



# Horse & Plow

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Winter 2013

## Clerk's Corner



## Holiday Time in Salem



As we celebrate this special winter season, let us remember those who came before us, our parents, grandparents, relatives and the neighborhood families that influenced our lives.

Salem County was a place of "Neighborhoods" where you enjoyed the closeness of many families within a certain area near your own home. Of course, every house had a mother who not only watched her children but others as well. That also meant if you were misbehaving, you might be scolded by your friend's mother and she was reinforced by your own mom.

That same discipline model was also evident at school. If we were "acting up" at school, somehow Mom and Dad would be informed and you might receive a clear message at home too. We were told to respect the teacher and "be a good boy or girl today".

It is essential to continue to teach our children and grandchildren to respect others, especially the older generation and those who are educators. We can learn so much from others.

Likewise, we must respect and honor the freedom we enjoy in this wonderful country of America. May she always shine bright.

Happy Holidays!! Hug a Senior Citizen Today!!

Gilda T. Gill  
Salem County Clerk

Now that the holiday season is officially here, we can feel the chill in the air, there's more traffic on the roads and the lines in the stores are much longer.

In reflecting on what to buy for the lucky people on my list this holiday season, I could not come up with even one thing that fit all of my parameters. My mind was filled with the typical whirlwind of thoughts...Will it fit, is it the right color, does it shrink or fade, can you take it back if they don't like it, have they already got one, only a 30 day warranty...are you kidding me? It costs *how much*?

Shopping these days is certainly not for the faint-hearted.

It doesn't take long to come to the realization that's not what the true meaning of the holidays are all about.

We are blessed here in Salem County to still hold the hometown values we treasure by taking the time to appreciate all the good things we have. Make this holiday meaningful by telling someone how much they mean to you. Spend some time with an older person who doesn't get too many visitors.

Of all the things we can give this holiday season, let's think about peace. That contagious kind of peace that begins in our own hearts and spreads

to our family, then our friends and then the whole world.

Those lucky people on my list don't need a gift that comes with a hefty price tag or a designer



label. The greatest gift is the joy that comes from the peace we have in our hearts, our life, and in our world.

Let there be peace on Earth and let it begin with me.

## Salute to Our Soldiers

*Oh there's no place like home  
for the holidays,  
'Cause no matter how far away  
you roam -  
If you want to be happy in a  
million ways,  
For the holidays - you can't  
beat home, sweet home*

Many of us take for granted the old adage "Home for the Holidays" because most of us will be home. We here at the Clerk's Office salute all of

our brave men and women serving us in the armed forces who will be spending



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## Salute to Our Soldiers

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their holiday away from home defending our country.

The holiday season is a time to reflect on our own blessings and share them with others. Here are a few ideas you can do to help our troops and their families this holiday season:

- ★ Send a letter with pictures
- ★ Ship a package with home-made goodies
- ★ Purchase a toy for a tot
- ★ Invite a military family for dinner



## Holidays in the Old Days

"In the old days, it was not called the Holiday Season; the Christians called it 'Christmas' and went to church; the Jews called it 'Hanukkah' and went to synagogue; the atheists went to parties and drank. People passing each other on the street would say 'Merry Christmas!' or 'Happy Hanukkah!' or to the atheists 'Look out for the wall!'"

~Dave Barry

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## Holiday To Do List

Holiday time should be family time. Here's a list of ideas to bring families closer this holiday season. How many do you do with your family?

- ❁ Adopt a needy family.
- ❁ Make a list of New Years Resolutions as a family.
- ❁ Tell your family how much they mean to you.
- ❁ Decorate your home together for the Christmas season.
- ❁ Take food to a local pantry or homeless shelter.
- ❁ Read the Christmas story.
- ❁ String popcorn to hang on your Christmas tree.
- ❁ Attend a Christmas play.
- ❁ Make themed baskets as gifts.
- ❁ Go to a Christmas parade.
- ❁ Go Christmas Caroling. Be sure to visit the local nursing homes.
- ❁ Go visit Santa.
- ❁ Have a family Christmas photo taken.
- ❁ Watch old home movies.
- ❁ Reminiscence about loved ones who are no longer with you.
- ❁ Tell stories of Christmas in the past.
- ❁ Watch old home movies.
- ❁ Make apple cider or eggnog.

*"Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn't before! What if Christmas, he thought, doesn't come from a store. What if Christmas... perhaps... means a little bit more!"*



~Dr. Seuss, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!*

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