



1

## **Harvest Festivals and Prayers**

- **Psalms of Thanksgiving**
- **Jewish Sukkoth**
- **Indian and other local harvest festivals**
- **Native American tribal gatherings – dancing, drumming, singing, games to thank the Great Spirit for food, shelter and clothing**

2

## **North American Thanksgivings Before the Pilgrims**

- **May 23, 1541 – Mass at Palo Duro Canyon, Texas (Teyas Indians and 1500 of Coronado’s Spaniards (no cities of gold but friendly peoples)**
- **June 30, 1564 – French Huguenots near Jacksonville, Florida**
- **September 8, 1565 – Spaniards and Timucua Indians – St. Augustine, Florida**
- **December 4, 1619 – 38 English settlers – Berkeley Plantation, VA**

3

## **English Settlements in North America before the Pilgrims**

- **Failed settlements in North Carolina (Lost Colony) and Maine**
- **Successful settlements in Virginia (Jamestown and Berkeley)**

4

## The Pilgrims

- **Small group of English separatists who objected to Catholic type hierarchy and rituals of the Church of England**
- **Migrated to Leiden, Holland**
- **Sailed from Southampton, England in early September 1620 on the Mayflower. A second sailing vessel was not seaworthy.**
- **102 people crowded onto a 100-foot vessel including 30-40 crew, a small group of Pilgrim males, a few of their spouses and children plus a few servants and other passengers.**

5

## The Voyage and Landings

- **66-day voyage – including rough seas**
- **Landed at site of today's Provincetown, MA**
- **Mayflower Compact signed by 41 men including 5 of my relatives**
- **Search team sent out to find decent agricultural land (an abandoned native American village site near today's Plymouth, MA)**
- **Squanto who had escaped several captures acted as interpreter and "teacher"**

6

## **My direct relatives (9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> great grandparents and second cousins)**

- **William (died 1621), Susannah, Resolved (5) and Peregrine White (0)**
  - Susannah remarried Edward Winslow, whose servant George Soule is a second cousin
- **Francis and John Cooke II (13)**
- **John Howland (Saved from falling overboard)**
  - Alec Baldwin is also one of his direct descendents
- **John (died 1621), Joan (Hurst) (died 1621) and Elizabeth Tilley (13)**
- **Richard Warren (ward and later husband of Elizabeth Tilley)**
- **William Brewster (2<sup>nd</sup> cousin)**
- **Myles Standish (2<sup>nd</sup> cousin)**

7

## **“First” Thanksgiving Feast**

- **Half the Mayflower travelers survived the first winter**
- **Men did not wear hats with buckles**
- **Three-day event with Wampanoag Indians in September 1621**
- **Menu included duck, clams, eels, cornbread, pudding, leeks, watercress, wild dried berries, wine made from wild grapes and maybe lobster (Peas and barley crops did not grow well.)**
- **Turkey (a Mexican bird) was introduced much later in history**

8

## Later Thanksgivings

- **Puritan thanksgiving included prayer and fasting to thank for harvests**
- **Some thanksgivings were for military successes (e.g. Battle of Saratoga)**
- **George Washington declared a thanksgiving in 1789**
- **Jefferson did not approve of Thanksgiving because of his strong views on the separation of church and state**

9

## Origins of Today's Thanksgiving Holiday

- **Sara Josepha Hale - ladies' magazine editor encouraged letter writing campaign starting in the 1830s, also included recipes for roast turkey, dressing and pumpkin pie. (She also encouraged white bridal dresses, Christmas trees and wrote "Mary Had a Little Lamb.")**
- **In 1863, Abraham Lincoln set the last Thursday in November as Thanksgiving Day with hopes of uniting the states after the Civil War**
- **To prolong the shopping days between Thanksgiving and Christmas, FDR (1941) changed the day to the fourth Thursday in November**
- **Annual Thanksgiving Proclamations by US Presidents**

10

## **Football, Macy's and Canada**

- **Detroit Lions first Thanksgiving Day football game in 1920**
  - Dallas Cowboys started Thanksgiving games in 1966
  - Three NFL games set for Thanksgiving 2021
- **Macy's parade started in 1924**
- **Canadians celebrate Thanksgiving on the second Monday in October and have menus similar to US Thanksgiving feasts**
- **If you travel outside the US or Canada, you need to “scout around” to find a local restaurant that has roast turkey on its menu**