

History of the NEWSS Gavel

On the Rutgers University campus stood a majestic oak which was named the Kilmer Oak. It is said this oak tree inspired the New Brunswick poet-soldier Joyce Kilmer to write his famous poem "Trees". The tree died of old age, said to be over 100 years, and was cut down in 1963. Many gavels were made from the oak of this tree, including the NEWSS gavel.



TREES

By: Joyce Kilmer (1886-1918)

I THINK that I shall never see
A poem lovely as a tree.

A tree whose hungry mouth is prest
Against the earth's sweet flowing breast;

A tree that looks at God all day,
And lifts her leafy arms to pray;

A tree that may in Summer wear
A nest of robins in her hair;

Upon whose bosom snow has lain;
Who intimately lives with rain.

Poems are made by fools like me,
But only God can make a tree.