

J. Sterling Morton

Founder of Arbor Day

in his own words

“The cultivation of flowers and trees is the cultivation of the good, the beautiful, and the ennobling in man, and for one, I wish to see this culture become universal.”

“Arbor Day . . . which has already transplanted itself . . . to every state in the American Union and has even been adopted in foreign lands . . . is not like other holidays. Each of those reposes on the past, while Arbor Day proposes for the future.”

“ . . . how much more enduring are the animate trees of our planting. They grow and self-perpetuate themselves and shed yearly blessings on our race.”

“ . . . all the people strive on Arbor Day to plant many, many trees, both forest and fruit. May the day and the observance thereof be cherished in every household, and its name and fruits become as a shower of blessing to the long lines of generations who shall succeed us.”

“Each generation takes the earth as trustees. We ought to bequeath to posterity as many forests and orchards as we have exhausted and consumed.”

