



Thanksgiving Dinner

FIRST COURSE

Butternut Squash Bisque

Honey Roasted Carrot, Parsley Emulsion

Crab & Corn Chowder

Crispy Bacon, Parsley Emulsion

Salet of Winter Greens

Fall Apple, Pickled Squash, Candy Pumpkin Seed
Herb Feta, Cranberry Vinaigrette

SECOND COURSE

Holiday Roast Turkey

Herb Breast, Slow Cooked Dark Meat
Pan Gravy, House Stuffing, Sweet Potato Pudding
Cranberry Orange Relish

Mrs. Campbell's Crab Cakes

Warm Savoy Cabbage Salad
Lemon Butter, Remoulade

Prime Rib of Beef

the favorite English Joint with Au Jus
Herb Whipped Potatoes, Popover, freshly grated Horseradish

Roasted Butternut Squash "Steak"

Warm Savoy Cabbage Salad
Wild Mushroom Ragout, Citrus Pesto

MRS. VOBE'S SWEETS

Southern Pecan Pie

Vanilla Whipped Cream, Caramel

Meringue & Berries

Lemon Curd, Vanilla Chantilly, Mint

Jefferson's Bread Pudding

Bourbon Custard Sauce

American Heritage Flour-less Chocolate Torte

Dried Cherry Compote, Red Wine Syrup

18th Century Syllabub

Fresh Fruit, Mint





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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