

# The President's Tree

## Madison

A large bur oak near the old astronomer's residence on Observatory Hill, on the Madison Campus of the University of Wisconsin, is known as "The President's Tree." It has been there longer than the University itself. The house formerly served as home to a succession of University presidents.

The tree is massive and is said by botanists to be over 250 years old.

Legend has it that during the Civil War, soldiers stationed at Camp Randall used the tree for gunnery practice. A gaping hole in the trunk was offered as evidence. As protection for the beloved tree, President E. B. Fred had it bolted together with long steel rods. It appears to be in perfect health, possibly good for another 250 years.



*President's Tree*

B-Wolfgang Hoffmann (1982)

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