

Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Colorado AF&AM

November 1, 2020

Volume 2 Issue 10

From the Desk of the Grand



Greetings Brethren All,

On November 26, 2020 the United States will observe Thanksgiving as a national holiday. It seems fitting that we

remind ourselves of how far we have come as a nation since that day in 1621 when the Pilgrims celebrated their first successful corn harvest with their native American allies, the Wampanoag Indians. Only half of the original 102 colonists and crew of the Mayflower survived to the first spring. On coming ashore in March they were greeted by an Abenaki Indian who greeted them in English. Several days after the initial meeting the Abenaki, whose name seems to have been lost in history, returned with another Native American, Squanto, a member of the Pawtuxet tribe who had been kidnapped and sold into slavery by an English sea captain before escaping in London and joining an exploratory expedition to return to his homeland. The surviving colonists, weak and malnourished, were not well equipped to survive. Squanto

taught the colonists to cultivate corn, harvest maple sap, and fish the rivers. He also taught them to avoid poisonous plants in the area. The alliance between the colonists and the Wampanoag tribe lasted for more than 50 years.

The original menu did not include the various cakes and pies traditional today inasmuch as the sugar supply on the Mayflower had been exhausted and the colony had no oven. It is speculated that the dishes were seasoned and prepared consistent with the Native American ways. It is not chronicled whether wild turkeys were a part of the original harvest festival. If they were you may be assured the turkey of the time would little resemble the large bird cultivated today on farms and found in the refrigerator or freezer section at the large grocery store down the street. The fowlers of the colony shot waterfowl in abundance, including swans, to feed the colonists and 90 or so warriors of the Wampanoag tribe who participated with their great chief, Massasoit. The Indians contributed five deer to the feast.

From the Desk of the Grand Master

Continued

Lobster, fish, and clams were on the menu as well. Pumpkins, berries, fruit, and squash rounded out the menu.

Thanksgiving became a national holiday in 1863 by declaration of President Abraham Lincoln. In the midst of the civil war his proclamation entreated all Americans to ask God to “commend to His tender care all those who have become widows, orphans, mourners or sufferers in the lamentable civil strife” and to “heal the wounds of the nation.” In 1939 in a bid to spur retail sales President Franklin D. Roosevelt moved the holiday to the third Thursday in November amidst much derisive comment. In 1941 he acquiesced to the demand of the public and reluctantly signed a bill moving it back to the fourth Thursday in November.

I find a particular matter of note in the history of the original holiday: the fact that Squanto, a Native American who was captured and enslaved, was arguably instrumental in the survival of those first colonists despite his

treatment at the hands of one of their countrymen. His action speaks volumes of the merciful nature and charitable spirit of the man. On a lighter note, not many of us enjoy lobster or clam as part of our Thanksgiving and would pay rather dearly to do so.

As we approach this celebration of bounty let us remember the merciful and charitable nature of Squanto and reflect on a more merciful and charitable approach to those around us. Our charity might take the form of alms for the needy or a forgiving spirit toward perceived slights. In all cases we have far more to be thankful for than those early colonists. I had a conversation with an immigrant a few years back. The man, a successful surgeon, is well recognized in his profession. In the discussion he explained why he did not become involved in financial discussions regarding his practice. Simply put, he said he grew up truly poor, not “American poor”, and would not deny his skills to anyone based on their ability to pay. We should think about what it

From the Desk of the Grand Master

Continued

means when an accomplished professional makes the matter of fact distinction that being what is considered poor in America is at a far different level than in other countries.

As Freemasons we are rich in our heritage, the fraternal bonds that bind us to our brothers, and the lessons of the craft. By our example let us invite like minded men to become a part of this better and greater whole in which we share.

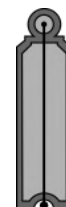
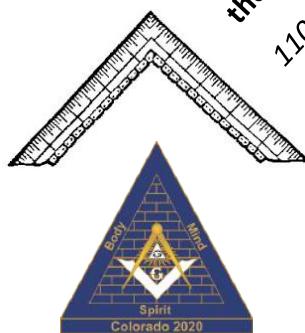
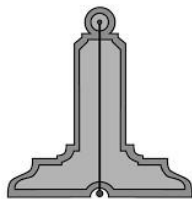
Fraternally,

David L. Coberly

Grand Master of Masons in Colorado - 2020

*In visiting the sick, do not presently play the physician if you be not knowing therein.
110 Rules of Civility and Decent Behavior in Company and Conversation - George Washington*

*Be not apt to relate news if you know not the truth thereof.
110 Rules of Civility and Decent Behavior in Company and Conversation - George Washington*



Calendar of Grand Lodge Events

Scheduled events are subject to change or cancellation and attendance may be limited due to ongoing public health orders. Please check with the host lodge to confirm events and availability.

Thu Nov 5, 2020

6pm OV @ St. John's Lodge No. 75

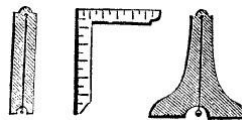
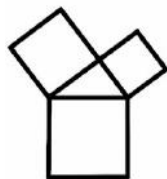
Where: 411 N Main St, Rocky Ford, CO 81067, USA

Description:

6:00 PM Dinner 7:30 PM Lodge RSVP to Gary L. Hendren glhendren@yahoo.com. Dinner will be at the 10th Hole Restaurant, Rocky Ford Golf Course 91 S. Play Park Hill, Rocky Ford, Colorado Direction if you go South on Main Street the road ends at the Restaurant. Worshipful Master has reservations for 5:45pm

*Think before you speak, pronounce not imperfectly nor bring out your words too hastily but orderly & distinctly.
110 Rules of Civility and Decent Behavior in Company and Conversation - George Washington*

*Undertake not what you cannot perform but be careful to keep your promise.
110 Rules of Civility and Decent Behavior in Company and Conversation - George Washington*



From the Pilgrim Chronicles

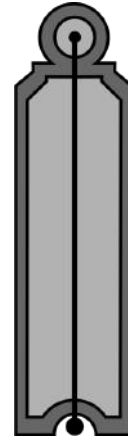
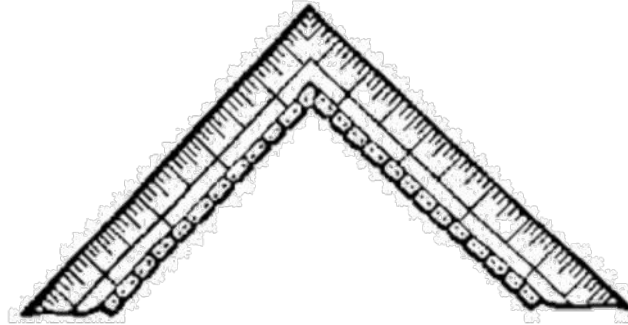
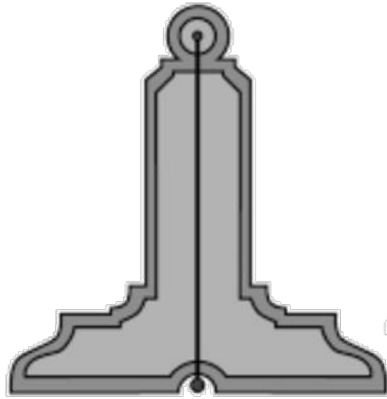
The following is extracted from the writings of Pilgrim chronicler Edward Winslow regarding the first Thanksgiving. Note: It is quite likely they used the term harvest festival. The term Thanksgiving became popular in later times.

“Our harvest being gotten in, our governor sent four men on fowling, that so we might after a special manner rejoice together, after we had gathered the fruits 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 amongst 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."



If your lodge is having special events or activities please send the information to the Grand Master (grandmaster@coloradofreemasons.org) and the Grand Secretary (grandsecretary@coloradofreemasons.org) so that it can be included in the next edition of the newsletter.

Contacts

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COLORADO MASONS - SPREAD THE WORD ON YOUR SOCIAL MEDIA, AND WITH YOUR FRIENDS AND ACQUAINTANCES ABOUT A NEW WEBSITE ABOUT MASONRY: BEAFREEMASON.ORG

Your Grand Lodge Office has resumed normal operations. However, we request minimal traffic to reduce the risk of COVID-19 infection. Thank you.

