

SOME THOUGHTS ON ARBOR DAY:

FIRST ARBOUR DAY IN THE WORLD:

The Spanish Village of Mondonedo held the first documented Arbor plantation festival in the world organized by its mayor in 1594. The place remains as Alameda de los Remedios and it is still planted with lime and horse-chestnuts trees. A humble granite marker and a bronze plate recall the event. Additionally, the small Spanish village of Villanueva de la Sierra held the first modern Arbor Day, an initiative launched in 1805 by the local priest with the enthusiastic support of the entire population.

In the village of Sierra de Gata lived a priest, don Ramon Vacas Roxo who convinced the importance of trees for health, hygiene, decoration, and nature environment, decides to plant trees and give a festive air. The festival began on Carnival Tuesday with the ringing of two bells of the church. After the Mass don Ramon accompanied by clergies, teachers and large numbers of neighbours planted the first tree, a poplar, in the place known as the Valley of the Ejido. Afterwards there was a feast. The party and plantation lasted three days. He drafted a manifesto in defence of the trees that was sent to surrounding towns to spread the love and respect of nature.

FIRST AMERICAN ARBOR DAY:

The first American Arbor Day was originated in Nebraska City Nebraska U.S. by Sterling Morton on April 10, 1872, an estimated one million trees were planted in Nebraska over the years.

THE TREE:

*Let us pause for the taking of inventory,
To measure the debt we owe the tree.
For the searching root that knits the soil,
The cooling shade for those who toil,
The air we breathe, nature's greatest gift,
And the leaf that heralds each season's shift.*

*Forget not the fruit that feeds man and beast,
The branch that burns to prepare the feast.
That sturdy frame that builds the home,
And the paper on which you read this poem.
The tree gives all and asks no prize,
Even making the axe that ends its life.*

This delightful poem stresses the importance of trees to modern society:

From: Catherine & Dick