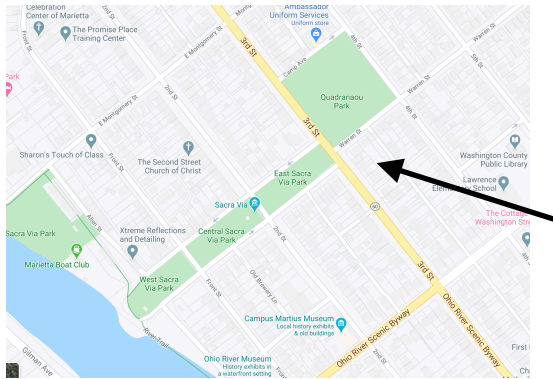


Here is how we solved it. This was really tough.

To find this cache
You must follow our quat
Look for the flag
Where the Pioneers fought

We figured we would need to focus on early settlements and forts where battles occurred. This is a pretty large list, but the next verses helped. When the “P” was capitalized later, it confirmed that we were looking in Marietta.



The reason “P”ioneers is capitalized is because David McCollough’s book *The Pioneers* tells the story of the settling of Marietta. It is also the High School Mascot

A beachhead of sorts
Land of insularity
A raise unexplained
First ruled by clarity

This helped focus us on forts and pioneer battles that were on the outer edge of colonization. Some place that had stood alone either against the Native Americans or possibly something in the Revolutionary War.

The insularity phrase clarified that it was likely battles with natives, and not with other countries. We wondered if the insularity would refer to Native Americans or the slavery era.

The “raise unexplained” we thought could have been either a sudden rise to power, a geographical feature (Indian mounds were on the list), or even a reference to a poker game. We combed through A LOT of Indian mound information looking for locations to search Chillicothe and Marietta were both on the early list.

First ruled by clarity had us thinking of a Mayor, general, or other leader that had a name similar to clarity or vision. We wondered if it referenced a gun battery, widows peak, or other river lookout that could only be used in good weather. We also wondered if it might refer to an observatory, since you might find one of those on a hill and they

can only be used on clear nights. Later we found that Arthur St. Clair had founded Marietta, which was one of the biggest clues to lead us there.

You are correct! Marietta was a place (insulated) from the rest of the US and first ruled by Gen. St. Clair. And the Native American mound was the “raised unexplained” we still don’t know for sure what they were for.

On the bottom step
The crook is surrounded
Four equidistance
Westward founded

We still aren’t sure what the bottom step references.

The crook is surrounded seems to refer to the location in the tree. We did spend some time early on looking for famous arrests of criminals, thinking that the crook was a famous bank robber or something.

Four equidistance had us thinking a square, but we weren’t sure which one. We started at the Memorial to the Start Westward, since it was in a square and was in the last part of the quat. When we didn’t see the right sort of slope on the ground there, we moved to our next guess, the Mound Cemetery. The cemetery is a perfect square, with a square plaza on top of the mound. When this wasn’t the spot, we started scratching our heads. I pulled up google maps and notices that a few blocks away there was another park called Quadanaou. Google street view showed a low mound, so we drove over. We saw the tree from the picture in just a couple of minutes. This was a big relief because we were sure it would be at the statue, especially once we found the flags behind it and the steps leading down to the river.

The coniferous tree was at the bottom of the mound, and you were right about the crook referring to the crook in the tree where cache was hidden. And the “four equidistance” did mean four sides the same size forming a square.

Really enjoyed this hunt, thank you. We put a lot of time researching this one, and we had some doubts right up until the end. Great family adventure day.