

MOTHER'S DAY

Good day everyone...it's a beautiful day in Pennsylvania.

In the spring of 1969, the President of the United States issued a proclamation asking Americans to fly the flag on Mother's Day "in reverence for what mothers represent".

Abraham Lincoln wrote about his mother: "All that I am, or hope to be I owe to my dear mother"--and history records that Nancy Hanks was such a deserving mother. The day to honor mother is a Pennsylvania-inspired holiday; even the famous James Whistler "Portrait of My Mother", which hangs in the Museum in Louxemberg is duplicated in bronze here in Pennsylvania. When you travel in the lower anthracite regions and come to the town of Ashland, be sure to see the Mother's Memorial there. It is the only known bronze replica of Whistler's Mother in the United States, and sits high over a stone rampart in a secluded spot of its own. It is worth seeing. The person who inspired the tribute to Mothers--and the celebration of Mother's Day--was a Philadelphia lady, Anna M. Jarvis, whose mother died on May 9, 1905. When her mother died, Anna Jarvis was 41, but she was determined to have her mother and all mothers honored--these women who are destined to be loved above all others on this earth. She cajoled Philadelphia's City Council to proclaim Mothers Day in 1908, and then the Legislature to proclaim it for all the Commonwealth in 1913. To prove that she was the world's greatest lobbyist, she got the Federal Congress to proclaim it unanimously a year

later in 1914 and to make it a national holiday. Besides loving her mother dearly, Anna Jarvis was a great public relations woman. She suggested that persons wear a pink carnation for a living mother or a white one if she were deceased, and thus, the entire flower industry got behind her. Almost 50 foreign countries also celebrate Mothers Day, the holiday which began in Pennsylvania. Began in the memory of a lady who remembered a devoted mother! Anna Jarvis died penniless in West Chester in 1948--with the New York Times featuring her death in a remarkably-large obit for such a little-known personality of her day. The legacy she left to Pennsylvanians and the world--Mothers Day--is a great personal gift and holiday for all of us. A visit to Ashland, Pennsylvania sometime--to see the statue of Whistler's Mother there, is a good Pennsylvania trip to take--when you can. Mothers Day would be an ideal time to do so. As for Anna Jarvis--odd thing about her--she was never married--the Pennsylvanian who gave the world Mothers Day--was never herself a mother.

This is Pete Wambach. It's a beautiful day in Pennsylvania.