
A-T Books

November

Newsletter



Marcus-Jarvis Law

At Marcus-Jarvis Law, we work to advance individual human rights and the causes of freedom to ensure that individual rights and liberty are strongly protected. We see the responsibility of an immigration attorney is to act as a mediator, protecting immigrants from what could be the overbearing power of the government.

We believe in the social advantage of immigration, it adds to a culture, rather than diminishes it. Roger Daniels' *Coming to America: A History of Immigration and Ethnicity in American Life*; and Dinnerstein and Reimers's *Ethnic Americans* observed that because immigration is central in American history and the majority of Americans do not need to search hard to know their immigrant ancestors, Americans assume that it is normal for people to leave their homelands when they experience hardships. However, historical records present overwhelming evidence that immigration was a rare and exceptional response to hardships. The majority of people refused to immigrate, choosing to stay and endure the hard times over resettling in foreign lands thousands of miles from home. As such, immigrants are not typical citizens of their homelands. They are bold, brave and risk takers.

. . . Thanksgiving is an annual reminder of the fact that we are all immigrants; it connects us with those brave souls who crossed the Atlantic in 1620 to found a colony at Plymouth in New England.

. . . Plymouth

In 1620, the Cargo ship, Mayflower, transported a group of 102 men, women and children. It arrived at the new world in December 1620 and landed them further north in the inhospitable environment of New England. This unfortunate circumstance made for a harsh winter. Many of the colonists died and some other fell ill. In 1621, the circumstances changed for the colony, they were visited by a group of friendly Indians and learned from them things they needed to know in order to survive. For example, they learned how to harvest fish and to plant corn. Things started to look up for the immigrants. By the fall of 1621, they had a successful harvest to sustain them through the winter season. And so, along with their Indian friend, the pilgrims celebrated their first harvest with a day of thanksgiving.

Thanksgiving continued to be celebrated annually in New England and some of the northern states independently. Describing Thanksgiving celebration in Rhode Island, Charles Mackay wrote in 1859:

Thanksgiving-day is generally fixed in November, and corresponds in its festive character to the celebration of Christmas in England. The people shut up their stores and places of business; go to church, chapel, or conventicle in the forenoon or afternoon, or both, and devote the remainder of the day to such social pleasure and jollity as the custom of the place may sanction. The dinner, at which the piece de rigueur is roast turkey, is the great event of the day.

. . . Sarah Josepha Hale

Sarah Josepha Hale was credited for making Thanksgiving a national holiday. She campaigned for a national thanksgiving holiday since 1846. She kept writing letters to governors and five presidents over the period of 17 years. She believed that this holiday “would awaken in American hearts the love of home and country, of thankfulness to God, and peace between brethren.” After receiving her letter, president Abraham Lincoln identified the fourth Thursday of November as the nation’s day of thanksgiving in October 3rd 1863. This celebration came at the time when the civil war ended, which added yet another significance to thanksgiving as the nation’s day of unity and peace.



Announcement

- At **A-T Books**, we are hosting a weekly podcast session to discuss various immigration topics. You are always welcome to go to <http://www.a-tbooks.com> and submit your questions there to be promptly addressed by our immigration attorney. You can always access our previously recorded session there too.
- We invite you to subscribe to our monthly newsletter and to engage with our weekly blog.

***Happy
Thanksgiving***

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