Kent County, England, has been known as the “Garden of England” for over 400 years, since King Henry VIII had a particularly satisfying bowl of Kentish cherries.

Virginia's own version of the First Thanksgiving—a day of collective thanks held on December 4, 1619, near the current site of Berkeley Plantation—is still celebrated each year on the first Sunday in November. The officially observed Thanksgiving falls on the fourth Thursday in November.

Old Town Alexandria's Market Square is one of the nation’s oldest operating farmers' markets. It opened in 1753.

Dolley Madison served the first ice cream in Virginia in 1813 at her husband's second inaugural banquet.

In 1831, native Virginian, Cyrus McCormick, invented the mechanical reaper (or “Virginia Reaper”) to harvest grain.

The Garden Club of Virginia was founded in 1913. The club's signature event, Historic Garden Week, an annual, statewide tour, will celebrate its seventy-fifth anniversary in 2008.

Turkeys were first domesticated in 1922 when Charles Wampler, Sr., a Virginia farmer, devised a way to brood their eggs. Today, Virginia ranks fourth nationwide in turkey production.

In 1987, UNESCO named the University of Virginia Grounds, designed by Thomas Jefferson, a World Heritage Site.

The gardens of Colonial Williamsburg preserve about forty varieties of heirloom vegetables.

Many thanks go to Cicci Williamson, author of The Best of Virginia Farms Cookbook and Tour Book: Recipes, People, Places (Menasha Ridge Printers, 2003) for the food facts.