

Tumwater Tree Board Heritage Tree nomination – “Kindred” Apple Tree at 6005 Tyee Drive

Updated: 2022.12.02 by Jim Sedore

"The City of Tumwater Heritage Trees are:

Trees that have historical significance, by virtue of age, association to a historical structure, district, person or event, rare or unique species, or significant stand (grove) of trees can be designated as Heritage Trees, and therefore provided with special protections.

Heritage Trees fall under one of the following categories.

- **Historical:** *A tree which by virtue of its age, its association with or contribution to a historical structure or district, or its association with a noted citizen or historical event.*
- **Specimen:** *Age, size, health, and quality factors combine to qualify the tree as unique among the species in Tumwater and Washington State.*
- **Rare:** *One or very few of a kind, or is unusual in some form of growth or species.*
- **Significant Grove:** *Outstanding rows or groups of trees that impact the city's landscape."*

<https://www.ci.tumwater.wa.us/departments/community-development/trees/heritage-trees>

Location: 6005 Tyee Drive
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• NE corner of the property
Property owner: Education Service District 113
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ed Otos – Facilities Manager• 360.464.6700
Nominator: William Rea
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• will.rea@gmail.com
Date nomination submitted: 2022.July.30
Tree species: Apple
Estimated age of tree: Unknown
Diameter of tree:

Photos:

1. Tree

Date taken: 2022.11.30
by Jim Sedore
Gravenstein apple



2. David Kindred –

Euro-American settler
and property owner
previous to 1876.

We could NOT find any
record that David Kindred
planted this tree.

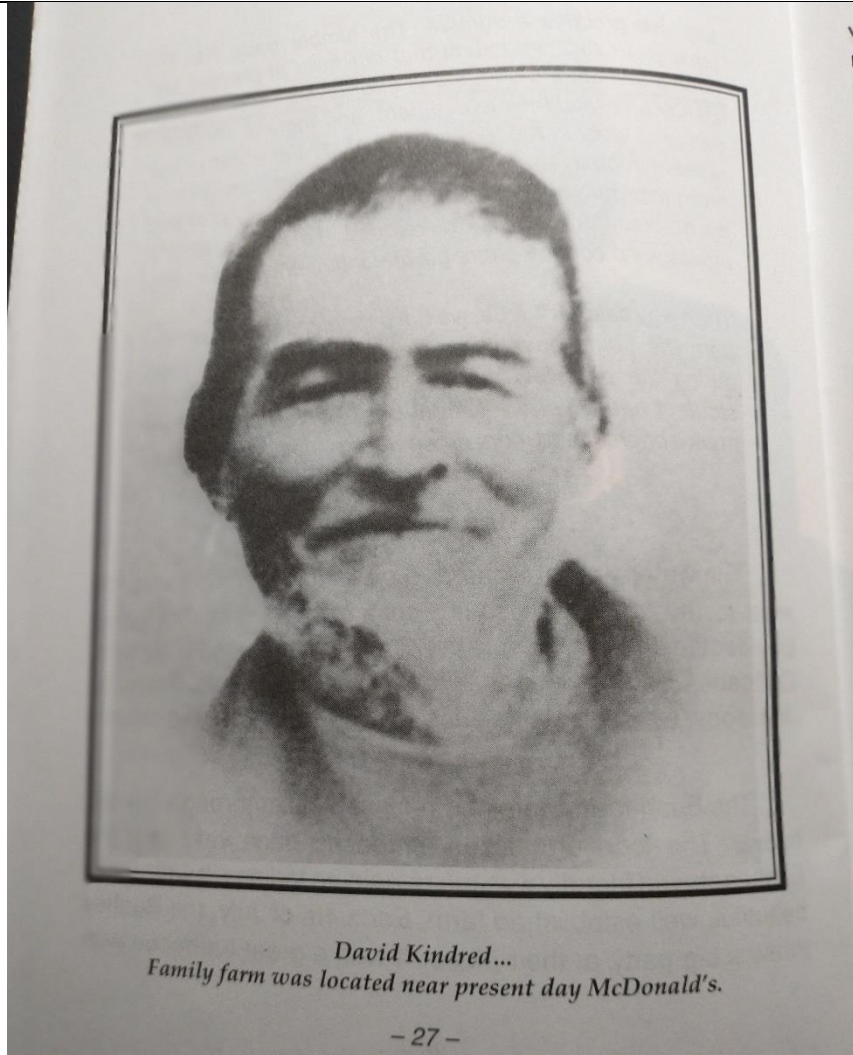
BIRTH: 1788
Boonesborough, Madison
County, Kentucky, USA

DEATH: 8 Nov 1873
(aged 84–85)

Inscription on
tombstone:

- THEY SETTLED IN
TUMWATER 1845
- FIRST SCHOOL HELD
IN THEIR HOME 1849

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/48331761/david-kindred>



David Kindred...
Family farm was located near present day McDonald's.

Map: 1937 Metsker map (properties in question are in Township 17 North Range 2 West Section 3). The red rectangle at left shows the approximate borders of pioneer Jesse Ferguson's land claim. **The red rectangle at right shows the approximate borders of the pioneer Kindred family claim. The yellow trapezoid depicts the rough boundaries of the ESD land. So it looks like ESD land was indeed originally part of the Kindred claim.** (Your city mapping staff might be able to correct/corroborate this.)



Map from The Olympia/Tumwater Foundation
– Karen Johnson - curator

Findings:

1. Age – Undetermined

- City arborist was unwilling to take a core sample and count rings. The tree is probably hollow at DBH.
- Brent Chapman (Tumwater Tree Board Member) suggests another technique for estimating age, <https://www.treehugger.com/estimating-forest-trees-age-1343321>. This involves measuring the DBH & multiplying x a "Species Growth Factor."

The US Forest Service published an article "Big Trees, Old Trees and Growth Factor Tables" (https://www.fs.usda.gov/nrs/pubs/jrnl/2018/nrs_2018_smith-k_002.pdf) on this technique which concludes:

*"The desire to know tree age from a simple measurement of size is understandable. **Variation in ring width makes that a difficult proposition, at least to some degree of accuracy.** The best contribution of the growth-factor tables may be to help connect people to the remarkable trees in the landscape. Although unlikely to be adequate for the arborist or other technical specialist, the tables may help to satisfy public imagination and curiosity."*

The USFS author, Kevin T. Smith< is a supervisory plant physiologist for the U.S. Forest Service in Durham, New Hampshire. A longtime ISA member, Smith is on the Executive Council of the Tree Ring Society.

2. **Significant events at this site** – Comments from Karen Johnson, Curator of the Olympia/Tumwater Foundation:

- A. *"I have found no mention of apple trees for the Kindred claim, either in text or on maps. I checked with Dr. Jewell Dunn, who works at the State Archives and has done extensive research on the Kindreds. She knows of no mention of apple trees relevant to the Kindreds. And she has probably read everything there is to read about the family."*
- B. *"The Kindreds were the original owners of the property....Would the Kindreds (land owners previous to 1876) have planted an apple tree quite a distance from their home? Maybe. No way to tell. (**Their home was in the northeast corner of their land claim, whereas the disputed tree is in the southwest corner.**) Early GLO maps denoted only homes and outbuildings, with no info on trees. Nor did the surveyor's field notes mention trees (other than native trees, which were often used as corner markers for land boundaries. **If the apple tree in question existed at the time of a GLO survey, it likely would have been too small/young to make it onto a surveyor's map or notes.**)"*
- C. Two former Tumwater Mayors owned this property
- **Bennett Johns was Tum mayor in 1874**
 - **James Dunlap in 1876**
- Dunlap bought the property from Kindred in 1876. Johns bought part of the property from Dunlap in 1876.*

D. The inscription on the David Kindred tombstone at the Masonic Memorial Park in Tumwater says,

THEY SETTLED IN TUMWATER

1845

FIRST SCHOOL HELD

IN THEIR HOME 1849

Karen Johnson, curator of the Olympia/Tumwater Foundation says,

"I've seen only anecdotal references to early schools in the Tumwater area. I'm not sure we'd ever be able to prove conclusively that the first school was on Kindred land, as many pioneers held informal schools in their log cabins. George and Isabella Bush were said to have had a very early school on their land, and it was open to pioneer and native American children."

*So the 1849 date for a Kindred school may be accurate--**no way to say for sure.**"*

Conclusions:

1. Altho the tree is old. We can find no historical record of when it was planted. Currently we have no way of determining how old the tree is.
2. There is no record of any significant events occurring at this site other than, **perhaps**, the first school in Tumwater (New Market), in David Kindred's home. However, one early settler and 2 early Tumwater Mayors owned this property previous to 1877. However, there is no record that any of these men planted this tree.