

# Clackamas County Heritage Tree

## CHRISTOPHER GUTTRIDGE FARM COLLECTION OF HERITAGE TREES

Old Growth Douglas Fir

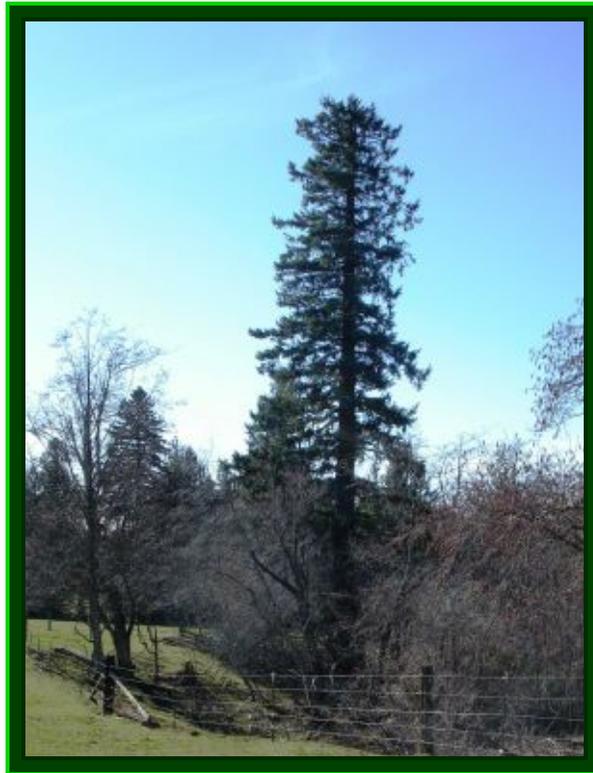
Remnant Orchards: Baldwin Apples, Italian Prunes, Winter Bartlett Pears

 **Location:** 24787 S Springwater Road, Estacada area, Oregon



*View across Springwater Road from Guttridge Farm*

## Christopher Guttridge Douglas fir, (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*)



🌲 **Significance:** Specimen: **old growth fir** - tree of exceptional size and age

**Measurements** (approximate):

Height: **160'**

Circumference (meas. at 4 ½'): **26'**

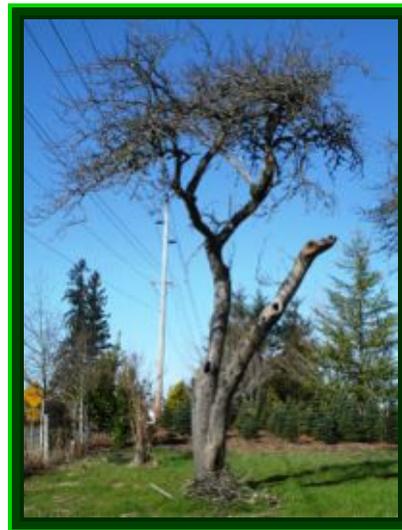
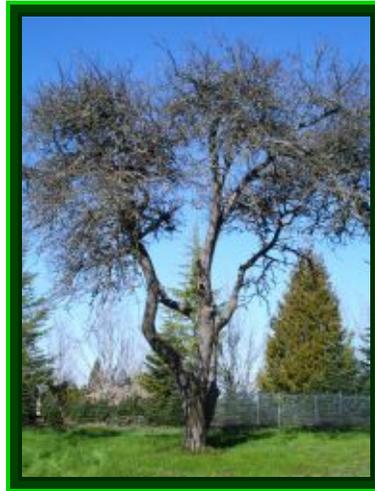
Crown Spread: **30' +**

Age: +/- **500 years**

🌲 **Additional Information:** As per owners Joseph and Wilma Guttridge: “One of few remaining old growth Douglas fir trees in the area. At the base it has a

rotted out condition that has wild bees in it. It survived a major fire in the area near in the late 1800's. A picture in 1900 shows the tree with a dead spike top. Probably in the October wind storm of 1962 the top blew off. Since then in about 1970 the wind blew about 50' off the top. The tree is located at the edge of a creek and was not tillable land so was not harvested as with most the old growth fir harvested many years ago. This tree has been a landmark in the area for years."

**Stand of four Baldwin Apple (*Malus domestica*)  
Christopher Guttridge Orchard**

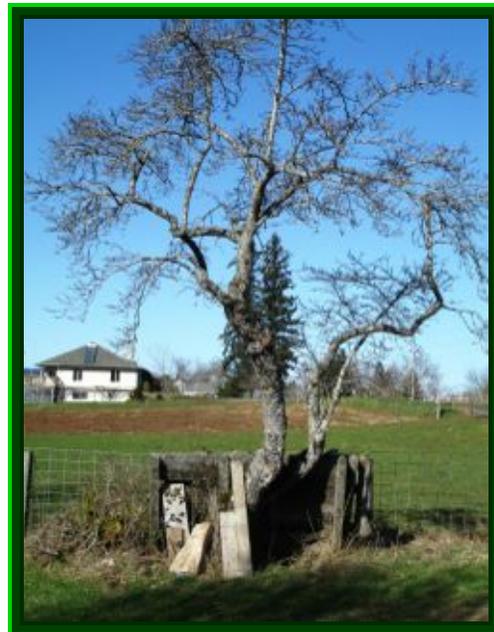
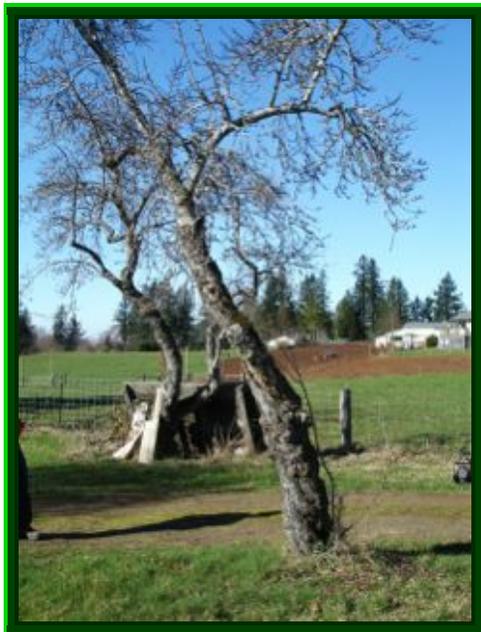
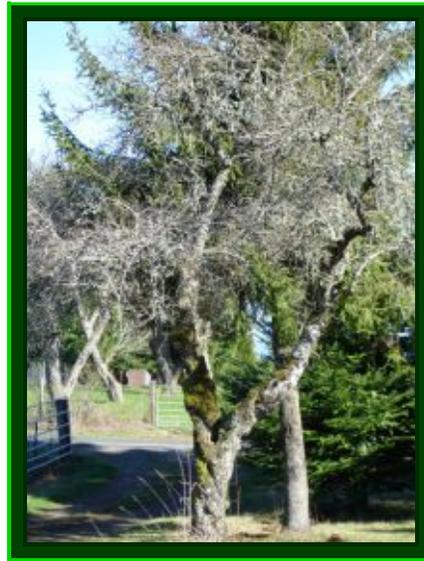


**Measurements (approximate):**  
Height: **30' – 35'**  
Circumference (meas. at 4 ½'): **5'**  
Crown Spread: **varies**  
Age: **125 years**

**Additional Information:** As per owners Joseph and Wilma Guttridge: “These trees were part of the big apple orchard and fruit orchard that Christopher Guttridge planted in the 1880s. These apple trees are of the Baldwin variety. They may have originated from the Seth Lewelling Nursery in Milwaukie as that is where the Italian prunes on the property came from around the same time. Christopher Guttridge planted other varieties of fruit tree as well which still stand including a Northern Spy and Pumpkin Sweet tree and four “cow pear” trees.”

**Stand of nine Christopher Guttridge Italian Prune Orchard  
(Prunica domestica)**

**Purchased from Seth Lewelling Nursery in Milwaukie**



🌲 **Significance:** *Specimen:* trees of exceptional size. *Historic:* age, remnant orchard and historic association with the Seth Lewelling Nursery in Milwaukie.

**Measurements** (approximate):

Height: 15' - 25'

Circumference (meas. at 4 ½'): 4' 2", 2', 9"

Crown Spread: varies

Age: 125 + years

🌲 **Additional Information:** As per owners Joseph and Wilma Guttridge: "Still produces delicious prunes. The small trees were purchased from Seth Lewelling Nursery in Milwaukie by Christopher Guttridge (nominator's grandfather) in the early 1880's. He planted 30 acres which was the first commercial prune orchard in Clackamas County. My dad was born in 1876 and went through the 6th grade. He and his brothers carried water to the tiny trees before and after school and in the summer. The trees are approximately 125 years old. Prunes were dried on the premises. Fruit was hauled to Portland markets and hotels by wagon. About 20 acres were taken out during the 30's to plant fescue. The Columbus Day Storm, October 1962, took most of the remaining trees. We saved 12 close to the house, of which 9 remain today."

**Stand of Two Winter Bartlett or Cow Pears (*Pyrus communis*)  
Christopher Guttridge Orchard**



🌲 **Significance:** *Specimen:* trees of exceptional size. *Historic:* age and historic association

**Measurements** (approximate):

Height: 45'

Circumference (meas. at 4 ½'): 7' 3", 8'

Crown Spread: 15' - 20'

Age: 120 + years

 **Dedication Ceremony:** May 1, 2008

 **Additional Information:** As per owners Joseph and Wilma Guttridge: “These trees were part of the big fruit orchard that Christopher Guttridge planted in the 1880s.” The grandson of Christopher Guttridge, Joseph Guttridge, believes that these pear trees along with the other remnant orchard trees (Italian Prunes and Baldwin Apples) were all purchased from the Seth Lewelling Nursery in Milwaukie. The “Cow Pear” is a large hard pear about a pound per pear. They could be stored over the winter for food and were also fed to livestock.

From Free Land for Free Men, A Story of Clackamas County , 1973, by Vera Lynch:

“Pioneers brought the art of growing fruits, vegetables, and ornamental plants and shrubs. The story of Henderson Luelling and his nursery crossing the plains in a wagon in 1847 is a classic that does not need repeating. That he and his brothers Seth and John who followed him chose the county in which to plant the nursery gives additional luster to county history. Their work...in improving old varieties and developing new strains made the Willamette Valley the center of horticulture.”

In 1847, Henderson Luelling brought more than 700 one year old grafted fruit trees from Iowa to Oregon by ox-team along with his wife and 8 children. He set out a nursery in the spring of 1848 near Milwaukie which became the source of fruit trees for many homestead orchards in the Oregon Territory. His brothers John (from Iowa) and Seth (from Indiana) arrived in Oregon in 1850 by way of the California gold fields. Henderson Luelling's "traveling nursery" included Baldwin apples and Bartlett pears.

Seth Lewelling, 1820 – 1896 was a pioneer nurseryman in Milwaukie, Oregon who introduced several important varieties of fruit. Lewelling came west on the Oregon Trail in 1850 and joined his brother Henderson Luelling at his nursery in Milwaukie in 1853. After Henderson left in 1854, Seth carried on, expanding the nursery. Over the years, Lewelling developed and introduced many fine varieties to horticulture. They include the 'Bing,' 'Black Republican,' 'Lincoln,' and 'Willamette' cherries, 'Lewelling' grape, 'Golden' prune, 'Sweet Alice' apple, and 'Lewelling' almond.