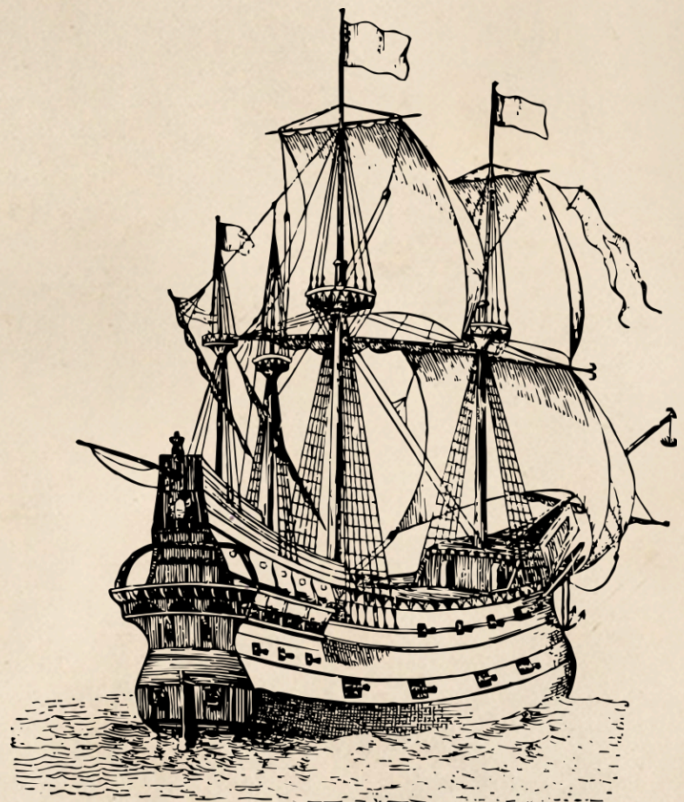


The booklet *A Relation or Journal of the Beginning and Proceedings of the English Plantation Settled at Plimoth in New England* was written primarily by Edward Winslow, a member of the original *Mayflower* voyage. It was penned between November 1620 and November 1621 and describes in detail what happened from the landing of the *Mayflower* Pilgrims on Cape Cod in Provincetown Harbor through their exploring and eventual settling of Plymouth Colony. The booklet also describes their relations with the surrounding Native Americans up to an extended, common feast celebrating a bountiful autumn harvest and the arrival of the ship *Fortune* in November 1621.

The booklet was summarized over the years by other publications without the harvest feast story, but the original booklet appeared to be lost or forgotten by the eighteenth century. A copy was rediscovered in Philadelphia in 1820, with the first full reprinting in 1841. In a footnote, editor Alexander Young was the first person to identify the 1621 feast as “the first Thanksgiving.”

Following is the cover of the original booklet followed by a description of what has come to be acknowledged as the basis of the modern Thanksgiving tradition. The description was first transmitted via a letter to a friend in England and later included as part of the booklet.



A RELATION OR

Journall of the beginning and proceededings
of the English Plantation settled at *Plimouth* in NEW
ENGLAND, by certaine English Aduenturers both
Merchants and others.

With their difficult passage, and their safe ariual, their
ioyfull building of, and comfortable planting them-
selues in the now well defended Towne
of NEW PLIMOUTH.

AS ALSO A RELATION OF FOVRE
feuerall discoueries since made by some of the
same English planters there resident.

I. In a iourney to PVCKANOKICK the habitation of the Indians greatest King Massasoyt: as also their message, the answer and entertainment they had of him.

II. In a voyage made by ten of them to the Kingdome of the Nawset to seeke a boy that had lost himselfe in the woods: with such accidents as befell them in that voyage.

III. In their iourney to the Kingdome of the Namafchet, in defence of their greatest King Massasoyt, against the Narrohiggonsets, and to reuenge the supposed death of their interpreter Tisquantum.

IIII. Their voyage to the Massachusets, and their entertainment there.

With an answer to all such objections as are in any way made
against the lawfulnessse of the English plantations
in those parts.



LONDON.

Printed for *John Ballamie*, and are to be sold at his shop at the two
Greyhounds in Cornhill neere the Royall Exchange. 1622

LETTER FROM EDWARD WINSLOW

DECEMBER 11, 1621

in which he describes a celebration shared with the local Native peoples, the Wampanoag, which coincided with that autumn's harvest. It is this celebration that has been cited by many as the basis of the Thanksgiving tradition in America.



*O*ur harvest being gotten in, our governor sent four men on fowling, that so we might after a more special manner rejoice together, after we had gathered the fruit of our labors; they four in one day killed as much fowl, as with a little help beside, served the company almost a week, at which time amongst other recreations, we exercised our arms, many of the Indians coming amongst us, and among the rest their greatest King Massasoit, with some ninety men,

whom for three days we entertained and feasted, and they went out and killed five deer, which they brought to the plantation and bestowed on our governor, and upon the captain, and others. And although it be not always so plentiful, as it was at this time with us, yet by the goodness of God, we are so far from want, that we often wish you partakers of our plenty.