



Chief Tokaunee Oak

B-Wolfgang Hoffmann (1982)

## The Chief Tokaunee Oak

### *Dane County*

A bur oak growing along Highway 19 near Token Creek in Dane County has a special distinction. A family loved it enough to buy it. Originally Dr. and Mrs. John Atlee's property was adjacent to but did not include the tree. The family bought the land it grew on because of the old oak's beauty and climbability, and because they wished to preserve it from encroachment. They knew it had watched the comings and goings of both Native and white Americans for the past 200 years.

According to the book *Dane County Place-Names* by Frederic G. Cassidy, Token Creek and the settlement by it were probably named for Tokaunee, a mixed-blood chief of the Winnebago tribe, which frequented the area during the time settlers were beginning to arrive in the territory. The village of Token Creek, though never platted, was one of the first settlements in Dane County and gained considerable importance during its early years.

Sources: Dr. and Mrs. John Atlee III, Token Creek

Excerpted from *Every Root an Anchor: Wisconsin's Famous and Historic Trees* by R. Bruce Allison  
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