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THE PACKARDPRESS

A collection of thoughts and stories to educate, entertain, and inspire

THANKSGIVING - HOW IT BEGAN AND WHAT IT HAS BECOME

Historically, the Thanksgiving holiday tradition is commonly traced to a 1621 celebration at Plymouth in present-day Massachusetts. For many of us, Thanksgiving conjures happy images of freshly dressed Quaker pilgrims eating a feast with the Native Americans. Although this might not be exactly accurate, it was the beginning of something beautiful. The 1621 Plymouth feast was probably based on traditions of fasting and giving days of thanksgiving carried from the Pilgrims and Puritans who immigrated from England in the 1620s and 1630s.

Interestingly, the practice of regularly holding an annual harvest festival was not common in New England until the late 1660s. On November 26, 1789, as President of the United States, George Washington proclaimed the first nationwide thanksgiving celebration in America "as a day of public thanksgiving and prayer to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many and signal favours of Almighty God".



**ON NOVEMBER 26, 1789,
GEORGE WASHINGTON PROCLAIMED
THE FIRST NATIONWIDE THANKSGIVING
CELEBRATION IN AMERICA.**

Over time, Thanksgiving has evolved into something much different than what our pilgrim forefathers practiced. It was not until 1941, that congress declared Thanksgiving as a national holiday that was to be held on the fourth Thursday in November.

Today, Thanksgiving, is the American holiday where families all over the United States sit for dinner at the same time – halftime. The meals prepared at Thanksgiving have been dominated by turkey, green bean casseroles, rolls, and cranberries. More than 40 million green bean casseroles are served on Thanksgiving. Twenty percent of cranberries eaten are eaten on Thanksgiving.

About 280 million turkeys are sold for the Thanksgiving celebrations. Turkey is so common that the holiday is often referred to as "turkey day". According to some studies, 91% of Americans eat turkey on "turkey day."

Not everyone loved the concept of Thanksgiving, however. Thomas Jefferson stated it was "the most ridiculous idea I've ever heard." Johnny Carson explained: "Thanksgiving is an emotional holiday. People travel thousands of miles to be with people they only see once a year. And then they discover that once a year is way too often."

Nevertheless, Thanksgiving is an excellent way for people to take a little time out of their busy schedule and spend time with their families and reflect on the many blessings they have. The Packard Law Firm hopes you have a very safe and gratifying Thanksgiving full of cranberries, green bean casseroles, turkey, and laughter.

NATIONAL SPOTLIGHT: WHY VOTE IN 2016?

This month, we are all facing a remarkable and unfortunate predicament – we are asked to vote in a presidential election when the majority of the voting public does not trust or connect with either major candidate. Given the choices we have, many people are thinking about sitting this election out and staying home on November 8th. Please do not do this! Here are three reasons you should vote, even if you don't like this year's presidential choices.

1. Margin of Victory and Third Party Candidates Matter - a lot. Election totals speak loudly to elected officials and future candidates. For example, a landslide loss will send a message to a party that changes need to be made. Even a vote for a 3rd party candidate is not wasted because if a significant number of people do that, then party leaders will receive a message that a large part of the public is not being heard, and future candidates will want to represent those voices in the next election.

2. There are important elections down-ballot. This cannot be overstated. Most people don't realize how important it is to vote for judges and other local officers who put people over corporate interests. For example, our current state supreme court has consistently favored large corporations and insurance companies and eroded the rights of injured and working families. They have literally favored insurance companies over quadriplegic children. Your voice at the ballot box is the only way to reverse this trend. So vote for officials who will protect the most vulnerable in our society – including the disabled and the injured.

3. Those who vote get the attention of the elected officials. Our elected officials pay great attention to the people who vote. They don't know which way you voted, but they do know whether or not you vote. So, they analyze their constituency in all kinds of ways, and focus their work on serving those who actually voted. Thus, even if you voted for the other candidate, you increase the chances that your needs will be better served in the future, if you actually vote.

Of course, voting is also your civic duty. Many people, including minorities, poor people and women, obtained the right to vote only after much struggle and sacrifice. We honor those that battled by expressing our voices on election day. Perhaps more than ever, we need to stand and vote in this election.



**"BAD OFFICIALS ARE
ELECTED BY GOOD
CITIZENS WHO DON'T VOTE."**

-George Jean Nathan

PACKARD FAMILY LEGACY

A HISTORY OF RESILIENCE AND THANKSGIVING

Thanksgiving is a time for the Packard Law Firm to reflect on those who have gone before us and their sacrifices. We are grateful for our 7th great grandparents, John Alden and Priscilla Mullins, who boarded the Mayflower in 1620 along with 130 other passengers. It was a bold and arduous adventure. The group left Holland with a willingness to risk everything to start over in a new land where they would be free to worship God according to the dictates of their own conscience.

The Mayflower was a small ship that was only about 100 feet long. The original plan was to settle in Virginia, but winter storms blew them off course, and after about 3 months at sea, they determined to land in Cape Cod. John Alden and Priscilla Mullins, along with the rest of the passengers ultimately landed on Plymouth Rock and helped settle the first British colony in Jamestown, Massachusetts.

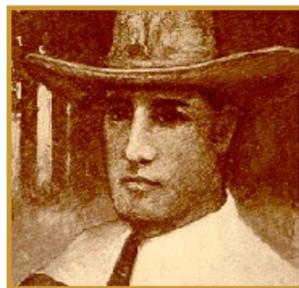
John had fallen in love with a fellow passenger, the beautiful Priscilla Mullins. However, John's friend, Captain Miles Standish, was also in love with Priscilla, and he asked John to speak for him in seeking Priscilla's hand in marriage. John decided to ask for Captain Standish – putting his friendship above his own personal feelings. However, to his surprise, when he proposed on behalf of the Captain, Priscilla responded: "Speak for yourself, John!" With their true feelings for each other revealed, they married and ultimately had ten children, one of which was our grandfather several generations back. The story of John Alden and Priscilla Mullins was immortalized in Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's poem, The Courtship of Miles Standish, and their homestead is now a national landmark in Duxbury.



Given what a lovely holiday Thanksgiving has become, we can easily overlook the tragic and difficult circumstances surrounding that first Thanksgiving. More than half of the original Mayflower passengers died either at sea or during that first winter. Those who did survive suffered terribly. However, their hardships and difficulties did not make them jaded or angry. Rather, the Pilgrims were truly grateful – grateful that they had survived, that they had Native Americans who helped them, and that the Lord had provided enough food for them to make it through the second winter. It was during this time of struggle, when things were difficult beyond belief, that they gathered together and held a feast of thanksgiving. Little did they know, this small act of gratitude would ultimately become a day celebrated by hundreds of millions of Americans throughout the country.

It is a lesson for all of us. When things get really hard, we can find ways to be grateful. As we do so, we will find increased hope and strength that helps us thrive amidst our adversities.

The partners at the Packard Law Firm want to express our gratitude for so many things this year. We are grateful for our clients who have placed their faith and trust in us. We are grateful for our talented and dedicated staff, we are grateful for the opportunity to work with family, and we are grateful for our faith and our families. We hope our family of clients and friends will all have a wonderful holiday that is truly filled with thanksgiving and gratitude.



John Alden



Priscilla Mullins

WISHING YOU AND YOUR FAMILY A WONDERFUL THANKSGIVING! - The Packard Law Firm

PACKARD LAW FIRM TEAM HIGHLIGHT

CONSUMER BANKRUPTCY DEPARTMENT

Every family should try to do all they can to provide a decent living for their family. Unfortunately, life has a way of happening and unforeseen circumstances, emergencies, or other setbacks can wreak havoc on financial plans. This is where our bankruptcy department comes in. Our bankruptcy team has one simple goal: to help families and individuals keep their home and transportation so they can get back to the business of living their lives.

Our passion is to help the families that have fallen on hard times and are caught within this financial quagmire, and construct valid chapter 13 and Chapter 7 plans. The Packard Law firm uses the bankruptcy code to allow these individuals an opportunity to have a fresh start.

Our bankruptcy team currently consists of David, Claudia, and Teresa, each of whom have undergone a rigorous training process to adequately address the needs of our clients. With these three amazing individuals comprising our Bankruptcy team, you can rest assured that you and your case will receive the attention they both deserve.

DAVID PACKARD: With over 20 years of experience practicing bankruptcy, David is Board Certified in Consumer Bankruptcy Law and is the head of our Bankruptcy Department. Born and raised near Beaumont Texas, David was the third of five boys in a row. David became fascinated with bankruptcy law in law school. He even designed an intelligent document assembly system that his team would go on to use to file over two thousand cases. David believed that, with the best tools, a lawyer could focus less on generating the paperwork and more with the people he represented. Since 1994 David has helped thousands of people reorganize their lives under Title 11.



CLAUDIA GROSS: Claudia received her Bachelor's in Criminal Justice at Florida International University before attending University of Miami School of Law. During law school, Claudia gained valuable experience working in Criminal Prosecution at the State Attorney's Office in Miami. In January 2015, Claudia relocated to San Antonio and continued her career as an attorney. Claudia has a passion for Bankruptcy and it shows in her every day interactions with our clients. We are lucky to have her join our team.

TERESA BROWNING: Teresa grew up in San Antonio and attended the University of Miami, graduating Summa Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Business Administration, majoring in Legal Studies and Marketing. She also received the "Iron Arrow" award, which is the highest honor a student or faculty member can receive. She was able to achieve these accomplishments and many more while maintaining a GPA of 3.98. Most importantly, Teresa enjoys working with people, helping them overcome obstacles, getting a fresh start, and finding hope for a brighter financial future.

DID YOU KNOW...

- Turkeys have 5000 to 6000 feathers.
- A wild turkey's gobble can be heard up to one mile away.
- A spooked turkey can run at speeds of up to 20 miles per hour.
- Only male turkeys, called toms, gobble. Females, called hens, cackle.
- According to the Guinness world records, the greatest dressed weight recorded for a turkey is 39.09 Kg (86 lbs).
- Benjamin Franklin was opposed to the Bald Eagle being the national bird. He thought that Bald Eagle was of bad moral character, whereas the turkey was a much more respectable bird.

