

Thanksgiving and the Pilgrims

By Leola Motley



This is what it means to celebrate Thanksgiving in the USA. It has become a tradition that is celebrated by America with zeal and zest. It has historical significance. It can be traced to many varying origins, all steeped in myth and stories. It is a cause for happiness and feasting that no other holiday offers as much as Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving in the USA! There are the traditional Football matches, stuffed turkeys, parades, and families coming together from near and far. Everyone comes together and give Thanks and celebrate with their love ones.

Credit to the Pilgrims

There are many accounts of the first Thanksgiving, but all of them have one thing in common. It started because the people felt the need to show gratitude to the Lord for their blessings. The tradition of a Thanksgiving feast can be traced back to both, the Puritan and Pilgrim origin. Showing gratitude, and celebrating good fortune has been the way of life for Native American tribes, since they existed.

Similarly, all over England and Europe, there has been a celebration as long as there has been harvest time. There have been traditions of religious ceremonies for people of Christian faith to celebrate their good fortune, as well as

showing their gratitude to God for His blessings. The Thanksgiving tradition we see before us is a blend of two cultures. It has been inspired by the New England tradition of celebration, after a successful harvest season, and the Puritan religious ceremony, where prayer and feasting come together to express gratitude for Thanksgiving.

History pops through the holiday, even in the traditional menu of Thanksgiving. The turkey, cranberry sauce, pumpkin pie, and vegetables has a special place on the table. Over the years, the menu has been modified to suit what people wanted to make. Even through all its tweaks; Thanksgiving remains true to its essence of expressing gratitude and rejoicing.