

# Before the Pilgrims—Thanksgiving in the South

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Americans traditionally begin celebrating the Holiday Season early in November. The first one up is the “Day of the Turkey,” when we celebrate Thanksgiving. School children will present plays while festooned in costumes portraying idealized male and female Pilgrims. And the history of America’s founding as represented by the Pilgrims and Plymouth Rock will, once again, be drilled into the heads of innocent children. But there is a problem with this New England Thanksgiving celebration. The problem is that it is fake history! The truth is that English-speaking, self-governing, Thanksgiving-celebrating America did not begin in what is now the New England state of Massachusetts in 1621. It began in what is now the Southern state of Virginia in 1607 and Jamestown, Virginia in 1610. (Note: I specified “English-speaking America” because the first recorded thanksgiving services held in North America were conducted by the Spanish in what is now Florida and the French in New France which stretched from Canada to the mouth of the Mississippi River.)

Some may ask, “Why is this important? After all, the important thing is to celebrate a season of thanksgiving.” It is important because it is an example of how the victor in the War for Southern Independence has used his political, financial, and social power to re-write history to conform to the invader’s imperialistic narrative. The invader’s efforts to re-write history is not something that suddenly appeared in our current era of political correctness. It has always been the case. In 1930 a noted Southern scholar wrote:

After the South had been conquered by war and humiliated and impoverished by peace, there appeared still to remain something which made the South different—something intangible, incomprehensible, in the realm of the spirit. That too must be *invaded and destroyed*; so there commenced a second war of conquest, the conquest of the Southern mind, calculated to remake every Southern opinion, to impose the Northern way of life and thought upon the South, write “error” across the pages of Southern history which were out keeping with the Northern legend, and set the rising and unborn generations [*of Southerners*] upon stools of everlasting repentance. ... The rising and future generations were to receive the proper education in Northern traditions.<sup>1</sup> (Emphasis added).

Southern Thanksgiving that began in Virginia in 1607 occurred thirteen years before the Pilgrims landed in what is now known as the State of Massachusetts. The Virginia Colony, not the Massachusetts Colony, was America’s first venture in self-government. In 1619 Virginia established a government with elected representatives serving in the House of Burgesses. As one historian declared “There was nothing like it in any of the American colonies, be they Spanish, Portuguese or French.”<sup>2</sup> This government was the beginning of the Colonials’ defense of what they called the “Rights of Englishmen,” especially the right to be represented in any matter concerning taxation. The American Revolutionary war cry of “No taxation without representation” can trace its origins to the State of Virginia—a Southern State that later sided with the Confederacy to continue defending its rights when the Yankee-dominated federal government became even more abusive of those rights than England’s King George.

A brief review of early Southern history demonstrates why supporters of Lincoln's all-powerful federal government would want to censor true Southern history. The history of the Southern people stands in sharp contrast to the history of New England's self-appointed elites who dwell in that utopian, self-proclaimed "City on a Hill." Even today, the arrogance of those people and their fellow travelers continues to plague not only the South, but all of America and much of the world. For example, a recent New England public radio broadcast proudly proclaimed: "New England—where people get together to change the world."<sup>3</sup> And, I would add, change it for a handsome political and financial profit for themselves and their fellow travelers residing literally or figuratively in that "City on a Hill."<sup>4</sup>

Friends, as we celebrate Thanksgiving this year and every year, let us remember that Virginia's early experience was more practical and humbler than that of New England, yet, in addition to celebrating the first English-speaking Thanksgiving, the colony can boast of two other "firsts."

After an initial experiment with a socialist type of communal property ownership, Governor Thomas Dale cancelled the failed system and promoted individual self-sufficiency via a free market type of property ownership. Thus, Virginia was first to renounce socialism! The Colony then began to prosper and cultivated tobacco which became America's first cash crop.

Thanksgiving is a day to thank God, not man, for the great things He has done and continues to do for those who love freedom linked to morality, which is true Liberty. Today and every day, please join me in praying that God would Make Dixie Great Again so America can be great again, too, because the spirit of Liberty is a Southern thing, after all.

Happy Thanksgiving and Deo Vindice

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<sup>1</sup> Frank Lawrence Owsley, "The Irrepressible Conflict," *I'll Take My Stand*, (1930, LSU Press, Baton Rouge, LA: 1983), 63.

<sup>2</sup> Byas, Steve, "1619, A Vital Year in the History of Virginia and America," *The New American*, Vol. 35, No. 15, August 5, 2019, 36.

<sup>3</sup> Wilson, Clyde, *The Yankee Problem*, (Shotwell Publishing Co., Columbia, SC: 2016), 18.

<sup>4</sup> That "City on a Hill" is best represented today by the finance elites on Wall Street, the political elites in Washington, D.C., the politically correct "intellectual" elites of America's universities, and their propaganda elites in the mainline media. Together they compose the Deep State of political power and crony capitalism.