

THANKSGIVING

We're all familiar with the story of the first Thanksgiving when the 1. _____ invited local Native Americans to share a meal with them. But we bet you didn't know Thanksgiving didn't become an 2. _____ until more than 200 years later.

That first Thanksgiving in 1621 wasn't just one big meal, it was a three day festival of eating and hunting and other 3. _____ in honour of the pilgrim's first successful harvest. The Indians killed 5 deer as gifts for the 4. _____ so venison was definitely on the first Thanksgiving menu. But we bet you didn't know that turkey was not. They also didn't have pumpkin pie or potatoes which hadn't been introduced to New England yet. And while they may have eaten cranberries, they would have been served 5. _____, and not in a sauce or 6. _____. The pilgrims didn't plan on starting a Thanksgiving tradition. In fact they didn't repeat the November celebration in 7. _____ years.

In 1789, President George Washington announced the first ever national Thanksgiving holiday, which took place on Thursday November 26th. But it didn't become an annual tradition 8. _____ until the 19th century, that's when an American writer named Sara Josepha Hale, most famous for writing the 9. _____ 'Mary had a little lamb', was inspired by a diary of pilgrim life to 10. _____ that first Thanksgiving feast, beginning in 1827, Hale 11. _____ a nearly 30 year campaign to make Thanksgiving a national holiday. She also published recipes for pumpkin pie, turkey, and stuffing, that probably didn't appear on the pilgrim's plates, but would become the 12. _____ of modern Thanksgiving meals.

In 1863, in the 13. _____ of the civil war, President Abraham Lincoln announced that the nation would celebrate Thanksgiving every year on the final Thursday in November. But did you know in 1939, President Franklin D Roosevelt decided to move the holiday up a week to give 14. _____ era retailers more time to make money during the pre-Christmas shopping season. The move was widely 15. _____, and in 1941 FDR signed a bill fixing Thanksgiving on the fourth Thursday in November, where it stays today.

One of the 16. _____ Thanksgiving traditions began in 1989 when President George H.W. Bush granted the first official pardon to a turkey. Every November since then, the 17. _____ has given a reprieve to one or two turkeys, sending them to 18. _____ on a farm rather than to a dinner table. Though it only began in the late 20th century, this story has become one of the more unusual chapters in the long history of Thanksgiving traditions.