

INK & QUILL

TEXAS SOCIETY SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Denton Chapter #23, TXSSAR Inc. Newsletter

"Patriotism, American History, & Education"

The First Thanksgiving in the New World

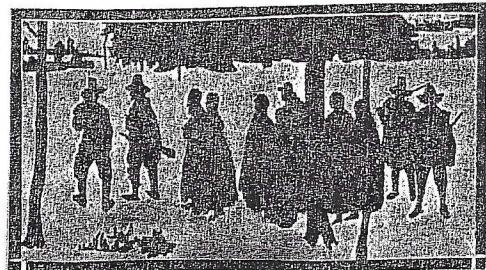
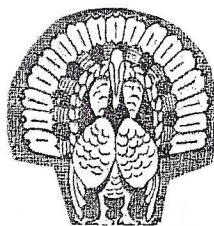
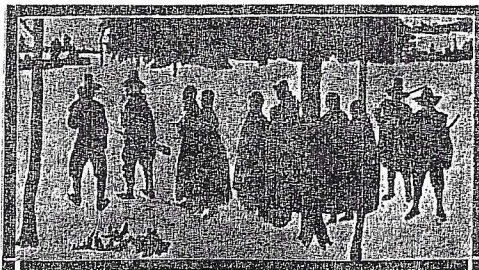
In Plymouth Colony the first dreadful winter, during which almost half of the Pilgrim company had died, had passed, and renewed hope had grown up with summer. With the fall, the corn crop was gathered, and Governor Bradford decreed a day of thanksgiving. Great were the preparations-the few women in the colony spent days before boiling and baking and roasting; and even the children were busy turning the roasts on the spits before the open fires. As guests, there were more than fourscore friendly Indians, who brought as their share of the feast wild turkeys and venison from the woods. The tables were set out of doors, and the company sat about them as one big family. This first Thanksgiving, however, was not merely a feast- there were prayers, and sermons and songs of praise; and three days had gone by before the Indians returned to their forest and the colonists to their tasks.

From Plymouth the custom spread to the other colonies. until in time, the governor of each issued such a proclamation annually. During the Revolutionary War eight special thanksgiving days were observed after signal victories or wonderful deliverances from danger, and President Washington issued a general thanksgiving-day proclamation in 1789.

But there was no uniformity. Some states had an annual thanksgiving, others did not, and no proclamation was issued by the President again. One woman Mrs. Sarah Josepha Hale, the editor of Godey's Lady Book, took an intense interest in the subject, and for twenty years sent out pleas through the columns of her journal for a nation-wide thanksgiving. She wrote letters to each of the Presidents; and finally, in 1863, her efforts were rewarded, for President Lincoln appointed the last Thursday of November as Thanksgiving Day. Thus Mrs Hale won the title of "Mother of Thanksgiving."

'From 1929 World Book, Roach and Fowler Publishers.'

Note: At the time this was written, 1929, Thanksgiving was not a legal holiday-the United States had no legal holidays.



November 4th Meeting

Denton Good Samaritan Village - 7pm
Dec. 2nd - Patrick Haughton - Color Guard

Minutes of Meeting Oct. 7th

President Bill Bell began the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, the SAR Allegiance, and the invocation. Those present were Bill Bell, James Baird, John Monroe, Gerald Brenholtz, Bill Brenholtz, Samuel Haynes, John Pugliano, and Doyle Holder and visitor, Pam Haynes. Mr. Bell asked for approval of the minutes of the last meeting. Mr. Brenholt approved, seconded by James Baird. The minutes were approved. Announcements - The July 4th participation in the Denton County Parade won first place. A Placque should be prepared for Natalie Massengale, with the DAR for her preparation with the Reading of the Constitution. The Denton County Public Library sent a letter thanking us for the book donated by James Baird. Mr. Bell then gave an excellent presentation on the country of his ancestors - Ireland. The SAR closing and Bill Bell gave the Benediction.

Respectfully, Samuel Haynes

TXSSAR Chapter #23

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Bill Bell
- Vice President & Programs
James J Johnson
- Secretary & Newsletter
Samuel Haynes
- Treasurer
William Vaughn
- Chaplain
Tom Bailey
- Historian
Tom Cain
- Geneologist & Membership
Gerald Brenholtz

A Review of Ireland

We landed in Shannon. An opening in the clouds giving us a view of the grain below - a beautiful sight that National Geographic could not hope to accomplish. Ireland is truly an Emerald Isle. We toured a 14th century castle, blacksmith shops, and other items of historic value. Dublin is a dirty city, like any other industrial city - but has many other things to see. The most ancient thing we saw was the early stone building which Bill described accurately as stones, much to large to move in these days which were aligned so that twice a year, the sun lined up to illuminate the interior.

“There’s a dear little plant that grows in our isle-
Twas Saint Patrick himself that set it;
And the sun on his labors with pleasure did smile,
And with dew from his eye often wet it.
It shines through the bog, through the marsh and the mireland,
And he called it the dear little shamrock of Ireland”

Happy Thanksgiving

Handwritten signature



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