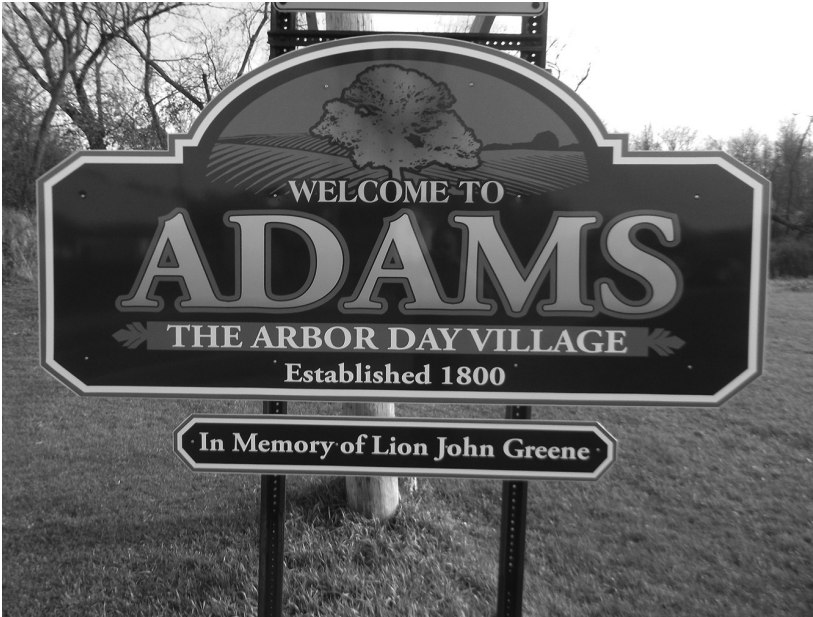


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ADAMS, JEFFERSON COUNTY

"THE ARBOR DAY VILLAGE"



Probably the first time many of us remember celebrating Arbor Day was when we were little kids and we gathered in the back of our elementary schools to plant a tree. And then after that, nothing. For many years.

Today, Arbor Day is an important day to celebrate conservation, and its impact and importance have grown over the decades as we have become

more aware of how vital and precious our world and the environment are. It all started in little Adams, New York, with the birth of Julius Sterling Morton on April 22, 1832.

There is no question that Morton is the most famous person ever to be born in Adams, although it is doubtful he remembered anything about his birth village. Morton's parents moved the family to Michigan when he was just two years old.

He led an exciting, prosperous, and important life. He made a career in publishing, journalism, and politics. He served in several presidential administrations, with his career culminating in being named President Grover Cleveland's secretary of agriculture.

In this position he embraced his lifelong fascination with trees and agriculture and started a movement to plant millions of trees across the United States. He started by planting nearly 300 varieties of trees around his mansion in Nebraska City, Nebraska. The mansion is a replica of the White House and is today a National Historic Landmark.

Arbor Day was officially founded by Julius Sterling Morton in 1872 while he was a power in statewide politics. The "holiday" was soon adopted by the entire United States. On its first celebration, it is estimated that one million trees were planted across the country. Morton is honored throughout Nebraska with his name on schools, highways, parks, and office buildings. His son, Joy, went on to found the Morton Salt Company.

Today Arbor Day is celebrated on the last Friday of the month of April. It is acknowledged that at this printing the oldest living Arbor Day tree is a red oak planted near the public library in Chatham, New York. It was planted by schoolchildren in 1902 in honor of their favorite teacher, a Miss Harriet Seymour.

The history of Arbor Day: www.arborday.org