



During the Revolution, the people observed an annual Thanksgiving Day by proclamation of the Continental Congress. After peace, observance of the day was discontinued until 1789, when Washington, as President, appointed Thursday, November 26, 1789, a day for general thanksgiving throughout the Union. Later he also appointed February 19, 1795, Washington's proclamations were followed occasionally by those of other Presidents, but for the most part, Thanksgiving Day, although regularly observed, was a state affair for a number of years.

In 1864, President Lincoln issued a proclamation, appointing the fourth Thursday in November with a view of having the day kept, thereafter, annually without interruption. Since that time each President—with the exception of Garfield, whose assassination prevented—has issued an annual proclamation and Thanksgiving Day has become a national holiday.

Feast Ever Part of the Spirit of Day

The modern Thanksgiving day observance is so broad in its contrast with pioneer days that there is a smile in the comparison. Comfort, luxury, organization mark the celebration of the event today. The Twentieth century farmer produces his crops under ideal conditions. He has no treaties of peace to make with Indians in order to plant and cultivate his crops. In the diary of an old New Englander is this line: "An Indian promise is no more than to have a pig by the talle," a sentiment born of difficulties with the savages. The Pilgrim fathers planted corn with seed in one hand and a rifle in the other.

Governor Wallace issued the first official Thanksgiving proclamation for Indiana, fixing the day for Thursday, November 28, 1839. No doubt there previously had been a general observance of the harvest's bounties among the pioneers of the state, but that was promoted by the churches, not by official designation of the day by the governor. President Lincoln officially restored the day in 1863, the first national act of the kind since the administration of President Madison. It is pleasant to picture how the Hoosier pioneers observed the day unofficially by "harvest home" festivals in the churches, when prayer and thanksgiving were the program of the worshippers.

Early Indianapolis was built along White river. Farms were cultivated in the surrounding territory, and a good harvest was the basis for rejoicing. Sometimes there was feasting, the original idea of George Washington not having lost its meaning to the pioneer. Men went forth to the woods to bring in wild turkeys and other game that was worthy of being the "piece de resistance" of a harvest festival dinner.

Evolution of Today's Turkey.

Families gathered around tables piled high with wild turkey, venison, squirrel and other meats of the forest. Apples and the native nuts were spread in plenty over the house, and the men, if they were so inclined—and they usually were—took a nip from friendly jugs just to add enthusiasm to the day. Sweet cider had a habit of becoming jubilantly hard about the middle or last of November, and this, too, played a part in the merrymaking.

Sonnet for the Day

O, thankful, I, for food on table board,
For sight of linen falling to the floor;
O, thankful, I, and humble to a Lord
A little time forgotten, sought once more.
O, thankful, I, that I have grown so tall
As to look on the world with simple eye.
That there is never day of year, I call
Not unto some far Being toward the sky
And thankful am I for the gift of song,
Uncertain though it be as candle shine
And small as light of taper. Praise it long,
I know, and singing it, it shall be mine.
Thankful, thankful, that this hour could be
Set aside for thankfulness in me.
—David Sartor in Chicago Tribune.

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When the wild turkey became extinct, the domestic bird, now a national favorite in Thanksgiving feasts, found way to popularity. There is an impression that America imported the present species of turkey from Europe, but the fact is just the reverse. American turkeys were introduced first in Spain three centuries ago, and through processes of cross-breeding the present delight of America's Thanksgiving day was evolved.

Poultry raisers express the fear that unless the government experts at Washington, who are working on the problem, discover methods whereby domestic turkeys may be fortified against disease and proneness to die under adverse weather conditions, it will not be many years before turkeys will go the way of the dodo bird—become extinct. Farmwives, in many parts of the country, do not attempt to raise turkeys because of the prevalence or disease known as blackhead and limberneck. The government's experts are exerting every effort to find cures for these diseases, but complete success has not yet been attained, although a few remedies have been found fairly successful. Heavy rains are hard on baby turkeys, which drown easily.

Turkey Supply Falling Off.

The result of these failures in turkey-raising has been a greatly diminished production, and, of course, prices soar in consequence. Southern Indiana, Kentucky and Tennessee, in the last several years, have been showing increased production in turkeys. Most of the birds that find way to the metropolitan markets are from Texas and other Southwestern states, where the climate is right and there is plenty of room for range. New England states, original home of the American turkey, do not now produce enough birds to supply the demand for the metropolitan markets, although every hotel in New York, Boston and Philadelphia announces on the bill of fare, "Vermont turkey," or "Rhode Island turkey." The storage houses are filled with dressed turkeys that have journeyed out of the West, south and Southwest to make Thanksgiving a day of feasting for metropolitan epicures.

America's Thanksgiving dinner has, in the last twenty years, become a sort of international banquet. The turkey is a United States institution, but one finds on the table now Irish potatoes a la Hollandaise, or Spanish style; vegetables from the Imperial valley of Mexico, figs from Egypt, nuts and coffee from Brazil, almonds from Italy, grapefruit from Porto Rico, French pastry and perhaps Turkish cigarettes.

Thanksgiving day amusements have undergone as great changes as the bill of fare. The observance, as originally planned by the forefathers, called for attendance at church and an outpouring of gratitude for health and bountiful harvests. The Puritans held it to be a day of Sabbathlike sanctity. As the years rolled on, the element of rejoicing entered into the spirit of the day, and, after church in the forenoon and a feast at noon, the men engaged in mirthful games and banter, while the women sat around the "settling room" and gossiped of affairs that held their interest. In the country communities there were games of horse-shoe pitching, hop-skip-and-jump, foot-races and wrestling matches. Men of the neighborhood vied with each other

in these contests, which helped to make Thanksgiving day happy.

Thanksgiving Spirit Abides.

Changing years have brought changed customs, but the spirit of Thanksgiving still abides in the American heart, whatever the style of observance. In Indianapolis, as in other cities, scores of families are depending on the hotels and clubs to provide the Thanksgiving dinner, thus to ease the women of the household of the responsibilities. Hotel and club managers here say they are booked almost to capacity with table reservations calling for covers representing 10, 12, 15 and 20 persons. In other words, the family is going to "dine out" and let mother's Thanksgiving day be one of rejoicing, not drudgery.

It would be impossible for all families to eat at hotels and clubs—mothers know that! You can't change a sentimental mother. The result is that, in thousands of instances, mother refuses to consider any other situation than that of having her children at home for Thanksgiving day dinner. Turkey may not be the crowning viand of the meal, for there still remain chicken, goose and duck to top the menu. Mother knows, too, of other morsels that are the delight of her children.

Fact is, folk, Thanksgiving day is just another Mothers' day!—Indianapolis News.

Show Your Gratitude Throughout the Year

A beautiful story of true gratitude is told of a little child living in a poverty-stricken home. The mother had leaned a door shutter up in one corner of her cabin so that her shivering little ones could shelter behind it from the icy wind. One of the children, creeping behind this poor shelter, said: "Mamma, aren't you sorry for the poor little children that haven't any door shutter to go behind?" In this child was exemplified the true sentiment of the gratitude expressed by the Pilgrim fathers.

Gratitude is the open door through which we enter into true peace and happiness, and this must find its rightful expression in unselfishness and consideration for others. What a different world it would be if the spirit of Thanksgiving day were to be demonstrated, not only on a special occasion but throughout every day of the year! Into the thought filled with gratitude, envy, malice, hatred and jealousy can find no entrance. Thus is not true gratitude a powerful factor in bringing peace and harmony to all mankind?—Exchange.



Joy in the heart, though there's frost on the ground,
Thanksgiving day is the day of good cheer—
Happiness, hopefulness, faith should abound,
All through the year!

Peace in the soul, though the red leaves have blown,
Thanksgiving day is the day of God's love—
Lord, in the name of the mercies You've shown,
Smile down from above!

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F. H. Seely, of Chicago and Philadelphia, nationally famous expert, will himself personally be at the La Grande Hotel, and will remain in La Grande Wednesday only, December 5th, from 9 a. m. to 5 p. m. Mr. Seely says:

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N. B.—Every statement in this notice has been verified before the Federal and State Courts.—F. H. SEELEY.

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