



# Horse & Plow

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Spring 2011

## Clerk's Corner

We are fortunate to live in the United States of America; a free country protected by our military and civilian forces. The County Clerk's office has honored the military branches who served in World War II and Korea with veterans' booklets. In November, 2011, a Vietnam Tribute will be held and booklets will be incorporated into one publication. All military veterans and their families are encouraged to provide a picture and history of veterans to be honored.

The Third Annual "Good Samaritan Award" will be held on Wednesday, May 4, 2011, at the Old Courthouse. Nominations are being received by the County Clerk to honor those who have accomplished good deeds and actions for the sake of others without expectation of reward. There are many good and kind folks in our county who every day perform services by taking care of neighbors, friends as well as strangers. It is certain that we all encounter stories of Good Samaritans. We ask that you provide our office with those names and stories prior to April 27th.

In our quest to honor those who serve our nation, we cannot forget the law enforcement forces and fire and ambulance volunteers. Those people who give of their time and energy to protect and guide our citizens from harm are worthy to be given tribute and honor. There are extraordinary volunteers who are on constant watch for our safety and well-being. Our office will be providing special events during the next year to give recognition to them.

**THANK YOU!**

Gilda T. Gill  
Salem County Clerk

## Spring in Salem County

*"Spring still makes spring  
within the mind,  
When sixty years are told,  
Love wakes anew a throbbing  
heart,  
And we are never old."  
—Emerson*



As we ride past the farms in Salem County and notice the light green hue returning to the plants in the fields, it's a sure sign that Spring is once again upon us. Quite a welcome sign for those of us who've had our fill of driveway shoveling this winter. As the sound of Canadian geese

in the distance fills the air, along with the familiar sight of the "V" formations of their flight, it's a sure sign that spring is officially here.

One of the things that is so wonderful about living in our County is we have the ability to enjoy the natural beauty which surrounds us, particularly of that in our agriculture. Hence, this edition of Horse & Plow will take a look at agriculture in our County from a historical perspective to what we see today.

The following historical references were taken from the Salem Standard Jerseyman between the years of 1926 through 1929. The farmers interviewed were honored as "Half Century Farmers" and at that point, had already been farming for 50 or more years.

Typically, this is the time of year we get the ground ready for planting. One of the things we do to prepare the ground is to fertilize it. You may pass a farm in today's times and see a white dusting across the ground. Realizing it's not frost, you may wonder what it could be. Chances are it's lime. It's interesting to note how farms were fertilized in the past.

According to Mr. Frederick Stanton Dolbow of Auburn, who was born April 1<sup>st</sup>, 1846, farming and fishing had been intermingled. Mr. Dolbow moved to Penns Grove and fished for sturgeon which were so plentiful, 25 cents was a fair price for one of the monster

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## Did You Know?

It takes 100 pounds of rain water to produce a single pound of food from the earth. Between 10 and 20 tons of water must pass through the roots of an acre of corn before one bushel of corn will be produced.

At one time, much of our population was involved in farming – in 1940, the average farmer grew enough food for only 19 other people. Today, farmers only account for two percent of the American population, they must work much harder to keep everyone fed. In 2006, the average American farmer grew enough food for 144 other people. We will need to produce as much food in the next 40 years as has been produced in all of human history.

Thank a farmer next time you see one. Why? They put food on your plate!

## Continued...Spring in Salem County

fish. In fact, they were so plentiful, they were sold for fertilizer and a factory was built at Bayside for the converting of the fish into an ill-smelling commodity which made crops grow. Our predecessors, the Indians and many farmers years ago, did not go to this trouble, but placed a fish or two in each hill of corn and got the desired result, a quick and strong growth. An old saying with the Pennsneckers was "A herring to the hill, brings the dollar bill."

Mr. Peter Kerlin of Alloway, who was born December 31, 1844, said, "Marl was one of the best fertilizers ever put on this farm. We would dig a rod of marl which we would spread on the ground and it would show the effect of the fertilization for 14 years. As soon as it was put on the first look would tell, for the growth was so big it would fall over and one could even tell it by the feel when walking through it. A grey shell marl was used. It was dug at Woodstown with a digger."

After the fertilizing, it's time hitch up the horses to the walking plows and start the long, dull job of plowing. They usually plowed to a depth of 7 inches and then it had to be rolled to break up the clods. We see a much different sight in today's Salem County. Large tractors pulling 7 bottom plows turning the soil to about 10 inches in depth. If the tractor is equipped with GPS, you'll see rows that are inhumanly straight. But one thing never changes, and that's the flocks of birds that anxiously await the tasty worms and bugs that turn up with the soil. Yes, Spring is officially here.

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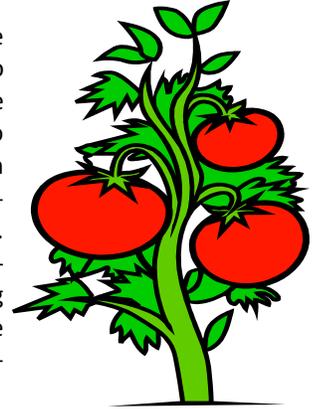
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## Interesting Facts About Tomatoes

Tomatoes are the pride of South Jersey. A versatile vegetable for cooking, tomatoes can be prepared stuffed, baked, boiled, stewed, pickled, and fried, and are the base for many sauces. Here are some interesting facts about tomatoes you may not know.

As we are all well aware, we have Col. Robert Gibbon Johnson to thank for his courage to be the first American to eat a tomato right here in our very own Salem County. Tomatoes were considered poisonous until that time. The leaves *are* poisonous, however, so please don't try eating them. The tomato is in the same family as the potato, pepper, eggplant, and petunia.



-  There are thousands of different tomato varieties.
-  A horn worm can eat an entire tomato plant by itself in one day!
-  The tomato is native to western South America and Central America. In 1519, Cortez discovered tomatoes growing in Montezuma's gardens and brought seeds back to Europe where they were planted as ornamental curiosities, but not eaten.
-  The tomato was once called the "wolfpeach" – peach because it was round and luscious and wolf because it was erroneously considered poisonous. The French referred to the tomato as *pommes d'amour*, or love apples, as they thought them to have stimulating aphrodisiacal properties.
-  In 1887, U.S. tariff laws that imposed a duty on vegetables but not on fruits. The U.S. Supreme Court settled this in 1893 by declaring that the tomato is a vegetable, based on the popular definition that classifies vegetables by use, that they are generally served with dinner and not dessert.
-  In 1897, soup mogul Joseph Campbell came out with condensed tomato soup, a move that set the company on the road to wealth as well as further endearing the tomato to the general public.
-  The high acidic content of the tomato makes it a prime candidate for canning, which is the main reason the tomato was canned more than any other fruit or vegetable by the end of the nineteenth century.
-  In the United States, more tomatoes are consumed than any other fruit or vegetable!

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