



## Revivals And Church History :: The Real Story of the First Thanksgiving by Ben Franklin

**The Real Story of the First Thanksgiving by Ben Franklin - posted by ccchhhrrriiss () , on: 2005/11/24 1:15**

*Today, many Americans will be celebrating the Thanksgiving Holiday. While any spiritual connotations seem forgotten by many Americans, some still take the time to thank God for his blessings throughout the year. However, have you ever read the origin of the "holiday?" I found this little article earlier today. It is written by Ben Franklin, and explains a brief history of the holiday. I found it fascinating that the original intent of Thanksgiving was to be a fast rather than a feast.*

### **The Real Story of the First Thanksgiving**

*By Benjamin Franklin (1785)*

“There is a tradition that in the planting of New England, the first settlers met with many difficulties and hardships, as is generally the case when a civilized people attempt to establish themselves in a wilderness country. Being so piously disposed, they sought relief from heaven by laying their wants and distresses before the Lord in frequent set days of fasting and prayer. Constant meditation and discourse on these subjects kept their minds gloomy and discontented, and like the children of Israel there were many disposed to return to the Egypt which persecution had induced them to abandon.

“At length, when it was proposed in the Assembly to proclaim another fast, a farmer of plain sense rose and remarked that the inconveniences they suffered, and concerning which they had so often weary heaven with their complaints, were not so great as they might have expected, and were diminishing every day as the colony strengthened; that the earth began to reward their labour and furnish liberally for their subsistence; that their seas and rivers were full of fish, the air sweet, the climate healthy, and above all, they were in the full enjoyment of liberty, civil and religious.

“He therefore thought that reflecting and conversing on these subjects would be more comfortable and lead more to make them contented with their situation; and that it would be more becoming the gratitude they owed to the divine being, if instead of a fast they should proclaim a thanksgiving. His advice was taken, and from that day to this, they have in every year observed circumstances of public felicity sufficient to furnish employment for a Thanksgiving Day, which is therefore constantly ordered and religiously observed.”

Source:

*The Complete Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin*

as mentioned in the article found here:

<http://www.humaneventsonline.com/article.php?id=10447>

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