

THE DISCOVERY PAPERS

The Fifth of November

Remember, remember!
The fifth of November,
The Gunpowder treason and plot;
I know of no reason
Why the Gunpowder treason
Should ever be forgot!
Guy Fawkes and his companions
Did the scheme contrive,
To blow the King and Parliament
All up alive.
Threescore barrels, laid below,
To prove old England's
overthrow.

But, by God's providence, him
they catch,
With a dark lantern, lighting a
match!
A stick and a stake
For King James's sake!
If you won't give me one,
I'll take two,
The better for me,
And the worse for you.
A rope, a rope, to hang the Pope,
A penn'orth of cheese to choke
him,
A pint of beer to wash it down,
And a jolly good fire to burn him.
Holloa, boys! holloa, boys! make
the bells ring!
Holloa, boys! holloa boys! God
save the King!
Hip, hip, hoor-r-r-ray!



Remember, Remember...

The old poem begins: "... the Fifth of November, The Gunpowder, Treason, and Plot, Will Never Be Forgot."

On November 5, 1605, a plot to blow up England's King James I and the Houses of Parliament with gunpowder failed.

In May 1604, Guy Fawkes, Robert Catesby, Tom Wintour, Jack Wright, and Thomas Percy met in a bar in London and started working on a plan to blow up England's King James I and the Houses of Parliament with gunpowder. Eight other men joined them later and the plan became known as the "Gunpowder Plot."

The group leased a cellar below the House of Lords to stockpile gunpowder. Fawkes, using the alias John Johnson, served as the caretaker of the gunpowder and the cellar. His job was to light a fuse to the gunpowder on November 5, 1605, during the opening of a new session of Parliament.

The authorities were alerted to the existence of a plot



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when an anonymous letter sent to Lord Monteagle, the brother-in-law of one of the conspirators, was turned over to them. The letter advised the member of Parliament to stay away from the opening ceremonies. During a search on the night of November 4, the search party found Fawkes in the cellar with matches in his pocket and 36 barrels of gunpowder. He was taken to the Tower of London and tortured for two days before he confessed to plotting to blow up Parliament. He was forced to sign a confession stating his role in the plot and naming the other conspirators.

A few months later, **an Act of Parliament designated November 5 as a day of thanksgiving for "the joyful**

day of deliverance", and remained in force until 1859. Guy Fawkes Day or Night, also known as Bonfire Night, has been around in one form or another ever since. As dusk falls, many people in Britain gather to celebrate Fawkes' failure to overthrow the government with fireworks, parades, and the burning of effigies. Although the effigies are usually of Fawkes, unpopular celebrities and politicians have also made an appearance. Either as a precaution or just tradition, Yeoman of the Guard still check the cellars underneath the Houses of Parliament every year before the state opening of parliament – just in case.

Guy Fawkes and his fellow conspirators



An Attitude of Gratitude.....

A day of giving thanks. Thanksgiving. To many, it's a truly American holiday filled with family and favorite foods. Its roots are in the tradition of praising and thanking the Divine for deliverance from one's enemies, for a bountiful harvest, or a safe arrival after a long and dangerous journey. A celebration of Thanksgiving was strictly a religious experience, focused entirely on prayer, not a festival of food.

The first documented feast of thanksgiving in what is now the United States is attributed to the Spanish in the 16th century. The explorer Pedro Men'ndez landed on the coast of what became the State of Florida and founded the first city in



The symbol of the American Thanksgiving??

North America, St. Augustine. On September 8, 1565, a feast of thanksgiving was held by the Spanish and the indigenous Timucua. It is believed that the feast may have included cocido (a stew made with pork) with contributions from the Timuca of wild turkey, venison, maybe alligator, with corn, beans, and squash.

The 17th century brought peace between England and Spain and the opening of the New World to colonization. England was overpopulated and many of its citizens were in poverty. The woolen industry was struggling and people in those areas began seeking agricultural ways of making money, like cultivating tobacco. England desperately need the land and opportunities offered by the New World. Fearing that the cultivation of tobacco in England would discourage the settlement of the colonies, King James I prohibited the growing of tobacco in England for at least 5 years. This led to increased unemployment and a growing desire to seek a new life in the New World where one could seek their fortune and escape the tyrannical rule of the King.

The first English settlement was established in Jamestown, Virginia, in 1607. Times were hard for these settlers. The living conditions were terrible. The land was swampy and not suited for planting, despite the very long drought. Supplies from

England failed to arrive due to storms in the Atlantic Ocean. In 1610, only 60 out of the original 490 settlers had survived. A service of thanksgiving was held.

A group of four gentlemen in London in 1618 met to form a company to start a new town in the Virginia colony. Their primary objective was turning a profit. The Virginia Company of London was granted a tract of 8,000 acres with 3 miles of waterfront along the James River. It was well suited for growing crops and beginning commercial ventures, much better than Jamestown. One of the group was John Smyth of Nibley. (Through the 38 papers and documents, known as the Nibley Papers, historians have learned the chronicles of the Berkeley expedition and the settlement of Berkeley Hundred, Virginia.)

On September 16, 1619, Captain John Woodlief and 35 settlers left Kingrode, Bristol, England, aboard the Good Ship Margaret for Virginia. Two and a half months later, on Sunday, November 28, 1619, they arrived at Chesapeake Bay. The following day, the Margaret proceeded up the James River and on December 4, 1619, they dropped anchor at the Berkeley site.

The men were rowed ashore along with their personal luggage. They were surrounded by woods and a complete silence. Captain Woodlief directed them to kneel on hard ground covered with dried grass to pray. The Berkeley Company had given a list of ten very specific instructions to settlers upon their departure. The first was that they give a prayer of Thanksgiving for their safe voyage upon landing and to do so annually and perpetually thereafter.



We ordained that this 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.

This marks the first official English speaking Thanksgiving - December 4, 1619, one year and 17 days before the Pilgrims landed in Massachusetts and almost 2 years before the Pilgrims held a 3 day Harvest Feast with their Indigenous friends. In the autumn of 1620, another ship (The Supply) arrived bringing an additional 50 settlers to Berkeley. It is believed that this group joined in the second annual Thanksgiving observance at Berkeley Hundred.

In March 1622, friendly groups of Indigenous People made their way into various settlements in Virginia. After milling around and making small talk, the Indigenous People snatched up the colonists' muskets, knives, hatchets, and anything else that might be used as a weapon and attacked. Eleven colonists at Berkeley were killed. Some were wounded and some got away. The "Massacre of 1622" was led by Chief Opechancanough for 140 miles on both sides of the James River. This event ended the annual observance at Berkeley for 336 years.

President George Washington issued a proclamation naming Thursday, November 26, 1789, as a "Day of Publick Thanksgivin" - the first time Thanksgiving was celebrated under the new Constitution.

In 1863, at the urging and recommendation of Sarah Josepha Hale, President Abraham Lincoln set the last Thursday in November as Thanksgiving. It is a precedent followed by subsequent presidents. During the Great Depression, in 1939, the customary date of Thanksgiving fell on the last day of the month and President Franklin Roosevelt was concerned that a shortened Christmas season would impact the country's recovery. He moved Thanksgiving to the second-to-last Thursday in November. Some states responded by making it state law that Thanksgiving was the fourth Thursday. For two years, some Americans celebrated on the second-to-last Thursday and some celebrated the following Thursday.

Congress decided to end the confusion and set a fixed-date for the celebration of Thanksgiving. President Roosevelt signed a resolution on December 26, 1941, establishing the fourth Thursday in November as the Federal Thanksgiving Day holiday.

The Nibley Papers, the records of the founding of Berkeley Hundred and the celebrations of Thanksgiving in Colonial Virginia were discovered by Dr. Lyon



Tyler, a retired president of the College of William and Mary and the son of President John Tyler. He wrote an article about his discovery in 1931 and shared his findings with Malcolm Jamieson, the then owner of Berkeley Plantation. The Jamieson Family invited the members of the Woodlief Family to join them at Berkeley to observe the annual event. The year was 1958.

Virginia State Senator John J. Wicker shared Dr. Tyler's research with Governor of Massachusetts to prove the validity of Virginia's claim as the site of the first English-speaking Thanksgiving. Historian Arthur Schlesinger, Jr. and President John F. Kennedy both recognized Virginia's claim. Even the Congressional Record tells the story of The Virginia First Thanksgiving, including a review of the Virginia Thanksgiving Festival, an annual commemoration.

An 1986 article by Nancy G. Heuser, 'Whose Thanksgiving Is It?', talks about the different observances in the New World. "All of those observances were spontaneous and were not repeated on a regular basis, as was the Berkeley ritual." The Berkeley observance was directed by the London Company and was a religious ceremony. It predated the Massachusetts one by almost two years and was a one time event held on the recommendation of the Plymouth Colony Governor William Bradford. It was not held due to an official proclamation from England. It was a harvest feast with Indigenous People. The Berkeley event was strictly religious.

Starting in 1962, the Virginia Thanksgiving Festival was opened to the public. The annual event is held on the first Sunday in November and features re-enactors, a recreation of the landing and a reading of the Thanksgiving proclamation and prayer. 400 years later, and counting, Berkeley Hundred is still honoring the proclamation!





The Mother of Thanksgiving

Sarah Josepha Hale was a woman of many talents and great influence. She was the editor of the magazine *Godey's Lady's Book*. Through her writings, she painted a picture of families gathered to share a meal of turkey, vegetables, and lots of gravy. Hale advocated an annual nationwide celebration like the Fourth of July. She used stories and editorials to garner support throughout the citizenry. Gradually, her ideas took root with Americans.

Her grassroots efforts and lobbying of Presidents paid off in 1863, when President Lincoln issued his Thanksgiving Proclamation on October

Hale is also known for her work in the preservation of Mount Vernon, the home of President George Washington, raising funds for the Bunker Hill Monument, and writing "Mary Had A Little Lamb."

This is an antique doll of Sarah Josepha Hale made for the 20th anniversary of *Godey's Lady's Book*. The doll is 9 inches tall and came with the lamb and dates from 1850.





Recipes for Dolls

This is the time of year when recipes that span generations and traditions appear once again. The celebration might be different this year for some. Our mascot, Amelia Peabody, suggested that create a celebration for and with our dolls, to express our gratitude for all the love, affection, and companionship that have shared with us throughout this challenging year.

Thanks to the kindness and generosity of the UFDC Region 5 Director Christine Faust, Amelia has recipes from a delightful cookbook for dolls, Mud Pies and Other Recipes by Marjorie Winslow.

Hopefully, the following will inspire you to create a feast for your doll (and bear) friends.

Boiled Buttons

This is a hot soup that is simple but simply delicious.

Place a handful of buttons in a saucepan half filled with water.

Add a pinch of white sand and dust, 2 fruit tree leaves and a blade of grass for each button.

Simmer on a hot rock for a few minutes to bring out the flavor.

Ladle into bowls.

Tossed Leaves

Gather enough green leaves to fill a big bowl.

Sprinkle with white sand and freshly ground dust, season with minced grass, moisten with a few squirts of water from a squirt gun.

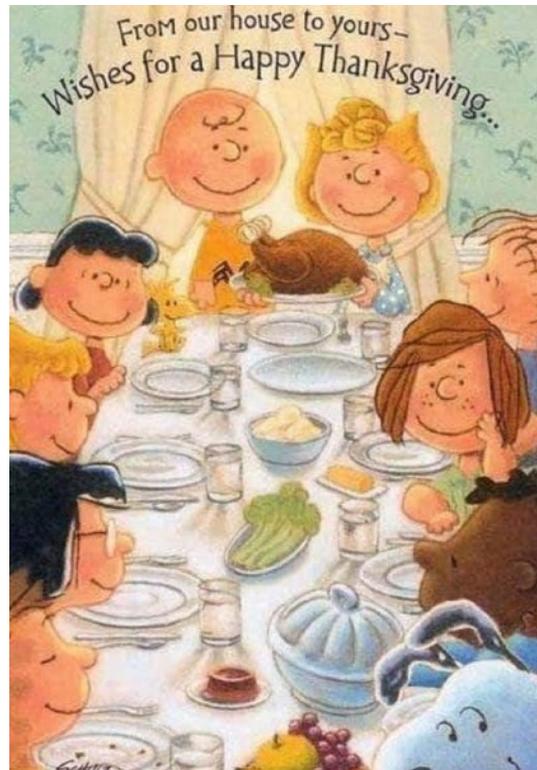
Toss it as high as you can with wooden spoons or hands, always making sure the salad returns to the bowl after each toss.

When seasonings and leaves are well blended, the salad is ready to serve.

Back Yard Stew

*Mark off a big square in your back yard by walking 8 giant steps in each direction.
Into a large stewpot put anything you find in this square such as grass, leaves, stones, twigs,
berries, flowers, weeds and so forth.*

*Season generously with white sand and dust, and add puddle water to cover.
The longer this dish stews that better it is.*



The Discovery Papers is a publication of the Westport Historical Society's Time Travelers Program.

Westport Historical Society/Harris-Kearney House
4000 Baltimore, Kansas City, Missouri 64111 timetravelwestport@gmail.com
816-561-1821

United Federation of Doll Clubs, Inc.
10900 N. Pomona Avenue, Kansas City, Missouri 64153 www.ufdc.org
816-891-7040