



## THANKSGIVING DINNER

Choice of one from each Course

### *FIRST COURSE*

***Butternut Squash Bisque***  
Spiced almonds, maple chantilly

***Chesapeake Oysters on the Half Shell***  
Shallot mignonette, cocktail sauce

***Autumn Garden Salad***  
Whipped chevre crostini, walnut gremolata, sherry vinaigrette

### *SECOND COURSE*

***Herb Roasted Turkey***  
House stuffing, chive mashed potato, market vegetables, cranberry orange relish, good gravy

***Baked Salmon en Croute***  
Faroe island salmon, spinach, saffron pilaf, porcini, beurre blanc

***Prime Rib of Beef***  
The favorite English Joint Au us  
Herb whipped potato, popover, grated horseradish

### *MRS. VOBE'S SWEETS*

***Pumpkin Pie***  
Vanilla Chantilly

***Jefferson Bread Pudding***  
Bourbon Custard Sauce

***American Heritage Flour-less Chocolate Torte***  
Dried Cherry compote, red wine syrup

***Syllabub***  
Sweetened Cream, White Wine, Fresh Berries

All Dinners served with Tavern Breads  
featuring R. Charlton's Blend of American Heritage Coffee

*Consuming raw or undercooked meats, poultry, beef, pork, lamb, seafood, shellfish or eggs increases  
your risk of food borne illness, especially if you have certain medical conditions.*



# NO THANKSGIVING IN WILLIAMSBURG

**S***CHOLARS* will search in vain for any mention of Thanksgiving Day in the 18th-century *Virginia Gazette*. Fourth Thursdays in November were no different from other days—runaway slaves, lost pocketbooks, ships departing to London. Page after page, it is always business as usual. No festivities, no turkey, no stuffing, no sleigh ride to grandmother’s house, in short, no Thanksgiving Day.

There were, however, many days of thanksgiving. Bumper harvests, drought-breaking rains, safe voyages, and military victories were made frequent occasions for public prayers and celebrations during the 17th and 18th centuries. The colonists who settled Berkeley Hundred in 1619 carried instructions to give thanks “yearly and perpetually” on the anniversary of their arrival. And they did for three years—until Indians annihilated the settlement in 1622, after which it seemed prudent for surviving Virginians to proclaim another day of thanksgiving for having been spared. There were comparable observances in 18th-century Williamsburg. Days of thanksgiving were proclaimed, for instance, to commemorate Queen Anne’s health and the “happy agreement” between her Majesty and the Houses of Parliament.

These were all solemn religious occasions. They have only an indirect relationship to the present Thanksgiving holiday, which we should give ungrudgingly to New Englanders. Or, better yet, to Old Englanders, for the Plymouth Colony Pilgrims were only celebrating a folk custom that they remembered from England. The Harvest Home, a time of feasting, dancing, and gaming after the crops were safely gathered, was an ancient peasant festival. Brought to all of the American colonies, it thrived best in the small farming communities of New England. Only in 1863 did President Abraham Lincoln make Thanksgiving Day a national holiday as a reminder of “peace, harmony, tranquillity, and Union” in a time of civil war. So it turns out that your Thanksgiving dinner in Williamsburg is one of history’s tastier ironies.



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