

Thanksgiving Day Menu 1621

— Mark Rockefeller, October 3, 2019

Thanksgiving Day, we sit down and pray,
To give thanks for our blessings here in USA.
Lots of people have the traditional roast turkey.
Mashed potatoes complete with giblet gravy.

Other green vegetables, maybe artichoke hearts,
Dressings complete with cranberry sauce,
Pumpkin or mince meat pie: O My My!
Traffic will be terrific on this day.

Before the end of this day in November,
Black Friday starts earlier and earlier,
Perhaps before Thursday is even over!
How was it celebrated long, long ago?

Half of the people died on the voyage over
During the hardships of the first winter.

In particular, what was on the menu,
When the pilgrims sat down with the
Wampanoags?



What was on the menu [that] first
Thanksgiving, 1621?

America had wild turkeys,
Wild ducks, health hen, grouse,
Deer, rabbits, squirrels all about.

Of course there were vegetables and
berries,

Corn was abundant but it was
Made into porridge and mixed with
molasses.

There were cranberries, but they didn't
have any sugar--

The colonist ran out of that on the
voyage.

White potatoes nor sweet--
Did not exist in North America yet!
Pumpkins we had, but had no flour
Or butter to make the crust.

It was said that the pilgrims could fire their
muskets,
As many as 200 passenger pigeons would be
harvested.

Yes, you could catch lots of Codfish,
In little time you'd get a whole bunch.

The streams were full of Brook Trout,
As well as other fresh water fish.
There were Tuna and Stripped Bass
Off the coast of Massachusetts.

What is sure, shellfish were plentiful,
The big stars of the first Thanksgiving,
Oysters, clams, lobsters, and mussels.

The Pilgrims came here so they could worship
as they may,

Christmas was not considered a big holiday.
The American Indians worshiped the Great
Spirit.

They went to the happy Hunting Ground
When life on earth was extinguished.

Lots of people came to America
To get a new start.
Quite often religion
Played a large part.

-- Thanksgiving, 2019.