from a seed collected from the parent tree in Belvidere in 2005. It was planted in the Grove in 2012.

## Historic Tree #97

### ROBERT FROST HORSECHESTNUT

Robert Frost (1874-1963) is one of our country's best known poets, and the recipient of four Pulitzer Prizes. While born in San Francisco, he spent many years living in New England. His experiences there are reflected in many of his poems that often depict realistic rural life. He earned a living as a farmer when younger, but went on to teach at Dartmouth, Middlebury, the University of Michigan, and Amherst College. He never earned a college diploma, but was the recipient of over forty honorary degrees. Late in his life he was awarded the United States Congressional Gold Medal, and recited one of his poems at John F. Kennedy's presidential inauguration. Frost is buried in a family plot behind the Old First Church in the Old Bennington Cemetery in Bennington, Vermont.

The Robert Frost Horsechestnut found in UCNJ's Historic Tree Grove was germinated from a seed collected from the parent tree growing near Frost's gravesite in 2005. It was planted into the Grove in 2013.

## **Historic Tree #98**

### **ROBERT FROST SUGAR MAPLE**

The Robert Frost Sugar Maple found in UCNJ's Historic Tree Grove was germinated from a seed collected from the parent tree that shades Frost's gravesite in 2011. It was planted in the Grove in 2022. It is appropriate that Frost, who dearly loved New England, is buried beneath a tree species that for many represents the forests of the region. (See Historic Tree #97 for more details)

## **Historic Tree #99**

### **BOUND BROOK, NJ COUNCIL OAK**

The Council Oak grows next to a home on Maple Street in Bound Brook, NJ. This huge White Oak has a significant place in Somerset County's history. Legend has it that in the shade of this tree on May 4, 1681 two Native American Indian Kings, Knoackama and Queromak, sold the land that was to become Bound Brook and the surrounding area to the first colonial settlers of what is now Somerset County. It has also been said that during the American Revolution General George Washington on several occasions conferred with his officers near the tree while his army was encamped at Middlebrook.

The Council Oak found in UCNJ's Historic Tree Grove was germinated from an acorn collected from the parent tree, and was planted in the Grove in 2015.

## **Historic Tree #100**

### **OKLAHOMA CITY SURVIVOR TREE**

On April 19, 1995 a terrorist bomb blast destroyed the Murrah Federal Building in downtown Oklahoma City killing 168 people. A 65 year old American Elm tree growing in a nearby parking lot was severely damaged and embedded with shrapnel from the explosion. At first the tree was scheduled to be cut down and perhaps saved as evidence in legal proceedings. But instead it was kept alive and eventually became the centerpiece of the Oklahoma City National Memorial and Museum. The National Memorial and Museum, in cooperation with the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry has collected seeds from the tree and has grown offspring for distribution. UCNJ obtained one of these seedlings in 2015. It was transplanted into the Grove in 2016.

The parent tree in Oklahoma is seen as a symbol of human resilience and serves as a tribute to renewal and rebirth. An inscription near the tree reads: "The spirit of this city and this nation will not be defeated; our deeply rooted faith sustains us." The offspring tree in the Grove may be 1438 miles away from its parent, but it can also serve as an inspiration for us here in New Jersey.

## Historic Tree #101

### GOVERNOR JOEL PARKER HOLLY

An old male American Holly grows in front of the former Smithburg Tavern near Freehold, NJ. The building is the birthplace of Joel Parker (1816-1888). He was the first New Jersey governor to serve non-consecutive terms (1863-1866 and 1871-1874). In addition he served as the Attorney General of New Jersey and as a New Jersey Supreme Court Justice. A graduate of Princeton University (then the College of New Jersey), he was a lawyer who began his political career in the New Jersey State Legislature. His father had been a member of the New Jersey State Legislature and also served as State Treasurer.

As a candidate for governor during the Civil War in 1862, Parker campaigned as a “War Democrat,” advocating a military solution rather than accommodating the Confederacy. He had a military background, having been appointed a major general of volunteers in 1860. Despite his support of the War, he was an outspoken critic of President Lincoln’s Administration. He strongly opposed the Emancipation Proclamation, considering it unconstitutional. When the Confederate Army entered Pennsylvania. Governor Parker was concerned about a New Jersey invasion and demanded that Lincoln appoint McClellan as the head of the Army of the Potomac. At the War’s conclusion Parker aggressively supported amnesty for all of the Confederacy’s supporters. Interestingly, Parker attended the dedication ceremonies of the Soldier’s National Cemetery in 1863. He witnessed Lincoln delivering the Gettysburg Address, as did the Gettysburg Address Honey Locust whose offspring is nearby as Historic Tree #20 in this Grove.

The Governor Joel Parker Holly is a cutting grown offspring (clone) of the tree found at Parker’s birthplace. It was planted into the Grove in 2016.

## Historic Tree #102

### WORLD TRADE CENTER SURVIVOR PEAR

In October 2001, one month after the 9-11 attack on the World Trade Center in New York City, workers cleaning up the Ground Zero site made a remarkable discovery. Buried beneath the debris were the remains of a Callery Pear tree. The tree had been growing near Buildings 4 and 5 near Church Street since the 1970’s as part of the landscaping around the World Trade Center. The remains of the tree consisted of little more than an 8-foot section of the trunk, some roots, and a branch.

Noting that the charred remains of the tree seemed to have some life left in it, the workers carefully removed the tree from the wreckage and transported it to the Parks Department’s Citywide Plant Nursery in the Bronx’s Van Cortland Park. There, under the care of Director Richard Cabo and his colleagues, the tree thrived and grew. In December 2010, the then 30-foot tall tree returned to lower Manhattan and was planted in a prominent location at the National September 11 Memorial.

The World Trade Center Survivor Pear tree in UCNJ’s Historic Tree Grove is a direct seed-grown offspring of the original tree, although technically the seeds were not collected from the specimen growing at the World Trade Center. Not long after the original tree was recovered and brought to the Bronx nursery, Mr. Cabo took some cuttings of the tree, to preserve its lineage if the tree itself did not survive. A few cuttings (clones of the original) were propagated successfully and now grow in the nursery. In October 2015, Dr. T. Ombrello obtained some seeds collected from these trees by Mr. Cabo. They were then germinated and grown at UCNJ. One was transplanted into the Historic Tree Grove in 2019. While a bit of a convoluted story, that tree is truly an offspring of the World Trade Center Survivor Pear in Manhattan since it was grown from that tree’s clone.

The original Survivor Pear, under the watchful eyes of its caretakers at the National September 11 Memorial, should continue its amazing life for many years to come as a symbol of resiliency. UCNJ’s offspring tree will continue that legacy too.

## **Historic Tree #103**

### **ANNAPOLIS LIBERTY TREE**

**The original Liberty Tree (1646-1775) was an American Elm that grew in Boston, Massachusetts. In 1765 the tree began serving as a symbol of defiance against the British government and became a meeting place for American colonists protesting British taxes and other injustices. In 1775, British soldiers and Loyalists cut the tree down.**

**Not long thereafter, other towns throughout the colonies designated trees as their own Liberty Trees to continue the protests against Britain. The last survivor of these Liberty Trees, a Tulip Poplar growing on the grounds of St. John's College in Annapolis, Maryland had to be removed in 1999 after Hurricane Floyd damaged the already ailing 400 year old tree. Prior to its demise, the Annapolis Liberty Tree was cloned by grafting. UCNJ acquired a small one of the grafted trees, and after spending several years in the college's Historic Tree Nursery it was planted into the Historic Tree Grove in 2021 to perpetuate the legacy of Liberty Trees in our country.**

## **Historic Tree #104**

### **CLEMENT OAK**

**The first manned flight in North America occurred on January 9, 1793 when George Washington and others watched Jean-Pierre Blanchard take off from Philadelphia in a hydrogen filled balloon. Blanchard came to America from France to demonstrate this new technology, having gained fame as the first person to cross the English Channel in a balloon in 1785.**

**Blanchard's flight from Philadelphia lasted for 46 minutes, ascended to a height of 5800 feet, and travelled east crossing the Delaware River into New Jersey. It landed in Deptford, (Gloucester County) NJ near an old White Oak tree on the Clement family farm. Farmers that observed the landing were understandably startled, and approached the balloon with raised pitchforks. Blanchard carried with him a letter from George Washington explaining the balloon and its occupants. Their fears allayed, the farmers welcomed Blanchard. This historic flight can also be considered the first air mail delivery in our country.**

**The tree that witnessed this event came to be known as the Clement Oak. Today the farm is long gone, having been replaced by a Walmart Super Store. The Clement Oak grows down an embankment behind the store. Unfortunately the tree has been in declining health for years and in 2020 it collapsed losing all its major branches leaving only a trunk and a few small shoots. An offspring of the tree, grown from an acorn collected years ago, was planted into UCNJ's Historic Tree Grove in 2021.**



## Historic Tree #105

### THE SEEING EYE EUROPEAN BEECH

The Seeing Eye is a world-famous philanthropic organization in Morris County, NJ. It breeds, raises, and trains Seeing Eye dogs to assist blind people. The organization's mission is to "enhance the independence, dignity, and self-confidence of blind people through the use of Seeing Eye dogs." Founded in 1929, the Seeing Eye moved to its current campus in 1965. On this property a 200+ year-old European Copper Beech graced the grounds. Old age, disease and a freak snowstorm took their toll and the tree had to be taken down in 2011. The staff and faculty were saddened to lose the tree. Many students, who return to the campus every decade or so to receive a new Seeing Eye dog, have fond memories of sitting beneath the majestic tree.

Fortunately, the Seeing Eye staff was able to collect seeds from the tree before it was removed and brought them to UCNJ's Historic Tree Project. Some of the seeds germinated and spent a few years developing in the college's Historic Tree Nursery. In April 2015 two of the most vigorous young trees were planted on the Seeing Eye campus where they grow today to continue the legacy of their parent. In April 2022 another one of the offspring trees was planted into UCNJ's Historic Tree Grove.

As an interesting biological/horticultural sidelight, the original Seeing Eye European Beech had copper-colored leaves. Such trees are called Copper Beeches. As is frequently the case with Copper Beeches, the offspring grown from seeds of these trees exhibit a wide diversity of leaf colors, from copper to green. The specimen in UCNJ's Historic Tree Grove has some copper coloration in its leaves. The two offspring trees growing on the Seeing Eye campus did not seem to inherit the copper-colored leaf trait from their parent.

## Historic Tree #106

### VALLEY FORGE SYCAMORE

The Valley Forge Sycamore grows on the Pawling's farm portion of the Valley Forge National Historic Park in Pennsylvania. Estimated to be between 260 and 285 years old, it is a witness tree, having shared the landscape with Washington and his Continental Army of 12,000 soldiers and 400 women and children at Valley Forge from December 1777 to June 1778. The massive tree, known locally as the Pawling Sycamore, grows next to a small building on what was a prosperous farm along the Schuylkill River in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Washington and his troops camped across the river, and after they built a bridge used the Pawling farm for a camp market and commissary. It is amazing that this tree survived the winter of 1777-1778, since most trees in the area did not survive the encampment. When Washington and his army arrived, there were no existing accommodations for them. Within a short time about 2000 log huts (14 by 16 feet in size) were constructed, and enough firewood to keep them heated was collected. Pretty much every tree for miles in every direction was utilized. Why the Pawling Sycamore survived is unknown. Perhaps its proximity to a building where its shade would be valued was what saved it.

Washington chose Valley Forge as an overwintering location because it was close enough for him to keep his eyes on the British army 18 miles away in recently captured Philadelphia. That 18 mile distance was enough to ensure that the British were unlikely to engage the Americans during the winter. During the 6 month stay in Valley Forge, Washington's troops, under the direction of former Prussian officer Baron von Steuben, were taught new military skills and tactics and became a cohesive military force. Therefore some historians consider Valley Forge to be the birthplace of the American Army. This training would serve the Army well shortly thereafter. In June 1778 at the Battle of Monmouth 10,000 American troops faced 10,000 British troops in one of the largest battles of the Revolutionary War. While there was no decisive victor, the Americans proved that they could take on the British Army and force it to retreat (see Historic Tree #90). There are a few misconceptions about what took place at Valley Forge in 1777-1778. Yes, the conditions were miserable for the troops, but the winter weather was not exceptionally harsh. The hastily built huts would have been less than ideal during any winter. The arriving troops in December were certainly battle-weary, but their lack of food and clothing has been exaggerated. Did an extraordinary number of people die during the encampment? Certainly. The estimate is about 2,000, but not for the reasons most people think. Most fatalities occurred after the worst of winter had past. Two thirds of the fatalities occurred during March, April, and May of 1778. Despite the efforts of health care givers (including smallpox inoculations) influenza, typhus, typhoid, and dysentery took their toll.

The offspring of the Valley Forge Sycamore planted in UCNJ's Historic Tree Grove in 2023 was grown from seeds collected from the parent tree in 2019.

## **Historic Tree #107**

### **POINT BREEZE OSAGE ORANGE**

**The Point Breeze Osage Orange tree grows in Bordentown, NJ on the former estate of Joseph Bonaparte, the older brother of Napoleon Bonaparte. Joseph, the one-time King of Spain, fled Europe after the downfall of his brother and settled in the United States in 1815. Joseph was warmly received in our country because we remembered France's help in our struggle for freedom during the previous century. Joseph purchased a huge tract of land along the Delaware River in Bordentown, NJ where he built a mansion and developed extensive gardens throughout the property. Evidence suggests that an Osage Orange tree growing on what is now a Bordentown park was planted by Joseph, having purchased what back then would have been a rare, exotic tree from a nursery in nearby Philadelphia.**

**That Osage Orange tree at Point Breeze apparently has a connection to the Lewis and Clark expedition in 1804, through Thomas Jefferson. Lewis and Clark sent Osage Orange seeds they collected to Jefferson, who in turn gave them to nurseries in Philadelphia. One of those nurseries sold many trees and shrubs to Joseph Bonaparte. While it has not been proven that the Osage Orange at Point Breeze was grown from seeds collected by Lewis and Clark, its size and age when compared to known Lewis and Clark Osage Orange trees make a strong case that it is of the same vintage.**

**The Point Breeze Osage Orange was planted into the UCNJ Historic Tree Grove in 2024. It was grown from seeds collected at Point Breeze in 2021.**