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**SOME PAGES FROM AMERICAN HISTORY**

*In 1620 a group of English puritans (102 men, women and children), sailed to America to escape from England and make a new kind of society based on their religious beliefs. They arrived on their ship **Mayflower** at Plymouth ['plɪməθ], Massachusetts [ˌmæsə'tʃʊ:sɪts]. Those first settlers are usually called the Pilgrim Fathers.*

*Their first winter was horrible, for nearly half of the people died from lack<sup>1</sup> of food and because of the bad weather. But the following year, thanks to the help from Indians who showed the Pilgrims how to plant Indian corn, they had a successful harvest. To show gratitude<sup>2</sup> they decided to hold a feast<sup>3</sup> to give thanks for the good harvest.*

*The Indians were invited to share in the festival. In addition to geese, ducks, fish, corn meal, bread contributed<sup>4</sup> by the colonists, the Indians brought wild turkey and deer meat to the three-day feast.*

*Since then, Thanksgiving Day has been celebrated in America. It is celebrated on the fourth Thursday in November, and is a time for family reunions<sup>5</sup> and large turkey dinners in the United States.*

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<sup>1</sup> **lack** — недостаток, нужда

<sup>2</sup> **gratitude** ['grætitju:d] — благодарность

<sup>3</sup> **feast** [fi:st] — пир, празднество

<sup>4</sup> **to contribute** [kən'tribju:t] — способствовать, содействовать, делать вклад

<sup>5</sup> **reunion** [ri:'ju:niən] — воссоединение

### The Pilgrims

The Pilgrims came across the sea,  
 And never thought of you and me;  
 And yet it's very strange the way  
 We think of them Thanksgiving Day.

We tell their story, old and true,  
 Of how they sailed across the blue,  
 And found a new land to be free  
 And built their homes quite near the sea.

Every child knows well the tale  
 Of how they bravely turned the sail,  
 And journeyed many a day and night,  
 To worship<sup>1</sup> God as they thought right.

The people think that they were sad,  
 And grave<sup>2</sup>; I'm sure that they were glad —  
 They made Thanksgiving Day — that's fun —  
 We thank the Pilgrims, every one!

*by Annette Wynne*

<sup>1</sup> **to worship** ['wɔːʃɪp] — почитать, поклоняться

<sup>2</sup> **grave** [ɡreɪv] — серьезный, мрачный



- 16 *Read the story **The First Thanksgiving**. Say how the Indians helped the first American settlers to grow good crops.*

### **The First Thanksgiving**

(after Lena Barksdale)

“I am ready to begin,” said Grandma. “Where’s Hannah? Come here, child, and sit on this stool at my feet. It’s where your mother used to sit, my dear, when she was your age, and you must sit here today, and hear your old grandmother tell about Thanksgiving in Pilgrim days.”

“It was a long time ago, my children, that First Thanksgiving, as we call it, though people have always given thanks for good harvests, I am sure, and they always will. But this first feast of ours in Plymouth was different, I think, from any other harvest feast ever held before, or any that can ever be held again. I want the sweet memory of it to go down in our family through you to your grandchildren, so I am going to try to tell you something about what our first year in America was like, as well as about the harvest feast that came at the end of that year.

Your grandfather and I were little more than children then, but we could work along with the older people. Every pair of hands counted<sup>1</sup>. There was much work to be done. We did what we could gladly. We had had a long voyage, and good people died from illnesses on the ship. We had thought to land in Virginia [və'dʒɪniə], where there were many English settlers before us. It might well be that they would be pleased to see us, and would gladly show us how to make our homes good and comfortable

<sup>1</sup> **to count** [kaunt] — считать, рассчитывать; зд. иметь значение, значить





against the cold, and teach us the ways of this new land.

But the storm brought us here to a rocky, cold, empty land where there was no one to welcome us.

We lived on the ship for many weeks, as soon as it seemed safe we, women, went ashore to wash our linen<sup>1</sup>. It was good to feel solid earth under our feet again, but we dared not go far, go out of sight of our companions, for nobody knew who lived in these places, or whether they were wild people, or how they might greet us. The men sometimes went ashore, too, in parties carrying guns with themselves. They tried to find a good place to build our town. They were gone sometimes one day, often two days or more, and we imagined the dangers that they could meet with. They always returned, dirty and wet. They found wood and water and certain places cleared where corn had been planted, and in one place they found a great store of corn buried in the ground.

At last the men came to an agreement where to build the town, and they set to cutting down trees to build the houses, each man working diligently, and at last the day came when we were all set ashore. We were often cold and hungry and afraid that winter, but we got along. Later, you know, Squanto ['skwɒntəu] came and lived with us for a time, and he taught us when and how to plant the corn, and as we planted the seed, he taught us to throw two fish in each hole to enrich the soil, so that the harvest would be better. He taught us many other things, useful for us to know. Do not forget, my children, it was an Indian who became our first friend and helped us in a new land. Massasoit [ˌmæsə'sɔɪt], their chief, also became our friend and made a treaty<sup>2</sup> of peace with us.

In the sweet spring weather I'll never forget how

<sup>1</sup> **linen** ['lɪnɪn] — белье

<sup>2</sup> **treaty** ['tri:tɪ] — договор

wonderful it was to see the trees come into leaf, and the little wild flowers blooming along the streams and in the woods. One beautiful day, when my work was done, I was walking along the village street enjoying the sweet fresh air and the smell of blossoms<sup>1</sup>. Your grandfather came down the trail<sup>2</sup>, and led me to a strip of meadow that he had just noticed. It was covered with strawberries. We ate a few and picked many to carry home with us. Strange it is how I remember the taste of those strawberries all these years. The smell of fresh leaves and the sweetness of wild strawberries — all these simple things made us begin to love the land, and feel at home at last. So it was that by the time our first harvest was ripe and gathered, we knew that we had found a good comfortable land where we were free and could live our lives without anyone meddling<sup>3</sup>. That's the great thing, children, and don't any of you forget it. Remember to be honest in all what you do with one another and with the Indians. Be true, honest and kind to your neighbour. That's what being free means, and if we forget it we shall suffer, and rightly so. Your grandpa's been true and fine all his long life, and so must you children be."

Grandma's eyes were very bright and her voice shook a little as she looked into the faces of her strong sons and daughters and all the grandchildren, sitting around her. After a moment she went on.

"Then when the first harvest was in and we knew nobody would be hungry that winter, nor cold, because our houses were built of good timber<sup>4</sup> and there was a great store of wood to burn, our governor and the other men decided we would have a feast and invite Massasoit

<sup>1</sup> **blossom** ['blɒsəm] — цветение

<sup>2</sup> **trail** [treɪl] — тропа, след

<sup>3</sup> **to meddle** ['medl] — вмешиваться

<sup>4</sup> **timber** ['tɪmbə] — строевой лес, бревно



to come and bring some of his braves to eat it with us. They set a day, and sent a man to invite Massasoit who was pleased to accept the invitation and who sent five deer as a gift for the feast. For days all the women and girls were busy cooking. The boys cut many fresh branches from trees and made spoons, though we knew our guests would not eat with spoons, preferring to use their fingers. The men brought in wild turkey, geese and duck as well as deer. Your grandfather brought down his first deer and that was a proud day for him.

We were so happy preparing the food for the feast. You never know how wonderful it is to have plenty all around you until you've gone hungry as we went hungry that first winter. So we began to prepare food for our guests, but we didn't know how many guests were coming."

Grandma smiled, and the older people laughed. They knew how many guests had come.

"We didn't know," she went on. "We thought we had prepared enough and didn't worry. Such a good smell of roasting and baking<sup>1</sup> filled the village and put us all in fine humour<sup>2</sup>. Maybe Massasoit and his men smelt that good smell away off in their town. Anyway, ninety of them came, and I was the first to see them. It happened this way.

We brought our food together at the common house that morning, all the things that had been cooked in the several houses where the most skilful housewives lived. We women put on our best caps and fresh kerchiefs<sup>3</sup>, and we were busily laying out the tables when someone remembered a basket of fresh loaves<sup>4</sup> left by mistake in

<sup>1</sup> **to roast** [roust] **and to bake** — жарить и печь

<sup>2</sup> **humour** ['hju:mə] — зд. настроение

<sup>3</sup> **kerchief** ['kə:tʃif] — шарф, косынка

<sup>4</sup> **loaves** [louvz] — булки

one of the more distant houses. I was sent to fetch it, and as I came out of the door with the basket on my arm, I looked across the fields and saw our guests coming down the trail from the woods. Of course we were used<sup>1</sup> to the Indians and their unusual ways of dressing by that time, and I thought not at all about how different they were from us, but only that they made a brave and proper sight. Tall, strong men they were, some with feathers in the bands around their heads. Their long straight hair shone with bear's grease<sup>2</sup>. They wore deerskins over their shoulders. A few had their faces painted in black or red, or yellow. I could see the wildcat skin that one important brave had thrown over his arm. I could tell<sup>3</sup> Massasoit a great way off because of the heavy chain of white bone beads<sup>4</sup> that he wore around his neck. He was also wearing the copper chain with a jewel<sup>5</sup> in it that our people gave him when he first visited us many months before. They came along the trail, one after another as was their custom, and as I watched I saw more and more coming, until it seemed to me that all the Indians in America were coming to our feast. Then as I stood there idly watching, it came over me that no one else in the town had seen them, and I ran to the common house as fast as I could because I knew our elders must be told in time to go out and greet them properly.

All the people were excited to learn my news. We wanted to welcome our guests and serve them heartily, and we began to prepare more tables out of doors.

Soon everything was ready, and that wonderful dinner began. Truly the food melted away that day.

<sup>1</sup> **be used** [ju:st] — привыкать

<sup>2</sup> **grease** [grɪs] — жир

<sup>3</sup> **to tell** — зд. отличить

<sup>4</sup> **bone beads** [bi:dz] — костяные бусы

<sup>5</sup> **jewel** ['dʒu:əl] — драгоценный камень



Later on our guests and our men wrestled, ran races, sang, danced and played games, some of the same games that you children played this morning. The Indians could outrun and outwrestle<sup>1</sup> our boys, but when our boys began teaching the Indians some of our English games the Indians didn't win so often. It was a great day, and our guests liked it so much that they spent the night in the town, and the next day, and the next after that, we did it all over again. We didn't mind because it meant peace and goodwill<sup>2</sup> between ourselves and the Indians.

Soon after the feast the cold shut down on us and our second winter in Plymouth began. So that," said Grandmother, "is the story of our First Thanksgiving."

## Do You Understand The Story?

17 *Answer the questions.*

- 1 Why did the first European settlers have a feeling of fear when they reached America? What land did they see? Was there anyone to meet them?
- 2 What was the settlers' first year in America like?
- 3 What did the settlers begin with? What were the most important things for them to do?
- 4 How did the Indians welcome the first colonists? What help did they give them? What did they teach the Europeans to do?
- 5 How did the Indians show they were friendly?
- 6 Did the first colonists begin to love the land on which they had settled down? When and how did that feeling come?

<sup>1</sup> **to outrun** [aʊt'raʊn] **and outwrestle** [aʊt'resl] — перегнать (обогнать) и перебороть

<sup>2</sup> **goodwill** [ˌɡʊd'wɪl] — добрая воля

- 7 Whose idea was it to have a feast when the first harvest was in?
- 8 How did the Indians accept the invitation to come to the feast?
- 9 Did that First Thanksgiving Day mean peace and goodwill between the first settlers and the Indians?
- 18 *Find the lines in which Grandmother said what being free meant to her. What qualities did she think to be very important in every person? What kind of people did she want her grandchildren to be?*
- 19 *Say how the first settlers began to explore the new land and how they proved they were industrious, courageous, diligent, and practically-minded people. Describe their activities.*

### How Good Is Your English?

(see pp 98–99)

### What Do You Think?

- 20 *Try and describe the feelings of the first European settlers when they reached a rocky, frozen land which was to become their future home.*
- 21 *The First Thanksgiving was a great day, wasn't it? What made it great?*
- 22 *Think and say why it was very important for the first settlers to be friends with the Indians.*
- 23 *Try and imagine the feast which the first settlers had. Describe it. How did the first colonists and the Indians make friends? Why was it very important?*





## How Good Is Your English?



24 Use the proper word from the box.

- 1 This charming old ..... is still practised.
- 2 He moved eagerly towards the door to ..... the visitors.
- 3 Strong winds blew the ship .....
- 4 As a travelling ..... he was terrible — unadventurous and always complaining.
- 5 “What a ..... !” the guests said as they saw the dishes on the table.
- 6 We had a good ..... of apples this year.
- 7 The train left the station and disappeared from .....
- 8 Those bananas aren't ..... yet — they are still green.

harvest
companion
custom
welcome
feast
sight
ashore
ripe

25 Complete the phrases with appropriate nouns.

to enjoy ..... the meal .....

to store .....

to enrich .....

to accept .....

to prefer .....

to lay .....

26 Choose the best word to complete the sentences (✓).

- 1 I need help to ... the table for the holiday dinner.  
a) lie                      b) lay                      c) store
- 2 The cat just loves to ... in front of the fire.  
a) lie                      b) lay                      c) stretch
- 3 There was much work to be done, and every pair of hands ...  
a) needed                b) counted                c) meant
- 4 Try not to ... — there is nothing you can do to change the situation.  
a) share                    b) welcome                c) worry

27 *Use the correct preposition where necessary.*

- |         |
|---------|
| to      |
| along   |
| by      |
| against |
| of      |
- 1 It was necessary for the first settlers to make their homes good and comfortable ..... the cold.
  - 2 Granny taught her grandchildren to be true and kind ..... their friends and neighbours.
  - 3 A lot of wild flowers grew ..... the stream and in the woods.
  - 4 The houses were built ..... wood.
  - 5 The basket with fresh loaves was left in one of the distant houses ..... mistake.

28 *Past Indefinite? Past Perfect? Choose the correct form of the verb (✓).*

- 1 The settlers did not dare to go far from the ship because nobody knew who (lived, had lived) in those places.
- 2 The people understood that they (found, had found) a good land to live in.
- 3 The women brought the food which they (cooked, had cooked) for the guests.
- 4 When the harvest was ripe, the settlers (gathered, had gathered) it.
- 5 The Indians were delighted with the feast which the colonists (prepared, had prepared).
- 6 The pilgrims felt very tired after they (had, had had) a long voyage across the ocean.
- 7 The settlers were able to get a splendid crop of corn because the Indians (taught, had taught) them how to make the harvest rich.