

THE FIRST THANKSGIVING

A Three Act Play

BY

James Berry and Gordon Shumard

6-E Auditorium Class

-----



1621 *Thanksgiving* 1932



"...the whole colony  
were gathered into  
their meeting-house  
in the timber fort  
upon the hill..."

"many of the Indians  
coming amongst us, and  
among the rest their  
great King Mpsasoyt,  
whom for three days we  
entertained and feasted."

"Now our harvest  
came...and the  
face of things was  
changed to the joy  
of our hearts."

Thanksgiving day in a Puritan settlement is accurately portrayed in the pictures above, showing citizens of Salem, Mass., re-enacting the first harvest festival in the new world, at the pioneers' village created near Salem as a reproduction of the original Puritan settlement.

### Thanksgiving Day

MABIE DODGE JONES

The times have changed since that far yesterday  
 Long, long ago, when pilgrim fathers knelt  
 And offered up the fervent thanks they felt  
 For harvest on that first Thanksgiving day.  
 Vicissitudes such as those fathers knew  
 Have vanished with the passing of the years,  
 And no descendant of stern pioneers  
 Has faced the hardships which those men went through.  
 In reverence, America proclaims  
 Throughout the land a great Thanksgiving day;  
 Each year a mighty nation stops to pray  
 Remembering old altar-fire flames.  
 The poorest private in the country's ranks  
 Does well to bow his head, and offer thanks.



*Wild Turkeys Brownd and Golden  
and venison and purple grapes  
for these we offer thanks*



## Seeing Things

By GRACE CARVER RANSOM

"Earth's crammed with heaven, and every common bush afire with God;  
and only he who sees takes off his shoes."—Elizabeth Barrett Browning.

### For These Give Thanks:

#### FRIENDS

*Refreshing sleep.*

*Great silences.*

*Courage to continue.*

*Faith to dare, nor "grudge the throe."*

*Sky, stars and clouds, both heat and cold.*

*All things that shape us, and make us aware.*

#### TRUSTED FRIENDS

*Time-healed wounds.*

*Freedom to believe.*

*Love, freed from jealousies.*

*Cessation from hatred and wars.*

*God's mercy, which, like the seventh wave,*

*O'er-tops all and washes clear life's shoreline.*

#### PROVEN FRIENDS

THE FIRST THANKSGIVING  
A PLAY

By  
Gordon Shumard and Jim Berry

Time: Nov. 1621.

Place: Plymouth Colony.

Cast of Characters:

Gov. Bradford  
Capt. Miles Standish  
John Alden  
Mr. Winslow  
Elder Brewster  
John Billington  
Squanto, an Indian  
Massasoit, Indian chief  
Other Indians  
Mary Brewster  
Priscilla Mullins  
Susanna White  
Elizabeth Hopkins  
Hellen Billington  
Hope and Faith, two boys.

Pilgrims and Indians are gathered to give thanks for  
the great harvest.

Indians are seated on the ground. Women go back and  
forth getting ready for the feast. Men and boys carry  
wood for the fire, then seat themselves with the Indians.

Act I

Gov. Bradford---What luck did you have on the hunt?

John Billington---Fine, we brought many ducks, geese,  
and turkeys. There is plenty for three days.

Squanto---Indians brought many deer from the great forest,  
to feast with white brothers.

Elder Brewster---We have gathered the corn, barley, and  
wheat, which we have stored. Let us all give thanks

to God for His goodness.

Gov. Bradford---Just think, less than one year ago we had no shelter of any kind, now we have good cabins besides the meeting house.

Capt. Standish---I wish Rose could have lived to see this. (to John Alden) Do you think Priscilla would take her place.

John---(smiling) You might ask her.

Capt.---You ask her for me, John.

John ---Oh! No I couldn't.

Capt.---Yes you must. I'm afraid of any woman's "no!"

John---Ho! A brave man like you afraid of women.

(enter women)

Mistress Brewster---Priscilla has made many cakes for the feast and will roast the turkeys, but the boys must get them properly plucked.

Priscilla---I wish we had some chesnuts for the dressing, like we had in England.

John---Will beeh nuts do?

Priscilla---Perhaps. We can try them.

Hellen Billington---I'll venture John Billington killed most of those turkeys.

Elizabeth Hopkins---She always wantsthe glory.

Priscilla---I wish my mother and father had lived to see this day.

Susanna White---It sometimes makes me sad to think so few of us are left.

Mistress Brewster---Only four mothers who were on the  
Mayflower.

Elder Brewster---I counted our people yesterday. There  
are not fifty of us. On last Christmas Day when we  
started our first cabin there were 102.

( Indians make signs and leave )

Capt. Standish--- We are ready to show the Indians what guns  
can do.

Susanna-- Don't scare them too much.

Elder Brewster-- Do you think they may fool us ?

Mistress Hopkins-- The clams and oysters from the Bay will  
help with the feast.

( Enter Indians in

Squanto-- Massasoit will send five of his best hunters back  
to the forest for more deer.

Gov. Bradford-- That is good.

( Massasoit points out five and motions to go.)

---Act Two--- At the feast.

( Indians and whites are all enjoying the games )

Hope-- My father can shoot better than yours.

Faith-- He cannot.

Hope-- Lets get the Indians to teach us to shoot with  
bows and arrows.

~~Ex~~ ( Shooting match goes on )

Faith-- Maybe Massasoit will show us how to do a war dance.

Cap. Standish-- I'll ask him.

( To Squanto ) Tell Massasoit we would like to see  
a war dance.

( Squanto goes to Massasoit and makes signs and talks  
Indian language.

Massasoit grunts )

Squanto -- Massasoit will dance.

( Massasoit dances )

( Enter women )

Priscilla -- The turkeys are brown and golden. The  
venison is well roasted. the feast is ready.

Gov. Bradford -- For all this let us offer thanks.

The end.