

# The Lone Tree Prairie Oak

## *St. Croix County*

A sentinel standing in a sea of grasses, a large oak growing in the middle of a prairie in St. Croix County, about four miles southeast of New Richmond, served as an early-day oasis for people traveling from the New Richmond area to Hudson to buy supplies.

The tree was conveniently located about halfway along the route to Hudson, and farmers and their families would stop and rest, water their horses or oxen, and eat their noonday meal under the spreading oak's branches.

The tree's hospitality may in fact have been its undoing, for some old-timers believed that the oxen rubbing against the tree helped to kill it. At any rate, it was cut down in 1862. The well-known and historical Octagon House of Hudson, built in 1835, has a crude wooden cup made from the wood of the Lone Tree Prairie Oak.

Source: Mrs. Hugh F. Gwin, Hudson