

Long before the Royal Oak was known for its terrific food scene and nightlife, Territorial Governor Lewis Cass and his staff stopped for lunch beneath a mighty oak tree near what is presently the intersection of Main Street, Rochester Road and Crooks Road. A lively conversation would ensue that would lead to a history lesson and the bestowing of a name.

The year was 1819. Cass and his crew left Detroit on horseback to a rendezvous that would result in the Saginaw Treaty. On their way, they rested beneath the large oak. Cass entertained his staff by recounting the story of Prince Charles II and the aftermath of the Battle of Worcester—the final battle of the English Civil War.

To escape capture by the Roundheads, who sought to eliminate the English monarchy, it is said the prince hid in an English oak tree in Boscobel Wood, England. Charles remained in the tree undiscovered until allies were able to bring him to a place of safety. He remained in exile for nine years.

Following the restoration of the English monarchy, Prince Charles would go on to become King Charles II and the tree that saved his life became an English national monument known as the Royal Oak.

Local history has it that as Cass delivered his Battle of Worcester lesson as he was laying on the ground looking into the majestic spreading branches of the oak tree providing marvelous shelter for his luncheon. He was reported to have remarked:

"This truly is a Royal Oak."

The rest is history.



How Royal Oak Got Its Name

Can you find Prince Charles II hiding in the oak tree? (See other side.)



What is hiding in the Oak Tree?

Can you find the following?

- Prince Charles II
- A crown
- Star Dream Fountain
- Beau the Bear
- Detroit Zoo Tower
- Penguin
- Polar Bear
- ROHS Raven
- ROMS Bulldawg
- Butterflies
- Birds
- Food
- Drinks
- Bike
- Car
- Train



Royal Oak

Life Now Playing