



Enter in with
Thanksgiving...

WELCOME

The cold winds of autumn signaled the end of the pleasant days when things can grow. Now begins the transition into the dark, waiting days of winter.



waiting days, we welcome you!

In the same way that the wise brown bear eats his fill before he crawls into his winter cave, so all creation makes its own particular preparations for the season that is to come.

Nestled in the rich fat of his bountiful summer meals, the huge bear snuggles into his winter den.

Remembering the scores of wiggling salmon and the sweet berries upon which he feasted, he sighs deeply and the sense of rest begins to fill his whole bear body. He is content and knows it is time for the waiting days of winter. And he is thankful in his own peculiar bear way...



Thus, we end our season of plenty with a feast to celebrate all that was good, a “Thanksgiving” time...

It is the season to begin the hardships of winter. But to make it through the hard times ahead, we must feed upon the thankfulness we have for what has gone before... That will keep us through the cold, dark months, until the warm rays of spring awakens us once again... It is essential that we be thankful...

It is for this cause that George Washington was compelled to issue a **Thanksgiving Proclamation in 1789**,



This is a drawing of a bust of George Washington in his younger days. He always wore the traditional English “queue”, (hair bound back in a pony tail). Unlike many of the founders who wore a wig, he kept his own hair in this practical style, which was mandatory for British military in the 18th century.

calling all citizens of this newly formed country to gratefully remember all the good things that have come to them... The profound thoughts of this Proclamation reveal the heart of wisdom which gained this man such great respect

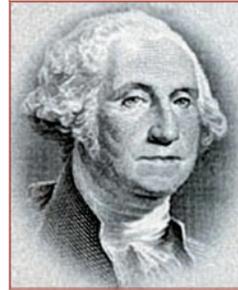
Washington understood the secret of being *thankful*. He recognized the hand of the Almighty God in the lives of men. Though his words give much honor to the "Almighty God" and he spoke continually as a very religious man, history reveals that Washington was not a "Christian." He was said to have disdain for the dogmas of organized religion, and refused to submit to empty ritual. Yet Washington clung to a deep faith, with a genuine gratitude that we would all do well to imitate. For real thanksgiving comes from those whose religion causes them to see the hand of God in the infinitely small wonders and in the goodness that comes along our path each day.



So, in the autumn after the harvest, we join in with all creation to offer up our deep gratitude... along with George Washington... and the big brown bears...



George Washington's 1789 Thanksgiving Proclamation



Whereas it is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and humbly to implore His protection and favor; and Whereas both Houses

of Congress have, by their joint committee, requested me "to recommend to the people of the United States a day of public thanksgiving and prayer, to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many and signal favors of Almighty God, especially by affording them an opportunity peaceably to establish a form of government for their safety and happiness."

Now, therefore, I do recommend and assign Thursday, the 26th day of November next, to be devoted by the people of these States to the service of that great and glorious Being who is the beneficent author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be; that we may then all unite in rendering unto Him our sincere and

humble thanks for His kind care and protection of the people of this country...

And also that we may then unite in most humbly offering our prayers and supplications to the great Lord and Ruler of Nations and beseech Him to pardon our national and other transgressions; to enable us all, whether in public or private stations, to perform our several and relative duties properly and punctually; to render our National Government a blessing to all the people by constantly being a Government of wise, just, and constitutional laws, discreetly and faithfully executed and obeyed; to protect and guide all sovereigns and nations (especially such as have show kindness to us), and to bless them with good governments, peace, and concord; to promote the knowledge and practice of true religion and virtue, and the increase of science among them and us; and, generally to grant unto all mankind such a degree of temporal prosperity as He alone knows to be best.

Given under my hand, at the city of New York, the third day of October, A.D. 1789.

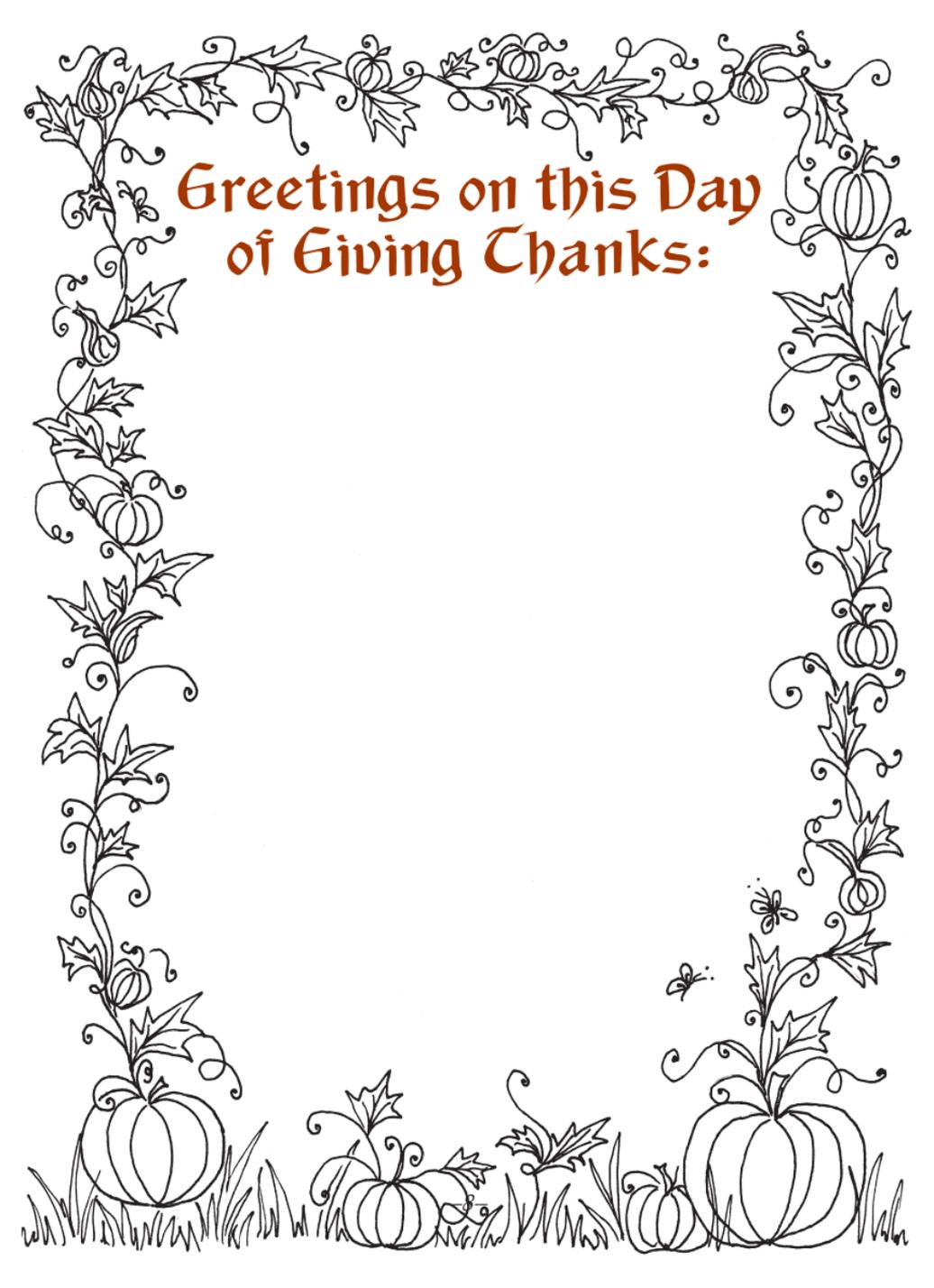
George Washington
By the President of the
United States of America



The Missing Proclamation

It has been recorded that after this Thanksgiving Proclamation was written, it was lost for over a hundred years. It was misplaced or attached to some private papers in the process of moving official records when the capital was changed from New York to Washington, D.C. Somehow the original manuscript was not in the official archives until 1921 when Dr. J. C. Fitzpatrick, then assistant chief of the manuscripts division of the Library of Congress “found” the proclamation. It was at an auction sale being held at an art gallery in New York. It was written in long hand by William Jackson, secretary to President Washington and was signed by George Washington. Dr. Fitzpatrick purchased the document for \$300.00 for the Library of Congress, where it now resides.

It can be argued that such an important document would not normally have been handled so negligently, but stranger things have happened in the U.S. government. Regardless of whether one can prove the authenticity of this document beyond any doubt, the contents reflect the same deep convictions that George Washington expressed in many other of his personal writings, as well as bearing his writing style. We can learn much from this insightful document.



**Greetings on this Day
of Giving Thanks:**