

### ON THIS DAY IN WEST VIRGINIA HISTORY SEPTEMBER 23



On September 23, 1938, the Mingo Oak, estimated to date before the arrival of Christopher Columbus in the Americas, was cut down.

#### CSO: SS.8.11

#### Investigate the Document: (*William Gustavus Conley (1866-1940) Papers, 1929-1933, AR-1735*)

1. The Mingo Oak, renowned for once being the largest of its kind in the world, pre-dated the arrival of Christopher Columbus to the New World. What kind of tree was it? In which county was it found?
2. In Emmett Keadle's correspondence, he suggested that the tree be under the control of *this* commission.

**Think Critically:** Using what you know about the industry in Mingo County, the Mingo Oak succumbed to its fate after exposure from a burning refuse pile, relating to *this* industry. Have industrial and technological advances played an adverse on the environment in West Virginia? Why or why not?

### WEST VIRGINIA OIL & GREASE COMPANY

Mine Lubrication -- Petroleum Products

PHONE 855

WILLIAMSON, W. VA.

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November 24, 1931.

Hon. WM. G. Conley,  
Governor of West Virginia,  
Charleston, West Virginia.

Dear Governor Conley:

There has been recently ~~been~~ found on Trace Fork of Pigeon Creek, Mingo County, West Virginia, a white oak, which I think is the largest of its kind in the world. This tree is more than thirty (30) feet in circumference and at a height of six feet is more than six feet in diameter. The land upon which this tree is located is owned by the Coal and Crane Real Estate Trust and leased to the Island Creek Coal Company, both of whom agree to make a joint deed conveying same to The State of West Virginia or some department thereof.

I feel sure that this offer is one that should be accepted, but I am at a loss to advise to whom this deed should be made, and therefore this letter to you requesting that you please advise to whom the property should be conveyed.

Thanking you for your consideration in this matter and with kindest personal regards, I am

Very truly yours,

*Emmett Keadle*

*State of W Va  
No 4 or 5 of 1931*



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WILLIAM G. CONLEY  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA  
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT  
CHARLESTON

December 1, 1931

VINCENT LEGG  
PRIVATE SECRETARY  
CALVERT L. ESTILL  
SECRETARY

Mr. Emmett Keadle  
Williamson, W. Va.

My dear Sir:

Your letter of the 24th ultimo is received, with reference to the white oak tree in your county on Pigeon Creek that measures thirty feet in circumference.

I am pleased that the Coal and Crane Real Estate Trust and the Island Creek Coal Company are willing to donate this tree to the state. I suggest it should be under the control of the Game, Fish & Forestry Commission, and recommend that the deed be made conveying this property to the State of West Virginia for the use and benefit of the Game, Fish & Forestry Commission.

Sincerely yours,

WGC F