# History & Folklore

## Informally Speaking –

# Thanksgiving Blessings

### by Homer Smith (1995)

Back in 1621 our ancestors, who were fortunate to survive the first months of living in a strange new land, took stock at what all they had lived through the past year.

They found the first harvest to be plentiful enough for survival. There was even some corn and grain left over to get through another cold winter.

Many had suffered illnesses and loss of loved ones. The days were difficult and frightening. Men and women began to wonder if they had made the right decision in coming so far from home.

The prayers in their hearts were for thanksgiving to God who had been with them this far and would be by their side from now on.

As the days began to be shorter and colder and winter would eventually take another heavy toll on these people, they gave thanks for the many blessings they had received. A banquet table was prepared, women cooked for hours and men hunted the woods for any kind of turkeys or game they could find for this feast. They were glad to be able to come together on this day of thanksgiving.

These people came to what would one day be the most wonderful country in the world. Freedom to live as they pleased, freedom to speak as they pleased and freedom to worship as they pleased.

Years later they wrote all these things down and called it a Bill of Rights. They fought for their independence in order to experience these rights.

Many years later and many wars later what has gone wrong with that dream? We still have the same rights but they have taken on a certain twist that has inhibited the honest, hard-working, God-fearing folks with integrity and made the corrupt and undeserving people seem to have all the privileges.

People have started to have to tip-toe around for fear of their lives and homes. They are no longer free to drive down the streets, sit on their porches, play in the yards or say they believe in God at their schoolhouses.

I'm thankful on this day of Thanksgiving for my family and good friends. I'm thankful on this day of Thanksgiving for my ancestors who had the courage and tenacity to build a great country. I'm thankful on this day of Thanksgiving that I still have hope for the future. God help us if we ever get to the place where we do not have hope left.

Look around you, as those pilgrims did so long ago and be thankful and courageous to stand up for what you have.

God bless America.




***From Illustrated Press of Liberty County, October 25, 1962 –***

**Dayton State Bank maintains this sign just south of Mont Belvieu. The bank is in its sixth decade and at the last bank call in September 1962, it ranked second among Liberty County's six banks in deposits with $4,139,856.96.**

**Its present luxurious quarters were built in 1956.**

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