

During Berlin's 1936 Olympic games, seedling oaks were awarded to every gold medalist and each gold medalist team member. On August 9, 1936 Jesse Owens received four gold medals and four oak tree seedlings.

In the film, "Return to Berlin" which can be viewed in our museum, Jesse says that he planted one of the oak seedlings at his mother's house in Cleveland, one at Rhodes High School in Cleveland where he use to practice track, and one on All American Row at Ohio State. The fourth seedling died.

The fourth seedling which did not survive is being symbolically replaced today by the Owens Family. It is being planted 62 years later at Jesse Owens' birthplace and site of the park dedicated to his memory.

May the tree grow to the honor of Owens' outstanding victories and humanitarian achievements.

We will now ask the family of Jesse Owens to follow Mr. Curtis Cole, Park Volunteer and Supporter, and he will assist them in planting the tree.