

Guamannan na h-Alba

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Message from the President

Stephen Hope, D Urr



Welcome to another edition of the Clan Hope of Craighall Society Newsletter.

This newsletter brings us all into the holiday season and events including, Thanksgiving in both Canada and the USA, St Andrews Day then Christmas and New Year or Hogmanay. But first let me wish you all

well for Samhain (sow-win), or as many know it Halloween.

As these festivals and holidays draw to a close I want to remind our members who pay annually that membership renewal is due by the 31st December for the coming calendar year.

Although prices everywhere have been rising we are keeping our annual membership to just \$20USD per household. If you want to add something extra while renewing your membership why not consider ordering additional Clan Hope Lapel Pins when filling out the renewal form.

I wish you all the very best for the coming months and festivities.

Sláinte Mhath - Good Health to you and your families.



Canberra Highland Gathering 2024

Report by Stephen Hope, President (D Urr)

The Burns Club in Canberra, ACT, Australia held their annual Canberra Highland Gathering on the 12th October; also celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the forming of the Burns Club.



This is our final gathering or games event we attend each year as summer approaches in the southern hemisphere.



We know that in the northern climes that as winter approaches there are fewer large events but special days like Samhain, St Andrews Day and Hogmanay still give us an opportunity to get together and celebrate our Scottish heritage wherever we may be living.

It's always a gathering we enjoy, not just because there are other Hope families in the region, but also we have the opportunity to set up our little caravan right behind our Clan Hope of Craighall Society stall which we did the afternoon prior to the gathering.



It's a free event to participants and the general public visiting so always draws a reasonably large crowd. After the opening ceremony with massed pipe bands and clan banners the day continues with piping and highland dancing competitions but the big attraction is always the Kilted Heavy Warriors Competition with the McGlashen Stones of Bundanoon, Weight-for-Height and Caber Toss.



A Glimpse into my Hope Family

from Jennifer Meighan*

It all began with a Buchanan Clan tam received as a gift from my Grandfather (Lawrence Hope), and a plaque of the Hope family crest which was resting on the mantel of the fireplace at my Hope Grandfather's home. I was always curious about the meaning of the crest, but I didn't think to ask. At my young age, it didn't seem very interesting. Looking back, I wish that I'd asked my Grandfather to explain the meaning of the crest and our family history. In addition to the Hopes, we're also related to the Buchanan Clan, with ties to James Buchanan, the 15th President of the United States.



Lawrence Edgar Hope was born in Madera, California , USA in 1904. He graduated from the University of California at Berkeley with the Degree of Graduate of Pharmacy in 1925. He died in 1997 in Red Bluff, California.

When my parents passed away, I had the responsibility and privilege of sorting through a huge banker's box of family photos and mementos.

I found 2 spiral bound binders, hand written by my Cousin Olive. She would now be 110 years old!! One binder is about our family's Pioneering History (I'm a 6th generation Californian).



A classic Bankers Box

In 1848, the Hope family joined a wagon train which wound up in Madera, California. Farming grapes became their livelihood. The second binder provides information about our Hope Revolutionary Soldiers from Maryland.



Cousin Olive was a proud member of DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution, also regarded as the Known Families of Troublemakers).

Her membership number was in the binder, so I was able to quite easily join D.A.R., bypassing the requirement to provide documentation for the previous 10 generations.

DAR is a nonprofit, nonpolitical volunteer women's service organization dedicated to promoting patriotism, preserving American history and securing America's future through better education. There are over 190,000 members in 3,000 chapters across the world. Currently, I'm serving as the Co-Chair for Veteran's Affairs (for the Presidio Chapter). Our focus is to provide tangible support and inclusion of the Veterans at the VA who gave so much for our country. Activities such as bingo and stocking their pantry with snacks and other necessities provides a sense of comfort for the families we serve. Last year, we raised funds to purchase a piano for their enjoyment. We also participate in "Wreaths Across America" which pays tribute to our brethren by placing a wreath at their graves during the Holidays.



Sons of the American Revolution is the counterpoint organization for men. I imagine that many of you qualify to be members, because the

Scots played such a huge role in establishing the United States of America.

"No one provokes me with impunity", the national motto of Scotland, was certainly a touchstone for the fight against taxation without representation. And I really love the proverb "Twelve highlanders and a bagpipe make a rebellion"!!!!

I'm delighted to be a member of the Clan Hope of Craighall Society to celebrate our shared heritage and connect to my family roots.

Strangers are just friends waiting to happen, so I look forward to meeting fellow members of the Clan Hope Society.

* our author, Jennifer Meighan, is a new member of Clan Hope of Craighall Society.. She joined mid-2024 and we are thrilled that she has offered an article for this Clan Hope newsletter.

Heirloom Jewellery

Article by Richard Hope, High Commissioner for Clan Hope of Craighall Society, USA

We received an email from Richard Hope saying that a Clan Hope of Craighall Society member inherited these pieces of jewellery - a signet ring, with what appears to be the crest of Barron Hope and a pair of cuff links. It appears that the ring is the oldest. The recipient went on to say that they could not read the writing on either the ring or the cuff links.



What is totally puzzling, Richard went on to say, is that the member has traced their Hope lineage to Joseph Hope, a merchant in Cumberland County, England. Joseph's dependents, from another son, thought they were cousins to the Hopetoun branch of the Craighall family but DNA showed they were from the Viking line.



The person who inherited this jewellery is in the process of ordering a FTDNA kit to verify their family lineage.

How the jewellery got into their family is not known.

This is not the first link between Joseph Hope's family and the Craighall Hopes, so the questions keep flowing...



Historic Houses of the Borders

Mellerstain House



Mellerstain House is one of the great houses of Scotland and its history has been entangled with national history for nearly five hundred years. It is one of Scotland's grandest Georgian houses and was designed and built by William and Robert Adam, who also built nearby Floors Castle. It continues to be the residence of the Earl and Countess of Haddington.



The interior decoration is opulent in a way that only the Georgians knew how to do.

The rooms retain their period colour schemes, with ornate ceilings, marble busts, lots of original furniture and a large collection of paintings by Van Dyck, Ramsay, Gainsborough and many more. See how the other half lived!

There are extensive parklands around Mellerstain house, including an Italian-styled terraced garden and a cute-looking cottage with a thatched roof that looks like it should be in a fairytale book.

The Baillie family have lived at Mellerstain for centuries. They are now known as Baillie-Hamilton and it is still their family home. Mellerstain House certainly lives up to the idea of a 'grand stately home'. This is, in part, thanks to the famous Scottish architects - William Adam and his son Robert.

William Adam started the building of Mellerstain in 1725 and built the two wings. From 1770-1778, Robert Adam expertly finished the house by linking the two wings together with a large central block thereby creating a "castle style" house. I find it quite interesting that Mellerstain House lets you compare the architectural styles of father and son.

History

The estates at Mellerstain changed hands among leading Border families throughout the medieval period. But the real history of Mellerstain House starts in 1642 when King Charles I granted lands at Mellerstain to an Edinburgh merchant named George Baillie.

Baillie lived in a fortified tower house situated where the mansion now stands. But he did not have long to enjoy his new home, for he died in 1646 and was succeeded by his son, Robert Baillie.

Robert was a firm follower of the Covenanter principles, and his beliefs brought him into regular conflict with the authorities. In 1676 he was imprisoned in Edinburgh Tolbooth for an attempt to rescue his brother-in-law from arrest. In addition to 'serving time' in the Tolbooth, he was fined £500, a huge sum for the times.

A Romantic Tale

While he was in prison Sir Patrick Hume, later to become the Earl of Marchmont, sent his daughter Grisell, aged only 12, to carry messages to Baillie. Baillie was eventually released, but in 1684 he was in trouble with the government again, and this time he paid with his life, executed for high treason. His estates were forfeited to the crown, and his son, George Baillie, now penniless, fled to the Low Countries.

Sir Patrick Hume and his family, whose estates were also seized, fled to Holland too. Baillie served as an officer in the Horse Guards of the Prince of Orange, and a romance developed between the young officer and Grisell, now fully grown.



Things might have looked bleak, but the fortunes of the Baillie and Hume families were about to change, for in 1688 the Prince of Orange was invited to take the throne of England as William III, ruling jointly with his wife, Mary. Sir Patrick Hume and George Baillie came to Britain with the new monarchs, who restored their Scottish estates. Three years later, in 1691, George Baillie married Grisell Hume.

The House

The family fortunes continued to improve, and in 1725 the Baillies decided to replace their outmoded tower house with a grand new mansion in classical style. Architect William Adam was called upon to provide plans



for an ornate house with long wings astride a central block.

He also laid out formal gardens in a Dutch style, with a newly formed lake surrounded by raised banks and dotted with classical statues. But only the two wings of the new house were complete before George Baillie died in 1738, leaving the house unfinished.

For 40 years the house stood thus, with one wing used by the family and the other shared between servants and horses! Lady Baillie carried on her own, administering the house and estate. Part of administering the house involved keeping precise records, and these household accounts provide a vivid picture of life in an 18th-century house.



In 1759 another George Baillie, grandson of the builder, comes onto the scene. Influenced by the classical buildings he encountered on his Grand Tour of Europe as a young man, this George Baillie commissioned William Adam's son, Robert, to finish what his father had begun. But rather than simply complete the earlier plans, which by now were woefully out of fashion, Adam designed a castellated central block, linking seamlessly to the earlier wings.

Though the exterior of Mellerstain is a good example of Adam's 'castle style', it is the interiors that really deserve attention, for here is Adam at his masterful best. The plasterwork is outstanding, particularly in the library, and the attention to detail is outstanding. The interiors are a mix of comfortable family home and exquisite staterooms, meant for show and to impress visitors. This task they carry off in style!

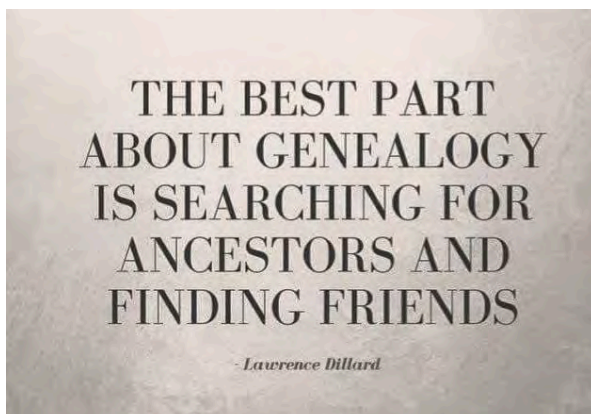
Visiting Mellerstain



We came here as a family group, with our young children. It's always a bit of a gamble bringing children to a stately home, but actually they quite enjoyed themselves (the promise of ice cream at the end of the visit helped). The adults enjoyed themselves too, but for different reasons.

The interiors of the house are wonderful; the Georgian neo-classical style is one of my favourite time periods, and the Adams, father and son, were masters of the style. The setting is superb, with wonderful gardens and parkland surrounding the house (which not coincidentally provided plenty of space for our children to run about and burn off excess energy). I loved Mellerstain and would happily return again.

Sources: mellerstainhouse.com, [mellerstain_facebook](https://www.facebook.com/mellerstain), [wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org), historic-houses.org, secretscotland.com, weewalkingtours.com, britainexpress.com



Recipe Corner

An Aussie Hope Traditional Meat and Veg Soup



Ingredients

- Meat offcuts (cut off any unwanted fat),
- Onion, large x1
- Carrots x2
- Parsnip x1
- Swede x1
- Potatoes x2
- Celery x1 stick (or supermarket soup vegetables pack)
- Packet of dry soup mix
- Mixed herbs,
- Dash of Worcestershire Sauce
- Dash of Tomato Sauce (Ketchup),
- Salt and Pepper to taste.
- Crusty bread, for serving, optional



Steps to Make It

- Ideally cooked in a pressure cooker but, if not, in a large saucepan cooking for longer times.
- Peel and chop vegetables into small pieces.
- Sauté onions in oil until soft, add meat and brown, add mixed herbs, salt and pepper, cover with water and pressure cook for 15 minutes.
- Reduce pressure and remove meat.
- Add vegetables, dry soup mix and more water to cover veggies, add both sauces to the saucepan/pressure cooker.
- Remove cooked meat from bones and return meat to saucepan/pressure cooker.
- Add additional salt if required.
- Pressure cook for another 6 minutes.
- Reduce pressure and serve with crusty bread or warm buttered toast.

Source: *The Family of Stephen Hope*, D Urr (our President)

Places Named HOPE

Hope, Indiana, USA



Hope, Indiana is a small, proud, rural community just fifteen minutes northeast of Columbus, Indiana that is known as a “Surprising Little Town” for many reasons, including its unique landmarks and hidden treasures.

Hope, Indiana is located between the three major cities of Indianapolis, Cincinnati and Louisville. A mere 10 minutes from Columbus /I-65 and only 20 minutes from Greensburg /I-74. Come and see what our small town has to offer. We think you will be surprised.



The town is centered around the town square, where you will find a bandstand, local businesses, the local library, a park and playground, the town hall, and even a community museum. It is a place where visitors are always welcome.

The one word that best defines Hope is HERITAGE which means the legacy passed down through the generations.

The values of faith, courage, perseverance, willingness to adapt and citizen participation in community are ones that uphold reverence to the amazing heritage of Hope. These same values sustain us now and will move forth the town of Hope for future generations.

The History of our Town

- In late 1829, Martin Hauser left his home in North Carolina to claim his own land here in Indiana
- On April 5, 1830, Hauser sent a messenger to Indianapolis to purchase the 160 acres for the town of Goshen.

- The town was originally named Goshen, in 1834 the name was changed to Hope, as Indiana already had a town named Goshen.
- Hope, Indiana is one of Indiana’s smallest communities to still have its own newspaper. Hope’s community newspaper was established in 1912 when two competing newspapers merged to create one weekly publication—the Hope Star-Journal, this legacy continues with the Hope Star Journal online.
- The post office was actually started in 1834 in John Hager’s general store, which sat on the northeast corner of the town square. Hauser purchased the store from Hager and added the jobs of merchant and postmaster to his roles of farmer and minister for the next 11 years.
- By the year 1833, many new settlers were moving into Goshen. The church had decided to sell the lots of the town to anyone who would like to live there instead of leasing them only to Moravians.



- The Yellow Trail Museum building on the west side of the town square was originally a hardware store. The Weinland Hardware Store was opened on that site in 1849 (some sources say 1853). In 1879 the building was destroyed by fire resulting from an attempted robbery that involved blowing up the only safe in town! The one in the hardware store.
- Back in 1973, a home was being torn down on the property of the Marshal Vogler farm about 2 ½ miles north east of Hope. Inside the building a log cabin was discovered. Eugene “Shiner” Norman, the local mortician, offered to purchase the cabin and have it moved into town. During the dismantling of the cabin the date 1837 was found carved into one of the logs which led everyone to believe that the cabin was originally constructed in that year. The pieces were hauled into Hope and the reconstruction of the cabin began in March of 1974.

The yearly events in Hope include:

- June – Sep – Friday Farmers Market
- June – Smoke on the Square
- July – Old-Fashioned Fourth of July
- Sep – Hope Heritage Days
- Sep – Hope Bike Ride
- Nov – Christmas of Yesteryear

Sources: wikipedia, columbus.in.us, town of hope.org,

Notable Hopes

Sir Thomas Hope (1573-1646)



Engraved portrait of Sir Thomas Hope of Craighall, first baronet (1573-1646). Stipple engraving by Edward Harding after George Jamesone. Titled: 'Sir Thomas Hope, from the original by Jameson in the possession of the Earl of Hoptoun to whom this Plate is most respectfully dedicated. E. Harding Sc. Buchanan Comes Delt.' Mr Fairclough has written in pencil: 'Lord Advocate, ob. 1 Oct. 1646'

- Henry Hope (1609-??)
- Sir Lord John Thomas Hope, 2nd Baronet of Craighill (1609-1654) *
- Sir Alexander Hope (1611-1680)
- Sir James Hope (1614-1661)
- David Hope (1615-??)
- Patrick Hope (1617-??)
- Mary, of Cambuskenneth, Hope (1620-1691)
- Elizabeth Hope (1623-??)
- Anne Hope (1625-1653)
- Charles Hope (1627-??)

Sir Thomas Hope was the second son of Harry Hope, Merchant Burgess of Dieppe [1586], and afterwards Burgess and Guild Brother of Edinburgh [1588], having had to flee the Continent for his religion, and his wife Jacqueline de Tott, a French Protestant. Sir Thomas was bred to the law in Scotland, became an advocate at the Scottish bar in 1605, and made his reputation for courageous defence in cases of treason.

He had a successful practice in the reign of James I, but was called to political life when Charles came to the throne, and in 1626 appointed him joint Lord Advocate for Scotland along with Sir William Oliphant, after whose death two years later he acted alone. He married Elizabeth, daughter of John Binning, of Wallyford, by



Title: Hope, Thomas, Sir (1573 - 1646) (Stamp 1)
 Arms: A chevron between three bezants [roundels]
 Motto: A humo sto spe
 Dimensions (height x width): 71mm x 54mm
 Heraldic Charges: chevron between, Heraldic Charges: roundels (3)

The Hope Baronetcy of Craighall in the county of Fife was created in the Baronetage of Nova Scotia on 19 February 1628 for Thomas Hope, a Scottish lawyer, and advisor to Charles I. Like his ancestors, Hope studied the law. He was admitted as an advocate 8 July 1701 and served as an MP for Fifeshire from 1706 to 1707.

When Sir Thomas Hope was born in 1573, in Old Craighall, Midlothian, Scotland, his father, Henry Hope (1533-1591), was 40 and his mother, Jacqueline De Tot (1543-1624), was 30. He married Lady Dame Elizabeth Bennett in 1599, in Edinburgh, Scotland. They were the parents of at least 9 sons and 3 daughters and amongst his siblings were:

- Sir Thomas Hope (1573-1646)
- Sir Alexander Hope of Grantoun (1583-1680).
- Sir Thomas Hope married Jacqueline De Tot. Their children being:
 - Elizabeth Hope (1603-??)
 - Sir Thomas Hope Lord ... (1606-1643)
 - Isabel Hope (1608-??)
 - William Hope (1608-??)

whom he had fourteen children, three of whom grew up to be Lords of Session.

On 19 February 1628 he was made a Baronet of Nova Scotia, and in 1643 was appointed Commissioner to the General Assembly, a dignity which no commoner has since held. He was the ancestor of the baronets of Craighall in Fife, of the family of bankers in Amsterdam, and of the Hopes, Earls of Hopetoun, Marquesses of Linlithgow, descendants of his sixth son, James, who married Anne, daughter and heir of the Foulis of Leadhills.

The motto on the stamp is an anagram of THOMAS HOPEVS, as is AT HOSPES HUMO [Psalm 119 verse 19] which was carved on the lintel of the West door of his house in Edinburgh. Sir Thomas himself wrote a Latin translation of the Psalms and the Song of Solomon which was published in 1626.

The lintel is preserved in Edinburgh City Library, which stands on the site of his house.

He was admitted as an advocate in 1605, and he made his reputation by defending John Forbes (1568?-1634), and other ministers at Linlithgow in 1606. In 1625, he prepared the deed revoking the grants of church property made by James VI.

Hope was appointed Lord Advocate in 1626, and held the office until 1641. He was created a Baronet of Nova Scotia in 1628. Hope conducted the case against John Elphinstone, 2nd Lord Balmerino in 1634. As Lord High Commissioner to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland in 1643, he maintained the king's temporizing policy. In 1645 Hope was appointed one of the Commissioners for managing the Exchequer, but died the following year.

He died on 1 October 1646, at Hopetown, West Lothian, Scotland, at the age of 73, and was buried in Edinburgh, Scotland

Sources: [wikipedia](https://www.wikipedia.org), ancestors.familysearch.org, armoral.library.utoronto.ca, [special collections,le.ac.uk](https://specialcollections.le.ac.uk), archives.collections.ed.ac.uk, nationalgalleries.org,



Something new? QR Code on our Headstones - an instant description about the deceased

Difference between Headstone, Gravestone and Tombstone

Research by Maggie Hope Tucker

Is this a question that has been raised in your family?

I've been continuing to document, in newsletter form, the history of my paternal family history which includes the life and descendants of my great.great.grandfather's siblings - a big task in anyone's language. And it's come to my attention that sometimes I refer to a grave marker as a headstone, a tombstone and/or a gravestone. And so I decided to look and see what the differences are and which is in more common use these days. And here are my findings:

"Understanding the nuances between a headstone, gravestone, and tombstone is essential when commemorating your loved one's final resting place.

A Headstone



A **Headstone** is more than just a marker; it's a personal tribute that reflects the unique life and legacy of the person it honours. Here's what sets a headstone apart:

- Design: Typically an upright stone, a headstone stands as a sentinel at the head of a grave.
- Placement: It's strategically placed at the head to symbolise guidance or watchfulness.

A Gravestone



A **gravestone**, often larger than its counterpart, the headstone, normally marks the full expanse of a grave and may feature detailed inscriptions or images commemorating the life of the departed. You'll find that a gravestone isn't just a grave marker; it's a testament to a life lived, a story engraved in stone for posterity.

The term 'gravestone' used to describe these monuments reflects their historical role in marking the entire resting place, not just the stone at the head.

It stands as a physical and enduring link to your loved one, preserving their legacy for the future.

A Tombstone



Originally, a 'tombstone' referred to the stone cover of a stone coffin, a usage dating back to the mid-16th century.

Over time, the definition of 'tombstone' evolved to mean the vertical stone placed at the head of a grave.

This marker usually bears the name of the person buried there, along with their birth and death dates.

Additionally, some tombstones include an epitaph or a portrait of the deceased.

And there's more information on these sites:

Source: <https://www.monumentsolutionsllc.com/headstone-vs-tombstone-vs-gravestone/>

<https://www.quickanddirtytips.com/articles/tombstone-gravestone-or-headstone-whats-the-difference/>

A Snapshot of Upcoming Highland & Celtic Events

Note: do check on Page 1 in the links (top left hand corner, under the heading: "Guamannan na h-Alba") for additional events.

Australia

Scots on Show, Bendigo, Vic - 9 Nov

Southern Fling/Southern Fringe, Melbourne - 22-24 Nov

Wauchope Highland Gathering, NSW - 23 Nov

A Highland Day Out, Mt Gambier, SA - 24 Nov

Melbourne Tartan Festival - 29 Nov

Daylesford Highland Gathering, Vic - 7 Dec

New Zealand

Hororata Highlands Games - 9 Nov

Pipe Band Workshop, Wellington - 9 Nov

Clan Hope of Craighall Society Newsletter

USA

Highlands and Islands Highland Games and Music Festival - 9-10 Nov

Tallahassee Highland Games - 8-9 Feb 2025

Sources: *The Scottish Banner, Scots Canada, Highland Games and Festivals*

Scottish-English Dictionary

compiled by Moultrie R. Kelsall, MA., LB

The English language has been shared by Scotland and England for generations, and the majority of words in it are common to both countries. Nevertheless both English and Scottish speech have individually adopted many words from other tongues, and these are often peculiar to either Scottish or English. The following words are still in fairly common use in Scotland, yet are not immediately recognisable to those unfamiliar with Scottish speech.

This is the 7th in the series of 9:

quaich - small shallow drinking bowl with 2 ears

quine - girl

redd - put in order

rickle - loose dilapidated heap

rippet - uproar

roup - auction sale

rug - pull roughly, tug

Source: *The Guide to Scottish Tartans*

Call For Expressions of Interest for Clan Committee Membership

Clan Hope of Craighall Society would like to invite members to volunteer to become committee members by offering to represent the clan in their region.

We currently have vacant positions as Clan Commissioners in the USA, Canada, Australia, England, Wales and Ireland but would be happy to hear from members in other parts of the world where we currently have no representation at all.

What do we expect a Clan Commissioner to do is a common question we receive when people are considering taking on this role.

Well the simple answer is represent the clan at Scottish and Celtic events in your region. Often the best way to commence is to attend a highland gathering, Celtic festival as a member of the public and see what other clans are doing and talk to them and the organisers about what would be involved in representing Clan Hope of Craighall Society at the event in the future.

The clan can provide artwork for printing, information on clan history, templates for clan banners but it is up to each commissioner to provide the actual items required

for a tent or stall at festivals unless the festival, as some do, provide these to participants.

If you feel you would be interested in doing this please email president@clanhope.org for more information.

Thanksgiving in America



Thanksgiving is a federal holiday in the United States celebrated on the fourth Thursday of November. It is sometimes called American Thanksgiving (outside the United States) to distinguish it from the Canadian holiday of the same name and related celebrations in other regions. It originated as a day of thanksgiving and harvest festival, with the theme of the holiday revolving around giving thanks and the centerpiece of celebrations remaining a Thanksgiving dinner. The dinner traditionally consists of foods indigenous to the Americas: turkey, potatoes (usually mashed or sweet), squash, corn (maize), green beans, cranberries (typically as cranberry sauce), and followed by pumpkin pie for dessert.

Other Thanksgiving customs include charitable organizations offering thanksgiving dinner for the poor, attending religious services, and watching television events such as Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade and America's Thanksgiving Parade as well as NFL football games. Thanksgiving is regarded as the beginning of the holiday season, with the day following it, Black Friday, said to be the busiest shopping day of the year in the United States.

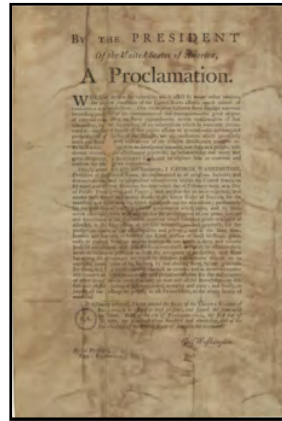
New England and Virginia colonists originally celebrated days of fasting, as well as days of thanksgiving, thanking God for blessings such as harvests, ship landings, military victories, or the end of a drought. These were observed through church services, accompanied with



Family saying *grace* before Thanksgiving dinner in *Neffsville, Pennsylvania*, 1942

feasts and other communal gatherings.

The modern day Thanksgiving Day in the U.S. is a federal holiday for Americans to give thanks as the Pilgrims did with their Native American neighbors after their first harvest in Plymouth (now in Massachusetts) in November 1621. This feast lasted three days and was attended by 90 Native American Wampanoag people and 53 survivors of the Mayflower (Pilgrims).



Thanksgiving Proclamation 1789



Sketch by *Alfred Waud* of Thanksgiving in camp (of General *Louis Blenker*) during the U.S. Civil War in 1861

Thanksgiving has been celebrated nationally on and off since 1789, with a proclamation by President George Washington.

President Thomas Jefferson chose not to observe the holiday, and its celebration was intermittent until President Abraham Lincoln, in 1863, proclaimed a national day of "Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens", calling on the American people to also, "with humble penitence for our national perverseness and disobedience ... fervently implore the interposition of the Almighty hand to heal the wounds of the nation". Lincoln declared it for the last Thursday in November. On June 28, 1870, President Ulysses S. Grant signed into law the *Holidays Act* that made Thanksgiving a yearly appointed federal holiday in Washington, D.C.

On January 6, 1885, an act by Congress made Thanksgiving, and other federal holidays, a paid holiday for all federal workers throughout the United States. Under President Franklin D. Roosevelt, the date was moved to one week earlier, observed between 1939 and 1941 amid significant controversy. From 1942 onwards, Thanksgiving, by an act of Congress received a permanent observation date, the fourth Thursday in November, no longer at the discretion of the president.

Source: *wikipedia*

Canadian Thanksgiving

Across the border, Canada also celebrates Thanksgiving but the date set for their celebrations has been the second Monday in October. Thanksgiving (French: *Action de grâce*) or Thanksgiving Day (French: *Jour de l'Action de grâce*), is an annual Canadian holiday. Outside of the country, it may be referred to as Canadian Thanksgiving to distinguish it from the American holiday of the same name and related celebrations in other regions.

Thanksgiving has been officially celebrated as an annual holiday in Canada since November 6, 1879.

On January 31, 1957, the Governor General of Canada Vincent Massey issued a proclamation stating: "A Day of General Thanksgiving to Almighty God for the bountiful harvest with which Canada has been blessed – to be observed on the second Monday in October.

Thanksgiving is a statutory holiday in most of Canada, and an optional holiday in the Atlantic provinces of Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. Companies that are

brussels sprouts); followed by pumpkin pie, apple pie, and glazed yams. Various regional dishes and desserts may also be served, including salmon, wild game, Jiggs dinner with split-pea pudding, butter tarts, and Nanaimo bars.

Source: wikipedia



regulated by the federal government, such as those in the telecommunications and banking sectors, recognize the holiday everywhere.

As a liturgical festival, Thanksgiving corresponds to the British and continental European harvest festival, with churches decorated with cornucopias, pumpkins, corn, wheat sheaves, and other harvest bounty. While the actual Thanksgiving holiday is on a Monday, Canadians may gather for their Thanksgiving feast on any day during the long weekend; however, Sunday is considered the most common. Foods traditionally served at Thanksgiving include roasted turkey, roast beef, ham, stuffing, mashed potatoes with gravy, sweet potatoes, cranberry sauce, sweet corn, various autumn vegetables (including various kinds of squashes, but also

'Tis the Season



Wishing you a safe and happy Christmas, as you celebrate this Season with those you love.