

# The Knut Juve Trees

## *Dane County*

On the farm of Knut Juve in Pleasant Springs Township in Dane County stood two oak trees under which one of the earliest Norwegian congregations in Wisconsin gathered on September 2, 1844. The pastor was the Reverend J. W. C. Dietrichson, newly arrived from Norway, and soon the congregation dedicated a new church, a log one, which is believed to be the first Norwegian Lutheran Church consecrated in America.

The last of the two oaks toppled in a windstorm in 1923. Local residents have some mementos such as letter openers made from this tree. The land where the trees stood is still in the Juve family. A granite marker indicates the significance of the trees:

*This memorial marks the site  
of the first sermon preached here  
by the Rev. J. W. C. Dietrichson  
Sept. 2, 1844  
West Koshkonong Ev. Lutheran Church*