

Beat: Lifestyle

## IN THE FALL OF 1621, PILGRIMS HELD 3-DAY FEAST TO CELEBRATE A BOUNTIFUL HARVEST

### NOVEMBER AS NATIONAL DAY OF THANKGIVING

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**USPA NEWS** - In the fall of 1621, the Pilgrims ( early settlers of Plymouth Colony) held a three-day feast to celebrate a bountiful harvest. This event is regarded by many as the nation's first Thanksgiving. The Wampanoag Indians in attendance played a key role....

In the fall of 1621, the Pilgrims ( early settlers of Plymouth Colony) held a three-day feast to celebrate a bountiful harvest. This event is regarded by many as the nation's first Thanksgiving. The Wampanoag Indians in attendance played a key role.

Historians have recorded ceremonies of thanks among other groups of European settlers in North America. These include the British colonists in Virginia as early as 1619.

The legacy of thanks and the feast have survived the centuries, as the event became a national holiday 152 years ago (Oct. 3, 1863) when President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed the last Thursday of November as a national day of thanksgiving. Later, President Franklin Roosevelt clarified that Thanksgiving should always be celebrated on the fourth Thursday of the month to encourage earlier holiday shopping, never on the occasional fifth Thursday.

U.S. Census Bureau, regarding where to feast during thanksgiving, :

- 117 million is the number of occupied housing units across the nation in the second quarter of 2015 “” all potential stops for Thanksgiving dinner.
- 4.5 million is the number of multigenerational households in the U.S. in 2014.
- 4 is the number of places in the United States named after the holiday's traditional main course.
- 7 is the number of places and townships in the United States that are named Cranberry, a popular side dish at Thanksgiving.
- 32 is the number of counties, places and townships in the United States named Plymouth, as in Plymouth Rock, the landing site of the first Pilgrims.

Regarding the Participants in the First Feast :

- 24.4 million is the number of U.S. residents of English ancestry as of 2014. Some could very well be descendants of the Plymouth colonists who participated in the autumn feast that is widely believed to be one of the first Thanksgivings.
- 6,500 is the number of members of the Wampanoag American Indian tribal grouping, as of 2010, roughly half of whom reside in Massachusetts.

Regarding : Preparing the Feast “| Enjoying the Day “| and the Aftermath

- 98.6% is the percentage of households in 2011 with a gas or electric stove, essential for cooking their Thanksgiving feast. Another 96.8 percent had a microwave, also helpful in preparing the meal.
- 98.3% is the percentage of households with a television in 2011.
- 35.8% is the percentage of households with a stand-alone food freezer in 2011, which they may want to use to preserve their Thanksgiving leftovers. Far more (99.2 %) have a refrigerator.

Regarding the Culinary Delights

- 66,286 is the the number of supermarkets and other grocery (except convenience) stores in the United States in 2013.
- 3,235 is the number of baked goods stores in the United States in 2013 "" a potential place to visit to purchase tasty desserts.
- 2,761 is the number of fruit and vegetable markets in the United States in 2013.
- 228 million is the forecast for the number of turkeys the United States will raise in 2015.
- 40.0 million is the forecast for the number of turkeys Minnesota will raise in 2015.
- 2,761 is the number of fruit and vegetable markets in the United States in 2013 "" a great place to find holiday side dishes.
- 228 million is the forecast for the number of turkeys the United States will raise in 2015.
- 40.0 million is the forecast for the number of turkeys Minnesota will raise in 2015. The Gopher State was tops in turkey production.
- \$24 million is the value of U.S. imports of live turkeys for 2014, with 100 % of them coming from Canada. When it comes to sweet potatoes, the Dominican Republic was the source of 48.8 % (\$6.6 million) of total imports (\$13.6 million).
- 841 million pounds is the forecast for U.S. cranberry production in 2015. Wisconsin was estimated to lead all states in the production of cranberries, with 503 million pounds,
- 3.0 billion pounds is the total weight of sweet potatoes "" another popular Thanksgiving side dish

Source : U.S. Census Bureau - USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service

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