

### Origin of Thanksgiving Is Described

#### Custom is of Long-Standing

About three hundred years ago a little band of Christians in England were greatly persecuted for their religion. Hoping to be free to worship as they wished, they left their homes and went to Holland. They called themselves "Pilgrims" which they were, seeking a land where they could be happy in their love and worship of God.

But these Englishmen held themselves aloof from the Dutch. When they saw that their children were learning Dutch instead of English and playing and mingling in friendly games with the little Dutch boys and girls, they decided that something must be done.

They had heard of the new country being settled across the sea so they decided to come and settle on its shores.

The voyage across the sea in the little ship, *Mayflower*, was a perilous one. After many days, the Pilgrims arrived at Plymouth, Massachusetts, December 21, 1620, on a cold, snowy, day.

They established themselves after a fashion so that they lived through the long, hard, bitter winter. However, by the end of spring, more than half of them had died.

Those left sowed the seed in the spring. The following summer was a lonely one with long, sunny days. In the fall there was a beautiful harvest, abundant cause for giving thanks. Now, in England there was a traditional celebration called "Harvest Home Week," an autumnal festival. Everyone, both high and low, was invited and contributed to this festival as he was able. The Pilgrims, inspired, no doubt, by this tradition of their mother country and by a desire to show their gratitude to God, celebrated the first Thanksgiving Day in America. They invited the friendly Indians to join with them. Everyone was very happy and filled with a deep sense of reverence and gratitude.

On 1623, another Thanksgiving Day was proclaimed by Governor Bradford. This was the first time in the history of America that the Governor appointed a day for Thanksgiving. It was the forerunner of other more or less local celebrations in Massachusetts. In 1677 the custom spread to other colonies as well. In 1677 the first regular Thanksgiving Proclamation was printed in Massachusetts.

During the Revolutionary War, the people and the continental army observed an annual Thanksgiving Day by the proclamation of Continental Congress. In 1789, George Washington proclaimed "a day of Public Thanksgiving and Prayer to be observed by acknowledging with many and grateful hearts the signal favors of Almighty God. . ."

Thus from the grateful ceremony of a tiny band of Pilgrims on the coast of Massachusetts has developed the only religious festival celebrated as a National Holiday in the United States. It is proclaimed by the President, re-proclaimed by the Governors of the various States, and observed on the last Thursday of November by every patriotic American.

### CALENDAR

Tonight—  
A. A. U. W. Plays—Salem Academy  
Sunday, November 26—  
Bundtke Day  
Thanksgiving Vespers, Dr. Gibbin  
Monday, November 27—  
Organ Recital at Centenary Methodist Church, Mr. George Thompson.  
Wednesday, November 29—  
No Y. P. M. Twelve o'clock classes will meet at eleven. The schedule of all classes after twelve will be moved up accordingly.  
Thursday, November 30—  
Thanksgiving Day.  
Friday, December 1—  
Mrs. Alice Council's Birthday.  
The hanging of the Christmas Star in Academy chapel.  
Monday, December 4—  
Students Recital in Memorial Hall.

### DR. HOLLAND HOLTEN SPEAKS TO FACULTY

Salem Academy and College were presented with an interesting talk on *Curriculum Changes* by Dr. Holland Holten, of the education department of Duke University. This was the third of a series of talks on this subject.  
Dr. and Mrs. Holten were guests of the college for dinner.

Whither To So Hurriedly, Josephine?



"Strap on your skates, Sal. We're off to Sonnik's Beauty Salon to be made beautiful for Thanksgiving! You've no idea what a difference their work makes in the old home town!"

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