

Well, this month we have 2 significant things to reflect upon Election Day and Thanksgiving. Not sure how to pull them together but I'll try. We all think of thanksgiving as a time to get together with family and friends and it is mostly treated as a secular holiday. Although it didn't start out that way. We all remember the story of the pilgrims and Natives celebrating the first harvest in 1621. I was one of those until the year before covid when I discovered what I going to share with you now. The actual first Thanksgiving was held in the U.S. on December 4, 1619, when the London company charter declared "That the day of our ships arrival at the place assigned for plantation in the land of Virginia shall be yearly and perpetually kept holy as a day of thanksgiving to Almighty God". A holy day, I found that interesting then I found this. President George Washington proclaimed November 26, 1789 "as a day of public thanksgiving and prayer to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many and signal favours of Almighty God". Once again, a holy day. So why would someone who's not history professor research this you may be asking. Most of you don't know that I'm into the ancestry of my family and have been on Ancestry.com for many years and it helps with the research. My mother's Great-Aunt (my great grandfather's sister) married a man named Ernest Hopkins. Well, turns out he was the 10th generation of Stephen Hopkins, the guy this book is written about. Quicky, he worked for the London company like a soldier I'm guessing. They were on a ship called the Sea Venture accompanied by 7 other ships that got caught in a storm and shipwrecked in Bermuda, on their way to Jamestown, to supplement the original colony. A year later they got a ship seaworthy and continued to Jamestown. The book goes on to say, Stephen was at the first Thanksgiving with the Powhatan Indians. He had gotten word his wife died in England, so he sails back to be with his now Orphan children. Along on this journey were Thomas and Rebecca Rolfe. Everyone here knows Rebecca Rolfe but you probably by her native name Pocahontas. A few years later Stephen remarried; and he, his family and the Rolfe's were to be on the Mayflower. They made the trip minus Rebecca due to her death just days before setting sail. So, Stephen was at both Thanksgivings with the Powhatan and Wampanoag Indians. So now I'll try and pull this together, we all know the Pilgrims left because King George VIII wouldn't let them practice their religion. But not everyone was a pilgrim on the Mayflower, it was also a business venture. With time they became upset with the rules and taxes imposed by the monarchy. With that the start of the American revolution. So, we now have a government for the people and by the people. The only way it works is for each and every one of us to get out and vote this Tuesday. So, in case I don't see you, I want to wish you and your families a happy and healthy Thanksgiving from Angie and I, and don't forget to Vote.

Thank You.