



MATIN AND HER CALF

As we celebrate our farm animals at Billings Farm this weekend, we thought it would be nice to look back at one of Frederick Billings' prized Jersey cows. Billings established his herd by purchasing Jerseys from the best herds in the country and importing the finest animals from the Isle of Jersey. One of those was Matin, imported from the Isle of Jersey in 1878. Billings' agent Col. George E. Waring was charged with purchasing the best cow on the Island and after an exhaustive search Matin was selected. She was the best

Jersey Col. Waring had ever seen. He later wrote to a friend, "During my visit of that year I think I saw every animal of note in Jersey. I regarded Matin as essentially the best of them all, and I think that her purchase was the most fortunate event of my visit."



This hand tinted photograph of Matin and her calf from 1885 is one of six prints of Billings Farm Jerseys proudly

displayed in the farm manager's office. The prints are mounted and displayed in ornate oak frames and provide a visual statement regarding the quality of the Billings Jersey herd. The artist, Schreiber & Sons started a photography studio in the mid-19th century in Philadelphia and are considered among the finest photographers of animals of that time. Billings hired Schreiber to photograph his entire Jersey herd which produced a series of cartes de visite and seven oversize hand tinted prints of his prize-winning Jerseys.