



# Horse & Plow

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## Clerk's Corner

### Good Samaritan Tribute

Our media exposure to negative behavior in our society frequently overshadows the kindness of people who care about humanity. There are many instances of extraordinary efforts of neighbors or strangers helping others in various situations.

We remember the parable of the Good Samaritan and find it desirable to give recognition to three Salem County residents who have performed good deeds for others without expectation of reward. It could be a heroic event or a consistent devotion to a specific cause.

Therefore, the Salem County Clerk's Office is sponsoring the first "Good Samaritan Award" to be presented in April 2009.

We encourage churches, organizations, groups and individuals to submit the name of the person and the story of the good deed performed.

A panel of community leaders will review the entries and choose the winners.

Forms are available from the County Clerk's office and on the website at SalemCountyClerk.org.

For further information contact Gilda Gill at 339-8605.

Gilda T. Gill  
Salem County Clerk

## Happy New Year 2009 Lincoln and Darwin Bicentennials

President Abraham Lincoln and English Naturalist Charles Darwin were born an ocean apart in the same year and on the same day: February 12, 1809.

Lincoln was from a frontier family who had little formal education; Darwin was born to a distinguished and wealthy family with a degree from Cambridge, his father was a physician.

Lincoln was known as a storyteller and jokester. Darwin was a Backgammon fanatic. Both suffered from deep depression.

Both Lincoln and Darwin enjoyed literature. Lincoln would walk for miles to borrow a book. Some of his favorite books included: *The Bible*, *Life and Memorable Actions of George Washington*, *Robinson Crusoe*, *Pilgrim's Progress*, and *Aesop's Fables*.

In his later years Darwin was an avid reader; and was very fond of novels by Jane Austen, and Elizabeth Gaskell, the poems of Lord Byron, and the historical novels of Sir Walter Scott. Darwin was always quick to point out that he did not enjoy novels with a depressing ending.

Lincoln was fond of pets, and owned horses, cats, dogs and a turkey named Jack. Darwin had an extreme fondness of dogs – there were eight dogs in the Darwin household.

Lincoln's favorite foods were fricasseed chicken, fruit salad, cheese and crackers. As a student at Cambridge, Darwin presided over the "Glutton Club" which met weekly to discover and taste "strange flesh". Some of the oddities he tried were armadillo and hawk.

On Darwin's 25th birthday, a mountain was

named after him. Yes, Mount Darwin. It is the highest peak in Tierra del Fuego. And as if one mountain isn't enough, Darwin got three more named after him: The other Darwin Mountains are located in California, Tasmania, and Antarctica.

Abraham Lincoln is immortalized on Mount Rushmore in South Dakota. His face was dedicated on September 17, 1937.

Darwin's political leaning was on the Whig (liberal) side of things, he never became actively involved in politics. Lincoln was a Whig. He later switched to the Republican party.

Darwin published "Origin of the Species" in 1859 and Lincoln won the presidency a year later. Lincoln earned \$25,000 a year as President; Darwin never held a paid job his entire life.

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## Brush with Greatness

### Local resident meets President Abraham Lincoln

Standard & Jerseyman  
3/23/1910

Mrs. Mary Wright, wife of Amnon Wright, died at her home at Cape May on Monday. She was probably the last visitor to speak with the martyred President Lincoln at the White House before his assassination.

Mr. and Mrs. Wright were in

the midst of their honeymoon on the fateful April 14, 1865. At 5 o'clock, two hours after being officially closed, they went to the White House and finding it locked, Mr. Wright shook the door. He was completely surprised when it opened and himself and wife were ushered into the reception room. Presi-

dent Lincoln greeted them kindly and after a few minutes' conversation they departed to cherish the visit all the rest of their lives. That night Booth's fatal bullet cut short Lincoln's great life.

Mary Wright is buried in the Baptist Cemetery, Salem.

## the 20<sup>th</sup> day of January

In the beginning the president had been sworn in on March 4. For practical reasons, the nation's forefathers had chosen that date because it took weeks to collect and count the votes from the November election and then weeks by coach or horse for the president-elect to get to the capital.

After a snowstorm on March 4th 1909, an Editorial in the Sunbeam stated:

"Anyone who has been in Washington at a presidential inauguration when the weather was unfavorable will appreciate the suffering of the thousands who either went to the capital or started for it to see President Taft inducted into office. When the weather is bad in Washington it is completely bad. That city seems to have the wettest rain, the slushiest slush and the coldest cold of any city on earth. Springtime in Washington is ideal and why the inauguration ceremonies cannot be set for a day when the throngs gathering to witness them can do so in some comfort and without danger of ill health is incomprehensible. The need for change in the date of inauguration is universally recognized."

And finally a change was made, but the plea for a Springtime date went unheeded. On January 23, 1933 the Twentieth Amendment to the US Constitution was ratified. It states "The terms of the President and Vice President shall end at noon on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of January". This amendment's primary purpose was to reduce the amount of time between the election of the President and the beginning of the term. While this lapse was a practical necessity during the 18th century, it had the effect of impeding the functioning of government in the modern age. Franklin D. Roosevelt and Abraham Lincoln had to wait approximately four months before they could deal with the crisis conditions in the country.

In response over the wait for Barack Obama's Inauguration: a New York Times reporter stated "people voted for change and this strange, odd 77-day waiting period that we impose...between our election and our inauguration just isn't compatible with the hyperactive 24/7 fast-moving culture that we have today."

An interesting occurrence: **President-elect Obama to take the "oath of office" with same Bible that Lincoln used when he became president in 1861.**



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## ...Lincoln and Darwin Bicentennials

On Good Friday, April 14, 1865, Lincoln was shot by John Wilkes Booth at Ford's Theatre in Washington, DC. Lincoln died at 7:22 a.m. the following morning. He was 56 years old. He is buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery, Springfield, Illinois.

Seventeen years later, on April 19, 1882 Darwin's children were summoned to their father's bedside. Charles Darwin died in the afternoon at his home in Kent, just south of London. He was aged 73 and is buried in Westminster Abbey, near the grave of Sir Isaac Newton.

Abraham Lincoln has no living descendants. His great-grandson Robert Lincoln Beckwith died in 1984. He left no heirs. At last count, Charles Darwin has twenty-five great-grandchildren and one hundred or so living descendants.

The Lincoln penny was introduced in 1909, 100 years after his birth. In 2009, the Royal Mint will produce a £2 coin in commemoration of the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Darwin.

The legacy of both men is great. Charles Darwin is the originator of the modern theory of evolution of species by means of natural selection. His theory is the foundation of all modern biology.

Abraham Lincoln was one of history's greatest leaders, Lincoln brought unity to a nation at war, and freedom to an enslaved people. He is also remembered for his character, his speeches, and as a man of humble origins whose determination and perseverance led him to the nation's highest office.

### Other events in the year 1809

January 4 – Birth of Louis Braille, French inventor of the reading system used by the blind.

January 19 – Birth of Edgar Allen Poe, American poet.

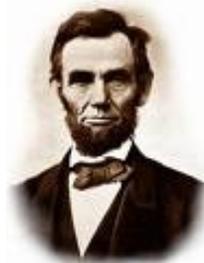
March 4 – James Madison succeeds Thomas Jefferson as the President of the United States.

June 8 – Thomas Paine, American Revolutionary writer, died.

August 29 – Birth of Oliver Wendell Holmes, Sr., American writer.

October 11 – Meriwether Lewis, American explorer, died.

## From the minds of Lincoln and Darwin



Character is like a tree and reputation like its shadow. The shadow is what we think of it; the tree is the real thing.

Common looking people are the best in the world: that is the reason the Lord makes so many of them.

Abraham Lincoln

"In the struggle for survival, the fittest win out at the expense of their rivals because they succeed in adapting themselves best to their environment."

An American monkey, after getting drunk on brandy, would never touch it again, and thus is much wiser than most men.

Charles Darwin

