

243 YEARS AGO NOVEMBER 1779

OLD-TIME THANKSGIVING, 1779

as reprinted in the *Bernardsville News* Nov 23, 1922 p 7



A quaint account of a Thanksgiving dinner back in 1779 is given in a letter of one Julianna Smith, written to her "Dear Cousin Betsey," found in an old diary:

"This year it was Uncle Simeon's turn to have dinner at his house, but of course we all helped them as they help us when it is our turn, and there is always enough for us all to do. All the baking of pies and cakes was done at our house, and we had the big oven heated and filled twice each day for three days before it was all done, and everything was good, though we did have to do without some things that ought to be used. Neither Love nor Money could buy Raisins, but our good red cherries dried without the pitse did almost as well, and happily Uncle Simeon still had some spices in store. The tables were set in the Dining Hall and even that big room had no space to spare when we were all seated... There were our two Grandmothers, side by side. They are always handsome old ladies, but now, many thought, they were handsomer than ever, and happy they were to look upon so many of their descendants.

"There was no Plum Pudding, but a boiled Suet Pudding, stirred thick with dried Plums and Cherries, was called by the old Name and answered the purpose. All the other spice had been used in the Mince Pie, so for this pie we used a jar of West India preserved Ginger, which chanced to be left of the last shipment Uncle Simeon had from there. We chopped the Ginger small and stirred it through with the Plums and Cherries. It was extraordinary good.

The day was bitter cold, ... and we were glad of the fire in Uncle's Dining Hall, but by the time dinner was one-half over, those of us who were on the fire side of one table were forced to get up and carry our plates around to the far side of the other table, while those who had sat there were glad to bring their plates around to the fire side to get warm. All but the old ladies, who had a screen put behind their chairs."

Editor's note: Thanksgiving was first celebrated throughout the 13 United States following an official proclamation in 1789 by George Washington. It was not consistently observed as a national celebration until Abraham Lincoln proclaimed it in 1863 as a national day of "Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens."

100 YEARS AGO NOVEMBER 1922

MANY OF STATE'S WITNESSES

HAVE DISAPPEARED...concerning Hall-Mills Murder

Courier-News, 21 Nov 1922 p 1

Several witnesses who were expected to testify for the state in the investigation of the Hall-Mills murder case now being carried on by the Somerset County Grand Jury, have disappeared, according to information received from the authorities today. The official who made this statement refused to say who the witnesses were, but said that detectives and State troopers were now making a search for them. It is feared, he declared, that they have left the jurisdiction of the State. If the report is true, it is believed the State's case will be seriously damaged. The State is rolling up a tremendous accumulation of evidence against the "woman in gray" and the man whom it seeks to indict for the Hall-Mills murder. Resumption of testimony before the Grand Jury today was spurred by discovery of a new witness, George Sipel, a hog farmer, said to be able to identify the driver of the automobile whose headlights threw into relief the actual murder scene and disclosed its participants to Mrs. Jane Gibson, the prosecutions star witness. Sipel was in the vicinity of Easton avenue, on the night of the murder, and says he saw a Ford delivery truck pointing into Debussy's lane. He denied, however, that he had seen either Mrs. Gibson or the mule on which she said she sat and saw the slaying of the rector and the sexton's wife.

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more news on page 2...



Bernardsville News Nov 23, 1922 p 3

O, the farm was bright,
Thanksgiving morn
With its stacks of hay and
shocks of corn,
Its pumpkin heaps in the rambling shed,
And its apples brown and green and red;
And in the cellar, the winter store,
In bins that were filled and running o'er
With all the things that a farm could
keep / In barrel and bin and goodly heap,
Hung to the rafters and hid away—
O the farm was a pleasant place to stay!

And here and there was the Jersey stock,
The sheep and horses,
old Prince and Jock—
The turkeys and geese and awkward calf
And the goat that made
the children laugh,
A pair of mules that a friend had sent
Out to the farm for experiment,
Pigeons and fowls and a guinea pig,
Dogs that were small and
dogs that were big,
Chickens that were white and black
and gray—
O the farm was a jolly sight that day.

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100 YEARS AGO NOVEMBER 1922 Continued from page 1

LIBERTY THEATRE
Bernardsville
Good Pictures for the Entire
Family

Bernardsville News 30 Nov 1922 p 1

Wednesday and Thursday
(Thanksgiving), Nov 29 at 7 and 9
P.M. and Nov 30 at 3, 7, and 9

“The Old Homestead”
the wonder-epic
of American Hearts

You’ll laugh – with Happy Jack,
the “fix-it” tramp and Si and Seth,
the rivals in love.

You’ll cry – when Reuben parts
from lovely Ann and Uncle Josh
has to sell the old homestead.

You’ll thrill – when the roaring
cyclone sweeps the town away
and saves Ann from death in
Lovers’ Gap. ...

You will see one of the best casts
ever assembled including
Theodore Roberts as “Uncle
Josh”; George Fawcett, T. Roy
Barnes, Harrison Ford, Fritz
Ridgway.--
It’s a Paramount.

SOMERSET COUNTY GRAND JURY FAILS TO INDICT
IN HALL-MILLS MURDER CASE

Courier-News, 29 Nov 1922 p 6

After an exhaustive investigation, the Somerset County Grand Jury yesterday afternoon failed to find an indictment against any one in connection with the slaying of the Rev. E. W. Hall and Mrs. Mills, of New Brunswick, on the Phillips farm, near that city, on the night of September 14. No case in the history of the State has attracted such wide attention as this murder mystery. The prosecutors of Somerset and Middlesex counties handled it for several weeks, and then it was placed in the hands of Wilbur Mott, former prosecutor of Essex county, as a special prosecutor. It is not revealed that Mr. Mott was able to find any evidence in addition to that found by the other officials, and the people, dissatisfied though they are with matters as they now stand, must realize that the Grand Jury was made up of the best citizens of the county, both men and women, who could have put one purpose to serve—the ends of justice; and in the pursuit of that end, found there was not sufficient evidence to indict any one. This does not mean that the case cannot be taken up again by the present Grand Jury or by another Grand Jury. The character of this crime was such that the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

COOPER FINDS A LARGE STILL
Enforcement Agent locates Whiskey Making Outfit Near Peapack

Courier-News, 21 Nov 1922 p 1

John C. Cooper, Federal Prohibition Agent for Somerset County, last night raided the largest still ever found in operation in this section of New Jersey. This was found on the Old Mile Lane, near Vliettown, between Larger Crossroads and Peapack. ...He found in charge of the place Theodore Lucario, a young man from Raritan who was probably in the employ of men higher up, and who did not realize what was being done at the farm. ... It is understood that officials know where they can find the real operator of the business. The most perfect still ever seen by prohibition agents was found. It had been built for permanent use and was set in concrete. As an accessory to the manufacture of liquor, there was a condenser rectifier, a hot water boiler, a gas plant and heater. Three full barrels of liquor were discovered and 28 barrels of mash were destroyed. It is understood that owners of the still operated largely in Newark and Raritan. ... The property is known as the old Abraham Van Vliet farm and is part of the Rock estate.

NINE-YEAR-OLD RESIDENT
TO SPEAK OVER RADIO

Bernardsville News Nov 2, 1922, page 1

Daughter of New Owners of Faulkner Farm
Will Entertain With Recitations.

This community will be represented on the radio program broadcasted Saturday evening from W.O.R., the L. Bamberger and Co. radio station in Newark, for nine-year old Janice Wightman, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A.W. Wightman, of the Faulkner Estate in Morristown road, will give several delightful recitations. Janice, who has gained considerable fame as an elocutionist, will give the following recitations over the radio: “Little Ikey and the Porter,” “Little Orphan Annie,” by James Whitcomb Riley, and “The Sugar Plumb Tree,” by Eugene Field. Janice’s program will be broadcasted from 6:45 to 7 P.M.

RADIO PROGRAM W.O.R.

L. Bamberger & Co., Wavelength 360 meters,
Newark, N. J. Bernardsville News 11-2-1922 p 3

Friday evening, November 3:

- 8:00 P.M. – Weekly release of the Babson Statistical Organization
- 8:05 P.M. – Concert by the Irvington Elks Band: “Under Arms” march; “Inspiration” overture; “Old Time Favorites” waltz.
- 8:20 P.M. – Popular song sung by Mrs. Hurst, “Time After Time”
- 8:25 P.M. – Numbers by the Elks Band: “War Songs” overture; “Say It While Dancing” fox trot
- 8:30 P.M. – “The Highway Bond Bill” discussed by Claude E. Holgate, Manager Newark Automobile Trade Association
- 8:40 P.M. - Popular songs sung by Mrs. Hurst: “For the Sake of Auld Lang Syne”; “Hello Bill”
- 8:45 to 9:00 P.M. - Numbers by the Elks Band: “Cincinnatus” march; “Out of the Shadows” waltz; “Romany Love” fox trot.



image: Jupiterimages