



In 1825 the Erie Canal opened the country to inland water transportation. By 1850 the canal had expanded and the Richmond Aqueduct in Montezuma was built to carry the Canal waters over the Seneca River. Now 200 years later the Buffalo Maritime Museum's replica of the

Seneca Chief is carrying the message of Haudenosaunee Peace Tree to communities along the canal that helped to make this a great Nation.

According to the Native American legend, the Creator sent a teacher, a Peacemaker, who appeared in the Finger Lakes region of New York to show the way to establish a higher order of human relations. The Peacemaker's Great Law showed how to establish unity and balance among diverse human communities and distribute power in a democratic society to assure individual liberty. It was also perhaps the oldest effort for disarmament in world history called the Path of Peace. Through their direct contact with the Iroquois League, the founders of our country discovered this model for transforming thirteen separate colonies into the United States Grand Council.

Montezuma Heritage Park recognizes the native lands and their message of Peace. Four Eastern White Pines have been planted to carry on and grow the Bicentennial's message. The trees were also planted by Old Mentz Heritage Center in honor of trustees passing this year: Paul Baker, Mellony Carner, Bumpo Gregory, and Bob Melvin. The legacy of their value in history will live on.

oldmentz.org

