

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. list	2000 National Thanksgiving Turkey Presentation re: [Personally Identifiable Information] [partial] (1 page)	00/00/0000	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
Speechwriting
Josh Gottheimer
OA/Box Number: 18990

FOLDER TITLE:

Turkey Pardoning 11/22/00 [1]

2016-0201-S

rc1935

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
- b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
- b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
- b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
- b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

Draft 11/21/00 7:40pm
Josh Gottheimer

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
REMARKS FOR NATIONAL TURKEY PARDONING
THE WHITE HOUSE
November 21, 2000**

Acknowledge: Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Washington; National Turkey Federation; Chairman Jerry Jerome and President Stuart Proctor.

Welcome to the White House. I want to thank all of you for joining us today for the annual turkey pardoning. I also want to thank the National Turkey Federation for donating this year's tom turkey, the eighth I've had the privilege to meet -- and set free -- in the Rose Garden. I hope I don't offend the others, but he's the best I've seen so far. I'm told Jerry traveled all the way here from the farms of Wisconsin -- proving that the "cheese state" knows how to make more than good cheese.

Tomorrow we will celebrate the first Thanksgiving of the new millennium. It's still a bit of a mystery when exactly Thanksgiving took place for the first time. Some say it was in 1513, when Ponce de Leon landed in Florida. Others say it occurred in 1541, when Francisco Vasquez de Coronado arrived on the Texas Panhandle. Some conspiracy theorists say it didn't happen at all.

Today we'll go with the most popular story -- the one that we all learned about as kids: where the Native Americans and Pilgrims shared a feast of thanks to celebrate their first harvest in 1621, soon after the Pilgrims arrived in Plymouth. It was a famous meal of maize, squash, and venison, that lasted three whole days. I don't know if my stomach could handle that much food. But then again, at my house, our Thanksgiving leftovers last at least that long, and the food's not nearly as fresh.

No matter what its roots, Thanksgiving is a tradition that's been celebrated in our country since its beginning. George Washington was the first president to declare a national day of thanks in 1789; and Abraham Lincoln made the tradition a permanent one in 1863, recognizing, as he put it, "the blessings of fruitful years and healthful skies."

The times have changed, but the message hasn't: to give thanks for all of God's blessings: for our strong families, our spirited communities, and the good fortune of living in our country's most prosperous and peaceful time. With more than 20 million new jobs, poverty and unemployment at record lows, and the highest homeownership in history, Americans have more to be thankful for than at any other time. And we must also be grateful for freedom America continues to enjoy, thanks to the courage and patriotism of our men and women in uniform around the world.

But as we gather around our dinner tables with family and friends, and celebrate our great bounty, we must not forget those who are going hungry this holiday season. That's why it's so

important that all Americans, like the young people here today, not only give thanks but to give back to their communities.

Almost 50 years ago, President Truman began the tradition of keeping at least one turkey off the Thanksgiving dinner table, and I am pleased to follow in his footsteps. I hereby pardon this turkey, and order that he be sent to petting zoo in Fairfax County, Virginia, to live a life free from pregnant and dimpled chads.

Thank you and have a wonderful Thanksgiving.

922 G. Lake Destiny Drive Altamonte Springs, Florida 32714
Telephone & Fax 407 682 6631

REGULUS LTD.

Fax

To: Speech Writers/ White House Staff

From: Robert Holsinger

POTUS or VICE POTUS

Fax: 202-456-2505

Pages:

Phone: N/A

Date: 11/22/00

Re: Input

CC: Speech Writers Al Gore

☐ **Urgent** ☐ **For Review** ☐ **Please Comment** ☐ **Please Reply** ☐ **Please Recycle**

• **Comments:**

A phrase that could be developed in the insuring rhetorical battle for the hearts and minds of the American people, which could efficiently crystallize and summarize the conflict, between legal and technical arguments and the fundamental intent of this republic; might be:

"The Sanctity of the Ballot"

Grade school children certainly can comprehend this concept; it would not take a gifted writer to develop the theme or idea that truly, the ballot is the most important document of any democracy, etc. etc.

Best of luck and happy Thanksgiving to all of you!

Regulus: HM-IFI

Draft 11/21/00 1:40pm
Josh Gottheimer

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
REMARKS ON**

The first Thanksgiving celebrated in 1621

When exactly the first Thanksgiving took place is a bit of a mystery. Some say it was in 1513, when Ponce de Leon first landed in Florida. Others say it occurred in 1541, when Francisco Vasquez de Coronado camped along the Texas Panhandle. Some conspiracy theorists say it didn't happen at all.

Today we'll go with the most popular story -- the one that we all learned about as kids: where the Native Americans and Pilgrims shared a feast of thanks to celebrate their first harvest in 1621, soon after the Pilgrims arrived in Plymouth. It was a famous meal of maize, squash, and venison, that lasted three whole days. I don't know if my stomach could handle that much food. But then again, at my house, our Thanksgiving leftovers last at least that long, and the food's not nearly as fresh.

No matter what it's roots, Thanksgiving is a tradition that's been celebrated in our country since it's beginning. George Washington was the first president to declare a national day of thanks in 1789; and Abraham Lincoln made the tradition a permanent one in 1863, recognizing, as he put it, "the blessings of fruitful years and healthful skies." The times have changed, but the message hasn't: to give thanks for all of God's blessings, and for the good fortune we've had to live in a country of abundance, promise, and freedom for all.

That's why we're here today.

Document No. _____

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

Date: 11-21-00 ACTION / CONCURRENCE / COMMENT DUE BY: ASAPSubject: Turkey Pardon Remarks

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	☒	☐	SIEWERT	☐	☒
PODESTA	☒	☐	MARSHALL	☐	☐
ECHAVESTE	☒	☐	MOORE	☐	☐
RICCHETTI	☒	☐	NASH	☐	☐
LEW	☐	☐	NOLAN	☐	☐
BAILY	☐	☐	REED	☒	☐
BERGER	☐	☐	SPERLING	☒	☐
BLUMENTHAL	☐	☐	STREETT	☐	☐
BRAIN	☐	☐	TRAMONTANO	☒	☐
BURSON	☐	☐	UCELLI	☒	☐
CAHILL	☐	☐	VERVEER	☐	☐
EDMONDS 	☒	☐		☐	☐
FRAMPTON	☐	☐		☐	☐
IBARRA	☐	☐		☐	☐
JOHNSON, B.	☐	☐		☐	☐
JOHNSON, J.	☒	☐		☐	☐
LANE	☐	☐		☐	☐

REMARKS:

Comments to Josh Gottheimer

RESPONSE:

Office of the Staff Secretary

Staffing Memo 11/2/00

Ext. 62702

But as we gather around our dinner tables with family and friends, and celebrate our great bounty, we must not forget those who are going hungry this holiday season. That's why it's so important that all Americans, like the young people here today, not only give thanks but give back to their communities.

Almost 50 years ago, President Truman began the tradition of keeping at least one turkey off the Thanksgiving dinner table, and I am pleased to follow in his footsteps. I hereby pardon this turkey, and order that he be sent to the petting zoo in Fairfax County, Virginia, to live a long life on a diet of grain and dimpled chads.

Thank you and have a wonderful Thanksgiving.

ROUTING SLIP

DATE: 11 / 18 / 98

FROM: Stephanie Streett
Assistant to the President and Director of Presidential Scheduling

SUBJECT: 51st National Thanksgiving Turkey Presentation Ceremony

Virginia Apuzzo	_____	Capricia Marshall	_____✓
Paul Begala	_____	Thurgood Marshall, Jr.	_____
Lisa Berg	_____	Katie McGinty	_____
Samuel Berger	_____	Minyon Moore	_____✓
Sidney Blumenthal	_____	Bob Nash	_____
Erskine Bowles	_____	Jennifer Palmieri	_____
Phil Caplan	_____	John Podesta	_____
Maria Echaveste	_____	Redington/Davis	_____✓
Rahm Emanuel	_____	Bruce Reed	_____
Tim Emrich	_____✓	Dan Rosenthal	_____
Jeff Forbes	_____✓	Charles Ruff	_____
Nancy Hernreich	_____	Patti Solis-Doyle	_____
Mickey Ibarra	_____	Craig Smith	_____
Ron Klain	_____	Doug Sosnik	_____
Neal Lane	_____	Gene Sperling	_____
Lisa Levin	_____	Larry Stein	_____
Ann Lewis	_____✓	Todd Stern	_____
Bruce Lindsey	_____	Melanne Verveer	_____
Joe Lockhart	_____✓	Michael Waldman	_____✓
		Barbara Woolley	_____✓

FILE: Accept 11/24/98

COMMENTS: _____

ROUTING SLIP

DATE: 9/24/98

FROM: Stephanie Streett
Assistant to the President and Director of Presidential Scheduling

SUBJECT: 51st National Thanksgiving Turkey Presentation Ceremony

Virginia Apuzzo	_____	Mike McCurry	<u>✓</u>
Paul Begala	_____	Katie McGinty	_____
Lisa Berg	_____	Minyon Moore	<u>✓</u>
Samuel Berger	_____	Bob Nash	_____
Sidney Blumenthal	_____	OSTP	_____
Erskine Bowles	_____	Jennifer Palmieri	_____
Phil Caplan	_____	John Podesta	_____
Megan Delgleize	_____	Rachel Redington	<u>✓</u>
Maria Echaveste	_____	Bruce Reed	_____
Rahm Emanuel	_____	Dan Rosenthal	_____
Tim Emrich	<u>✓</u>	Charles Ruff	_____
Nancy Hernreich	_____	Patti Solis-Doyle	_____
Mickey Ibarra	_____	Craig Smith	_____
Ron Klain	_____	Doug Sosnik	_____
Lisa Levin	_____	Gene Sperling	_____
Ann Lewis	<u>✓</u>	Larry Stein	_____
Bruce Lindsey	_____	Todd Stern	_____
Capricia Marshall	<u>✓</u>	Melanne Verveer	_____
Thurgood Marshall, Jr.	_____	Michael Waldman	<u>✓</u>
		Jeff Forbes	<u>✓</u>

FILE: Accept 11/25/98 (T)

COMMENTS: _____

Schedule Proposal

Date: September 22, 1998

98 SEP 23 All : 54

☒ ACCEPT ☐ REGRET ☐ PENDING

TO: Stephanie Street
Deputy Assistant to the President
And Director of Scheduling

FROM: Minyon Moore *mmc*
Assistant to the President, Director of Public Liaison

REQUEST: To request the President's attendance at the National Turkey Federation's 51st National Thanksgiving Turkey Presentation Ceremony as part of an ongoing tradition and to deliver a Thanksgiving message to the nation.

PURPOSE: To address the 51st National Thanksgiving Turkey Presentation, which marks the unofficial beginning of the Thanksgiving holiday season. The ceremony will present President Clinton with the opportunity to deliver a traditional Thanksgiving message to the entire nation.

BACKGROUND: The National Turkey Federation Ceremony dates back to 1947, when the NTF presented the first National Thanksgiving Turkey to President Truman. This presentation has continued through the nine succeeding administrations. This year marks the 51st ceremony in which the President invites schoolchildren, underprivileged youth and physically challenged guests to join him in viewing the National Thanksgiving Turkey.

DATE AND TIME: Wednesday, November 25, 1998. Time TBD

DURATION: Approximately 20 minutes.

LOCATION: Rose Garden, The White House.

PARTICIPANTS: Participants include President Clinton, NTF Chairman Ken Rutledge and NTF President Stuart E. Proctor, Jr.

OUTLINE OF EVENT: TBD

PRESS/MEDIA:

TBD

CONTACT:

Barbara Woolley, Office of Public Liaison 456-2155.



11319 Sunset Hills Road · Reston, Virginia 22090-5227 · Ph: (703) 435-7206 Fax: (703) 481-0837
Stuart E. Proctor, Jr., President

1995 NATIONAL THANKSGIVING TURKEY PRESENTATION
A Fact Sheet

- WHERE:** Rose Garden, The White House
- WHEN:** 1:45 p.m., Wednesday, November 22, 1995
- WHO:** Participants include President Clinton, NTF Chairman Ken Rutledge and NTF President Stuart E. Proctor, Jr.

NTF first presented a National Thanksgiving Turkey to President Harry Truman in 1947. Today's presentation marks the 48th anniversary of a tradition that has continued unbroken through nine successive administrations.

President Clinton continued not only the original tradition but a recent one as well when he invited school children from the Washington area to participate in the ceremony. This year, in addition to children from the Boys and Girls Clubs of America and the Big Brothers/Big Sisters Program, physically challenged school children from Colonel E. Brooke Lee Middle School in Silver Spring, Md., will have an opportunity to view and pet the National Thanksgiving Turkey.

The 1995 National Thanksgiving Turkey is a 37-week-old tom weighing more than 60 pounds. The turkey was raised by Rutledge and personnel from Zacky Farms of Fresno, Calif., in conjunction with students at the California State University at Fresno. The National Thanksgiving Turkey was selected from 10 poults in the Zacky Farms breeding program and moved to Fresno State. They were raised there using normal commercial techniques; each of the birds consumed almost two pounds of food daily. The National Thanksgiving Turkey and an alternate were selected from this group.

The National Thanksgiving Turkey, along with an alternate, were flown on Delta Air Lines to Washington on Tuesday, Nov.21, and it rested overnight in the Hotel Washington. After today's presentation, it will be taken to Kidwell Farm in Fairfax County, Va. Kidwell Farm is a replica of a 1930s working farm.

For more information, contact NTF's Joel Brandenberger at (703) 435-7208.

Kenneth Rutledge.....Chairman
Sonny Faison.....Secretary-Treasurer

Jim Cooper.....Vice Chairman
Larry Fanella.....Immediate Past Chairman



FRANK GESSELL, *Chairman*
JIM RIETH, *Vice Chairman*
JERRY JEROME, *Secretary-Treasurer*
SONNY FAISON, *Past Chairman*
STUART E. PROCTOR, JR., *President*

September 10, 1998

Ilia Valez
Office of Public Liaison
122 Old Executive Office Building
17th and Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Ms. Valez:

Dan Wexler called yesterday to let us know he no longer is at the Office of Public Liaison, and he recommended we forward to you a copy of our August 21 letter to President Clinton, requesting the opportunity to present him with the National Thanksgiving Turkey again this year. Dan said you would be the person who could help us with the preparation for this year's event.

We recognize you may need additional background about the event, and we would be happy to provide any information you need. As Stuart mentioned in the letter to the President, the tradition is more than 50 years old, having originated with a 1947 presentation to President Harry Truman and continuing through each of the nine succeeding administrations. Last year's ceremony was the perfect way to celebrate the first half-century of this tradition, and we very much look forward to working with the Office of Public Liaison to get the next 50 years off to a great start. Our thanks again to everyone at the Office for all you all have done on those past events.

Please call if you have any questions, or if we may be of additional service.

Sincerely,

Joel Brandenberger
Vice President, Legislative Affairs

Enclosure

N A T I O N A L

F E D E R A T I O N

White House 98
FRANK GESSILL, Chairman
L. R. D. Vice Chairman
L. R. D. Secretary, Treasurer
SONNY EVANS, Past Chairman
STUART E. PROCTOR, Inc., President

August 21, 1998

The Honorable William J. Clinton
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, DC 20250

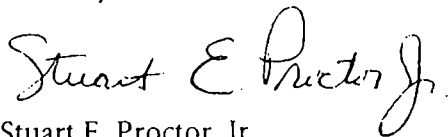
Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of the National Turkey Federation's members and its chairman, Frank Gessell, we request the privilege of continuing what has become an important Thanksgiving tradition by presenting you with the National Thanksgiving Turkey this November in a ceremony at the White House.

As you know from the five successful events over which you have presided, the event marks the unofficial beginning of the Thanksgiving holiday season and over the years has come to present presidents with a very special opportunity to deliver a Thanksgiving message to the nation. Last year's event, the 50th Anniversary of the first presentation to President Harry S Truman, was especially memorable. You and your hard-working staff not only included the traditional elements – visiting school children and remarks that remind us of the true nature of the season – but you also researched and shared with us the history of other holiday presentations that were precursors to the current National Thanksgiving Turkey celebration. All those factors combined to make the golden anniversary celebration very memorable to the children, our chairman and everyone else who was in attendance.

We sincerely hope we have the opportunity to continue this tradition and to celebrate again the National Thanksgiving Turkey presentation. We look forward to working with you and the fine staff of the Public Liaison Office to make this presentation another success. Please let us know if there is anything we can do to be of assistance in the meantime.

Sincerely,



Stuart E. Proctor, Jr.
President

cc: Dan Wexler, Office of Public Liaison

NATIONAL
Turkey
DERATION

SUITE 400
1225 NEW YORK AVENUE, NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20005
Phone: (202) 898-0100
Fax: (202) 898-0203

☐ URGENT
☐ FOR YOUR REVIEW
☐ REPLY ASAP
☐ PLEASE COMMENT

DATE: 9/17/98

FAX: 456-6218

PAGE 1 OF 9

TO: Ilia Voley

FROM: Joel Brandenberg

COMMENTS:

Per our exchange of voice mails. Please
call if you have any questions.

marcas
Mehrhouson - Assistant

Mark Your Calendar!

NTF's 1999 Annual Convention

January 9-13, 1999

Phoenix Hilton at Squaw Peak

Phoenix, AZ

Anything Goes,
With **Turkey**



FRANK GESSELL, *Chairman*
JIM RIEFF, *Vice Chairman*
JERRY JEROME, *Secretary-Treasurer*
SONNY FAISON, *Past Chairman*
STUART E. PROCTOR, JR., *President*

TO: Ilia Velez
FROM: Joel Brandenberger
DATE: September 17, 1998
SUBJECT: Background on National Thanksgiving Turkey Presentation

Thank you again for calling on Tuesday. Per our exchange of voice mails, this memo provides background on the history of the National Thanksgiving Turkey presentation. Also attached are copies of President Clinton's remarks at two of the ceremonies and a copy of a fact sheet that we routinely prepare for each year's ceremony.

History of the Presentation

Although research indicates sporadic presentations of turkeys or other gifts since the Civil War era, the current ceremony dates to 1947, when the National Turkey Federation (NTF) presented President Truman with the first National Thanksgiving Turkey. The presentation has continued through the nine succeeding administrations; last year's was the 50th Anniversary. The ceremony has evolved over the years. Most recently, President Clinton has invited schoolchildren, underprivileged youth and physically challenged guests to ceremonies. He also has delivered a Thanksgiving message at the events and usually asks the schoolchildren and other guests to join him in viewing the National Thanksgiving Turkey.

The presentation at times has brushed against broader history. For example, the November 1963 event was one of President Kennedy's last in the Rose Garden. President Bush conducted the 1990 ceremony just before leaving for Thanksgiving with the troops in Saudi Arabia.

How the National Thanksgiving Turkey is Selected and Grown

NTF asks its elected chairman for the year to raise that year's National Thanksgiving Turkey. The chairman generally selects between 10 and 20 young turkeys as candidates to become the National Thanksgiving Turkey, and those birds are raised separately from a normal turkey flock. The candidates are raised using standard commercial production techniques. However, the birds generally are raised for a longer period of time than commercial turkeys.

As the ceremony draws near, the chairman narrows the candidate field, and two turkeys ultimately are brought to the White House. The second serves as a back-up, and only one bird is used in the presentation. The turkey weighs 50-60 pounds at the time of the ceremony.

NTF's chairman this year is Frank Gessell of Swannville, Minn.

National Thanksgiving Turkey Background, page 2

Structure of the Ceremony

President Clinton has structured the ceremony in largely the same way for the past five years:

Approximately 45 minutes to one hour before the ceremony, the NTF chairman, NTF president, another NTF staff member and whoever the chairman has designated to handle the turkey during the ceremony have arrived at the Southeast entrance to the White House.

After clearing security, the NTF group has been escorted by their Public Liaison contact to the Rose Garden, where the National Thanksgiving Turkey has been unloaded, given a final grooming and allowed to acclimate to its surroundings before the ceremony.

(The NTF chairman's wife and family, the NTF president's wife and other NTF staff/guests have arrived at the East Visitor's Gate about 30 minutes before the ceremony.)

The Rose Garden traditionally has been arranged so there is a podium at the base of the steps leading from the West Wing. Several rows of chairs, set in two columns, have been arranged facing the podium. A six-foot rectangular table, covered in green cloth has been set to the audience's left.

When President Clinton has arrived and made his remarks, the NTF chairman and NTF president have been below the podium, between it and the rectangular table. The National Thanksgiving Turkey has been on the ground, located with its handler on the far side of the rectangular table. After the President's remarks, the handler has placed the bird on the table. The President has greeted the NTF chairman, his family and NTF president and then viewed the turkey. The President has invited the schoolchildren and/or other special guests to join him in the viewing. In all but one year (1996, when he lost his voice), the President has stayed for several minutes and visited with the guests during the viewing. The President generally has spent about 20 minutes at each ceremony.

After the viewing has ended, it usually has taken the NTF crew about 15 minutes to box and load the turkey. Some of the regional media occasionally request interviews with the NTF Chairman.

One other note. NTF in the past also has provided two dressed, ready-to-cook turkeys in specially designed bags. These turkeys have not been displayed during the ceremony, and we have made separate arrangements with the Public Liaison Office to receive them after the event.

What Happens to the National Thanksgiving Turkey

President Clinton has continued the long-standing tradition of granting the National Thanksgiving Turkey a "pardon." For the last eight years, we have taken the turkey and the alternate to Kidwell Farm at Frying Pan Park in Herndon, Va. The farm is a 1930s-era replica farm operated by the Fairfax County Parks Department. The turkeys live out the remainder of their lives on the farm, where they can be viewed by area schoolchildren and others. The average lifespan of a domestic turkey is about two years.

We hope this background information and the attached materials are of use to you. Please let us know if you have any questions. My telephone number is 202-898-0100, and my e-mail address is "jbrandenberger@turkeyfed.org". We look forward to working with you.

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

November 24, 1993

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
IN ANNUAL PRESENTATION OF THE THANKSGIVING TURKEY

The Rose Garden

10:36 A.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen and boys and girls. It's good to see you here. I want to especially thank Congresswoman Leslie Byrne for joining us, along with Stuart Betsworth, the National Turkey Federation president, and the turkey, Kippie, for the president. (Laughter.) Thomas Bross, the Chairman of the Federation and a turkey farmer from Pennsylvania who raised this year's Thanksgiving turkey, and the National Turkey Federation staff.

Finally, I want to welcome the 4th grade students who are here from Springfield Estates Elementary School in Springfield, Virginia. Welcome to all of you. I'm glad you're here for Thanksgiving. (Applause.)

As President, this is my first year to have the honor of accepting the annual Thanksgiving turkey and granting the turkey the annual presidential pardon. (Laughter.) After this ceremony, this turkey will retire to a 1930s working farm replica in Northern Virginia.

We've come together today to have a little fun, but also to express our gratitude in this Thanksgiving season for God's many blessings -- a time to impress upon younger people the heritage of our nation, and the commitment we all have to justice and freedom and peace.

It's also a time to reach out in service to others not as fortunate as we are. In a few hours, Hillary and I will visit the New Covenant Baptist Church here in Washington where church members and homeless families are coming together to prepare a Thanksgiving dinner. Thanksgiving, when we all bask in the generosity and hospitality of our own family and friends, reminds us that we also belong to a larger community full of people who often are not as fortunate as we are.

It's a time to value those things and to remember how strong we are when we come together to overcome adversity. In the last few months I've had a chance to spend a lot of time in the Middle West, dealing with the floods and their aftermath, and then last Sunday I went to church in California with two dozen people who have been through the horrible trauma of the wildfires in the West. And I am again what people can do when they pull together and remember that we are all in this together.

and looking to the future. I'll have the chance to say a prayer of thanks for the many blessings that I have enjoyed. I ask all of you to do that. I wish you well on this Thanksgiving and to remember also of continuing obligations for our fellow Americans who don't have many of the things we take for granted. Together we can make our country stronger and have even more to be thankful for next Thanksgiving.

Thank you very much. (Applause.) And thank you for the applause. (Applause.)

Somebody pointed out this morning that this may not be the only turkey I've had in my administration, but this is one I will certainly set free. (Laughter.)

* * * * *

THE PRESIDENT: I'm experienced in this. I come from the largest turkey growing state.

Q Is this your first presidential pardon?

(Laughter.) THE PRESIDENT: It is my first presidential pardon.

Q You're going into great detail over this --

the turkey -- THE PRESIDENT: Yes, we were talking to the kids about -- this is a very well behaved turkey --

Q We were hoping for something better, actually.

(Laughter.) THE PRESIDENT: I asked the gentleman who raised him -- trouble, any extra effort to raise him, and he said that they had spent a lot of time handling him, so he's more comfortable around people

Q Were you concerned about this, because this has some ridiculous aspects for a President --

THE PRESIDENT: So many of my predecessors have participated in this -- I actually didn't mind it. I think it's kind of funny and it's an annual ritual. As I said, it's a little easier for me because I've been around turkeys all my life. I didn't really like that -- (laughter) -- and I come from a state that grows a lot of turkeys. We also have a huge wild turkey population at home, too, so it's not as alien an experience for me as it would be for some people

Q Do you think the Founding Fathers made the right choice not choosing a turkey as the national bird? (Laughter.)

Q You know they proposed it --

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, they did. Well, actually, let me tell you. What Franklin meant -- wild turkeys -- and they're quite beautiful, if you've ever seen them. They're bottom-heavy, like a turkey, but they're quite beautiful. And they can go from 35 miles an hour in no time -- something that most people don't know. They're amazing creatures to see operate in the woods

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I know he thinks that, and I don't want to get into this, because I can't -- I mean, he says that, but this has nothing to do with the underlying merits. This is either a good bill or not a good bill, number one. Number two, the Republicans on the conference committee were not even on the regular schedule, and they were people who had no intention of voting for the Brady bill if all the changes they wanted were adopted. So the Democrats argued that they felt that they didn't know what they were supposed to talk about with people who weren't going to vote for it regardless and who weren't even on the committee that had jurisdiction of the Brady bill. So you can hear arguments on both sides about that, but that's irrelevant, that's irrelevant.

This is a good thing for the American people. It's a good first step. It's the right thing to do. And none of us -- you know, all of us -- if you stay around these battles now, and you've been through all of the stuff we've been through just in the last year, all of us, if you go around letting your personal feelings get in the way of doing the public interest, we'd never get anything done around here.

THE PRESS: Thank you.

END

10:55 A.M. EST

11 3/84

05:33

☎

002

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

November 23, 1994

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AT THANKSGIVING TURKEY PRESENTATION

The Rose Garden

10:10 A.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Well, good morning.

AUDIENCE: Good morning!

THE PRESIDENT: It's nice to see all of you here. I want to especially welcome the fifth graders from Murch Elementary School. I'm glad you're here, and hope you're having a good time. And I'm glad the sun is shining down at least on some of you.

I want to thank Larry Fanella, the chairman of the National Turkey Federation; and say a special word of thanks to Robert Strickler and to Sean Arbogast, the 10-year-old boy who raised this year's turkey in Dayton, Virginia. Let's give him a hand. (Applause.)

Tomorrow we'll all celebrate Thanksgiving. It's an opportunity and a responsibility for all of us to give thanks for our many blessings in this life, to appreciate the good things we have in this country, and to think about those who still live among our ranks who don't have the things that many of us take for granted. In a few hours, Hillary and I will visit So Others Might Eat, a local soup kitchen, to help prepare Thanksgiving dinner for some of Washington's less fortunate families. I think that this is an important time for all of us to think about the larger American community of which we are a part.

The very presence of these children from schools and the different walks of life and backgrounds from which they come reminds us that this has always been a country of great diversity, and the great strength of America is that we offer an opportunity for all different kinds of people to live up to the fullest of their God-given capacities. We can only do that if we're committed to creating a stronger and better American community every day.

That is the commitment of our administration. That is the commitment of the public education movement in this country. That is the commitment of everybody devoted to the idea that every child can learn and that we can all do better if we work together.

11/13/94 05:34

0003

So I would like to leave you with that thought on this Thanksgiving. And now I want to accept the turkey, and a lot of you know this already, but this will be the second official presidential pardon of my administration -- I granted one to a turkey last year. Unlike the 45 million American turkeys who will make the supreme sacrifice this Thanksgiving for the rest of us, this turkey will retire to Kidwell Farms, a replica of the 1930's working farm in Frying Pan Park in northern Virginia. So I'm glad I can make at least one turkey happy this year. (Laughter.)

Thank you very much. (Applause.)

Are we going to let the kids come up and see the turkey?

- 2 -

Q Mr. President, what do you have to be thankful for this year?

THE PRESIDENT: A lot, but let me just -- I'll mention two things. One is there's more than five million Americans more who have jobs and who, therefore, can afford to have Thanksgiving this Thanksgiving than there were two Thanksgivings ago, right after I was elected. And I'm very thankful for that. And I'm very thankful for the opportunity that my family and I have been given to get up here every day and work on the problems and the opportunities of this country. Those are the two things that I feel very grateful for.

Q When are you going to Camp David?

THE PRESIDENT: When am I going? Tonight when Chelsea gets home from her activities. We're going up late tonight.

END

10:20 A.M. EST

to come in store of fowl, as winter approached, of which this place did abound when they came first (but afterward decreased by degrees). And besides waterfowl there was great store of wild turkeys, of which they took many, besides venison, etc. Besides, they had about a peck of meal a week to a person, or now since harvest, Indian corn to that proportion. Which made many afterwards write so largely of their plenty here to their friends in England, which were not feigned but true reports."



THE 51 PILGRIMS AT THE FIRST THANKSGIVING :

4 MARRIED WOMEN : Eleanor Billington, Mary Brewster, Elizabeth Hopkins, Susanna White Winslow.

5 ADOLESCENT GIRLS : Mary Chilton (14), Constance Hopkins (13), Desire Mint (20 sickly), Priscilla Mullins (19), Elizabeth Tilley (15).

8 ADOLESCENT BOYS : Francis & John Billington, John Crackston, Samuel Fuller (2d), Giles Hopkins, William Latham, Joseph Rogers, Henry Samson.

13 YOUNG CHILDREN : Bartholomew, Mary & Remember Allerton, Love & Wrestling Brewster, John Cooke, Humility Cooper, Samuel Eaton, Damaris & Oceanus Hopkins, Richard More, Resolved & Peregrine White.

21 MEN : John Alden, Isaac Allerton, John Billington, William Bradford, William Brewster, Peter Brown, Francis Cooke, Edward Doty, Francis Eaton, Samuel Fuller, Richard Gardiner, John Goodman, Stephen Hopkins, John Howland, Edward Lester, George Soule, Myles Standish, William Trevor, Richard Warren, Edward Winslow, Gilbert Winslow.

FAMILY GROUPS :

- **ALDEN :** John
- **ALLERTON :** Isaac with children Bartholomew, Mary, Remember
- **BILLINGTON :** John & Eleanor with sons Francis, John Jr.
- **BRADFORD :** William
- **BREWSTER :** William & Mary with sons Love, Wrestling
- **BROWNE / BROWN :** Peter
- **CHILTON :** Mary
- **COOKE :** Francis with son John
- **COOPER :** Humility
- **CRACKSTON :** John
- **DOTY :** Edward (Hopkins servant)
- **EATON :** Francis with son Samuel
- **FULLER :** Samuel with nephew Samuel 2d
- **GARDINER :** Richard
- **GOODMAN :** John

[Plymouth](#)
[Mayflower](#)
[Mayflower Compact](#)
[Pilgrims](#)
[Wampanoag Tribe](#)
[John Alden](#)
[William Bradford](#)
[William Brewster](#)
[John Carver](#)
[Massasoit](#)
[Samoset](#)
[Myles Standish](#)
[The Winslows](#)
[Mayflower Passenger List](#)

Any additional information
can be obtained from the
resources listed under [the](#)
[museums page](#)

For more information on the
town of Plymouth



Complete Guide to
America's Hometown!

Massasoit

Massasoit was born in the village of Pokanoket near present-day Bristol, Rhode Island, around 1590. Also known as Ousamequin, or "yellow feather" he was a chief of the Wampanoag tribe. Massasoit signed a peace treaty with the Pilgrims on March 22, 1621. It was an agreement that was never broken, and the two groups enjoyed a peaceful coexistence. His friendship with the settlers helped keep the Wampanoags neutral in the Pequot War of 1636. Massasoit remained an ally of the Pilgrims until his death in 1661.

According to Mourt's Relation: A journal of the Pilgrims of Plymouth, the Pilgrims treaty with Massasoit is described as follows:

- That neither he (Massasoit) nor any of his people should injure or do hurt to any of our people.
- That if any of our tools were taken away, when our people were at work, he should cause them to be restored; and if ours did any harm to any of his, we would do like to them.
- If any did unjustly war against him, we would aid him; if any did war against us, he should aid us.
- He should [tell] his neighbors confederates of this, that they might not wrong us.
- That when their men came to us, they should leave their bows and arrows behind them; as we should do our [weapons] when we came to them.

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Make more
 light food to
 (+) Jakes.
 Hue of
 Day to make all over. both
 help them survive
 first winters

Go to [Text Version](#).

Click on image for full-size jpg picture (50 Kb)



Massasoit's treaty with the Pilgrims
(Library of Congress)

Massasoit was a chief of the Wampanoag tribe. Also known as Ousamequin, or "yellow feather," he was born about 1590 in the village of Pokanoket which was near the present-day Bristol, Rhode Island.. The peace treaty which Massasoit and the Pilgrims signed on March 22, 1621 was never broken. Because of this agreement, the Wampanoag and Pilgrims lived in peaceful coexistence. Massasoit's friendship with the colonists kept the Wampanoags neutral during the Pequot War of 1636. Until his death in 1661, Massasoit remained a friend an ally of the Pilgrims.

Peace Treaty with Massasoit, 1621

1. That neither he nor any of his should injure or do hurt to any of our people.
2. And if any of his did hurt to any of ours, he should send the offender, that we might punish him.
3. That if any of our tools were taken away when our people were at work, he should cause them to be restored; and if ours did any harm to any of his, we would do the like to them.
4. If any did unjustly war against him, we would aid him; if any did war against us, he should aid us.
5. He should send to his neighbor confederates, to certify them of this, that they might not wrong us, but might be likewise comprised in the conditions of peace.
6. That when their men came to us, they should leave their bows and arrows behind them, as we should do our pieces when we came to them.

Lastly, that doing thus, King James would esteem of him as his friend and ally.

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More images and information are available at the [American Indian Studies](#).

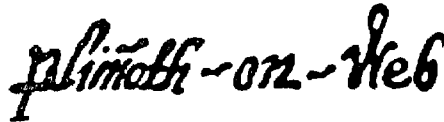
- **HOPKINS** : Stephen & Elizabeth with Stephen, Giles, Constance, Damaris
- **HOWLAND** : John (Carver servant)
- **LATHAM** : William (Carver servant)
- **LEISTER / LESTER** : Edward (Hopkins servant)
- **MINTER** : Desire
- **MORE** : Richard (Brewster servant)
- **MULLINS** : Priscilla
- **ROGERS** : Joseph
- **SAMSON / SAMPSON** : Henry
- **SOULE** : George (Winslow servant)
- **STANDISH** : Myles
- **TILLEY** : Elizabeth
- **TREVOR / TREVORE** : William
- **WARREN** : Richard
- **WINSLOW** : Edward & Susanna with her sons Resolved, Peregrine White
- **WINSLOW** : Gilbert

PILGRIM HALL MUSEUM

75 Court Street, Plymouth MA 02360 (508) 746-1620

22

Updated 12 August, 2000



PLIMOTH PLANTATION™: The Living History
Museum of 17th-Century Plymouth

The Museum | Library | Education | Calendar | Museum Shops | What's New | Membership | Dining | Home

Who Attended the 1621 "First Thanksgiving?"



THE PILGRIMS IN AMERICAN CULTURE: THANKSGIVING

Primary source
references to
the "First
Thanksgiving"

Alternative
claimants to the
First American
Thanksgiving

A First Thanksgiving
Dinner for Today

The 1621 Bill of
Fare

No Popcorn!

Thanksgiving in
American history

The "First
Thanksgiving":
Facts and Fancies

A 17th Century
Harvest Feast

John Alden 22 hired as cooper	Samuel Fuller, Jr. 14*
Isaac Allerton 35	Richard Gardiner 22*
Bartholomew Allerton 8	Stephen Hopkins 40
Remember Allerton (girl) 6	Elizabeth Hopkins 27
Mary Allerton 4	Constance Hopkins 16
John Billington 41	Giles Hopkins 14
Elinor Billington 37	Damaris Hopkins (girl) 3
John Billington 13	Oceanus Hopkins (boy) approx. 1
Francis Billington 11	John Howland 28 servant to Carver
William Bradford 31	William Latham 13 servant to Carver
William Brewster 53	Edward Lester 22* servant to Hopkins
Mary Brewster 52	Desire Minter (girl) 15*
Love Brewster (boy) 10	Richard Moore 7 "put to" Brewster
Wrestling Brewster (boy) 7	Priscilla Mullins 19 (est.)
Peter Browne 21	Joseph Rogers 17
Carver's maidservant 24* servant to Carver	Henry Sampson 17
Mary Chilton 14	George Soule 24 servant to Winslow
Francis Cooke 38	Myles Standish 37
John Cooke 14	
Humility Cooper (girl) 2	

Thanksgiving Day.... is the one day that is purely American.

O'Henry 1862-1910

"How wonderful it would be if we could help our children and grandchildren to learn thanksgiving at an early age. Thanksgiving opens the doors. It changes a child's personality. A child is resentful, negative - or thankful. Thankful children want to give, they radiate happiness, they draw people."

SIR JOHN MARKS TEMPLETON

"It is therefore recommended... to set apart Thursday the eighteenth day of December next, for solemn thanksgiving and praise, that with one heart and one voice the good people may express the grateful feelings of their hearts and consecrate themselves to the service of their divine benefactor..."

SAMUEL ADAMS, Father of the American Revolution

November 1, 1777 (adopted by the 13 states as the first official Thanksgiving Proclamation.

"I wish the Bald Eagle had not been chosen as
the representative of our country:
he is a Bird of bad moral character:
like those among Men who live
by Sharping and Robbing, he is
generally poor and very often lousy.
The Turkey is a much more respectable Bird and withal
a true original Native of North America""
- Ben Franklin

"There are only two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle.
The other is as though everything is a miracle. "

- Albert Einstein

Presidential turkey 'pardons' are a recent phenomenon

I have tracked the presidential pardoning of a turkey at Thanksgiving from 1947 to the present and would like to share with you my findings. Contrary to the story that President Truman began the tradition of giving a reprieve or "pardon" to one turkey every year ("Pardon sets one turkey free as a bird," Nov. 25), the Harry S. Truman Library, in response to my inquiry, found no contemporary record of this event. The archivist stated in a letter dated Aug. 13: "Specifically, I have found no document, speech, or newspaper clipping from that period that refers to Truman pardoning a turkey he received as a gift in 1947, or at any

time during his presidency."

It appears that President Kennedy, in 1963, was the first president officially to spare the life of a presidential turkey and that the first president to use a form of the word "pardon" was President Reagan, in 1987. He skirted reporters' questions on whether he would pardon Iran-Contra figures Oliver North and John Poindexter by joking that if that year's turkey, "Hawaiian Charlie," had not been destined for a petting farm, "I would have pardoned him."

President Bush seems to have launched the official turkey-pardoning ritual. In 1989, he said that

"this fine tom turkey" has "been granted a presidential pardon as of right now."

Through the years to as late as 1977, the news media reported off and on that the presidential turkey would be eaten by the president. The first year when a presidential turkey was retired to a petting zoo appears to have been 1973. That was during the Nixon administration and was a donation by Mrs. Nixon.

KAREN DAVIS

President
United Poultry Concerns
Machipongo, Va.

[Handwritten notes and signatures]

EF

19921155
THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN
11-27-96

GID0.

PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
THANKSGIVING TURKEY CEREMONY '96 NOV 26 PM8:30
THE WHITE HOUSE
NOVEMBER 27, 1996

Welcome to the White House & Happy Thanksgiving. Thank you all for coming. I especially want to thank Jim Cooper, chairman of the National Turkey Federation, and his family for bringing this turkey all the way from Oakwood, Ohio -- and it certainly is a good looking turkey this year. I also want to thank Stuart Proctor, President of the NTF, and Joel Brandenberger, NTF's Executive Director for joining us. And this day would not be complete without the participation of the volunteers and young people from the Big Brothers and Big Sisters program and the Boys and Girls Club of America. It's good to see you here again this year.

I look forward to this event every year. It gives all of us a chance to have a little fun as we prepare to celebrate America's oldest tradition -- Thanksgiving. Over two hundred years ago, George Washington proclaimed a day of thanks for the blessings of liberty God bestowed upon our nation. God has continued to bless this land, and I am privileged to renew our proclamation of thanks again this year.

Thanksgiving reminds us of the importance of family and community, and the ties that bind us together. As we gather around our dinner tables tomorrow, we must never forget those who are less fortunate than we are. There are still too many people going hungry this holiday season. Just last week I directed our government to help fight hunger by giving to the poor the good food that would otherwise go to waste, and I encouraged every American to do their part, too. This is just one of the ways we honor our duties to one another in our American community.

The promise of freedom that sustained our forbearers is still our greatest gift. I just returned from Asia and Australia, and whenever I travel abroad, I come home with a renewed appreciation for America's unique role as the world's most successful experiment in democracy. And I am always reminded of just how much we as Americans have to be grateful for.

And now, I would like to give this beautiful turkey something to be grateful for. Tomorrow, more than 45 million turkeys will make the supreme sacrifice, but I am happy to say that this bird will not be one of them. Almost 50 years ago, President Truman began the tradition of keeping at least one turkey off of the Thanksgiving dinner table, and I am pleased to follow in his footsteps once again. Now, to all the turkey farmers in Ohio, Arkansas and throughout the country, let me say that we appreciate all you do, but it gives me great pleasure to pardon this turkey today. As in previous years, this lucky bird will be donated to Kidwell Farms, a petting zoo in Fairfax, Virginia. I guess that's one less turkey in Washington . . . and we can all be grateful for that.

Thank you all, and God bless you all. Have a happy Thanksgiving!

Joshua S. Gottheimer
11/20/2000 03:00:56 PM

Record Type: Record

To: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message

cc: Sarah R. Rozensky/WHO/EOP@EOP, Christine M. Glunz/WHO/EOP@EOP, Katherine A. Brown/WHO/EOP@EOP

Subject: revised sw sked.

**WHITE HOUSE OFFICE OF SPEECHWRITING
SPEECH ASSIGNMENTS
November 22 – December 4 , 2000**

Wed 11/22	Annual Turkey Presentation	Josh
Wed 11/22	Service Event	Heather
Wed 11/22	T: Memorial Service	Terry/ Jeff
Wed 11/22	Video Taping	NSC
Fri 11/24	Tape Radio Address	John
Mon 11/27	T: Message Event	Paul
Tues 11/28	WH Conference on Culture	NSC
Tues 11/28	Videos	speechwriters
Wed 11/29	US Olympics Event	Josh
Thur 11/30	UND Hockey	John
Thur 11/30	T: Statement	Sam
Thur 11/30	G&P Foundations Gala	Paul
Fri 12/1	World AIDS Day Event	Terry
Sat 12/2	Live Radio Address	Jeff
Sun 12/3	Kennedy Center Honors	Heather, etc.
Mon 12/4	T: Message Event	TBD

Mon 12/4	Podesta Speech on Declassification	Josh
----------	------------------------------------	------

Message Sent To:

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Gemma Giantomasi/WHO/EOP@EOP
Marc R. Lewis/WHO/EOP@EOP
Amina Arifi-Osman/WHO/EOP@EOP
Gregory S. Wesley/WHO/EOP@EOP



Barbara D. Woolley
11/21/2000 12:32:52 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Joshua S. Gottheimer/WHO/EOP@EOP

cc:

Subject: turkey day update

the turkey's name is Jerry.

THANKSGIVING TURKEY PRESENTATION
Wednesday, November 22, 2000

Guest Times:

Gates Open: **9:30 a.m.** *East Visitors Entrance*
Invite Time: **10:00 a.m.**

Principal Times:

Briefing **9:50 a.m.** *Oval Office*
Event **10:00 a.m.** *Rose Garden*

Approx. 100 guests/Open Press/Business Attire – Weather Forecast 35 – cold
8 Social Aides; 3 Volunteers

8:30 a.m. WHCA/Press/Ushers Office set up in the Rose Garden.

9:00 a.m. Press pre-set in Rose Garden.

9:00 a.m. Joel Brandenburg arrives at SE Gate with 2 live turkeys and 2 “dressed” turkeys
NTF Contact: J. Brandenburg 202/898-0100 x.228
WHSO Contact:

9:15 a.m. **In Place Time**

9:30 a.m. East Visitors Gate opens for guest arrival. Guests are escorted by Social Aides through
the Sculpture Garden and to seats in the Rose Garden.
Gate Contact:
Seating Contact:

9:50 a.m. **THE PRESIDENT** receives briefing in the Oval Office.
Contact: Mary Beth Cahill
Participants:

10:00 a.m. **THE PRESIDENT** meets the following event participants in the Oval Office.

Oval Office Participants

Secretary Glickman
Jerry Jerome, Chairman of the National Turkey Federation (Barron, WI)
Stuart Proctor, Jr., President of the National Turkey Federation

Contact:

10:10 a.m. **PROGRAM BEGINS:**

- **THE PRESIDENT** is announced from the Oval Office, accompanied by the Chairman
of the National Turkey Federation Jerry Jerome and the President of the National Turkey
Federation Stuart Proctor, Jr., and proceeds to the podium on the Colonnade steps.

THE PRESIDENT makes remarks.

Following remarks, **THE PRESIDENT** proceeds stage right to the table at the south side of the Rose Garden.

At the Table with the Turkey:

Jerry Jerome, Chairman of the National Turkey Federation

Stuart Proctor, Jr., President of the National Turkey Federation

Nickolas Feidt, Turkey handler

Chairman Jerome and President Proctor, Jr. present the turkey to **THE PRESIDENT**.

THE PRESIDENT poses for a Group Photo with the Family of Jerry Jerome. (*Note: Social Aide will escort the family to the table.*)

THE PRESIDENT invites children from the Boys and Girls Club of America to see the Turkey. Social Aides assist and direct the Children toward the table.

10:30 a.m.

THE PRESIDENT works ropeline and departs.

Guests exit SW Gate.

SET UP NOTES:

Ushers Office: table stage right for turkey presentation; 100 chairs; open press – 2 press risers along back of garden and 1 at NW corner; gold rope across front of audience; brass stanchions and rope around press risers; flag boxes at steps; bushes moved in front of B. Currie's office doors; 5 chairs for brass quintet

WHCA: Blue Goose podium on Rose Garden steps; announce mic; flags on steps

WHMO: Brass quintet for before/after music in Rose Garden; 8 Social Aides.

Turkey Presentation Draft Layout a/o 11/15; Sfarmsworth

TURKEY PARDON EVENT
Wednesday, November 22, 2000
(a/o 11/15/00; Sfarnsworth)

STAFFING PLAN – DRAFT

10 Social Aides

2-3 Volunteers

1 Turkey Federation Group arriving w/the Turkey

1 Children Group A

1 Children Group B

RESERVED SEATING

TBD Members of the Jerome Family

TBD Representatives of the National Turkey Federation

Children Group/Chaperones (marked off)

OTHER CONTACTS

Turkey:

Press:

Reserved Seating:

Briefing:

Wisconsin produces 6 million turkeys each year

UNITED STATES: Total cheese production, excluding cottage cheeses, was 7.33 billion pounds, 2 percent above the 1996 production. Wisconsin was the leading State with 29 percent of the production. American type cheese production, at 3.29 billion pounds, was slightly above 1996 and accounted for 45 percent of total cheese in 1997.

Wisconsin ranks in the top 10 nationally for annual turkey production. Turkey consumption has grown by more than 44 percent during the last 10 years, according to industry officials.

Additionally, the top six turkey processing states are: North Carolina (18.4 percent); Minnesota (14.4 percent); Virginia (13.6 percent); Arkansas (9.3 percent); California (7.4 percent); and Missouri (7.2 percent).



FRANK GESSILL, *Chairman*
JIM RUFFEL, *Vice Chairman*
JERRY JEROME, *Secretary-Treasurer*
SONNY FAISON, *Past Chairman*
SEYMOUR F. PROCTOR, JR., *President*

TO: Ilia Velez

FROM: Joel Brandenberger

DATE: September 17, 1998

SUBJECT: Background on National Thanksgiving Turkey Presentation

Thank you again for calling on Tuesday. Per our exchange of voice mails, this memo provides background on the history of the National Thanksgiving Turkey presentation. Also attached are copies of President Clinton's remarks at two of the ceremonies and a copy of a fact sheet that we routinely prepare for each year's ceremony.

History of the Presentation

Although research indicates sporadic presentations of turkeys or other gifts since the Civil War era, the current ceremony dates to 1947, when the National Turkey Federation (NTF) presented President Truman with the first National Thanksgiving Turkey. The presentation has continued through the nine succeeding administrations; last year's was the 50th Anniversary. The ceremony has evolved over the years. Most recently, President Clinton has invited schoolchildren, underprivileged youth and physically challenged guests to ceremonies. He also has delivered a Thanksgiving message at the events and usually asks the schoolchildren and other guests to join him in viewing the National Thanksgiving Turkey.

The presentation at times has brushed against broader history. For example, the November 1963 event was one of President Kennedy's last in the Rose Garden. President Bush conducted the 1990 ceremony just before leaving for Thanksgiving with the troops in Saudi Arabia.

How the National Thanksgiving Turkey is Selected and Grown

NTF asks its elected chairman for the year to raise that year's National Thanksgiving Turkey. The chairman generally selects between 10 and 20 young turkeys as candidates to become the National Thanksgiving Turkey, and those birds are raised separately from a normal turkey flock. The candidates are raised using standard commercial production techniques. However, the birds generally are raised for a longer period of time than commercial turkeys.

As the ceremony draws near, the chairman narrows the candidate field, and two turkeys ultimately are brought to the White House. The second serves as a back-up, and only one bird is used in the presentation. The turkey weighs 50-60 pounds at the time of the ceremony.

NTF's chairman this year is Frank Gessell of Swannville, Minn. 



FRANK GESSELL, *Chairman*
JIM RIETH, *Vice Chairman*
JERRY JEROME, *Secretary/Treasurer*
SONNY FAISON, *Past Chairman*
SEBASTIAN E. PROCTOR, JR., *President*

1998 National Thanksgiving Turkey

Brief Background

The flock of birds from which the 1998 National Thanksgiving Turkey will be selected was hatched approximately 18 weeks ago and taken to a turkey farm belonging to the National Turkey Federation's 1998 Chairman, Frank Gessell of Swanville, Minn. This particular farm – the Toddco Farm – is one of the largest in Mr. Gessell's operations, containing 18 turkey grow-out houses and producing 15 million pounds of turkey annually.

Several weeks ago, Mr. Gessell moved eight turkeys from the Toddco Farm to a private farm near Swanville on which turkeys normally are not raised. Mr. Gessell will select the National Thanksgiving Turkey and an alternate from among this group of eight. The turkeys are normal commercial production birds; they will be about 21 weeks old and weigh approximately 40 pounds by Thanksgiving.

Mr. Gessell continues to raise the turkeys using normal commercial production feed. The only deviation is that the birds are at times hand-fed, a practice that will help increase their comfort with human interaction prior to the White House ceremony.

Minnesota is the second-biggest turkey producing state in the country; approximately 44 million turkeys will be raised there in 1998.

Who Attended
The 1621 "First
Thanksgiving"?

our enterprises, that all might turne to his glory and the advancement of our King. The prayer ended, every man began to take courage." (Hakluyt, vol. IX, p. 16)
Marked at Fort Caroline Memorial on St. Johns River (wiped out by de Aviles 1565).

September 8, 1565 (Menendez De Aviles)

"I would be inclined to focus on September 8th when, 420 years ago, Pedro Menendez De Aviles held a service, attended by Indians, at which he gave thanks for the founding of St. Augustine," Gannon said. "This was the first community act of religion and thanksgiving in the first permanent settlement in the land."

Dr. Michael Gannon, Assoc. Dean Univ. of Florida's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
UPI release 11/25/85

May 27, 1578 (Martin Frobisher)

Newfoundland, "in the last of his three unsuccessful attempts to find a northwest passage, celebrated the first thanksgiving North America on the shores of Newfoundland—and Rev. Wollfall conducted the service..." *Mayflower Quarterly*, November 1995, p. 282.

April 30, 1598 (Juan de Onate)

El Paso. Expedition of 1598, 400 conquistadors, 130 w. wives and children 7000 head livestock, 80 ox carts "A scouting troop went ahead of the party, heading north toward the Rio Grande River. According to an epic poem by poet Gaspar Perez de Villagra, who joined the scouting troop, they were soon beset by a lack of food and water. When they finally reached the river on April 30, 1598, they held a feast of thanksgiving, and some of the soldiers performed a play depicting their success, Hall said." Sheldon Hall, president of El Paso Mission Soc. in Kelley Griffin, "Turkey or Tacos?" May 7, 1990, *Quincy Patriot Ledger* p.1

April 29, 1607 (Rev. Robert Hunt)

Jamestown "When they first arrived in Virginia on April 29, 1607, they came ashore at Cape Henry, erected a wooden cross in the dunes, and a service was conducted by Reverend Robert Hunt." Jim Hollomon, Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation 12/21/1982 letter to Carolyn Freeman Travers. (The actual record does not mention Hunt's alleged service: "The nine and twentieth day, we set up a Crosse at Chesupioc Bay, and named that place Cape Henry." (George Percy, "Observations ..." in Edward Arber *Travels and Works of Captain John Smith*, I: lxiii)

August 9, 1607 (Popham)

George Popham arrived on Kennebeck [now Phippsburg, ME], Rev. Richard Seymour had service of thanksgiving for safe voyage to Maine.

"Sondaye being the 9th of Auguste in the morninge the most p^l of our holl company of both our shipes Landed on theis Illand the w^{ch} we call S^t. Georges Illand whear the Crosse standeth and thear we heard a Sermon delyvered unto us by our preacher gyvinge god thanks for our happy metinge & Saffe aryvall into the Contry & So retorned aboard again." Charles H. Levermore, *Forerunners and Competitors of the Pilgrims and Puritans* (Brooklyn: The New England Society), I, 368

June 10, 1610 (Jamestown)

De La Warr arrives with saving provisions, meets Sir Thomas Gates & population heading for Newfoundland and turns them back (Captain Brewster in longboat sent on ahead to do this) service of thanksgiving conducted by Rev. Richard Bucke..(again, the original records do not support the "thanksgiving" supposition as has been claimed...)

December 4, 1619 (Berkeley)

Captain John Woodleaf held service; "Wee ordaine that the day of our ships arrival at the

place assigned for plantacon in the land of Virginia shall be yearly and perpetually kept holy as a day of thanksgiving to Almighty god." perhaps in 1620, 21, wiped out 1622. It was a private event, limited to the Berkeley settlement.

Re-creating Your Own Pilgrim Thanksgiving Worship Service

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*plimoth-on-web*PLIMOTH PLANTATION™: The Living History
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THE PILGRIMS IN AMERICAN CULTURE: THANKSGIVING

[Primary source
references to
the "First
Thanksgiving"](#)

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[A First Thanksgiving Dinner for
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[The 1621 Bill of Fare](#)

[No Popcorn!](#)

[Thanksgiving in American history](#)

[The "First
Thanksgiving":
Facts and Fancies](#)

[A 17th Century
Harvest Feast](#)

[The Alleged Gov.
Bradford First
Thanksgiving
Proclamation](#)

[Who Attended](#)

A "First Thanksgiving" Dinner for Today

The image of the Plymouth Pilgrims and their Wampanoag neighbors sitting down to a peaceful feast in the golden autumn of 1621 is so familiar that most people assume that the event is well-documented and the most minute details of that famous dinner are known to historians. Unfortunately, as in most historical circumstances, this is not the case. We know that wild fowl and venison was served at this three-day feast ~~from Edward Winslow's 1621 letter~~, the only surviving description of the event itself. The other elements of the meal must be extrapolated from our knowledge of English precedents. We also have Gov. William Bradford's more general comment on the first harvest, which adds few culinary details:

Feeding 50 colonists and at least 90 Native guests for three days presumably drew on the Pilgrims' experience with English harvest feasts. Back in England, once the harvest labor was done, the inhabitants of a manor or a village commonly held a community-wide feast, where simple but plentiful fare, such as meat, bread and beer, was made available to all. The Plymouth 1621 harvest celebration, for the colonists would not have thought three days of feasting, recreation and Native American guests to be a true Christian thanksgiving, followed familiar English precedents. In addition to the meals (a mid-day dinner each day, with "leftovers" at other times), it included time for leisure and recreation. The event occurred between September 21 and November 11, 1621, with the most likely time being around Michaelmas (September 29), the traditional time for English harvest homes.

Similarly, the manner in which the food was prepared was determined by the English training of the four surviving housewives who oversaw the creation of the feast. There is no reason to believe that the Mayflower passengers attempted to copy the cookery of the Native Peoples, but rather that they adapted the foods they found here into the cuisine they were familiar with. The key to developing a plausible re-creation is not just present the simple foodstuffs, but to also reflect the

The 1621 "First Thanksgiving"?

English middling-status culinary fashions of the time. Contemporary cooking emphasized meat, with wild game and fowl having the highest status, farinaceous products such as bread, puddings and beer, and dried fruits and spices. Fish and dairy products (whitemeats) were often relegated to fast day dinners, while herbs and sallets (vegetables and vegetable dishes) were of minor importance. Sweets, which made up the "banquet" course of the time (not a meal but a special dessert course), were largely beyond the resources of the Plymouth colonists.

The 1621 Bill of Fare

The foundation of the famous dinner is the venison, wild fowl, turkeys and Indian corn mentioned in the preceding quotes. Added to that are other foodstuffs mentioned or known to have been available aboard the Mayflower or in Plymouth, such as spices¹, garden seeds² and Dutch cheese³, or wild grapes⁴, lobster⁵, cod, native melons⁶, pumpkin (pompion)⁷ and rabbit⁸ are included as well. Other possible foods, such as eels, clams, smaller fish, wild fruits and berries, squash, beans, Jerusalem Artichokes, walnuts and hazelnuts are omitted as out of season or redundant for a typical bill of fare. Butter and beer, available that spring, are omitted as consumed on the difficulty of malting and brewing the "indifferent good" (moderate) barley crop by early fall.

The bulk of the food is prepared in a simple manner based on the 1621 community's capacity to provide sufficiently for the 150 participants. However, we wish to avoid the "rugged pioneer simplicity" stereotype which distorts the modern impression of colonial cookery. Middling-status English cook books of the period reveal a distinctive cuisine which we have drawn on for our interpretation of this meal. Some dishes have been prepared from actual period recipes as suitable for a head table of honored guests, such as the chief men of the colony, Massasoit, his brother Quadaquina and other Native leaders. While still quite plain in the context of period cooking, these dishes have a composition and seasoning that is distinctive and reflects the unspoken culinary standards the Pilgrims brought to America.

1 William Bradford Of Plymouth Plantation, S.E. Morison, ed. (N.Y.:1970), p. 79

2 Mourt's Relation. Dwight Heath, ed. (N.Y.: 1963), p. 50.

3 Ibid., p. 20.

4 Ibid., p. 38

5 Ibid., p. 39, 62

6 William Wood. New England's Prospect (1634). (Amherst: 1977), p.36

7 Ibid.

8 Ibid., p. 45.

9 Oxford English Dictionary, s.v., "indifferent", 6.b.

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DRAFT

'98 NOV 23 PM4:01

C O P Y
from ORM

Draft 11/23/98 3:45pm
Josh Gottheimer

PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
NATIONAL TURKEY PARDONING
NOVEMBER 24, 1998

081123

Acknowledge: Greater DC Boys and Girls Clubs, National Turkey Federation --
Chairman Frank Gessell and President Stuart Proctor.

I want to thank you for joining us in the Rose Garden for this special Thanksgiving celebration. I also want to thank the National Turkey Federation for donating this year's tom turkey to the White House. And of course, I want to acknowledge our special guest of honor, this good-looking turkey from the "Land of 10,000 Lakes" -- Minnesota -- which is the second-biggest turkey-producing state in the union. They have even more turkeys up there than they have lakes.

Now, as you can see, Minnesotans know how to grow their turkeys. While the average turkey weighs in around 15 pounds, they tell me our friend here weighs over 45 pounds. That's one big, strong bird. I guess we'll just have to call him "the body."

As all of you know, Thanksgiving is a uniquely American holiday. It dates back to the Pilgrims in Plymouth, Massachusetts. Of course, when the pilgrims sat down for the first Thanksgiving dinner, in 1621, they didn't have the usual Thanksgiving trimmings -- no potatoes, no stuffing, no pumpkin pie. In fact, they didn't even have turkey. Instead, they feasted on maize, squash, and venison. But much has changed in the last three-and-a-half centuries -- and not just the dinner menu.

Every year that I come out here, it seems that we have more to be thankful for as Americans. Not only do we now have turkey, mashed potatoes, and pie -- and the Minnesota Vikings -- but, more importantly, we live in one of the most prosperous times in our nation's history. And we have a lot to be grateful for. With unemployment at its lowest level in 28 years and home ownership at its highest level ever, more Americans will spend this Thanksgiving in their own homes.

But we should never forget there are still people in our country who need our concern and caring. The young people who are here today are interested in making the most of their own lives and in serving their communities. They remind us that Thanksgiving is not just a time for parades and a home-cooked meal, but a time to come together with our friends, families, and neighbors.

DRAFT

Handwritten signature and initials.

Handwritten signature and initials.

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

November 24, 1999

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AT ANNUAL THANKSGIVING TURKEY PRESENTATION

The Rose Garden

1:50 P.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Please sit down, everyone. Welcome to this annual day before Thanksgiving ritual here at the White House. I want to welcome particularly the Boys and Girls Clubs from Greater Washington, Horton's Kids, the people from the National Turkey Federation, and especially Chairman Jim Rieth and the President, Stuart Proctor.

I also want to say a special word of welcome to Representative Peter Deutsch from Florida, and his family who are here. This is a triumph of human stamina, because Peter just made the trip with me to Bulgaria and Kosovo -- we got back very late last night, so he promised to come so there would be two jet-lagged people standing here together. And we're glad to see them.

I want to thank, as always, the National Turkey Federation for donating this year's Tom turkey. It traveled here all the way from Minnesota. Minnesota may be the second biggest turkey-producing state in our country. Sometimes I wonder if it's really a match for Washington, D.C. (Laughter.)

Tomorrow we celebrate the last Thanksgiving of this century. A hundred years ago, on these very grounds, President William McKinley reflected on the last turn of the century. He said, 'Seldom has this nation had greater cause for profound thanksgiving.' Those words ring even more true today. Today we count among our national blessing a time of unprecedented prosperity, with expanding economy, low rates of poverty and unemployment among our people, limitless opportunities for our children and the future.

We are also very grateful for the peace and freedom America continues to enjoy, thanks to our men and women in uniform -- many of whom I saw yesterday a very long way from home at Thanksgiving.

As we gather around our dinner tables tomorrow with family and friends, let us give thanks for all these things that hold us together as a people -- the duty we owe to our parents and our children; the nurturing and education of our families, especially our children, and for many, our grandchildren; the bounty of our Earth; and the strong spirit of community we enjoy here in the United States.

We also know as we celebrate our blessings that there are still too many people who are hungry at this holiday season, both beyond our borders and around the world, and sadly, even here in the United States. That's why it's so important that we not only give thanks, but also give back to our communities.

Before coming out here, I asked some of our staff members what they were thankful for this holiday season. One of my staff members

said, 'Today I'm thankful that I'm not a turkey.' (Laughter.) I know that one turkey doesn't have to worry about that -- this fine-looking bird from the state of Minnesota. At over 50 pounds, he is the namesake of Harry S. Truman, the President who began the tradition of keeping at least one turkey off the Thanksgiving dinner table. Harry, the turkey, will get his pardon today.

So before I feast on one of the 45 million turkeys who will make the ultimate sacrifice, let me give this one a permanent reprieve, and tell you all that he will soon be on his way to the wonderful petting zoo at Fairfax County, Virginia, where he can enjoy his golden years.

I want to say a special word of appreciation for the people who run this petting zoo and who give, therefore, a lot of children the opportunity to see animals and to touch them in a way that they never would.

Just before we came out here -- or before we started the ceremony, Stuart reminded me that this turkey is a little more calm than the one we had last year. One of the most interesting things I've discovered in the seven years we've done this is that turkeys really do have personalities, very different ones. And most all of them have been quite welcoming to the President and to the children who want to pet them. On occasion, they're as independent as the rest of Americans. (Laughter.)

So, Harry, you've got your pardon. Ladies and gentlemen, happy Thanksgiving. (Applause.)

Q Mr. President, on Vieques, how are you going with reaching a compromise with Governor Rossello with regard to Vieques?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, we're working very hard on it, and the Defense Department and the government of Puerto Rico have been working together. And here's a case where I believe there are two legitimate issues here. There's the legitimate concerns of the people of Puerto Rico, which I think are quite real, particularly the people on the island. And then there's the absolutely legitimate concern of sending all of our units out combat-ready. So we're working hard through that.

I have spent a lot of time on it myself, and I hope that in the next few days we'll have something to say about it. We're getting there.

Q What did you think of your wife's emphatic statement, Mrs. Clinton's emphatic statement yesterday regarding the Senate race? And did you advise her to do that?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I think -- first of all, I thought it was a good statement. I thought she did well yesterday. And what told -- what she said in public is what she's been telling me for weeks and weeks, and I think she just thought that, even though, for a lot of good reasons, she thought she should wait until next year to make a formal announcement, I thought it was a wise thing for her to do, to decide that -- to make it clear that she had no doubt that she was going to do it.

Q Are you, in a sense, prepared to not have a First Lady here? Are you prepared to do many of the things, in a sense, that she might do?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I want her to do this if she wants to do it -- and she does -- and if a lot of people in New York want her to do it -- and they do. And I think that we'll have to make accommodations.

N A T I O N A L
Turkey
F E D E R A T I O N

TO: Barbara Woolley
Office of Public Liaison

FROM: Joel Brandenberger

DATE: November 9, 2000

SUBJECT: Information for 2000 National Thanksgiving Turkey Presentation

As mentioned in the voice mail, this memorandum is intended to provide you with background on the 2000 National Thanksgiving Turkey, the National Turkey Federation's proposed guest list for the ceremony and information about the vehicle that will be bringing the turkey and its alternate to the White House.

We think this covers most of the information we traditionally provide you, but please let us know if you have any additional questions, or if we can be of assistance in any way. Barbara, thank you again for everything this White House, and you personally, have done to make the National Thanksgiving Turkey presentations to President Clinton such a success. This ceremony has grown during the last eight years and now – more than ever before – truly captures the spirit of the Thanksgiving season. We all owe the President, you and everyone involved in the ceremony a debt of gratitude.

That said, following is the relevant information for the 2000 National Thanksgiving Turkey presentation.

2000 NATIONAL THANKSGIVING TURKEY PRESENTATION

Background

History of the Ceremony

This year marks the first National Thanksgiving Turkey presentation of the new decade and century, and the 53rd presentation in the history of the current ceremony. Though live Thanksgiving turkeys were presented intermittently to presidents since the Lincoln administration, the current event dates to 1947, when the first National Thanksgiving Turkey was presented to President Harry Truman.

The ceremony has evolved since then; in recent years, President Clinton has invited schoolchildren, under-privileged youth and physically challenged guests to the ceremonies. He also has delivered a Thanksgiving message at the events and usually asks the schoolchildren and other invited guests to join him in viewing the National Thanksgiving Turkey.

The presentation at times has brushed against broader history. For example, the November 1963 event was one of President Kennedy's last in the Rose Garden. President Bush conducted the 1990 ceremony just before leaving for Thanksgiving with the troops in the Persian Gulf area. President Clinton in 1996 returned from an Asian summit and literally went directly to the ceremony.

How the National Thanksgiving Turkey was Raised and Selected

NTF asked its chairman, Jerry Jerome of Barron, Wis., to raise and select the 2000 National Thanksgiving Turkey and its alternate. Jerome, CEO of the Turkey Store Co. of Barron, initially selected 10 turkeys that were hatched on June 5, and the poults (newborn turkeys) were placed for seven weeks at the Skyline Brood Farm near Chetek, Wis. The birds were raised under Jerome's supervision, with assistance from Keith Kemp, the farm's manager.

In late July, the 10 birds were divided into two groups of five. One group was placed at the Owen Farm near Wheeler, Wis. (Steve Becker, farm manager) and the other at the Barco Farm near Barron (Richard Diesterhaft, farm manager). Here, the turkeys were raised under the joint supervision of Jerome and the two farms' managers. The birds generally were used raising normal commercial production techniques. The one exception is that the birds were provided increased interaction with people so that they would be prepared for the crowds at the White House ceremony.

Shortly before the presentation, Jerome will select the National Thanksgiving Turkey and an alternate. The turkeys will be about 22 weeks old at the time of the ceremony and are expected to weigh about 45 pounds each. They will be flown to Washington on Northwest Airlines the day before the ceremony and will stay overnight at the Hotel Washington.

What Happens to the National Thanksgiving Turkey

President Clinton has continued the long-standing tradition of granting the National Thanksgiving Turkey a "pardon." For the last 10 years, NTF has taken the turkey and the alternate to Frying Pan Park's Kidwell Farm in Herndon, Va. The farm is a 1930s-era replica farm operated by the Fairfax County Parks Department. The turkeys remain on the farm, where area schoolchildren and others can view them. The average lifespan of a domestic turkey is about two years.

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. list	2000 National Thanksgiving Turkey Presentation re: [Personally Identifiable Information] [partial] (1 page)	00/00/0000	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
Speechwriting
Josh Gottheimer
OA/Box Number: 18990

FOLDER TITLE:

Turkey Pardoning 11/22/00 [1]

2016-0201-S
rc1935

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
- b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
- b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
- b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
- b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

2000 NATIONAL THANKSGIVING TURKEY PRESENTATION

Guest List

<u>Name</u>	<u>DOB</u>	<u>SSN</u>
-------------	------------	------------

Jerome K. Jerome*

Billie Jean Jerome

Wallace H. Jerome

Ethel I. Jerome

Darcy D. Jerome

Nickolas J. Feidt, Jr.

Linda M. Feidt

Stuart E. Proctor, Jr.**

Cherie Proctor

Kristin Proctor

(b)(6)

[001]

Joel H. Brandenberger

Sherrie L. Rosenblatt

Alice L. Johnson

Yolanda L. Coles

Brie C. Hall

Kawaki J. Braun

Amy E. Hanigan

Norma J. Gray

James A. Bischoff

Deborah Cochran

*NTF Chairman

**NTF President

2000 NATIONAL THANKSGIVING TURKEY PRESENTATION

Vehicle Information

The National Thanksgiving Turkey and the alternate will arrive at the White House in a 1996 Chevrolet pick-up with the personalized Virginia tag "TRYD ABE".

Jerry Jerome, Stuart Proctor, Joel Brandenberger and Nickolas Feidt will be in the vehicle.

Joshua S. Gottheimer
11/21/2000 07:36:16 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Jeffrey A. Shesol/WHO/EOP@EOP

cc:

Subject:

----- Forwarded by Joshua S. Gottheimer/WHO/EOP on 11/21/2000 07:36 PM -----

 Terry Edmonds
11/21/2000 07:13:00 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Joshua S. Gottheimer/WHO/EOP@EOP

cc:

Subject:

Draft 11/21/00 6:40pm

Josh Gottheimer

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
REMARKS FOR NATIONAL TURKEY PARDONING
THE WHITE HOUSE
November 21, 2000**

Acknowledge: Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Washington; National Turkey Federation: Chairman Jerry Jerome and President [X].

Welcome to the White House. I want to thank all of you for joining us today for the annual turkey pardoning. I also want to thank the National Turkey Federation for donating this year's tom turkey, the eighth I've had the privilege to meet -- and set free -- in the Rose Garden. I hope I don't offend the others, but he's the best I've seen so far. I'm told Jerry ~~traveled~~ ^{brought him} all the way here from the farms of Wisconsin -- proving that the "cheese state" knows how to make more than good cheese.

Tomorrow we will celebrate the first Thanksgiving of the new millennium, and the last one of my presidency. As Hillary, Chelsea and I sit down to our dinner, we will give special thanks for the ~~privilege we have had~~ ^{privilege it has been} to live in this house and serve the American people ~~there~~.

past eight years.

neither of those are true
and maybe there ~~is~~ really
no Thanksgiving.
the first dinner (?) was held.

It's still a bit of a mystery when exactly Thanksgiving took place for the first time. Some say it was in 1513, when Ponce de Leon landed in Florida. Others say it occurred in 1541, when Francisco Vasquez de Coronado arrived on the Texas Panhandle. [Some conspiracy theorists say it didn't happen at all.] (the first one had to happen sometime)

that ~~where~~ Today we'll go with the most popular story -- the one that we all learned about as kids: is that where the Native Americans and Pilgrims shared a feast of thanks to celebrate their first harvest in 1621, soon after the Pilgrims arrived in Plymouth. It was a famous meal of maize, squash, and venison, that lasted three whole days. Now that's a lot of turkey.

No matter what its roots, Thanksgiving is a tradition that's been celebrated in our country since its beginning. George Washington was the first president to declare a national day of thanks in 1789; and Abraham Lincoln made the tradition a permanent one in 1863, recognizing, as he put it, "the blessings of fruitful years and healthful skies."

The times have changed, but the message hasn't ~~to~~ to give thanks for all of God's blessings: for our strong families, our spirited communities, and the good fortune of living in our country's most prosperous and peaceful time. With more than 20 million new jobs, poverty and unemployment at record lows, and the highest homeownership in history, Americans have more to be thankful for than at any other time. We should also be grateful for the strength of our democracy, and the freedom America continues to enjoy, thanks to the courage and patriotism of our men and women in uniform.

But as we gather around our dinner tables with family and friends, and celebrate our great bounty, we must not forget those who are going hungry this holiday season. That's why it's so important that all Americans, like the young people here today, not only give thanks but give back to their communities.

Almost 50 years ago, President Truman began the tradition of keeping at least one turkey off the Thanksgiving dinner table, and I am pleased to follow in his footsteps. I hereby pardon this turkey, and order that he be sent to petting zoo in Fairfax County, Virginia, to live a long life on a diet of grain and dimpled chads. the

Thank you and have a wonderful Thanksgiving.

HARRY
THURAS
CLUB

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This is not a presidential record. This is used as an administrative marker by the William J. Clinton Presidential Library Staff.

This marker identifies the place of a tabbed divider. Given our digitization capabilities, we are sometimes unable to adequately scan such dividers. The title from the original document is indicated below.

POTUS on TURKEY PARDONING

Divider Title: _____

November 22, 2000

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: JOHN PODESTA

FROM: TERRY EDMONDS
JEFF SHESOL
JOSH GOTTHEIMER

SUBJECT: POST-ELECTION SPEECHES

We have convened a small working group to discuss options for speeches you might deliver between now and the Inauguration. We believe that you have an opportunity to deliver one or more “summing-up” speeches that outline your accomplishments and offer your vision for the future – not only the nation’s future, but the ideas you plan to pursue in the years ahead.

As you know, speeches like these have been something of a tradition among outgoing, two-term Presidents. President Eisenhower, of course, delivered a major address on the military-industrial complex and disarmament. President Reagan delivered four major wrap-up speeches in December 1988: one each on domestic and foreign policy, one on the state of the economy, and one on the presidency and the role of government. (Please see attached survey of recent presidencies.)

Below, we briefly describe several speech topics that emerged in our meeting with John Podesta, Steve Ricchetti, Maria Echaveste, Karen Tramontano, Gene Sperling, Sid Blumenthal, Joel Johnson, Jake Siewert, Loretta Ucelli, and Stephanie Streett. We believe you should deliver a series of three or four “summing-up” speeches, which we will bill as such. This would be in addition to several other major speeches, as well as a formal Farewell Address from the Oval Office.

We look forward to discussing your ideas.

I. GLOBALIZATION

This would be your lasting, defining statement on the central reality of this new century: globalization. This speech could fill in the contours of your argument in this year’s State of the Union Address – for America’s leadership as a force not only for open trade, but for labor rights and environmental protection around the world. As you did at Davos and in other speeches, you could emphasize the growing importance of debt relief, development, and health initiatives, and the potential of trade and technology to lift lives in all nations.

II. NATIONAL SECURITY IN THE 21ST CENTURY

A thorough and thoughtful review of America's security interests in this new century and the progress we have made toward a safer world. You could speak to America's role both as a peacemaker (Northern Ireland, the Balkans, the Middle East) and a peacekeeper. You could describe the foundations you have built for our changing relationships with Russia, China, and other nations; and address the new challenges to America's security in a global, information age.

III. SOCIAL PROGRESS (THE NEW COVENANT REVISITED)

This speech would revisit the themes of your New Covenant speeches of 1991, and build on your argument that America is not only better off, but also a better country. In addressing the progress we have made – from welfare to crime, from education to the environment – you could define the “Third Way” approach that informs these efforts.

Additionally, in describing your ethic of social responsibility, you could make the case for public service and civic activism – for fulfilling our democratic duty to our communities and our nation.

IV. OTHER POSSIBLE SPEECH TOPICS

- A. New Economy
- B. Race
- C. Environment

Jennifer C. Self
11/22/2000 12:12:13 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Sarah R. Rozensky/WHO/EOP@EOP, Joshua S. Gottheimer/WHO/EOP@EOP

cc:

Subject: Videos

The videos for next week are:

✓ 1) Video greeting for the Congress of National Black Churches Annual Consultation Black Church Leadership Award Dinner

Staff Contact: Mary Beth Cahill

✓ 2) Video of the President for the Nobel Awards Concert in Oslo

Staff Contact: Loretta Ucelli

✓ 3) Video greeting for Rabbi Menachem Genack for 20 years of Service

Staff Contact: Mary Beth Cahill

4) Video message for reception to Honor New CEO and President of the Welfare to Work Partnership

Staff Contact: Bruce Reed

5) Video for the President's Farewell Video

Staff Contact: Betty Currie, Capricia Marshall

Josh, I will send the draft scripts over to you.

-Caroline

□

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

Date: 11-21-00 ACTION / CONCURRENCE / COMMENT DUE BY: ASAPSubject: Turkey Pardon Remarks

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	☒	☐	SIEWERT	☐	☒
PODESTA	☒	☐	MARSHALL	☐	☐
ECHAVESTE	☒	☐	MOORE	☐	☐
RICCHETTI	☒	☐	NASH	☐	☐
LEW	☐	☐	NOLAN	☐	☐
BAILY	☐	☐	REED	☒	☐
BERGER	☐	☐	SPERLING	☒	☐
BLUMENTHAL	☐	☐	STREETT	☐	☐
BRAIN	☐	☐	TRAMONTANO	☒	☐
BURSON	☐	☐	UCELLI	☒	☐
CAHILL	☐	☐	VERVEER	☐	☐
EDMONDS	☒	☐		☐	☐
FRAMPTON	☐	☐		☐	☐
IBARRA	☐	☐		☐	☐
JOHNSON, B.	☐	☐		☐	☐
JOHNSON, J. →	☒	☐		☐	☐
LANE	☐	☐		☐	☐

REMARKS:

Comments to Josh Gottheimer

RESPONSE:

Office of the Staff Secretary

Draft 11/21/00 8pm
Josh Gottheimer

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
REMARKS FOR NATIONAL TURKEY PARDONING
THE WHITE HOUSE
November 21, 2000**

Acknowledge: Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Washington; National Turkey Federation: Chairman Jerry Jerome and President Stuart Proctor.

Welcome to the White House. I want to thank all of you for joining us today for the annual turkey pardoning. I also want to thank the National Turkey Federation for donating this year's tom turkey, the eighth I've had the privilege to meet – and set free – in the Rose Garden. I hope I don't offend the others, but he's the best I've seen so far. I'm told Jerry "the turkey" traveled all the way here from the farms of Wisconsin – proving that the "cheese state" knows how to make more than good cheese.

Tomorrow we will celebrate the first Thanksgiving of the new millennium, and the last one of my presidency. As Hillary, Chelsea and I sit down to our dinner, we will give special thanks for the privilege it has been to live in this house and serve the American people these past eight years.

It's still a bit of a mystery when exactly the first Thanksgiving dinner was held. Some say it was in 1513, when Ponce de Leon landed in Florida. Others say it occurred in 1541, when Francisco Vasquez de Coronado arrived on the Texas Panhandle. Some conspiracy theorists say neither of those are true -- and maybe there really is no Thanksgiving.

The most popular story -- the one we all learned as kids -- is that Native Americans and Pilgrims shared a feast of thanks to celebrate their first harvest in 1621, soon after the Pilgrims arrived in Plymouth. It was a famous meal of maize, squash, and venison, that lasted three whole days. Now that's a lot of turkey.

No matter what its roots, Thanksgiving is a tradition that's been celebrated in our country since its beginning. George Washington was the first president to declare a national day of thanks in 1789; and Abraham Lincoln made the tradition a permanent one in 1863, recognizing, as he put it, "the blessings of fruitful years and healthful skies."

The times have changed, but the message hasn't – to give thanks for all of God's blessings: for our strong families, our spirited communities, and the good fortune of living in our country's most prosperous and peaceful time. With more than 20 million new jobs, poverty and unemployment at record lows, and the highest homeownership in history, Americans have more to be thankful for than at any other time. We should also be grateful for the strength of our democracy, and the freedom America continues to enjoy, thanks to the courage and patriotism of our men and women in uniform.

~~But~~ as we gather around our dinner tables with family and friends, and celebrate our great bounty, we must not forget those who are going hungry this holiday season. That's why it's so important that all Americans, like the young people here today, not only give thanks but give back to their communities.

Almost 50 years ago, President Truman began the tradition of keeping at least one turkey off the Thanksgiving dinner table, and I am pleased to follow in his footsteps. I hereby pardon this turkey, and order that he be sent to the petting zoo in Fairfax County, Virginia, to live a long life ~~on a diet of grain and dimpled chads.~~

and prosper
life.

Thank you and have a wonderful Thanksgiving.

live his remaining days
~~free from~~
in peace & happiness

David Hamilton
Hormel's Paul
Mrs. Hamilton

Draft 11/23/99 7pm
Josh Gottheimer

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88 NOV 29 4:10

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
NATIONAL TURKEY PARDONING
THE WHITE HOUSE
November 24, 1999**

Acknowledge: Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Washington, Horton's Kids, National Turkey Federation: Chairman Jim Rieth (wreath) and President Stuart Proctor.

I want to thank all of you for joining us today. I also want to thank the National Turkey Federation for donating this year's tom turkey, who traveled here from the farms of ~~Minnesota~~. Minnesota may be the second-biggest turkey producing state in our country – but it's really no match for Washington. *wmm*

Tomorrow, we will celebrate the last Thanksgiving of the 21st Century. A hundred years ago, on these very grounds, President William McKinley reflected on the last turn of the century. He said, "Seldom has this nation had greater cause for profound thanksgiving." These words ring even more true today.

Today we count among our national blessings a time of unprecedented prosperity, with an expanding economy, record low rates of poverty and unemployment among our people, and limitless opportunities to improve our quality of life. We are also grateful for the peace and freedom America continues to enjoy, thanks to the courage and patriotism of our men and women in uniform around the world.

As we gather around our dinner tables tomorrow with family and friends, we will give thanks for all the things that hold us together as a people – the duty we owe our parents, the nurturing and education of our children, the wonderful bounty of our earth, and the blazing spirit of our community.

But as most of us celebrate our bounty, we know that there are still too many people going hungry this holiday season. That's why it is so important that all Americans, like the young people here today, not only give thanks but give back to their communities.

Before coming out here, I asked one of my staff members what they were thankful for this holiday season. His response, "Today, I'm thankful that I'm not a turkey." I know one turkey who shares your sentiments – this fine looking bird from the state of Minnesota. At over fifty pounds, he is the namesake of Harry S. Truman, the President who began the tradition of keeping at least one turkey off the Thanksgiving dinner table.

So, before I feast on one of the 45 million turkeys who will make the ultimate sacrifice, let me pardon this one. I am granting this turkey a permanent reprieve. He will soon be on his

COPY

way to a petting zoo in Fairfax County, Virginia where he can enjoy his golden years. Thank you and have a wonderful Thanksgiving.

Draft 11/21/00 6:40pm
Josh Gottheimer

PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
REMARKS FOR NATIONAL TURKEY PARDONING
THE WHITE HOUSE
November 21, 2000

Acknowledge: Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Washington; National Turkey Federation: Chairman Jerry Jerome and President [X].

Welcome to the White House. I want to thank all of you for joining us today for the annual turkey pardoning. I also want to thank the National Turkey Federation for donating this year's tom turkey, the eighth I've had the privilege to meet -- and set free -- in the Rose Garden. I hope I don't offend the others, but he's the best I've seen so far. I'm told Jerry traveled all the way here from the farms of Wisconsin -- proving that the "cheese state" knows how to make more than good cheese.

Tomorrow we will celebrate the first Thanksgiving of the new millennium, and the last one of my presidency. As Hillary, Chelsea and I sit down to our dinner, we will give special thanks for the privilege we have had to live in this house and serve the American people the past eight years.

It's still a bit of a mystery when exactly Thanksgiving took place for the first time. Some say it was in 1513, when Ponce de Leon landed in Florida. Others say it occurred in 1541, when Francisco Vazquez de Coronado arrived on the Texas Panhandle. Some conspiracy theorists say it didn't happen at all.

Today we'll go with the most popular story -- the one that we all learned about as kids: where the Native Americans and Pilgrims shared a feast of thanks to celebrate their first harvest in 1621, soon after the Pilgrims arrived in Plymouth. It was a famous meal of maize, squash, and venison, that lasted three whole days. Now that's a lot of turkey.

No matter what its roots, Thanksgiving is a tradition that's been celebrated in our country since its beginning. George Washington was the first president to declare a national day of thanks in 1789; and Abraham Lincoln made the tradition a permanent one in 1863, recognizing, as he put it, "the blessings of fruitful years and healthful skies."

The times have changed, but the message hasn't: to give thanks for all of God's blessings: for our strong families, our spirited communities, and the good fortune of living in our country's most prosperous and peaceful time. With more than 20 million new jobs, poverty and unemployment at record lows, and the highest homeownership in history, Americans have more to be thankful for than at any other time. We should also be grateful for the strength of our democracy, and the freedom America continues to enjoy, thanks to the courage and patriotism of our men and women in uniform.

But as we gather around our dinner tables with family and friends, and celebrate our great bounty, we must not forget those who are going hungry this holiday season. That's why it's so important that all Americans, like the young people here today, not only give thanks but give back to their communities.

Almost 50 years ago, President Truman began the tradition of keeping at least one turkey off the Thanksgiving dinner table, and I am pleased to follow in his footsteps. I hereby pardon this turkey, and order that he be sent to petting zoo in Fairfax County, Virginia, to live on a diet of grain and dimpled chads.

Thank you and have a wonderful Thanksgiving.

President Lincoln understood this when he issued the first official proclamation of Thanksgiving during the Civil War -- one of the most trying times in our nation's history. Although the American people were engaged in a profound national struggle, and indeed, with the survival of the union, Mr. Lincoln reminded us that we all have things to be thankful for.

I hereby follow in the footsteps of President Lincoln -- and President Truman, who 51 years ago began this tradition of keeping at least one turkey off the Thanksgiving table. With this presidential pardon, our friend here will retire to the petting zoo in Fairfax County, Virginia, where he will live out the remainder of his years surrounded by friends -- not by peas and sweet potatoes. Thank you and have a wonderful Thanksgiving.

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

November 24, 1998

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AT 51ST NATIONAL THANKSGIVING TURKEY
PRESENTATION CEREMONY

The Rose Garden

12:47 P.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning. Chairman Gessell, President Proctor, Walter Gialason and all the children from the Greater Washington Boys and Girls Clubs, welcome to all of you. I want to thank you for joining us in the Rose Garden for our annual Thanksgiving Day celebration. I'd also like to thank the National Turkey Federation again for donating this year's Tom turkey to the White House.

And of course, I want to acknowledge our special guest of honor, this good-looking turkey from the land of 10,000 lakes, Minnesota. Minnesota is the second largest turkey producing state in our nation. They have even more turkeys there than lakes. And I must say, of all the years I've been here, this is the most adventurous turkey we've ever had. (Laughter.) Just ask him your questions. (Laughter.) While the average turkey weighs about 15 pounds, they tell me our friend here weighs over 45 pounds.

As all of you know, Thanksgiving is a uniquely American holiday, dating back to the Pilgrims and Plymouth, Massachusetts. When the Pilgrims sat down for Thanksgiving dinner in 1621, of course, they didn't have the usual trimmings -- no potatoes, not stuffing, no pumpkin pie. In fact, they didn't even have a turkey. They feasted on maize, squash, and venison.

A lot has changed in the last three and a half centuries in our country, and not just the Thanksgiving dinner menu. But every year that I come here to do this ceremony, it seems we have more to be thankful for as Americans. Not only do we have turkey, mashed potatoes and pie, but for this turkey and its owners, we have the Minnesota Vikings and their great season this year.

We're also fortunate this Thanksgiving to live in one of the most prosperous times in our history, with unemployment at its lowest level in 28 years, home ownership at its highest level ever. More Americans this Thanksgiving will spend this holiday in their own homes than ever before.

But we should never forget that there are still people in our nation who need our concern and caring. The young people here today are interested in making the most of their own lives and in serving their own communities. They remind us that Thanksgiving is not simply a time for parades and a home-cooked meal, but a time together with our friends, our families, our neighbors.

President Lincoln understood that when he issued the first official proclamation of Thanksgiving during the Civil War.

Although the American people then were engaged in a profound national

• struggle and, indeed, engaged with the very survival of our nation, Mr. Lincoln reminded us that even in the darkest times, we all have something to be thankful for.

Therefore, I am honored to follow in the footsteps of President Lincoln, and President Truman who began this tradition 51 years ago of keeping at least one turkey off the Thanksgiving table. With this presidential pardon, our friend here will retire to the Petting Zoo in Fairfax County, Virginia, to live out the remainder of his years surrounded by friends, not peas and sweet potatoes. (Laughter.)

So let's bring the turkey up here, and I hope you all have a wonderful Thanksgiving. (Applause.)

END

12:50 P.M. EST

PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON

NATIONAL TURKEY PARDONING

NOVEMBER 26, 1997

Acknowledge: Horton's Kid's Anacostia [Day care program], National Turkey Federation--Chairman Sonny Faisun (FAY-SUN) and President Stuart Proctor.

I want to thank you for joining us in the Rose Garden for this special Thanksgiving celebration. I want to commend the National Turkey Federation on their golden anniversary and for donating Thanksgiving turkeys to the White House for 50 years. And of course, I want to acknowledge our special guest of honor, this fine tom turkey from the Tar Heel state--which is the number one turkey producing state in the union. I would argue that Washington D.C. could easily compete in the per capita category.

They say President Truman was the first president to pardon a turkey. But the tradition actually began 83 years earlier when President Lincoln received a turkey for the Christmas holiday. His son Tad grew so attached to the turkey that he named him Jack ... and President Lincoln had no other choice but to pardon that bird and give him the run of the place. Jack was at the White House for some monumental events. On election day in 1864, a special voting booth was set up on the property for soldiers to vote. When "Jack" the turkey strutted in front of some would be voters, Lincoln asked his son Tad "Why is your turkey at the polls? Does he vote?" Without hesitating Tad told his father, "No, he's not of age yet."

add color

Tomorrow, 45 million turkeys will make the ultimate sacrifice for our American feast. But not the one here today. I am granting this turkey a permanent reprieve after many years in the coop, he is on his way to a farm in Virginia where he can bask in the sun, collect his hard earned pension and enjoy his golden years. Unlike most turkeys in Washington, this one doesn't have to worry about re-election, re-appointment or retirement.

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

November 26, 1997

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AT NATIONAL TURKEY PARDONING CEREMONY

The Rose Garden

11:20 A.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. I want to welcome the folks from the National Turkey Federation here; the Chairman, Sonny Faisun and the President, Stuart Proctor. And a special word of welcome to all the kids who are here from Horton's Kids in Anacostia, and all the rest of you who want to see one more turkey for Thanksgiving. (Laughter.)

This is a special day in the Rose Garden every year, and let me thank again the National Turkey Federation on their golden anniversary for donating a Thanksgiving turkey to the White House every year for 50 years. That's right. Now, this marks the 50th year when we give one more turkey in Washington a second chance. (Laughter.)

I want to acknowledge our special guest, this fine tom from the Tarheel State of North Carolina, the number one turkey-producing state in our nation. President Truman was the first President to pardon a turkey. But in some ways, the tradition actually began 83 years earlier when President Lincoln received a turkey for Christmas holiday. His son, Tad, grew so attached to the turkey that he named him "Jack," and President Lincoln had no choice but to give Jack the full run of the White House.

Jack was here, actually, for some monumental events. On Election Day in 1864 when Mr. Lincoln was running for reelection, a special polling place was actually set up right here on the grounds of the White House so that the soldiers could vote. Well, Jack the turkey actually strutted in front of some of the would-be voters and broke in line. Lincoln asked his son, "Why is your turkey at the polls? Does he vote?" Without hesitation, Tad said, "He's not old enough yet." (Laughter.)

Tomorrow, 45 million turkeys will make the ultimate sacrifice for America's feast. But not this one. I'm granting this turkey a permanent reprieve. After many years in the coop, he's on his way to a farm in Virginia to bask in the sun, collect his hard-earned pension, and enjoy his golden years. And that's one less turkey in Washington. (Laughter.) Happy Thanksgiving. (Applause.)

Q Mr. President, how is the Attorney General?

THE PRESIDENT: She's fine. I talked to her this morning. She said she was feeling great.

END

11:22 A.M. EST

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

November 27, 1996

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AT THANKSGIVING TURKEY CEREMONY

The Rose Garden

10:35 A.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Please sit down. You can hear I'm hoarse. I just got back from a long trip. But if you'll bear with me, I will -- I'll do my best to talk. (Laughter.) I want to, first of all, thank the chairman of the National Turkey Federation, Jim Cooper, and his family for bringing the turkey here, all the way from Oakwood, Ohio. His Congressman, Representative Paul Gillmor is here; I welcome him as well.

I want to thank Stuart Proctor, the President of the National Turkey Federation, and Joel Brandenberger, the Executive Director. I want to thank the volunteers and young people from the Big Brothers and the Big Sisters program and the Boys and Girls Club of America for being here.

You all know why we're here. Tomorrow, 45 million turkeys will pay the supreme sacrifice for our Thanksgiving. So, continuing a tradition begun 50 years ago by President Truman, I am going to keep at least one turkey off of the Thanksgiving dinner table by giving a pardon to a turkey from Ohio that will now go to the petting zoo that Kidwell Farms maintains in Fairfax, Virginia.

We can all be grateful, therefore, that there will be one less turkey in Washington, D.C. tomorrow. (Laughter.) Let me thank the turkey farmers in Ohio, in my native state of Arkansas and throughout the country for the fine job that they do all year long, and say how very grateful I am to see all the children here.

Now, let's pardon this bird. Thank you for coming.
(Applause.)

END

10:37 A.M. EST

C O P Y
from ORM

REMARKS BY PRESIDENT WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON
ANNUAL PRESENTATION OF THE NATIONAL THANKSGIVING TURKEY 991123
THE WHITE HOUSE
NOVEMBER 22, 1995 95 NOV 21 P6:47

[Acknowledgments: Kenneth Rutledge, Chairman of the National Turkey Federation; his wife Brenda and son John. Stuart Proctor, President of the National Turkey Federation and his wife Cherie. I'd also like to warmly welcome the young people and volunteers from the Boys and Girls Club of America, the Big Brothers/Big Sisters Program and the members of AmeriCorps from Baltimore.]

- We've come together today to have a little fun and to give our thanks for God's many blessings, and for the personal gifts he has bestowed upon us and our loved ones.
- The Thanksgiving holiday is a special time for Americans. As millions of us gather around the dinner table tomorrow with family and friends, we will give thanks for all the things that hold us together as a people -- the duty we owe our parents, the nurturing and education of our children, the wonderful bounty of the earth and our environment, the spirit of generosity that has always led us to care for the sick, feed the hungry, and give a helping hand to those less fortunate.
- Let me take this opportunity to thank those of you here today who have dedicated your lives to building a better future for our children -- and for America. You embody our shared fundamental values of personal responsibility and service to others. You remind us that we are all part of the same American community, and I thank you for that.
- Today, I have the honor of carrying on what has become an American tradition that began in 1947 with President Truman. This is the third time I've had the honor of accepting the annual Thanksgiving Turkey and granting it the Presidential Pardon. This year I guess we can say we're happy to grant it a permanent furlough.
- Approximately 45 million turkeys will be consumed at dinner tables all across America tomorrow. But, not this one. As in previous years, it will be donated to Kidwell Farms, a petting zoo in Fairfax, Virginia.
- With all the challenges facing us as a nation, Americans still have much to be thankful for -- and so does this turkey. Happy Thanksgiving!
- I'd now like to invite Kenneth Rutledge to come up and say a few words.

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

November 22, 1995

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AT THANKSGIVING TURKEY PRESENTATION

Rose Garden

2:04 P.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to the Rose Garden and Happy Thanksgiving. I want to acknowledge, especially, Kenneth Rutledge, the Chairman of the National Turkey Federation, his wife Brenda, his son John; Stuart Proctor. Kenneth is the Chairman, Stuart Proctor is the President of the Turkey Federation; his wife Sherry. I also want to recognize the presence here of Congressman Cal Dooley. And I want to, on this cold day, warmly welcome the young people and the volunteers who are here from the Boys Club, the Girls Club of America, the Big Brothers and Big Sisters program, and the members of the AmeriCorps program from Baltimore. (Applause.)

I also want to say that's the most multi-colored, best-looking turkey we've had here since I've been President.

You know, we're here today to have a little fun and to begin the official Thanksgiving in our country that we give every year at this time for the blessings that God has given us; for the personal gifts he's given us, the gifts to our families and communities and to our great country.

boy Thanksgiving is a uniquely American holiday, as all of you know. It goes back to our foundations. But I think it's important to note that the first official proclamation of Thanksgiving, issued by a United States President, was issued by Abraham Lincoln during the Civil War, when our people were overwhelmingly preoccupied with their problems, and indeed, with whether our country would even continue to exist. Nevertheless, Mr. Lincoln reminded us that we had things to be thankful for.

On this Thanksgiving, here in America, we've got a lot to be thankful for. The combined rates of unemployment and inflation in our country are at their lowest levels in 27 years. Homeownership and new business formation and the stock market now are at an all-time high -- all

three of them. Maybe even more important, the crime rate, the welfare rates, the poverty rates, they're all down this year, and we're grateful for that.

I'm grateful that the United States has been a force for peace, from the Middle East to Northern Ireland, and to Haiti, and now of course, we hope in Bosnia.

But we should never forget that there are still people in our country that need our concern and our caring. The young people who are here today are interested in making the most of their own lives and serving those in their community. And that's an important part of Thanksgiving as well. We have obligations to our parents and to our children, to people who are disabled or otherwise, through no fault of their own, need a helping hand.

And just before I came here I was with Secretary Cisneros and the First Lady at a homeless shelter here in Washington, D.C., where we were feeding people. And I'm sad to say I saw a fresh and personal example of the fact that the fastest growing group of homeless people in our country are young women and their young children.

So on this Thanksgiving we should be thankful for our blessings and we should redouble our resolve to do everything we can to make America a place of honor and decency and community, where we can all give thanks.

I'd like to say one other thing, too. I'm very proud of the United States negotiators who did so much to help to bring about the peace agreement in Bosnia yesterday. There will be many questions in the days ahead about all the things that have to be answered before we can go forward with this project. And I expect to be addressing the nation about it shortly.

But let me just remind you of one thing on this Thanksgiving eve. Among other things, in that tiny country, so much smaller than the United States, there are 1 million homeless people. So I say, on this Thanksgiving, I hope God will bless the peace and bring those folks home again as well.

Let me now turn to the moment at hand, which I look forward to every day -- every year, I mean. This is a -- (laughter) -- I wouldn't mind having it every day, actually. (Laughter.) In 1947, President Truman began this great tradition of accepting a Thanksgiving turkey and then granting it a presidential pardon. (Turkey gobbles.) (Laughter.) You can see one person thoroughly agrees with my decision here. (Laughter.) This year, I guess we can say, since the government is back to work, I can at least grant to one living thing in America, a permanent furlough. (Laughter.)

Approximately 45 million turkeys will be consumed tomorrow all across our country, but not this one. As in previous years, it will be donated to Kidwell Farms,

President William Jefferson Clinton

Turkey Presentation Ceremony

THE PRESENT HAS BEEN
11/23/94

November 23, 1994

COPY

Good morning. I want to thank all the fifth graders from the Murch Elementary School for coming today. I want to thank Larry Fanella, the Chairman of the National Turkey Federation. And I want to say a special word of thanks to Robert Strickler and to Shawn Arbogast, the 9-year old boy who raised this year's turkey in Dayton, Virginia.

Americans gather with friends and family each

Thanksgiving season to give thanks for all of God's blessings. It is a time to remember our great fortune to live in a country of abundance and promise -- a land of freedom for all.

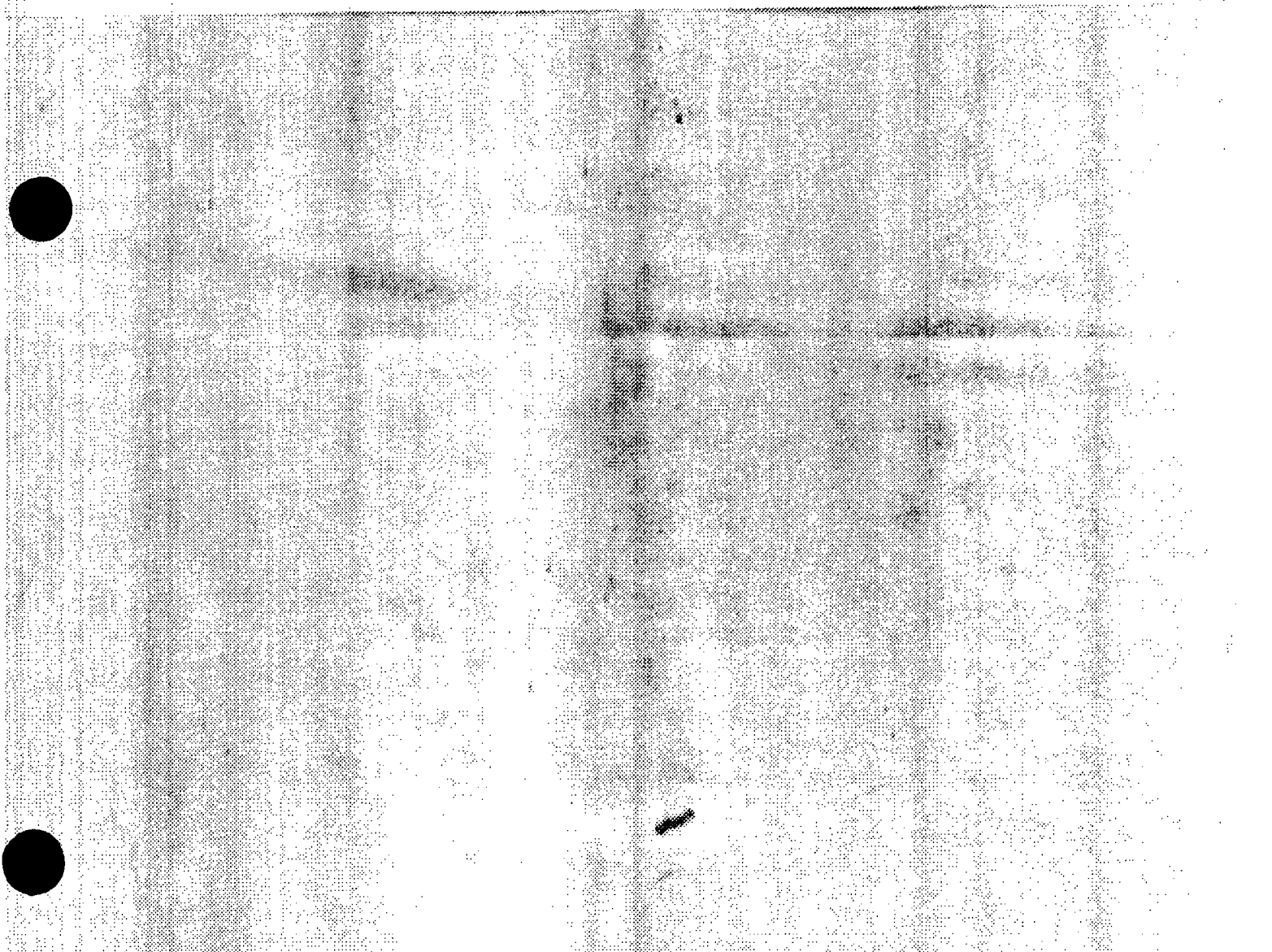
It is also a time to reach out to those less fortunate than ourselves. In a few hours, Hillary and I will visit So Others Might Eat, a local soup kitchen, to help prepare Thanksgiving dinner with some of Washington's less fortunate families. Thanksgiving reminds us that we all belong to a larger community of people.

It reminds of us of our responsibilities to our fellow Americans, and of how much we can accomplish when we put our hands and hearts together.

Now, it is my distinct honor to accept this turkey and grant the second official Presidential pardon of my Administration -- the first was last Thanksgiving.

Unlike the 45 million American turkeys who will make the supreme sacrifice this Thanksgiving, this turkey will retire to Kidwell Farms -- a replica 1930s working farm in Frying Pan Park in Northern Virginia.

Thank you all for coming and have a happy Thanksgiving.



THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

November 23, 1994

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AT THANKSGIVING TURKEY PRESENTATION

The Rose Garden

10:10 A.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Well, good morning.

AUDIENCE: Good morning!

THE PRESIDENT: It's nice to see all of you here. I want to especially welcome the fifth graders from Murch Elementary School. I'm glad you're here, and hope you're having a good time. And I'm glad the sun is shining down at least on some of you.

I want to thank Larry Fanella, the chairman of the National Turkey Federation; and say a special word of thanks to Robert Strickler and to Sean Arbogast, the 10-year-old boy who raised this year's turkey in Dayton, Virginia. Let's give him a hand. (Applause.)

Tomorrow we'll all celebrate Thanksgiving. It's an opportunity and a responsibility for all of us to give thanks for our many blessings in this life, to appreciate the good things we have in this country, and to think about those who still live among our ranks who don't have the things that many of us take for granted. In a few hours, Hillary and I will visit So Others Might Eat, a local soup kitchen, to help prepare Thanksgiving dinner for some of Washington's less fortunate families. I think that this is an important time for all of us to think about the larger American community of which we are a part.

The very presence of these children from schools and the different walks of life and backgrounds from which they come reminds us that this has always been a country of great diversity, and the great strength of America is that we offer an opportunity for all different kinds of people to live up to the fullest of their God-given capacities. We can only do that if we're committed to creating a stronger and better American community every day.

That is the commitment of our administration. That is the commitment of the public education movement in this country. That is the commitment of everybody devoted to the idea that every child can learn and that we can all do better if we work together.

So I would like to leave you with that thought on this Thanksgiving. And now I want to accept the turkey, and a lot of you know this already, but this will be the second official presidential pardon of my administration -- I granted one to a turkey last year. Unlike the 45 million American turkeys who will make the supreme sacrifice this Thanksgiving for the rest of us, this turkey will retire to Kidwell Farms, a replica of the 1930's working farm in Frying Pan Park in northern Virginia. So I'm glad I can make at least one turkey happy this year. (Laughter.)

Thank you very much. (Applause.)

Are we going to let the kids come up and see the turkey?

Q Mr. President, what do you have to be thankful for this year?

THE PRESIDENT: A lot, but let me just -- I'll mention two things. One is there's more than five million Americans more who have jobs and who, therefore, can afford to have Thanksgiving this Thanksgiving than there were two Thanksgivings ago, right after I was elected. And I'm very thankful for that. And I'm very thankful for the opportunity that my family and I have been given to get up here every day and work on the problems and the opportunities of this country. Those are the two things that I feel very grateful for.

Q When are you going to Camp David?

THE PRESIDENT: When am I going? Tonight when Chelsea gets home from her activities. We're going up late tonight.

END10:20 A.M. EST

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

November 24, 1993

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
IN ANNUAL PRESENTATION OF THE THANKSGIVING TURKEY

The Rose Garden

10:36 A.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen and boys and girls. It's good to see you here. I want to especially thank Congresswoman Leslie Byrne for joining us, along with Stuart Proctor, the National Turkey Federation president, and the turkey, clapping for the president. (Laughter.) Thomas Bross, the Chairman of the Federation and a turkey farmer from Pennsylvania who raised this year's Thanksgiving turkey, and the National Turkey Federation staff.

Finally, I want to welcome the 4th grade students who are here from Springfield Estates Elementary School in Springfield, Virginia. Welcome to all of you. I'm glad you're here for Thanksgiving. (Applause.)

As President, this is my first year to have the honor of accepting the annual Thanksgiving turkey and granting the turkey the annual presidential pardon. (Laughter.) After this ceremony, this turkey will retire to a 1930s working farm replica in Northern Virginia.

We've come together today to have a little fun, but also to express our gratitude in this Thanksgiving season for God's many blessings -- a time to impress upon younger people the heritage of our nation, and the commitment we all have to justice and freedom and peace.

It's also a time to reach out in service to others not as fortunate as we are. In a few hours, Hillary and I will visit the New Covenant Baptist Church here in Washington where church members and homeless families are coming together to prepare a Thanksgiving dinner. Thanksgiving, when we all bask in the generosity and hospitality of our own family and friends, reminds us that we also belong to a larger community full of people who often are not as fortunate as we are.

It's a time to value those things and to remember how strong we are when we come together to overcome adversity. In the last few months I've had a chance to spend a lot of time in the Middle West, dealing with the floods and their aftermath, and then last Sunday I went to church in California with two dozen people who went through the horrible trauma of the wildfires in the West. And I saw again what people can do when they pull together and remember that we are all in this together.

Tomorrow, I'll have the great good fortune of celebrating Thanksgiving with my family, reflecting on the past year and looking to the future. I'll have the chance to say a prayer of thanks for the many blessings that I have enjoyed. I ask all of you to do that. I wish you well on this Thanksgiving and to remember also our continuing obligations for our fellow Americans who don't

Leslie Byrne
[]

have many of the things we take for granted. Together we can make this country stronger and have even more to be thankful for next Thanksgiving.

Thank you very much. (Applause.) And thank you for the applause. (Applause.)

Somebody pointed out this morning that this may not be the only turkey I've had in my administration, but this is one I will certainly set free. (Laughter.)

* * * * *

THE PRESIDENT: I'm experienced in this. I come from the fourth largest turkey growing state.

Q Is this your first presidential pardon?

THE PRESIDENT: It is my first presidential pardon. (Laughter.)

Q You're going into great detail over this --

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, we were talking to the kids about the turkey -- this is a very well behaved turkey --

Q We were hoping for something better, actually. (Laughter.)

THE PRESIDENT: I asked the gentleman who raised him -- any trouble, any extra effort to raise him, and he said that they had spent a lot of time handling him, so he's more comfortable around people.

Q Were you concerned about this, because this has some ridiculous aspects for a President --

THE PRESIDENT: So many of my predecessors have participated in this -- I actually didn't mind it. I think it's kind of funny and it's an annual ritual. As I said, it's a little easier for me because I've been around turkeys all my life. I didn't really like that -- (laughter) -- and I come from a state that grows a lot of turkeys. We also have a huge wild turkey population at home, too, so it's not as alien an experience for me as it would be for some people.

Q Do you think the Founding Fathers made the right choice not choosing a turkey as the national bird? (Laughter.)

Q You know they proposed it --

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, they did. Well, actually, let me tell you. What Franklin meant -- wild turkeys -- and they're quite beautiful, if you've ever seen them. They're bottom-heavy, like a regular turkey, but they're quite beautiful. And they can go from zero to 35 miles an hour in no time -- something that most people don't know. They're amazing creatures to see operate in the woods and to listen -- and being out there in the woods on an early November or December morning, listening to the turkeys. Actually, in our state, it's turkey season --

Q Does this remind you of any of the members of Congress you've been dealing with in the last -- (laughter) --

Clinton Presidential Records Digital Records Marker

This is not a presidential record. This is used as an administrative marker by the William J. Clinton Presidential Library Staff.

This marker identifies the place of a tabbed divider. Given our digitization capabilities, we are sometimes unable to adequately scan such dividers. The title from the original document is indicated below.

TURKEY TRIVIA

Divider Title: _____

The Alleged Gov.
Bradford First
Thanksgiving
Proclamation

John Crackstone 21 (est.)

Elizabeth Tilley 14

Edward Dotey 21 servant to
HopkinsWilliam Trevore 23* hired
seaman

Who Attended
The 1621 "First
Thanksgiving"?

Francis Eaton 29

Richard Warren 41

Samuel Eaton 1

Resolved White (boy) 6

_____ Ely 23* hired seaman

Peregrine White (boy) approx. 11
months

Samuel Fuller 41

Edward Winslow 26

Susanna Winslow 31

Gilbert Winslow 21

NOTES : Ages marked by an * are conjectural. (est.) meaning estimated, has a more factual basis than *.

Native Peoples who attended the 1621 event:

The only name we have is **Massasoit**. However, it is almost certain that **Squanto**, the Pilgrim's translator, was present as well. Among other probable attendees are **Hobbamock**, **Quadequina** (Massasoit's brother), and **Tokamahamon** (mentioned in *Mourt's Relation* in June 1621, as a "special friend"). We do not know whether Samoset was still in the Plymouth area or had already returned to Maine.

CFT 8/96

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PRIMARY SOURCES FOR "THE FIRST THANKSGIVING"

There are 2 (and only 2) primary sources
for the events of autumn 1621 in Plymouth :
Edward Winslow writing in *Mourt's Relation* and
William Bradford writing in *Of Plymouth Plantation*

Edward Winslow, *Mourt's Relation* :

"our harvest being gotten in, our governour sent foure men on fowling, that so we might after a speciall manner rejoyce together, after we had gathered the fruits of our labours ; they foure in one day killed as much fowle, as with a little helpe beside, served the Company almost a weeke, at which time amongst other Recreations, we exercised our Armes, many of the Indians coming amongst us, and amongst the rest their greatest king Massasoyt, with some nintie men, whom for three dayes we entertained and feasted, and they went out and killed five Deere, which we brought to the Plantation and bestowed on our Governour, and upon the Captaine and others. And although it be not always so plentifull, as it was at this time with us, yet by the goodness of God, we are so farre from want, that we often wish you partakers of our plentie."

William Bradford, *Of Plimoth Plantation* :

In the original 17th century spelling

"They begane now to gather in ye small harvest they had, and to fitte up their house and dwellings against winter, being all well recovered in health & strenght, and had all things in good plenty; fFor as some were thus imployed in affairs abroad, others were excersised in fishing, aboute codd, & bass, & other fish, of which yey tooke good store of which every family had their portion. All ye somer ther was no want. And now begane to come in store of foule, as winter approached, of which this place did abound when they came first (but afterward decreased by degrees). And besides water foule, there was great store of wild Turkies, of which they tooke many, besides venison, &c. Besides they had about a peck a meale a weeke to a person, or now since harvest, Indean corn yt proportion. Which made many afterwards write so largely of their plenty hear to the freinds in England, which were not fained, but true reports."

In modern spelling

"They began now to gather in the small harvest they had, and to fit up their houses and dwellings against winter, being all well recovered in health and strength and had all things in good plenty. For as some were thus employed in affairs abroad, others were exercised in fishing, about cod and bass and other fish, of which they took good store, which every family had their portion. All the summer there was no want; and now beg

Sarah Josepha Hale, editor of Godey's Lady's Book, the most influential lady's magazine of the 19th century, waged a campaign to have Thanksgiving become a national annual holiday (previously, Thanksgivings were proclaimed by individual governors - or not - and not always celebrated on the same day by the various states). She began her campaign in 1837 and was successful when, in 1863, President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed the first in an unbroken series of annual national Thanksgivings.

1865

The Pilgrim Fathers incorporated a yearly thanksgiving day among the moral influences they sent over the New World. After our Independence the light crept slowly onward and westward, broken by State enactments into stars that glimmered at different times and at distant intervals; yet still it blessed and beautified the homes it reached, thus suggesting its beneficence and power for good whenever the stars should shine out together and make joy and thanksgiving through United America. ~~██████████~~

1837 :

That merry anniversary, our Thanksgiving, has changed, to us, the gloomy aspect of the season, and made November (in which month the Thanksgiving should always be held) one of the brightest and best months in the year...

It might, without inconvenience, be observed on the same day of November, say the last Thursday in the month, throughout all New England; and also in our sister states, who have engrafted it upon *their* social system. It would then have a national character, which would, eventually, induce all the states to join in the commemoration of "In-gathering," which it celebrates. It is a festival which will never become obsolete, for it cherishes the best affections of the heart – the social and domestic ties. It calls together the dispersed members of the family circle, and brings plenty, joy and gladness to the dwellings of the poor and lowly. None are left to pine in that most abject state of physical want, hunger, on the Thanksgiving; even the poor prisoner is cheered in his solitary cell, not so much by the thought that a good dinner awaits him on that day, as that he finds he is not forgotten by his more fortunate fellow beings - that love and charity still watch over him.

1857

Consecrate the day to benevolence of action, by sending good gifts to the poor, and doing those deeds of charity that will, for one day, make every American home the place of plenty and of rejoicing.

1864

"The Birth of Washington," which brings before all minds the example of the patriot hero and the Christian man; "Independence Day," which reminds us of the free principles on which our Government was founded; and "Thanksgiving Day," which lifts our hearts to Heaven in grateful devotion, and knits them together in bonds of social affection are three anniversaries such as no other People have the good fortune to enjoy. We fervently trust that, so long as the nation endures, these three Festivals will continue to be observed with an ever deepening sense of their beauty and value. ... Who can estimate the benefits and blessings which may flow from the faithful observance of this happy Festival? For one day the strife of parties will be hushed, the cares of business will be put aside, and all hearts will join in common emotions of gratitude and goodwill.

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pegbaker@icl.net**

**FROM : Peggy Baker
FAX : (508) 747-4228**

**TO : Josh Gottheimer, White House
FAX : (202) 456-2505
DATE : November 13, 2000
NUMBER OF PAGES : 4**

Following are :

The text of the Continental Congress proclamation of 1777 (first national proclamation)

The text of the 1789 Washington proclamation (the first presidential proclamation)

and some high-flown Victorian oratory from Sarah Josepha Hale, "mother" of Thanksgiving -

If I can help in any other way, give me a call

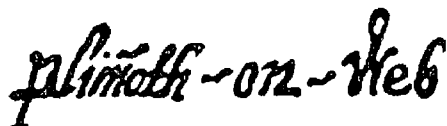
Peggy Baker

FULL TEXT OF 1ST NATIONAL THANKSGIVING PROCLAIMED BY CONTINENTAL CONGRESS, 1777 - FIRST NATIONAL THANKSGIVING PROCLAMATION

By the Continental Congress - a Proclamation

Forasmuch as it is the indispensable duty of all men to adore the superintending providence of Almighty God; to acknowledge with gratitude their obligation to him for benefits received, and to implore such farther blessings as they stand in need of; and it having pleased him in his abundant mercy not only to continue to us the innumerable bounties of his common providence, but also smile upon us in the prosecution of a just and necessary war, for the defence and establishment of our unalienable rights and liberties; particularly in that he hath been pleased in so great a measure to prosper the means used for the support of our troops and to crown our arms with most signal success : It is therefore recommended to the legislative or executive powers of these United States, to set apart Thursday, the 18th day of December next, for solemn thanksgiving and praise; that with one heart and one voice the good people may express the grateful feelings of their hearts, and consecrate themselves to the service of their divine benefactor; and that together with their sincere acknowledgments and offerings, they may join the penitent confession of their manifold sins, whereby they had forfeited every favor, and their humble and earnest supplication that it may please God, through the merits of Jesus Christ, mercifully to give and blot them out of remembrance; that it may please him graciously to afford his blessings on the governments of these states respectively, and prosper the public council of the whole; to inspire our commanders both by land and sea, and all under them, with that wisdom and fortitude which may render them fit instruments, under the providence of Almighty God, to secure for these United States the greatest of all blessings, independence and peace; that it may please him to prosper the trade and manufactures of the people and the labor of the husbandman, that our land may yield its increase; to take schools and seminaries of education, so necessary for cultivating the principles of true liberty, virtue and piety, under his nurturing hand, and to prosper the means of religion for the promotion and enlargement of that kingdom which consisteth in righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Ghost.

And it is further recommended, that service labor, and such recreation as, though at other times, innocent, may be unbecoming the purpose of this appointment, be omitted on so solemn an occasion.



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CLAIMANTS FOR "THE FIRST THANKSGIVING"

April 3, 1513 - (Ponce de Leon)

"The very first Thanksgiving in what is now the United States took place when Juan Ponce De Leon landed in Florida during the Easter season of 1513"

Dr. Michael Gannon, Associate Dean,
University of Florida's College of Liberal Arts
and Sciences. UPI release 11/25/85

May 23, 1541 - (Coronado)

Francisco Vásquez de Coronado camped along the Palo Duro in Texas Panhandle, had service of Thanksgiving.

Feast of First
Thanksgiving-1541

Proclaimed by padre
Fray Juan De Padilla for Coronado
and his troops in Palo Duro Canyon
79 years before the Pilgrims

Marker Placed by Texas Society
Daughters of the American Colonists
1959

June 30, 1564 - (de Laudonnière)

Rene de Laudonnière recorded: "On the morrow about the break of day, I commaunded a trumpet to be sounded, that being assembled we might give God thanks for our favourable and happie arrivall. Then wee sang a Psalme of thanksgiving unto God, beseeching him that it would please him of his grace to continue his accustomed goodnesse toward his poore servaunts, and ayde us in all



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THE FIRST THANKSGIVING



The First Thanksgiving by Brownscombe

What has come down in American tradition as the "First Thanksgiving" was actually a harvest festival. In the spring of 1621, the colonists planted their first crops in Patuxet's abandoned fields. While they had limited success with wheat and barley, their corn crop proved very successful, thanks to Squanto [Tisquantum] who taught them how to plant corn in hills, using fish as a fertilizer.

In October of 1621, the Pilgrims celebrated their first harvest with feasting and games, as was the custom in England, as well as prayer. The celebration served to boost the morale of the 50 remaining colonists and also to impress their allies. Among the Native People attending were Massasoit and 90 Wampanoag men. For more about the "First Thanksgiving," click [HERE](#).



Detail from Brownscombe's First Thanksgiving

The Pilgrims would not have called the event of 1621 a "Thanksgiving." The

Separatist Puritans recognized three kinds of holidays as sanctioned by the Bible : the Sabbath, days of thanksgiving, and fast days. Unlike the Sabbath, days of thanksgiving and fast days were not part of the established calendar. They were proclaimed by the governor only in response to a specific situation. A religious day of fasting could be invoked by a drought or war. A religious day of thanksgiving could be called to celebrate a particularly good harvest or providential rainfall. Although the event of 1621 is known today as the "First Thanksgiving," that harvest feast had many secular elements and would not have been considered a religious day of thanksgiving by the Pilgrims.

LATER SIGNIFICANCE OF THANKSGIVING

The religious day of thanksgiving gradually evolved into a yearly Thanksgiving customarily held on a Thursday in November. As America grew and New Englanders moved to new states, the custom of an annual Thanksgiving Day took root throughout the country. The religious holiday added secular overtones, celebrating abundance, family and national unity.

The Pilgrim Fathers incorporated a yearly Thanksgiving day among the moral influences they sent over the New World. After our Independence the light crept slowly onward and westward... yet still it blessed and beautified the homes it reached.

Sarah Josepha Hale, *Godey's Lady's Book* 1865



Thanksgiving was not yet part of the national calendar. The governor of each state would determine when (or if) a Thanksgiving would be held. Thanksgiving did not become an annual national holiday until ~~President~~ Abraham Lincoln's 1863 proclamation. Every President since has proclaimed an annual national Thanksgiving. In 1939, President Franklin Roosevelt moved Thanksgiving from the last Thursday to the third Thursday in November, to extend the Christmas shopping season. In 1941, this unpopular move inspired Congress to permanently fix the date on the fourth Thursday of November.

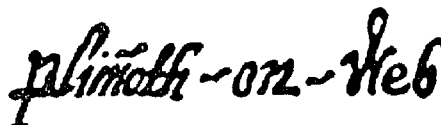
Thanksgiving has proved one of the most enduring and popular symbols of the Pilgrims. Millions of immigrants who arrived in America between 1880 and 1920 learned "Americanism" from the story of the Pilgrims and their celebration of Thanksgiving. Today, as we celebrate America's multicultural heritage, the story of the Pilgrims and Wampanoag sharing a harvest celebration remains an inspiration to many.

For more about the evolution and significance of the modern Thanksgiving, [click here.](#)



*1777 -
celebrated
by the
Pilgrims
and
Wampanoag*

celebrated by the Pilgrims



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Bradford First
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There are only two references to the fall or harvest celebration that we know today as the "First Thanksgiving." It is not known exactly when the event occurred, but it was between September 21 or 22 when a group of Plymouth men returned from Massachusetts, and November 9, 1621, when the ship *Fortune* arrived. "Mourt" refers to the name "G. Mourt" who signed the dedication at the beginning of the book. It is thought that this was George Morton, who arrived on the *Anne* in 1623.

"Our Corne did proue well, & God be prayسد, we had a good increase of Indian Corne, and our Barly indifferent good, but our Pease not worth the gathering, for we feared they were too late sowne, they came vp very well, and blossomed, but the Sunne parched them in the blossome; our harvest being gotten in, our Governour sent foure men on fowling, that so we might after a more speciall manner reioyce together, after we had gathered the fruit of our labors; they foure in one day killed as much fowle, as with a little helpe beside, served the Company almost a weeke, at which time amongst other Recreations, we exercised our Armes, many of the *Indians* coming amongst vs, and among the rest their greatest King *Massasoyt*, with some nintie men, whom for three dayes we entertained and feasted, and they went out and killed fiue Deere, which they brought to the Plantation and bestowed upon our Governour, and upon the Captaine, and others. And although it be not alwayes so plentifull, as it was at this time with vs, yet by the goodneses of God, we are so farre from want, that we often wish you partakers of our plenty."

E.W., Plymouth, in New England, this 11th of December, 1621. in A RELATION OR Journal of the beginning and proceedings of the English Plantation settled at Plimoth in NEW ENGLAND, by certaine English Aduenturers both Merchants and others. LONDON, Printed for Iohn Bellamie,...1622. pp. 60-61.

(modern version) Our corn did prove well, and, God be praised, we had a good increase of Indian corn, and our barley indifferent good, but our pease not worth the gathering, for we feared they were too late sowne. They came up very well, and blossomed, but the sunne

Who Attended
The 1621 "First
Thanksgiving"?

late sown, they came up very well, and blossomed, but the sun parched them in the blossom.

Our harvest being gotten in, our governor sent four men on fowling, that so we might after a special manner rejoice together after we had gathered the fruit of our labors. They four in one day killed as much fowl as, with a little help beside, served the company almost a week. At which time, among other recreations, we exercised our arms, many of the Indians coming amongst us, and among the rest their greatest king Massasoit, with some ninety men, whom for three days we entertained and feasted, and they went out and killed five deer, which they brought to the plantation and bestowed upon our governor, and upon the captain, and others. And although it be not always so plentiful as it was at this time with us, yet by the goodness of God, we are so far from want that we often wish you partakers of our plenty.

Edward Winslow, Dec. 11, 1621, in A Journal of the Pilgrims at Plymouth (Mourt's Relation: A Relation or Journal of the English Plantation settled at Plymouth in New England, by certain English adventurers both merchants and others.) Dwight Heath, ed. New York: Corinth Books, 1963, p. 82.

"They begane now to gather in ye small harvest they had, and to fitte up their houses and dwellings against winter, being well recovered in health & strenght, and had all things in good plenty; for some were thus employed in affairs abroad, others were excersised in fishing, aboute codd, & bass, & other fish, of which yey tooke good store, of which every family had their portion. All ye somer ther was no wante. And now begane to come in store of foule, as winter aproached, of which this place did abound when they came first (but afterward decreased by degree). And besids water foule, ther was great store of wild Turkies, of which they took many, besids venison, &c. Besids they had aboute a peck a meale a weeke to a person, or now since harvest, Indean come to yt proportion. Which made many afterwards write so largely of their plenty hear to their freinds in England, which were not fained, but true reports."

William Bradford. "Bradford's History "Of Plimoth Plantation." Boston: Wright & Potter Printing Co., State Printers... 1898. p. 127.

(modern version) They began now to gather in the small harvest they had, and to fit up their houses and dwelling against winter, being all well recovered in health and strength and had all things in good plenty. For as some were thus employed in affairs abroad, others were exercised in fishing, about cod and bass and other fish, of which they took good store, of which every family had their portion. All the summer there was no want; and now began to come in store

of fowl, as winter approached, of which this place did abound when they first (but afterward decreased by degrees). And besides waterfowl there was great store of wild turkeys, of which they took many, besides venison, etc. Besides, they had about about a peck a meal a week to a person, or now since harvest, Indian corn to that proportion. Which made many afterwards write so largely of their plenty here to their friends in England, which were not feigned but true reports.

William Bradford, Of Plimoth Plantation. Samuel Eliot Morison, ed.
New York: Knopf, 1952. p.20

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The "First Thanksgiving": Facts and Fancies

The event we now know as "the First Thanksgiving" was in fact neither the first occurrence of our modern American holiday, nor was it even a "Thanksgiving" in the eyes of the Pilgrims who celebrated it. It was instead a traditional English harvest celebration to which the colonists invited Massasoit, the most important sachem among the Wamapanoag. It was only in the nineteenth century that this event became identified with the American Thanksgiving holiday.

The association of the Pilgrims with the Thanksgiving holiday has a complicated history. The holiday itself evolved out of a routine Puritan religious observance, irregularly declared and celebrated in response to God's favorable Providence, into a single, annual, quasi-secular New England autumnal celebration. The first national Thanksgiving was declared in 1777 by the Continental Congress, and others were declared from time to time until 1815. The holiday then reverted to being a regional observance until 1863, when two national days of Thanksgiving were declared, one celebrating the victory at Gettysburg on August 6, and the other the first of our last-Thursday-in-November annual Thanksgivings. Although the Pilgrims' 1621 harvest celebration had been identified as the first American Thanksgiving as early as 1841 by Alexander Young, the common Thanksgiving symbolic associations in the 19th century centered on turkeys, Yankee dinners and an annual family reunion, not Pilgrims. The now famous 1621 event had been in fact entirely forgotten until the 1820s, when the full text of *Mourts Relation* (1622) with the reference to the feast was rediscovered. Mention of the

Who Attended
The 1621 "First
Thanksgiving"?

Pilgrims brought the Landings or Myles, Priscilla, and John to mind, not Thanksgiving.

Moreover, whenever a Pilgrim, or more accurately, a generic 17th-century puritan image appeared in popular art in connection with Thanksgiving during the nineteenth century, it was not the now familiar scene of English and Indians sitting down to an outdoor feast. On the contrary, the image almost always portrayed a violent confrontation between colonist and Native American. It was only after the turn of the century, when the western Indian wars were over and the "vanishing red man" was vanishing satisfactorily, that the romantic (and historically correct) idyllic image of the two cultures sitting down to an autumn feast became popular. By the First World War, popular art (especially postcards), schoolbooks and literature had linked the Pilgrims and the First Thanksgiving indivisibly together, so much so that the image of the Pilgrim and the familiar fall feast almost ousted the Landing and older patriotic images from the popular consciousness. This alliance also deflated Forefathers' Day, which sank in to insignificance even in Plymouth itself.

The Pilgrims and the "First Thanksgiving"

During the second half of the nineteenth century, Thanksgiving was more commonly symbolized by its New England origins and its chief dinner constituent, the turkey, than by the Pilgrims' 1621 harvest celebration. In addition to the rural New England theme, there were a diversity of contemporary and historical illustrations and stories, including Thanksgivings on the battlefield, down south with African-Americans and in the urban slums, as well as a few generic colonial New England (and Old England) Puritan images. It is surprising to note that when the colonists are represented, they are less likely to be sharing their feast with their Native American neighbors, than illustrating European and Native American conflict, indicated by a hail of arrows! Apparently the very real dangers of the Indian Wars in the West produced a sense of fear and guilt which was expressed in this fashion, in graphic contrast with the familiar peaceful autumn pastorals that we associate with the holiday today. It was only after the wars were over that a sentimental regard for the satisfactorily "vanishing Red Man" provoked a national change of heart in which Jennie Brownscombe could create her idyllic "First Thanksgiving" (1914). Even then the image of the Thanksgiving "Pilgrim-puritan" fleeing a shower of arrows retained a popular appeal.

The association between Thanksgiving and the Pilgrims had been suggested as early as 1841 when Alexander Young

identified the 1621 harvest celebration as the "first Thanksgiving" in New England, but their importance among the holiday's symbols did not occur until after 1900. It was then that the familiar illustrations of Pilgrims and Native Americans sitting down to dinner in peace and concord appeared widely in calendar art and on patriotic murals. The real New England Thanksgiving, as is shown in the 1777 proclamation, bore less of a resemblance to our modern holiday than the feasting and games of the Pilgrim harvest celebration. But when the Victorians were looking for the historical antecedent of the contemporary Thanksgiving holiday, the Pilgrim festival with its big dinner and charitable hospitality seemed the perfect match. The fact that the 1621 event had not been a Thanksgiving in the Pilgrims' own eyes was irrelevant. The Pilgrim harvest celebration quickly became the mythic "First Thanksgiving" and has remained the primary historical representation of the holiday ever since. The earlier Pilgrim holiday, Forefathers' Day (December 21st, the anniversary of the Landing on Plymouth Rock), which had been celebrated since 1769 faded in importance as the Pilgrims increasingly became the patron saints of the American Thanksgiving.

The Pilgrims were cast in their Forefathers role to provide an example of the close-knit, religiously inspired American community that people worried about the decline of basic values during the First World War period wished to instill in their descendants. While retaining their Victorian symbolic virtues, the Pilgrims became usable history for generations of school children, and played an important part in the Americanization of the Northern and Eastern immigrants entering the country. New elements and a new theme supporting this role were added to the Pilgrim Story as the Pilgrims acquired their most recent and important popular association: the Thanksgiving holiday. A modern image, the First Thanksgiving, showed Pilgrim families sitting down to a pastoral celebration with the Native Americans in eirenic harmony, thus symbolizing the potential for unity of different ethnic background.

Equally important at the turn of the century was the inspirational image of the Pilgrims and the Native Americans sharing their communal meal in harmony. The country was seriously concerned over immigration and the problems surrounding the integration of the new citizens into American culture. The Thanksgiving image of dissimilar ethnic communities co-existing amid peace and plenty was an irresistible symbol. The Pilgrims became the exemplary immigrants whose Protestant virtues made them the preferred model for all later arrivals. Americanization programs, which

were intended to socialize the new immigrants by instilling in them the values and beliefs of "real" Americans, made good use of the symbols and ideals of Thanksgiving and the Pilgrims. By 1920, when the Pilgrims' 300th anniversary celebration elevated them to the pinnacle of their fame, their role as Thanksgiving icons and the "spiritual ancestors" of all Americans became permanently fixed in the American psyche.

Also, you might like to see [Thanksgiving in American History](#) for more information on this "Pilgrim Holiday."

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Turkey Trivia



History

Turkey's scientific name is *Meleagris gallopavo* (mel-e-AY-gris gal-low-PAY-voe) from Latin *gallus*, meaning cock, and *pavo*, meaning chickenlike. *Meleagris* is the Roman name for guineafowl, suggestive of the early confusion of the turkey with guineafowl.

Domestication of the Turkey

The domestic turkey is descended from wild turkeys originally native to Southern Ontario, parts of the U.S. and Mexico. The turkey was tamed by the American Indian cultures in Mexico and taken from Mexico to Europe by Spanish conquistadors early in the 16th century.

By 1524, the turkey is known to have reached England and, by 1558, it was becoming popular at banquets in England and throughout Europe. When English settlers came to North America, they brought the domesticated turkey back and used it as breeding stock with native wild turkeys.

How Turkey Got Its Name

One suggestion is from the wild turkey's call which sounds like *turk-turk-turk*. Another likely explanation is that in the 16th century, merchants trading along the seaboard of the Mediterranean were known as *Turkes*. They probably included the birds in their merchandise and they became known as turkey fowls.

One theory is that Columbus thought the New World was connected to India and that turkeys were really peacocks, so he named them "*Tuka*" which is peacock in the Tamil language of India.



In Spain, the turkey was often referred to as the Indian fowl, an allusion which is repeated in the French "*dindon*" formed from "*d'Inde*", which means "from India".

Facts on Turkey's Long and Colourful History

Fossil evidence shows that turkeys roamed the Americas 10 million years ago.

The American Indians hunted wild turkey for its sweet, juicy meat as early as 1000 AD. Turkey feathers were used to stabilize arrows and adorn ceremonial dress, and the spurs on the legs of wild tom turkeys were used as projectiles on arrowheads.

The bronze coloured wild turkey must fly to survive and can glide a mile without fluttering a wing.

The First Thanksgiving

The first formal Thanksgiving by Europeans in the Americas was in 1578 when the English navigator, Martin Frobisher, held a formal ceremony in Newfoundland to give thanks for surviving the long journey.

The pilgrims who settled in Plymouth, Massachusetts in 1621 celebrated their first harvest in the New World with wild turkey. The Loyalists spread this custom to Nova Scotia in the 1750s.

In 1879, the Canadian Parliament declared November 6 a day of Thanksgiving and a national holiday. Over the years, the date changed. Finally, on January 31, 1957, Parliament proclaimed that Thanksgiving be observed on the second Monday in October.



Folklore

The Navajos tell of an enormous hen turkey that flew over their fields bringing them corn and teaching them how to cultivate their crops.

Benjamin Franklin was displeased when the bald eagle was chosen over his proposed "original native" turkey as a national symbol. He said the turkey is a more respectable bird and a true original native of America.

How Turkey Became the Festive Bird

In England, the harvest festival has been celebrated for many years. The story goes that Queen Elizabeth was sitting with the troops eating roast goose to celebrate the harvest festival. News was brought to her that the Spanish Armada had sunk on its way to attack England. The queen was so delighted that she ordered a second goose to celebrate the good news and thus, the goose became the choice bird at festival time in England. When the pilgrims came to the new world, they carried on the tradition of celebrating the harvest festival but geese were not plentiful. Since there were lots of wild turkeys and they were easier to find, they roasted turkeys instead.

How The Turkey Became the Bird of Choice at Christmas

Historically in England, swans, peacocks and cranes were roasted for special occasions. Things changed because of Charles Dickens. The story goes that because of "The Christmas Story" he is credited for popularizing the serving of turkey for Christmas dinner.

Facts on Production

Female turkeys are called hens, male turkeys are toms, and baby turkeys are called poults.

The world's largest producer of turkey eggs is Cuddy International Corporation in Strathroy, Ontario. One in four turkeys eaten is hatched from an egg from this hatchery.

Hybrid Turkeys Inc. of Kitchener, Ontario is one of only three primary turkey breeders in the world, and they have customers in more than 45 countries.

Most of the turkeys raised commercially are White Hollands which have all-white plumage. The Bronze turkey was the chief turkey raised in Canada until mid '60s.

Big Turkey

The Guinness Book of Records...states that the greatest dressed weight recorded for a turkey is 39.09 kg (86 lbs), at the last annual "heaviest turkey" competition held in London, England on December 12, 1989.

[Back to "The Product" menu](#)

Turkey Trivia: Fun Facts About America's Favorite Bird



A long-time centerpiece of American holiday feasts, the turkey has a colorful and delicious history. Here are some intriguing facts about our nation's favorite bird, that you may not know:

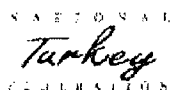
- Turkeys originated in North and Central America, and evidence indicates that they have been around for over 10 million years.
- Until 1863, Thanksgiving Day had not been celebrated annually since the first feast in 1621. This changed in 1863 when Sarah Josepha Hale encouraged Abraham Lincoln to set aside the last Thursday in November "as a day for national thanksgiving and prayer."
- In Mexico, the turkey was considered a sacrificial bird.
- Domesticated turkeys (farm raised) cannot fly. Wild turkeys can fly for short distances at up to 55 miles per hour. Wild turkeys are also fast on the ground, running at speeds of up to 25 miles per hour.
- Only male turkeys (toms) gobble. Females (hens) make a clicking noise. The gobble is a seasonal call during the spring and fall. Hens are attracted for mating when a tom gobbles. Wild toms love to gobble when they hear loud sounds or settle in for the night.
- The heaviest turkey ever raised weighed in at 86 pounds -- about the size of a large German Shepherd -- and was grown in England, according to Dr. Sarah Birkhold, poultry specialist with the Texas Agricultural Extension Service.
- Mature turkeys have 3,500 or so feathers. The Apache Indians considered the turkey timid and wouldn't eat it or use its feathers on their arrows.
- More than 45 million turkeys are cooked and 525 million pounds of turkey are eaten during Thanksgiving.
- Ninety percent of American homes eat turkey on Thanksgiving Day. Fifty percent eat turkey on Christmas.
- North Carolina produces 61 million turkeys annually, more than any other state. Minnesota and Arkansas are number two and three.
- Benjamin Franklin, the great American statesman, thought the turkey was so American it should have been chosen as our national symbol rather than the eagle.
- The fleshy growth from the base of the beak, which is very long on male turkeys and hangs down over the beak, is called the snood.

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276 million turkeys
273 million people



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Turkey History & Trivia

From the first Thanksgiving to today's turkey burgers, turkeys are a part of the American tradition dating back hundreds of years. However, many of us still know little about these wonderful birds. The following are answers to some of the most commonly asked questions about turkeys.



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Turkey Lore

Early explorers to the New World quickly acquired a taste for turkey and took birds back to Europe. By the 1500s, turkeys were being raised domestically in Italy, France and England. When the Pilgrims and other settlers arrived in America, they were already familiar with raising and eating turkey and naturally included it as part of their Thanksgiving feast.

Some experts think the first Thanksgiving dinner was served by the Pilgrims in 1621. Others credit the settlers of Virginia's Jamestown with celebrating the first Thanksgiving as their version of England's ancient Harvest Home Festival.

President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed Thanksgiving a national holiday in 1863, supposedly as a response to a campaign organized by magazine editor Sara Joseph Hale. In 1939, President Franklin Roosevelt moved Thanksgiving Day forward one week, as it is presently celebrated.

A Bird of Courage

Benjamin Franklin, who proposed the turkey as the official United States' bird, was dismayed when the bald eagle was chosen over the turkey. Franklin wrote to his daughter, referring to the eagle's "bad moral character," saying, "I wish the bald eagle had not been chosen as the representative of our country! The turkey is a much more respectable bird, and withal a true original native of America."

A Visit to the White House

Since 1947, the National Turkey Federation (NTF) has presented the President of the United States with a live turkey and two dressed turkeys in celebration of Thanksgiving. The annual presentation of the National Thanksgiving Turkey to the President has become a traditional holiday ritual in the nation's capital, signaling the unofficial beginning of the holiday season and providing the President an opportunity to reflect publicly on the meaning of the Thanksgiving season. After the ceremony, the live bird

retires to a historical farm to live out the rest of its years.



Holiday Turkey

In 1999, about 273 million turkeys were raised. We estimate that 45 million of those turkeys were eaten at Thanksgiving, 22 million at Christmas and 19 million at Easter.

Ninety-two percent of Americans surveyed by the National Turkey Federation eat turkey at Thanksgiving. The average weight of turkeys purchased for Thanksgiving is 15 pounds, meaning that approximately 675 million pounds of turkey are consumed in the U.S. each Thanksgiving.

Fried Turkey: A Tasty Treat

Deep frying turkeys is a Southern tradition that has gained national attention in the last few years. The trend has increased popularity because the deep-frying process seals the outside while the interior remains very juicy and the skin develops a crisp texture. Commercial catering operations offer deep-fried turkey and restaurants feature the golden crisp bird during the holidays. At tailgate parties, outdoor church suppers and neighborhood parties, folks are setting up 40-60 quart pots on concrete, filling the kettles with fresh peanut oil, patting the turkeys dry, putting on long heavy-duty gloves and cooking juicy turkeys.

Love Those Leftovers

The top five most popular ways to serve leftover Thanksgiving turkey are:

- Sandwich
- Soup or Stew
- Casserole
- Stir-fry
- Salad

In fact, turkey is most often prepared in a sandwich year-round. However, low-fat, convenient products like ground turkey, turkey sausage and turkey bacon, as well as turkey cutlets and tenderloins, are becoming increasingly popular.

Ready for a Nap?

Many people report drowsiness after eating Thanksgiving dinner. While turkey often receives the blame, recent studies suggest that carbohydrate-rich meals may cause sleepiness by increasing the number of tryptophans in the brain.

Therefore, the unusually large, multi-coursed, carbohydrate-rich meal most people eat on Thanksgiving is more likely the cause.

Compare the White and Dark Meat

- The white meat is generally preferred in the U.S. while other countries choose the dark meat.
- A 15-pound turkey typically has about 70% white meat and 30% dark meat.
- The two types of meat differ nutritionally. White meat has fewer calories and less fat than dark meat.
- The rich flavor of dark meat is especially valued in soup and stew recipes. Dark meat holds up well in rich marinades and is a perfect choice for grilling and barbecuing.

Moon Food

When Neil Armstrong and Edwin Aldrin sat down to eat their first meal on the moon, their foil food packets contained roasted turkey and all of the trimmings.

Turkey Feathers and Fluff

It's estimated that turkeys have 3,500 feathers at maturity. The bulk of turkey feathers are composted or otherwise disposed of; however, some feathers may be used for special purposes. For instance, dyed feathers are used to make American Indian costumes or as quills for pens. The costume that "Big Bird" wears on "Sesame Street" is rumored to be made of turkey feathers. Turkey feather down has been used to make pillows. For commercial use, turkey skins are tanned and used to make items like cowboy boots, belts or other accessories.

America Gobbles up Turkey

Turkey consumption has more than doubled over the past 25 years. In 1999, per capita turkey consumption was 18 pounds compared to 8.7 pounds in 1974. It's easy to see why when you consider the many benefits of turkey.

Taste

The naturally mild taste of turkey combines readily with different seasonings, making it an ideal choice in spicy ethnic dishes, as a substitute for higher-fat meats in favorite recipes and as a complement to other foods on the plate.

Health

Turkey is low in fat and high in protein. The USDA's Dietary

Guidelines for Americans recommend 2-3 servings each day from the category that contains meat, poultry, fish, dry beans, eggs and nuts. Choosing turkey to meet those dietary guidelines means giving your body the benefits of protein while sparing additional fat grams and cholesterol.

Versatility

Turkey can be used in so many cooking methods, including stovetop, oven, microwave and grill. The wide range of cuts and products available such as ground turkey, turkey ham, turkey franks, turkey pastrami, turkey sausage and deli turkey make turkey easy to incorporate into any meal. Turkey is increasingly packaged in smaller portion sizes that are perfect for singles or small families.

Convenience

The variety of turkey products available make it easy to prepare meals quickly. Pre-cooked turkey products such as turkey breast and turkey ham can be sliced and heated for dinner, used in sandwiches or cubed and added to pasta dishes, chili and soups. Turkey cutlets, tenderloins and ground turkey are quickly browned, grilled, sauteed or stir-fried.

Did you Know?

Only tom turkeys gobble.
Hen turkeys make a clicking noise.

Domesticated turkeys cannot fly.
Wild turkeys can fly for short distances up to 55 miles per hour and can run 20 miles per hour.

June is National Turkey Lovers' Month!

Our Pets 'Fido' and 'Fifi' love turkey, too!

The dog and cat food industry reached \$11 billion in sales in the U.S., according to the Pet Food Institute - a 6.5 percent increase from a year earlier. The pet food industry is big business with more than 50 percent of all Americans owning dogs, cats or both and wanting to spend money on their faithful friend. Turkey products play a role in the pet food industry, providing our favorite pets with an important source of protein and nutrition. The turkey industry distributes 13 percent of its production for these domestic animals to enjoy!

Who's a Turkey Lover? Everyone!

Americans of all ages love turkey because of its healthful, "comfort" food profile. A national study on turkey consumption found:
Nearly half of U.S. consumers eat turkey at least once every two weeks with more than a quarter eating turkey lunchmeat. Ground turkey has high appeal among all ages, genders and economic levels.
Away-from-home consumption of turkey sandwiches continues to grow, appealing to about everyone: eaters between 18-64 years old, dual-income families and employed singles.

World Famous Turkey

According to USDA forecasts, the following countries consumed the most turkey in 1999*:

Israel	28.8
United States	17.9
France	12.8
Italy	10.8
United Kingdom	9.9
Canada	9.5
Netherlands	8.1

*In Pounds Per Capita

The National Turkey Federation
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Washington, D.C. 20005

TEL: 202.898.0100
FAX: 202.898.0203

QUESTIONS FOR THE CHEF

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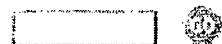
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Chef's Table: Let's Talk Turkey

By Jim Coleman with Candace Hagan

Most Americans eagerly anticipate gobbling down at least one turkey dinner during the winter holidays. It's the festive feast the Pilgrims cut their teeth on, and the image of the golden brown bird crowning the dining room table has carved many a childhood memory in the USA. The turkey is so American that Benjamin Franklin jokingly campaigned for it to become our national bird instead of the bald eagle (which he considered a bird of bad moral character). He further reasoned the respectable turkey was "a true original native of America."



Franklin's account of the turkey's heritage was correct, but in a much broader sense than he assumed. The America that turkeys first called home wasn't near Franklin in Philadelphia. In fact, by the time the great statesman was championing the turkey, the bird had hitchhiked around the globe and had found its way back to America for the second time.

Turkeys were originally from the mountains of the central plateau of Mexico, and by 200 B.C. they were one of the first animals in this hemisphere to be domesticated. The Aztecs were among the earliest turkey fans who considered them so important, they dedicated two religious festivals a year to the birds. During the celebration, turkey eggshells which had been saved for months were strewn upon the streets to honor the god who favored them with such a plentiful source of food. All year round, it was not uncommon for over 1000 turkeys a day to be sold in a busy Aztec market.

Appreciation for the turkey was also evident in the Mayan culture where parts of the bird were used in sacred ceremonies. Its popularity among other tribes grew, and the turkey population had spread far beyond Mexico by the time the first European explorers set foot there. In North America, tribes like the Navajo first encountered wild turkeys after they had trouble keeping the hungry birds away from the scanty crops they had scratched out of the desert. Losing the battle to bar them from the cornfields, they decided instead to feed the turkeys and fence them in. By barging in and refusing to leave, the invading turkeys unwittingly provided a controlled source of protein and ornamental feathers. Instead of pests, they became symbols of friendship and providence.

Wild turkeys spread to the Northeast where nomadic Indians did not bother to domesticate the bird who enjoyed the abundant vegetation and thrived without agricultural welfare. Tribes like the Wampanoags hunted wild turkeys with bows and arrows. When the Mayflower landed and hungry European settlers began to search for food, the Northeastern Indians shared their knowledge of hunting turkeys with the pilgrims.

There has been some debate about whether or not turkeys were consumed at

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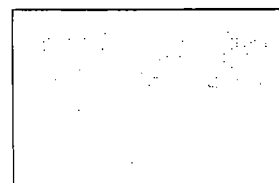
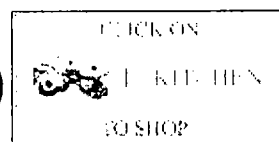
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There has been some debate about whether or not turkeys were consumed at the first Thanksgiving banquet because Plymouth's Governor Bradford didn't plan for them on the menu. However, the feast was repeated annually, and the turkey was a key course thereafter.

Wild turkeys were eagerly devoured by the pilgrims who were already well acquainted with the flavor. Like other Europeans, they had developed a taste for turkeys after Spanish and Portuguese explorers brought them back home with a number of other New World foods. Unlike the tomato, avocado and potato which were initially considered poisonous, the turkey was an instant hit - most likely because it resembled another recent import from Africa, the guinea hen.

Guinea hens were well known in ancient Greece and Rome, but were forgotten after the Roman Empire fell and trade came to a standstill. The bird, which resembles a shorter, plumper turkey was reintroduced to Europe through Turkish traders about the same time American turkeys made landfall in the Old World. When the Turks began to market the American bird as well, the English gave up trying to pronounce the African and Native American names for the birds and began to call both species turkeys after the source of their supply. Turkeys were referred to as 'cock of India' in France - referring not to the continent, but to the New Indies; and adding to the confusion, turkeys in Germany were referred to as hens of Calcutta. Regardless of what it was called, the turkey soon replaced the stringy peacock as the bird of choice at banquets where it was ceremoniously served with all its plumage intact. Turkeys were domesticated all over the continent, and European cookbooks offered dozens of turkey recipes by the end of the sixteenth century.

Although the pilgrims dined upon wild turkey, it was the European, domesticated White Holland turkey imported back to America which became the foundation of this country's turkey industry. Commercial turkey breeding took off in the 1800's after much of the wild turkey population was eliminated by hunters. To prevent extinction, the federal government began protecting the wild turkey after World War II, but by that time the only turkeys most Americans ate came from their local grocer.

Since the 1930's, when the annual per capita consumption of turkeys was only 1.7 pounds, Americans have increased their turkey gobbling to 20 pounds of turkey per year. It's now enjoyed year round, thanks in part to the National Turkey Federation whose promotions like "June is Turkey Lovers Month" have broadened turkey's appeal beyond holiday fare. Americans cozied up to the bird offering a bargain at the supermarket and a boon to the heart healthy diet to which we all aspire. Various parts of the turkey are now sold far more frequently than the whole bird, and turkey salad, sandwiches and soup are not just Thanksgiving leftovers anymore.

As pervasive as it has become, and despite its globetrotting, the turkey still maintains its American symbolism. From the pueblos and Plymouth to the modern Thanksgiving meals binding people together nationwide, the turkey continues to draw our heartfelt appreciation. Perhaps Ben Franklin was right after all.

Photo courtesy of Pilsbury website

Jim Coleman is the Executive Chef of the Rittenhouse Hotel in Philadelphia. Mr. Coleman is the host of both a radio and TV food show.

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In 1999, Turkey was the #4 protein choice for American consumers.

1999 Per Capita Consumption in Pounds

Chicken	77.7
Beef	69.2
Pork	53.9
Turkey	17.95
Lamb & Mutton	1.0

Turkey production in the United States has more than tripled since 1970, meeting consumers' demand as more people choose turkey. With the value added to turkey through processing into a wide variety of cuts, parts and further processed products, the total value of turkey processors' production in 1996 was more than \$7.9 billion.

Total Number of Turkeys Produced

1975	124,200,000
1980	165,200,000
1985	185,000,000
1990	282,445,000
1995	292,856,000
2000*	276,000,000

*ESTIMATED

In 2000, U.S. growers will raise 276 million turkeys.

As consumption rises, the number of turkeys raised continues to increase in many states. The following are America's top turkey producing states.

Turkeys: Number Raised 1999-2000

State	Number 1999 2000 (1,000 head)		2000 as Percent of 1999
North Carolina	46,500	46,000	99
Minnesota	43,500	43,000	100
Arkansas	27,000	27,000	100
Virginia	24,000	24,000	100
Missouri	22,000	24,000	109
California	17,500	20,000	114
Indiana	13,500	13,000	96
Pennsylvania	9,800	9,600	98
South Carolina	9,500	9,100	96
Iowa	7,800	7,500	96
Other States	51,900	52,300	101
US Total	*272,994	276,000	101

*Estimate Source: Agricultural Statistics Board, NASS, USDA

Top Turkey Processors, 1999 *

	Live Weight* Processed (Million Pounds)
Jennie-O Foods	859
Butterball Turkey Co.	790
Cargill	715
Wampler Foods	579
Carolina Turkeys	460
The Turkey Store Co.	375
Shady Brook Farms	367
Louis Rich Turkey Co.	350
Sara Lee Refrigerated Foods	260
House of Raeford	245

*Estimates from 2000 *Watt Poultry USA*

Total Pounds of Turkey Produced

Live Weight and Ready to Cook (RTC)

Year	Number of Turkey*	Live Weight**	RTC** (Inspected)
1989	261	5.468	4.175
1990	282	6.043	4.561
1991	285	6.115	4.652
1992	290	6.355	4.829
1993	288	6.433	4.848
1994	287	6.541	4.992
1995	293	6.779	5.129
1996	303	7.233	5.466
1997	301	7.225	5.478
1998	285	7.045	5.281
1999	273	6.945	5.282
2000***	276	N/A	N/A

*In millions **In billions of pounds ***Estimated

Turkey Production Total Farm Income*

1990	2.39	1995	2.78
1991	2.35	1996	3.13
1992	2.40	1997	2.88
1993	2.51	1998	2.68
1994	2.64	1999	2.84

*In millions of dollars

Like domestic turkey consumption, turkey exports continued to grow throughout the last decade. The following information shows the worldwide popularity of American turkey products.

Total Export Value*

1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
\$151.4	\$173.5	\$197.4	\$199.73	\$254.58	\$327.79	\$241.99	\$186.0

*In millions of dollars

1999 - Unofficial estimate

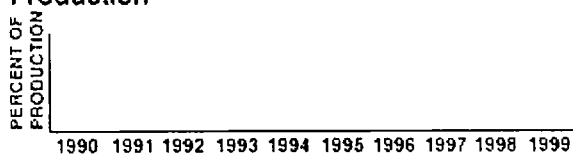
Turkey exports are an increasingly important aspect of U.S. turkey production, especially for turkey parts and dark meat products.

U.S. Turkey Exports*

Year	Whole Body	Parts & Cut-Up	Total
1991	16.6	105.4	122.0
1992	20.3	181.5	201.8
1993	19.5	224.2	243.7
1994	24.1	256.3	280.4
1995	24.8	323.2	348.0
1996	34.5	403.3	437.8
1997	40.8	565.1	605.9
1998	36.6	409.6	446.1

*In millions of pounds

Exports as Percent of Total Turkey Production



Top Five Export Markets for U.S. Turkey Meat, 1999*

Mexico	248,793
Russia	65,705
Hong Kong	34,386
Poland	7,660
Canada	7,448

*Thousand pounds

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Turkey Trivia

History

Turkey's scientific name is *Meleagris gallopavo* (mel-e-AY-gris gal-low-PAY-voe) from Latin *gallus*, meaning cock, and *pavo*, meaning chickenlike. *Meleagris* is the Roman name for guineafowl, suggestive of the early confusion of the turkey with guineafowl.

Domestication of the Turkey

The domestic turkey is descended from wild turkeys originally native to Southern Ontario, parts of the U.S. and Mexico. The turkey was tamed by the American Indian cultures in Mexico and taken from Mexico to Europe by Spanish conquistadors early in the 16th century.

By 1524, the turkey is known to have reached England and, by 1558, it was becoming popular at banquets in England and throughout Europe. When English settlers came to North America, they brought the domesticated turkey back and used it as breeding stock with native wild turkeys.

How Turkey Got Its Name

One suggestion is from the wild turkey's call which sounds like *turk-turk-turk*. Another likely explanation is that in the 16th century, merchants trading along the seaboard of the Mediterranean were known as *Turkes*. They probably included the birds in their merchandise and they became known as turkey fowls.

One theory is that Columbus thought the New World was connected to India and that turkeys were really peacocks, so he named them "*Tuka*" which is peacock in the Tamil language of India.

In Spain, the turkey was often referred to as the Indian fowl, an allusion which is repeated in the French "*dindon*" formed from "*d'Inde*", which means "from India".

Facts on Turkey's Long and Colourful History

Fossil evidence shows that turkeys roamed the Americas 10 million years ago.

The American Indians hunted wild turkey for its sweet, juicy meat as early as 1000 AD. Turkey feathers were used to stabilize arrows and adorn ceremonial dress, and the spurs on the legs of wild tom turkeys were used as projectiles on arrowheads.

The bronze coloured wild turkey must fly to survive and ~~can glide a mile without fluttering a wing.~~

The First Thanksgiving

The first formal Thanksgiving by Europeans in the Americas was in 1578 when the English navigator, Martin Frobisher, held a formal ceremony in Newfoundland to give thanks for surviving the long journey.

The pilgrims who settled in Plymouth, Massachusetts in 1621 celebrated their first harvest in the New World with wild turkey. The Loyalists spread this custom to Nova Scotia in the 1750s.

In 1879, the Canadian Parliament declared November 6 a day of Thanksgiving and a national holiday. Over the years, the date changed. Finally, on January 31, 1957, Parliament proclaimed that Thanksgiving be observed on the second Monday in October.

Folklore

The Navajos tell of an enormous hen turkey that flew over their fields bringing them corn and teaching

them how to cultivate their crops.

Benjamin Franklin was displeased when the bald eagle was chosen over his proposed "original native" turkey as a national symbol. He said the turkey is a more respectable bird and a true original native of America.

How Turkey Became the Festive Bird

In England, the harvest festival has been celebrated for many years. The story goes that Queen Elizabeth was sitting with the troops eating roast goose to celebrate the harvest festival. News was brought to her that the Spanish Armada had sunk on its way to attack England. The queen was so delighted that she ordered a second goose to celebrate the good news and thus, the goose became the choice bird at festival time in England. When the pilgrims came to the new world, they carried on the tradition of celebrating the harvest festival but geese were not plentiful. Since there were lots of wild turkeys and they were easier to find, they roasted turkeys instead.

How The Turkey Became the Bird of Choice at Christmas

Historically in England, swans, peacocks and cranes were roasted for special occasions. Things changed because of Charles Dickens. The story goes that because of "The Christmas Story" he is credited for popularizing the serving of turkey for Christmas dinner.

Facts on Production

Female turkeys are called hens, male turkeys are toms, and baby turkeys are called poults.

The world's largest producer of turkey eggs is Cuddy International Corporation in Strathroy, Ontario. One in four turkeys eaten is hatched from an egg from this hatchery.

Hybrid Turkeys Inc. of Kitchener, Ontario is one of only three primary turkey breeders in the world, and they have customers in more than 45 countries.

Most of the turkeys raised commercially are White Hollands which have all-white plumage. The Bronze turkey was the chief turkey raised in Canada until mid '60s.

Big Turkey

The Guinness Book of Records...states that the greatest dressed weight recorded for a turkey is 39.09 kg (86 lbs), at the last annual "heaviest turkey" competition held in London, England on December 12, 1989.

[Back to "The Product" menu](#)

Strangers on a Foreign Shore

The First Thanksgiving

The Puritan Saints would not be happy to know what we do in their name

Thanksgiving: Turkey and stuffing and cranberry sauce... mashed potatoes and gravy... hot rolls and butter and corn on the cob... and, of course, a big slice of pumpkin pie. Bow your head, think about the *Mayflower* and Plymouth Rock, fill your face, and watch a football game.

If there's one thing that all Americans know about—or think they know about—it's the first thanksgiving: how, in the fall of 1621, the Pilgrims, wearing their funny hats and bonnets, sat down with the friendly Indians and, as a way of giving thanks to God, shared a mighty feast.

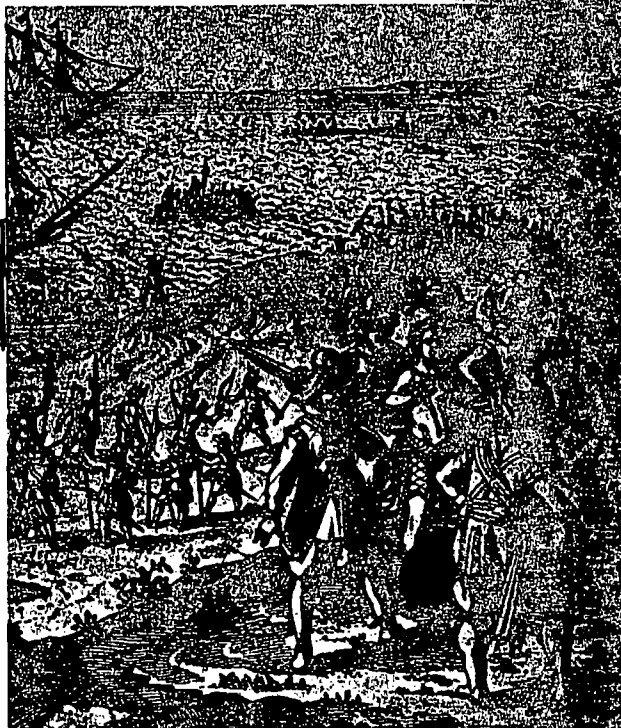
Prayer in Virginia

In fact, the first recorded American thanksgiving took place in Virginia more than 11 years earlier, and it wasn't a feast. The spring of 1610 at Jamestown ended a winter that came to be called "the starving time." The original contingent of 409 colonists had been reduced to 60 survivors. They prayed for help, with no way of knowing if or when any might come. When help did arrive, in the form of a ship filled with food and supplies from England, they held a prayer service to give thanks.

Although, in years to come, the Jamestown colonists surely thought back on that heartfelt thanksgiving, they never commemorated it. Another Virginia group did that, also before the Pilgrims. On December 4, 1619, 38 colonists landed at a place they called Berkeley Hundred. "Wee ordaine," read an instruction in their charter, "that the day of our ships arrival... in the land of Virginia shall be yearly and perpetually keep holy as a day of Thanksgiving to Almighty god." On the first anniversary they fasted and prayed. But before the December holiday rolled around again, the entire colony had been massacred by Indians.

Harvest Home

The Puritans in Plymouth (who called themselves Saints, not Pilgrims—that term didn't become popular until the 1790's) also observed thanksgiving days. But the 1621 feast we commemorate with full bellies and football wasn't one of them. A Puritan thanksgiving day was one of fasting and solemn prayer; it might be declared when a drought broke or a battle was won. Failure to observe it was a crime (as was participation in a sporting event on the Sabbath).



The first Jamestown colonists (above, being welcomed by enthusiastic Indians) had to endure a disastrous winter. When help arrived in the spring, the survivors held the first recorded American thanksgiving service.

The famous feast was not a thanksgiving but a three-day Harvest Home celebration, an ancient tradition. The best way to preserve food for the winter was in the form of body fat. Gov. William Bradford invited the Indian chief Massasoit and his brother to join the feast not because they'd helped grow the food, but because he still deemed it wise to stay friendly with them. To his surprise, they showed up with some 90 tribesmen.

If turkey was eaten (and there is no proof that it was), it wasn't the main course—venison was. There were no potatoes; although the Spanish had brought the tubers to Europe from South America, they were still considered poisonous. There was no grain, and so no rolls; no cattle, and so no butter. There was corn, but not on the cob; the tough kernels were boiled, mashed, kneaded, and fried into flat cakes. There were cranberries, to be sure, and other wild fruits; but no oranges or apples (hence, no apple cider). There were squash and pumpkins aplenty, but, alas—lacking flour—no pumpkin pie.

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NATIONAL
Turkey
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From the first Thanksgiving to today's turkey burgers, turkeys are intertwined with American tradition dating back more than 300 years. However, many of us still know little about these wonderful birds. The following are answers to some of the most commonly asked questions about turkeys.

Topics

- [Turkey Lore](#)
- [A Visit to the White House](#)
- [Holiday Turkeys](#)
- [Ready for a Nap?](#)
- [America is Eating Turkey](#)
- [Who's a Turkey Lover?](#)
- [Turkey I.Q.](#)

Turkey Lore

Early explorers to the New World quickly acquired a taste for turkey and took birds back to Europe. By the 1500s, turkeys were being raised domestically by people in Italy, France and England. When the Pilgrims and other settlers arrived in America, they were already familiar with raising and eating turkey and naturally included it as part of their Thanksgiving feast.

Some experts think the first Thanksgiving dinner was served by the Pilgrims in 1621. Others credit the settlers of Virginia's Jamestown with celebrating the first Thanksgiving as their version of England's ancient Harvest Home Festival.

President Lincoln proclaimed Thanksgiving a national holiday in 1863, supposedly as a response to a campaign organized by magazine editor Sara Joseph Hale. In 1939, President Franklin Roosevelt moved Thanksgiving Day forward one week, as it is presently celebrated.



A Bird of Courage

Benjamin Franklin, who proposed the turkey as the official United States' bird, was dismayed when the bald eagle was chosen over the turkey. Franklin wrote to his daughter, referring to the eagle's "bad moral character," saying, "I wish the bald eagle had not been chosen as the representative of our country! The turkey is a much more respectable bird, and withal a true original native of America."

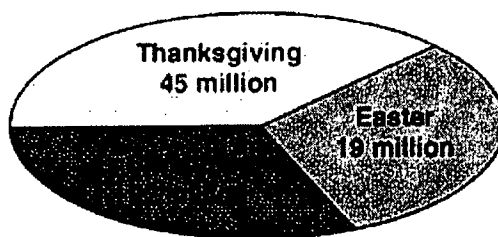
A Visit to the White House



For 50 years, the National Turkey Federation (NTF) has presented the President of the United States a live turkey and two dressed turkeys in celebration of Thanksgiving. Harry Truman was the first president to receive this honor in 1947. Each year, the live turkey is "pardoned" by the president and sent to a historical farm to live out the rest of its years.

Holiday Turkeys

In 1998, about 270 million turkeys will be raised. We estimate that 45 million of those turkeys were eaten at Thanksgiving, 22 million at Christmas and 19 million at Easter.



Ninety-one percent of Americans surveyed by the National Turkey Federation eat turkey at Thanksgiving. The average weight of turkeys purchased for Thanksgiving is 15 pounds, meaning that approximately 675 million pounds of turkey are consumed in the U.S. each Thanksgiving.

Love Those Leftovers

The top five most popular ways to serve leftover Thanksgiving turkey are:

1. Sandwich
2. Soup or Stew
3. Salad
4. Casserole
5. Stir-fry

In fact, turkey is most often prepared in a sandwich year-round. However, low-fat, convenient products like ground turkey, turkey sausage and turkey bacon, as well as turkey cutlets and tenderloins, are becoming increasingly popular.

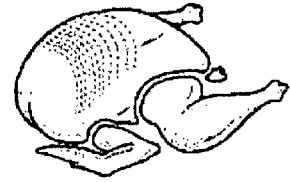
Ready for a Nap?

Many people report drowsiness after eating Thanksgiving dinner. While turkey often receives the blame, recent studies suggest that carbohydrate-rich meals may cause sleepiness by increasing the number of tryptophans in the brain.

Therefore, the unusually large, multi-coursed, carbohydrate-rich meal that most people eat on Thanksgiving is more likely the cause.

America is Eating Turkey

Turkey consumption has more than doubled over the past 25 years. In 1996, per capita turkey consumption was 18.5 pounds compared to 8.4 pounds in 1970. It's easy to see why when you consider the many benefits of turkey.

**Taste**

The naturally mild taste of turkey combines readily with different seasonings, making it an ideal choice in spicy ethnic dishes, as a substitute for higher fat meats in favorite recipes and as a complement to other foods on the plate.

Health

Turkey is low in fat and high in protein. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Dietary Guidelines for Americans recommend two to three servings each day from the category that contains meat, poultry, fish, dry beans, eggs and nuts. Choosing turkey to help meet those dietary guidelines means giving your body the benefits of protein while sparing additional fat grams and cholesterol.

Versatility

Turkey can be used across the spectrum of cooking methods, including stovetop, oven, microwave and grill. The wide range of cuts and products available such as ground turkey, turkey ham, turkey franks, turkey pastrami, turkey sausage and deli turkey make turkey easy to incorporate into any meal. Turkey is increasingly packaged in smaller portion sizes perfect for singles or small families.

Convenience

The variety of turkey products available helps to make timesaving, easy to prepare meals. Pre-cooked turkey products such as turkey breast and turkey ham can be sliced and heated for dinner, used in sandwiches or cubed and added to pasta dishes, chili and soups. Turkey cutlets, tenderloins and ground turkey are quickly browned, grilled, sauteed or stir-fried.

Who's a Turkey Lover?

Americans of all ages, genders and ethnicities love turkey. Studies reveal some interesting descriptions of turkey eaters:

- More than one-fourth of households consume turkey deli meat at least once every two weeks.
- Turkey entrees appeal most to adult women, married active elderly, affluent empty nesters and single-parent households.
- Ground turkey appeals most to children.
- Adult males are most likely to consume turkey deli meat.
- Away-from-home consumption of turkey entrees and sandwiches is on the rise as more Americans are turning to turkey as a quick and healthy meal solution.
- Vegetables are the side dishes most often prepared with turkey.

World Famous Turkey

According to USDA forecasts, the following countries consumed the most turkey in 1998*:

Israel	27.8
United States	18.0
France	14.3
United Kingdom	11.5
Canada	9.7
Belgium-Luxembourg	7.5
Netherlands	3.9

*In Pounds Per Capita

Turkey I.Q.

Are turkeys really dumb?

Turkeys are not dumb; however, the domesticated turkey may appear less cunning and more docile compared to the wild turkey, whose survival depends on its adjustment to a less protective environment.

Out of this World Snack

When Neil Armstrong and Edwin Aldrin sat down to eat their first meal on the moon, their foil food packets contained roasted turkey and all of the trimmings.

Feathers, Feathers and More Feathers

It's estimated that turkeys have approximately 3,500 feathers at maturity. The bulk of turkey feathers are composted or otherwise disposed of; however, some feathers may be used for special purposes. For instance, dyed feathers are used to make American Indian costumes or as quills for pens. The costume that "Big Bird" wears on "Sesame Street" is rumored to be made of turkey feathers. Turkey feather down has been used to make pillows. For commercial use, turkey skins are tanned and used to make items like cowboy boots, belts or other accessories.

Did you Know?

- Only tom turkeys gobble.
- Hen turkeys make a clicking noise.
- Domesticated turkeys cannot fly.
- Wild turkeys can fly for short distances up to 55 miles per hour and can run 20 miles per hour.
- June is National Turkey Lovers' Month.

The National Turkey Federation
1225 New York Avenue NW, Suite 400
Washington, D.C. 20005

TEL: 202.898.0100
FAX: 202.898.0203
E-MAIL

Wegs - Schol 40-50 lbs

Re Soos

but it's fine to
break for tradition.

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but it's fine

Missouri (590 mil. lbs.), Arkansas (525 mil. lbs.), Virginia (485 mil. lbs.), California (481 mil. lbs.), South Carolina (368 mil. lbs.), Indiana (352 mil. lbs.), Pennsylvania (235 mil. lbs.) and Ohio (218 mil. lbs.). Combined, these 10 states account for more than three-quarters of U.S. turkey production.
<<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/cb97-199.html>>

- The nation's farmers produced 549 million lbs. of cranberries in 1997. Wisconsin led the United States in production, followed by Massachusetts and New Jersey. Massachusetts is the only state in the nation where cranberries are one of the four leading agricultural commodities in farm marketings cash receipts; they ranked second there in 1996.
<<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/cb97-199.html>>

- Perhaps the contents of your meal will come from abroad. U.S. imports of live turkeys totaled \$13.0 million in 1997 - all from Canada. Our northern neighbors also accounted for all of the \$15.4 million worth of cranberries the U.S. imported. When it came to sweet potatoes, however, the Dominican Republic was the source of most (\$4.9 million) of total imports (\$5.3 million). In 1997, the United States ran a \$7.2 million trade deficit in live turkeys and a \$6.2 million deficit in cranberries but enjoyed a \$3.6 million surplus in the trade of sweet potatoes.
<<http://www.census.gov/foreign-trade/www/>>

A Growth Industry

- The 301 million turkeys the nation's farmers produced in 1997 weighed 7.2 billion lbs. The weight was up 19 percent from 1990 and 132 percent from 1980.
<<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/cb97-199.html>>

- The typical American gobbled up 15 lbs. of turkey in 1996 - no doubt much of it at Thanksgiving. Per-capita consumption didn't increase much since 1990 (6 percent), but was 80 percent higher than in 1980.
<<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/cb97-199.html>>

- The \$3.1 billion the nation's farmers earned in 1996 from turkey sales was up 28 percent from 1990. It exceeds the amount they made from growing either tobacco, peanuts, potatoes, oranges or grapes.
<<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/cb97-199.html>>

The Price is Right

- Turkey is a very economical dish. In December 1997, a frozen whole turkey cost consumers a mere \$0.98 per lb. By comparison, t-bone steak was \$6.07.
<<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/cb97-199.html>>

Family

- Think of Thanksgiving and the image of a traditional family - a married couple with children - sitting around a table may come to

77-
7.2 B
pounds

pilgrim event. It was not even firmly fixed as a fall festival. In 1623, according to one scholar's best estimate, it was celebrated in July.

More surprising, the first Thanksgiving wasn't a family celebration. More like a huge community picnic, it lasted for about a week and was attended by more than ninety Indians. Above all, it was an occasion for celebration and recreation. Scholars say it wasn't a religious holiday. The Pilgrims wouldn't have tolerated festivities at a truly religious time.

Whether turkeys were eaten is anybody's guess. Plymouth Colony Governor William Bradford's journal doesn't say one way or the other. Neither do any others.

Opinion is divided about the other things they ate. Robert Myers asserts confidently that they had duck, goose, seafood, eels, white bread, corn bread, leeks, watercress, a variety of greens, and, for dessert, wild plums and dried berries. Roland Usher says they had hasty pudding. Where Myers and Usher came by their information, they don't say. Actually, all that is known for sure is that the Pilgrims had "fowl" and "deer."³

Of all holidays, Christmas looms largest on the national calendar, but it hasn't always been in this position. Until the Civil War Christmas was but scantily observed. Most shockingly, retailers hardly seemed to take notice of the occasion. Historians report that the pages of the *New York Tribune* in 1841 did not contain a single example of advertising with a Christmas theme. It wasn't until after the Civil War that retailers began experimenting with special Christmas sales. Once they did, however, it didn't take long for them to discover the commercial possibilities offered by the holiday. By 1870 December had become the merchants' single largest selling month of the year.

Christmas had not, by the way, always been regarded as a proper time for celebration. In the seventeenth century this holiday, which was to become so American, was widely regarded in New England as an unappealing popish import. The leaders of the Massachusetts Bay Colony so disdained Christmas that in 1659

BUTTERBAI

Home

1: Which great American statesman thought the turkey was so American that we NEVER should have chosen the eagle as our national symbol?

(You answered:lincoln)

Benjamin Franklin was the great American statesman who thought the turkey was so American that we NEVER should have chosen the eagle as our national symbol. He thought the eagle was a bit shifty and dishonest, and therefore, we should have chosen the true American bird, the turkey.

2: Who proclaimed Thanksgiving a national holiday?

(You answered:Adams)

President Lincoln Thanksgiving a national holiday in 1863.

3: What is the fleshy growth from the base of the beak that is very long on male turkeys and hangs down over the beak?

(You answered:hackle)

The snood is the fleshy growth from the base of the beak that is very long on male turkeys and hangs down over the beak.

The wattle is the red-pink fleshy covering of the throat and neck of the turkey. And the comb is the red-pink fleshy tissue covering the top of the head. There is no such thing as a grizzard.

4: Turkey eggs are twice as large as chicken eggs, but what color are they?

(You answered:White and Brown)

Pale creamy tan with brown speckles, turkey eggs are twice as large as chicken eggs. They hatch in 28 days.

5: What percentage of American homes eat turkey on Thanksgiving?

(You answered:95)

90% of American homes eat turkey on Thanksgiving; 50% eat turkey on Christmas.

6: Which state produces the most turkeys?

(You answered:CA)

North Carolina produces 61 million turkeys annually, more than any other state. Minnesota and Arkansas are numbers two and three.

7: How many pounds of turkey do Americans eat on Thanksgiving?

(You answered:135)

Americans feast on 535 million pounds of turkey on Thanksgiving!

8: Can turkeys fly?

(You answered:Yes)

Trick Question: Both yes and no are correct. Domesticated turkey's can't fly, but wild ones can fly for distances up to 55 miles!

9: What famous historical figure recieved turkeys as an article of tribute?

(You answered:Caesar)

Montezuma received 365,000 turkeys per year from his subjects.

10: How long have turkeys existed?

(You answered:1)

Our favorite fowl has been around for 10 million years.

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