

Mother of Thanksgiving

Continued from Page 3

same time, and in other parts of the country the holiday frequently was overlooked altogether. Nobody appeared to care very much whether the day was observed or not, except a woman named Sarah Josepha Buell Hale.

Mrs. Hale was a widow with a will. When her husband died, leaving her with five children, she went to work. This took several varieties of courage, for Mrs. Hale was a great lady, of an old New England family of great ladies and gentlemen. Several of her peers did not approve of a lady working beyond her home. Others were especially outraged at the nature of their kinswoman's job. Mrs. Hale became editor of a periodical, "The Ladies' Magazine."

Mrs. Hale had a rare editorial writing gift. She began an editorial campaign for a national observance of Thanksgiving Day. Over a period of twenty years, she wrote scores of editorials on the subject. Men as well as women read them.

One man who read them was Abraham Lincoln. In 1864, he declared that thereafter, by annual presidential proclamation, the last Thursday in November should be

a national Thanksgiving Day. Since then every president has followed his suggestion.

After President Lincoln acted, Mrs. Hale was called, "Mother of Thanksgiving," a title by which she deserves to be remembered.

Give Thanks!

Author Unknown

*'Mid sunshine, cloud, or stormy days,
When hope abounds or care dismay,
When trials press and toils increase
Let not thy faith in God decrease*

"In everything give thanks ..."

*All things we know shall work for good,
Nor would we change them if we could;*

*'Tis well if only He command;
His promise will ever stand —
"In everything give thanks ..."*

*He satisfies the longing heart,
He thwarts the tempter's cruel dart,*

*With goodness fills the hungry soul,
And helps us sing when billows roll.*

"In everything give thanks ..."

"Count your blessings, not your problems."

***Sign-up to receive the weekly e-mail version of The Bible View:
<http://www.OpenThouMineEyes.com/SignUp.html>***



"You Should Be Thankful."

Author Unknown

A train was crowded, and numbers were standing in the aisles and on the platforms. They took this opportunity to express themselves by complaining to the railway company. Some complained they had been standing for some three hours.

At a station, others came aboard, one of whom was an invalid who had to be carried in. As the passengers made room for him, one repeated his complaint, "Yes, we've been standing here for three hours."

The invalid looked at him and quietly said, "You are fortunate."

They were tired, but the invalid's rebuke changed hearts. The complaining stopped and many silently counted their blessings.

***"Count your blessings,
name them one by one,
Count your blessings, see
what God hath done...."***

Words form the hymn, "Count Your Blessings," by Johnson Oatman

A Day of Fasting and Humiliation (not Thanksgiving)

President John Adams, 1798

As the safety and prosperity of nations ultimately and essentially depend on the protection and the blessing



of Almighty God, and the national acknowledgment of this truth is not only an indispensable duty which the people owe to Him, but a duty whose natural influence is favorable to the promotion of that morality and piety without which social happiness can not exist nor the blessings of a free government be enjoyed; and as this duty, at all times incumbent, is so especially in seasons of difficulty or of danger, when existing or threatening calamities, the just judgments of God against prevalent iniquity, are a loud call to repentance and reformation; and as the United States of America are at present placed in a hazardous and afflictive situation by the unfriendly disposition,

Continued on Page 2

A Day of Fasting and ...

Continued from Page 1

conduct, and demands of a foreign power, evinced by repeated refusals to receive our messengers of reconciliation and peace, by depredations on our commerce, and the infliction of injuries on very many of our fellow-citizens while engaged in their lawful business on the seas – under these considerations it has appeared to me that the duty of imploring the mercy and benediction of Heaven on our country demands at this time a special attention from its inhabitants.

I have therefore thought fit to recommend, and I do hereby recommend, that Wednesday, the 9th day of May next, be observed throughout the United States as a day of solemn humiliation, fasting, and prayer; that the citizens of these States, abstaining on that day from their customary worldly occupations, offer their devout addresses to the Father of Mercies agreeably to those forms or methods which they have severally adopted as the most suitable and becoming; that all religious congregations do, with the deepest humility, acknowledge before God the manifold sins and transgressions with which we are justly chargeable as individuals and as a nation, beseeching Him at the same time, of His infinite grace, through the Redeemer of

the World, freely to remit all our offenses, and to incline us by His Holy Spirit to that sincere repentance and reformation which may afford us reason to hope for his inestimable favor and heavenly benediction; that it be made the subject of particular and earnest supplication that our country may be protected from all the dangers which threaten it; that our civil and religious privileges may be preserved inviolate and perpetuated to the latest generations; that our public councils and magistrates may be especially enlightened and directed at this critical period; that the American people may be united in those bonds of amity and mutual confidence and inspired with that vigor and fortitude by which they have in times past been so highly distinguished and by which they have obtained such invaluable advantages; that the health of the inhabitants of our land may be preserved, and their agriculture, commerce, fisheries, arts, and manufactures be blessed and prospered; that the principles of genuine piety and sound morality may influence the minds and govern the lives of every description of our citizens and that the blessings of peace, freedom, and pure religion may be speedily extended to all the nations of the earth.

And finally, I recommend that on the said day the duties of

humiliation and prayer be accompanied by fervent thanksgiving to the Bestower of Every Good Gift, not only for His having hitherto protected and preserved the people of these United States in the independent enjoyment of their religious and civil freedom, but also for having prospered them in a wonderful progress of population, and for conferring on them many and great favors conducive to the happiness and prosperity of a nation.

Given under my hand the seal of the United States of America, at Philadelphia, this 23d day of March, A.D. 1798, and of the Independence of the said States the twenty-second. By the President: JOHN ADAMS.

Sadly, American leadership has gone far downhill, and is far from the godly administration of earlier, God-blessed America.

First Thanksgiving Proclamation

William Bradford, Governor of the First American Colony, 1623

Inasmuch as the great Father has given us this year an abundant harvest of Indian corn, wheat, peas, beans, squashes, and garden vegetables, and has made the forests to abound with game and the sea with fish and clams, and inasmuch as he has protected us from the ravages of the savages, has spared us from pestilence and disease, has granted us freedom to worship God according to the dictates of our own con-

science.

Now I, your magistrate, do proclaim that all ye Pilgrims, with your wives and ye little ones, do gather at ye meeting house, on ye hill, between the hours of 9 and 12 in the day time, on Thursday, November 29th, of the year of our Lord one thousand six hundred and twenty-three and the third year since ye Pilgrims landed on ye Pilgrim Rock, there to listen to ye pastor and render thanksgiving to ye Almighty God for all His blessings.

William Bradford, Ye Governor of Ye Colony

Mother of Thanksgiving

Author Unknown

President George Washington proclaimed national observance of Thanksgiving Day on Thursday, November 26, 1789. After a few years, presidential proclamations lapsed. Although most New England communities continued the observance faithfully, they did not always celebrate at the

Continued on Page 4

“Thanksgiving is a time when the world gets to see just how blessed and how workable the Christian system is. The emphasis is not on giving or buying, but on being thankful and expressing that appreciation to God and to one another.” — John Clayton

“The worship most acceptable to God comes from a thankful and cheerful heart.”

— Plutarch