

IOWA'S FIRST THANKSGIVING Governor James W. Grimes Issued Initial Proclamation In 1855.

Des Moines, Nov. 26.—According to the records preserved in the office of the secretary of state, the first Iowa Thanksgiving proclamation was that of James W. Grimes, issued in 1855. Charles Aldrich, curator of the state historical department without looking up the subject is of the opinion that such a proclamation had been issued by Territorial Governor Lucas but there is no record of it in the archives of the secretary of state.

HISTORY OF THE DAY

SEASONS OF THANKSGIVING OBSERVED BY THE ISRAELITES IN EARLY DAYS.

Many Different Customs Have Been Introduced From Time to Time.—The Puritans Gave Thanks for Providential Guidance.

Corn stalks stand like sentinels grim and hoarse the blades were green and dead.

And the fallen leaves from the naked limb Have covered the frozen sod.

While homeless ones are helped to cheer, As kind hearts know the way, And fervent prayers go out to Him, On this Thanksgiving day.

The Israelites during their journey to the promised land observed days of thanksgiving to God. These days are frequently mentioned in the Bible. Such days were not uncommon occurrences in England before the Reformation and among the Puritans were observed after the Reformation.

As late as 1872 such a day was celebrated in England when a good ship was sent forth for the recovery of the Prince of Wales from an attack of typhoid fever. Probably the first Thanksgiving day in America took place on the coast of New England in 1578 when an English minister named Wolfall administered the communion and preached a Thanksgiving sermon to the hardy mariners of Frobisher's expedition. Not only was this the first Thanksgiving celebrated in America, but the first communion was administered and the first sermon was preached on this memorable occasion.

The celebration is aptly described as follows in the story of the good ship Ayde: "On Monday morning of May 27, 1578, aboard the good ship Ayde we did receive all the communion by the minister of the good ship Ayde, prepared as good Christians towards God and towards night we departed toward Heby Hope. Here we had a prayer of God and upon our knees gave him the humble and hearty thanks and Maister Wolfall appointed by his majesty's council made upon us a goodly service exhorting all especially to be thankful to God for his strange and miraculous deliverances in those strange and dangerous places."

The first celebration of a Thanksgiving in the present territory of the United States took place at Sagadahoc in the coast of Maine and was performed by the Popham colony in August of 1607. This celebration only lasted a few hours, however, and did not take up a whole day as the later observances of the day did.

The observance of Thanksgiving which marked the beginning of the present custom without doubt took place in Massachusetts in 1619. The first Massachusetts colony had passed through a long period of misery and depression and had finally gathered a large crop and was once again supplied with eatables. Gov. Bradford issued a proclamation setting apart December 3 of that year, according to the old style of reckoning time, as a day of Thanksgiving.

It was at this time also that the turkey became connected with the observance of the day. The governor sent out four men to search for game and these men returned loaded down with turkeys and the housewives promptly took charge of the fowls and prepared them for the Thanksgiving feast. The colonists took to the delicacies more promptly for another reason. They had the puritanical hatred of the celebration of Christmas as a piece of "Popish mummery" and they shunned as a plague its boar's head, plum pudding and mince pie. In their stead they were only too glad to establish roast turkey, Indian pudding,

from ANARCHY and CIVIL STRIFE from IMMORALITY and CRIME of every grade" and he adds solemnly the CHRISTIAN RELIGION, which has raised man from a state of barbarism. Lower case letters were not strong enough for Governor Grimes and the capitalizing was his own.

This proclamation was issued at the old capital in Iowa City, in the ninth year of the history of the state of Iowa, and is attested by George W. McCleary secretary of state.

While most Iowa thanksgiving proclamations have been made in times of gladness, when the horn of plenty was full to overflowing and when nothing but blessings were in sight, it has not always been so. Probably no thanksgiving proclamation by an Iowa governor was issued at a more trying time than that of Governor Samuel Kirkwood, the war governor of Iowa, in 1862. It was in the darkest hour of the rebellion; when the final outcome of that great struggle was in doubt and when Iowa soldiers were fighting bravely at the forefront of battle.

Many of them had already been numbered among the slain and many more would never see the light of home again. In such times as these it required a faith and confidence above the ordinary, to solemnly issue a proclamation of thanksgiving to Almighty God.

The proclamation expresses the strong feeling of the colonist and soldier war governor. His mind and heart are in the field, struggling with the soldiers he has sent forward. The proclamation is not so much one of thanksgiving as it is a mighty battle cry for the success of the great cause in which the north and Iowa are part of the north and Iowa.

There is a sort of Hebraic solemnity and poetry in the sustained sentences of the proclamation while there is more than Hebraic tenderness for the suffering anguish of the soldiers in the field.

and pumpkin pie as the staple luxuries of the new holiday. The first notice of the holiday was given by a cannon salute at dawn and shortly afterward the colonists formed in solemn procession and wended their way to the meeting house. Elder Brewster, in his long black coat, carrying the big Bible, the sergeant in counsel and the governor were conspicuous in the procession. After the long service, including "kiss her, the company sat down to feast which the housewives had prepared for them.

Exactly had they taken a mouthful when an Indian war whoop started them, and the men, ever ready to defend their lives, rushed to their weapons in hand, only to be confronted by the friendly King Massasoit with his braves, many of them bearing bows and arrows of war. The Indians were given places at the board and the celebration and feasting went on with unintermitted vigor. Governor Bradford lengthened the time of the Thanksgiving to three days, and the time was spent in various amusements. The singing of psalms and hymns was intermingled with waltzes by the Indian trappers and military drills by Captain Standish's company.

The different colonists soon took up the example set by the Massachusetts colony, and the custom was observed from that time on, although without any regularity—sometimes the day was observed twice in a year and at other times a year would be skipped.

During the revolution the continental congress at different times appointed eight days of Thanksgiving, and Washington twice issued proclamations for such days, after the terrible winter of the hands of the other occasions. When Washington became president, upon the recommendation of congress, he appointed November 28, 1779, as the national Thanksgiving day. The manuscript of this original Thanksgiving proclamation by a president of the United States is now in the hands of Rev. J. W. Wellman Massachusetts, who received it as an heirloom from his grandfather.

The presidents after Washington followed his example and issued yearly proclamations until the war of the rebellion, when the custom was allowed to die. Mrs. Sarah J. Hale decided to take the matter up in 1854 and the governors issue proclamations and she wrote letters to each of them asking them to issue such proclamations. Her efforts were rewarded and every governor, except two, took the matter up.

After the battle of Gettysburg, Mrs. Hale wrote to President Lincoln asking him to issue another national proclamation and he responded by issuing such a document on August 6, 1863. Since that time it has become a national custom for the presidents to appoint the last Thursday in November as the day of Thanksgiving, and the only one which has prevailed to our day is the football game in the afternoon, which is without doubt a relic of the old games which the colonists used to hold on Thanksgiving day. A big shooting match was always held in the afternoon, and a turkey raffle was another indispensable adjunct of the day for the colonists.

BOY BURGLARS.

Ringgold County Lads Indicted for Looting a Store.

Mt. Ayr, Nov. 26.—(Special.)—The Ringgold county grand jury has returned indictments against Elmer Thompson, aged 16 years, and Joseph Smith, aged 13, for burglarizing a store at Tingley. Thompson has offered to plead guilty and in his confession he says that they took a number of revolvers from the store. The Smith boy was arraigned today and presented a plea of not guilty.

NEW AMERICAN CHURCH.

Prominent Germans Present at Dedication Services in Berlin.

Berlin, Nov. 26.—Crown Prince Frederick William in behalf of Emperor William took part today in the dedication of the new American church, sit-

NEW CUT-OFF IS OPENED

Thousands Homeless.

Big Flood at St. Petersburg Causes Awful Damage.

Trace of a Murder Suspect.

Prominent Men Present.

Turk Still Obstinate.

Iowa Pioneer Dies.

David Hollister of Mapleton Passes Away Aged 101.

Sloux City, Nov. 26.—David Hollister is dead at Mapleton aged 101 years. He enjoyed good health for a hundred years.

MONUMENT TO MODERN RAILWAY ENGINEERING ACTIVITY IN THE WEST.

Ogden, Utah, Nov. 26.—One hundred two miles of track composing what is known as the Ogden-Lucien cut-off across the Great Salt Lake was formally declared completed today and made a part of the Harriman system.

The dedication of this track, which cost the Southern Pacific Railroad company many millions of dollars was the occasion of the assembling of fifty of the most prominent railroad officials of the country. The party making the formal trip of inspection was headed by E. H. Harriman, president of the Southern Pacific. With him were the heads of practically all the lines forming the great transcontinental system known as the Harriman lines.

A Splendid Line.

The Ogden-Lucien cut-off is 102 miles in length, seventy-two miles on land and thirty miles on trestlework and fills over the waters of the Great Salt Lake. It presents practically a level track except for a short distance on the west end near Lucien, Nevada, where a slight grade is encountered.

Changes Transcontinental Traffic.

The use of the cut-off will throw out transcontinental traffic on the old line

GIVE THANKS GOES TO JAIL

Students and Faculty of Iowa Wesleyan University Celebrate.

REV. I. B. TAYLOR NOT FOUND GUILTY OF BIGAMY IN DELAWARE.

Scored by Judge.

Wilmington, Del., Nov. 26.—"You are a disgrace to the ministry and I am sorry to greater penalty is provided for your offense," declared Judge William C. Spruance in the court of general sessions in ordering the Rev. Irwin B. Taylor to pay a fine of \$25 a month ago for the support of his first wife, Mrs. Agnes M. Taylor of this city, whom he deserted two years ago to marry Miss Florence Graves in Martinsburg, Iowa.

The court also ordered the Rev. Mr. Taylor to furnish bonds in the sum of \$2,000 and as he was unable to provide it he was taken to the county workhouse at Greenbank. Meanwhile his father and other friends are trying to furnish the security.

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SPRIT OF THE DAY

America, With Her Countless Throats, Sings Hymns of Thanksgiving.

With hearts overflowing with gratitude for the blessings which have been bestowed upon the nation by an all-wise Providence the people of Ottumwa today join with their compatriots all over America in celebrating Thanksgiving.

The year which is now drawing to a close has witnessed almost unexampled prosperity in America. This splendid nation, founded by men whose love of freedom and for their posterity inspired them to journey from lands across the seas, to brave the hardships and awful risks attendant upon pioneer life in the new western world, has attained by their achievements and those of their descendants, and now stands as a magnificent and ever-growing monument to their labors. The United States is thankful for her position among the nations of the world.

During the past twelve months, though hardships have at times affected conditions in some localities and the way has been rough for the few, the many have continued to prosper. The mills and factories have been busy, the wage-earner's pay envelope has been bulky, the conditions of the tolling millions, the bone and sinew of this mighty nation, have been bettered. America is thankful for her prosperity.

Those who depend upon the agricultural pursuits for a livelihood have cause for gratitude. The golden wheat fields of the west this summer teemed with busy workers garnering the crops. The great east was drawn upon for thousands of strong men who hastened from the college, the counting room or the store to the wide prairie to lend their aid in gathering the crops whose very greatness defied the herculean efforts of the western workers. Meanwhile, despite the ruinous floods which

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PROCLAMATION

FOR IOWA'S FIRST THANKSGIVING

It is a venerated custom in the older States of this Union, to dedicate one day towards the close of each year, to Public Thanksgiving and praise to GOD, for His continued blessings and protection. Such public recognitions of the government of DIVINE RULER, and such manifestations of gratitude for benefits received at His hand, are worthy of imitation everywhere, and eminently become the people of Iowa.

The past year has been crowded with blessings to our State. We have been exempt from pestilence. Abundant harvests have rewarded the toil of the husbandman. We have been preserved from intestine commotions and bloodshed. No distracting evils have occurred to impede our prosperity. Our population, wealth and productive resources of every character have increased in a wonderful degree. The facilities for educating the youth of the State have been greatly multiplied. Steps have been taken to establish charitable institutions corresponding to the progress and spirit of the age, and the demands of humanity. There are evidences all around that the State has made unexampled progress in everything that tends to promote her best physical and moral interests.

As citizens we have enjoyed liberty without licentiousness. Civil and religious freedom, without distinction of party, sect or nationality, have been enjoyed by all. Our nation has been prosperous. Peace has been preserved. While other nations have been plunged into bloody and desolating wars, we have been preserved from that great calamity.

For these and for numberless other blessings, it has been deemed proper that a day should be set apart by the Executive of the State for praise and Thanksgiving. Therefore I, JAMES W. GRIMES, Governor of the State of Iowa, do designate Thursday, the 22d day of November, next, as a day of public thanksgiving and praise to Almighty God, for the innumerable blessings, which as a people and individuals, we have enjoyed.

I recommend that the people of the State assemble on that day in their respective houses of public worship, and devoutly raise their hearts and voices in gratitude to our HEAVENLY FATHER for His past protection; and beseech its continuance. Let us give thanks that HE reigns; that we are the product of HIS hand and not of a blind, unreasoning chance. Let our hearts swell with gratitude for the blessings of CIVIL AND RELIGIOUS LIBERTY; and pray for their extension to every human being. Let us be thankful that WAR, with its devastation, its slaughter and its agonies does not desolate our land; and pray that PEACE may be established among all mankind. Let us be thankful for the GOVERNMENT we have inherited from our fathers; and pray that it may ever be preserved worthy of the confidence and support of their descendants. Let us be thankful for COMFORT AND PLENTY, for PEACE AND ORDER, for the means of EDUCATION, for HEALTH and for all other national and personal blessings. Let us ask to be preserved "free from POVERTY AND RICHES," from BIGOTRY and INTOLERANCE, from PRIDE, and HATRED, from ANARCHY and CIVIL STRIFE, and from IMMORALITY and crime of every grade.

But above all let us be thankful for the CHRISTIAN RELIGION, which has raised man from a state of barbarism—given him the means of intelligent happiness in this life and hope of glory in that which is to come. Done at Iowa City, this 26th day of September, in the year of our Lord, 1855, of the Independence of the United States the eightieth, and of the State of Iowa the ninth.

By the Governor: GEORGE W. McCLEARY, Secretary of State. JAMES W. GRIMES.

COULDN'T SELL EAR.

Omaha Man Despondent Over Failure to Make "Easy Money."

Omaha, Neb., Nov. 26.—Despondent over his failure to sell an ear for \$5,000 to the New York surgeon who desired one to graft on the head of a wealthy western patient, and unwilling to undergo poverty in his old age, J. E. Wolf shot his wife and himself yesterday. He is said to be dying. Mrs. Wolf will recover. Wolf also shot at Bernard Wagner, who attempted to help Mrs. Wolf to escape.

MEMORIAL FOR WRECK VICTIMS.

Purdue Faculty Announces Plan for \$100,000 Monument.

Lafayette, Ind., Nov. 26.—At a meeting of the Purdue faculty yesterday in Fowler hall, President Johnson outlined a plan for raising \$100,000 for the erection of a memorial gymnasium in memory of the football players and others who lost their lives in the railway wreck at Indiana on October 31. A committee of the faculty will act in conjunction with a citizens' committee composed of five bank presidents.

FITZ WINS.

Old Fighter Gets Decision Over George Gardner in Twenty Rounds.

San Francisco, Nov. 26.—Bob Fitzsimmons proved last night that he was not a "dead one" when he outboxed and out-generated George Gardner for twenty full rounds. Fitzsimmons was as awkward and cunning as of yore, and there was not a moment when he was not careful personified. While the old man could avoid punishment from Gardner, he could not knock his opponent out, although he landed a number of vicious blows. From his performance last night, Gardner is not in Fitzsimmons' class. He landed once in a while, but Fitz was always going away from him, and the blows were harmless. Several times Fitzsimmons apparently had Gardner almost out, but he was either too tired

ACQUITTED OF CHARGE.

German Countess Not Held Guilty of Fraud.

Berlin, Nov. 26.—Countess Isabella Weisskalk, charged with presenting a false heir to the estate of Wreblew in the province of Posen, and who has been on the trail here since October 26, was acquitted yesterday afternoon.

SOLDIER BOY'S REMAINS.

Daniel Gallagher, Who Died in the Philippines, Buried at Ossian.

Mason City, Nov. 26.—The remains of Daniel Gallagher, who died in Manila on September 24, have arrived here. He was sergeant of the signal corps. The body was buried in Ossian yesterday.

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