



## Gobble Gobble Gobble

by Sarah Nathe

I was in the grocery store the other day looking at the displays of all the edibles and drinkables I am supposed to buy for Thanksgiving. Turkey, cornbread stuffing, pumpkin pie, cranberries, sweet and mashed potatoes, gravy, beans or brussel sprouts, and, of course, dinner rolls. Is there any other holiday with so many prescribed foods? Actually, is there any other holiday with so many associated myths—about the food at the 1621 meal, the *Mayflower*, Plymouth rock, the “Pilgrims,” the “Indians,” and the lovely cross-cultural experience they had eating together.

After over 400 years, there’s much more Thanksgiving fiction than there is fact, and separating them is like trying to keep cranberry sauce from running into the mashed potatoes. Fortunately, an article by Megan Gambino in the November 21, 2011 *Smithsonian Magazine* discusses what we know or can surmise about the actual menu, and a recent book (*This Land Is Their Land: The Wampanoag Indians, Plymouth Colony, and the Troubled History of Thanksgiving*, by David Silverman) demonstrates that, long before Abraham Lincoln made Thanksgiving a national holiday in 1863, the story of the Plymouth settlers and their Wampanoag guests had been extensively elaborated upon in order to put the best spin on the United States’ history of colonization.

The only participant description of the meal is in a letter dated December 11, 1621, from Plymouth colonist Edward Winslow to a friend. Winslow reports that the colonists recently feasted for three days to celebrate their first good crops of barley, the seeds of which they brought with them from Europe, and of the corn the local Wampanoag people had introduced to them. He doesn’t mention eating turkey at the meal, though they were present in the area, but he notes that they dined on duck and goose, and the venison that the Wampanoag had contributed. In addition, there was probably seafood

on the table since Winslow remarks that fish were abundant in Plymouth, boasting that, “In the autumn, we can take a barrel of eels in one night.”

[READ MORE](#)

## Holiday Party for Members & Volunteers

*Saturday, December 2nd, 2023*

**5:00 - 7:00 pm**



It takes a village to keep the Kelley House going, so join good friends as we celebrate our 50<sup>th</sup> year! Enjoy hammer dulcimer music by Victor Simon, whiskey from Mendocino Spirits, assorted fine wines, and small bites provided by the Mendocino High School’s culinary arts program. Open to current members and volunteers (past and present). Free admission, but kindly RSVP.

[RSVP](#)

**Not a member?** Don't miss out on the holiday fun, plus enjoy other great perks of membership!

[JOIN](#)

***The museum and office will be closed on Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day.***

Join us on a walking tour, offered throughout the holidays, including one on Thanksgiving.

[VIEW TOUR SCHEDULE](#)



## VISIT SANTA

**Saturday, December 2nd,  
3:30-4:30 PM**

Bring your family and your holiday good cheer to snap a perfect picture with Santa outside on the festive Kelley House Museum porch. Cookies and cider provided. Bring your camera! Open to all. Suggested donation: \$5

VISIT

## Mendocino County Museum

ON EXHIBITION  
10.28.2023  
12.23.2023

## Her Side of the Story

*Tales of California Pioneer Women*

### HER SIDE OF THE STORY Mendocino County Museum

Kelley House Museum Curator Marguerite O'Brien contributed the story and dress of Mendocino's Caroline "Carrie" Costa-Fayal to the Mendocino County Museum's "Her Story" exhibit. Carrie was born in the Azores Islands of Portugal in 1887, and arrived in Mendocino as a "mail-order bride" when she was 16 years old. Exhibit runs through December 23rd.

LEARN MORE



## **WATER TOWERS OF MENDOCINO LIMITED EDITION PRINT \$85**

This fantastical collage depicts 15 of Mendocino's iconic water towers entwined with some of the town's unique flora. The exquisitely detailed design captures the magic of Mendocino and invites you to meander up the pathways to discover its many treasures. Each print is signed and numbered by the artist. There are 60 prints in this edition.

This is the first run of prints with this artwork and it will be the only run in this color ink. It is a dark, warm grey ink, screen printed by hand on French Paper Company's construction weight, 100lb Cover, Recycled White (color) paper. Since each print is made by hand, there are some slight variations in the inking consistency from print to print. The paper size is 24"w x 20"h. The artwork is 18.5"w x 16"h.

Prints are in sealed sleeves and are available for purchase in the **museum** or online. Mail orders will be shipped in a poster tube.

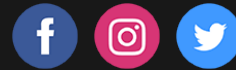
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**About the Artist:** Local graphic designer and artist Michelle Noe (shown here signing prints) has lived on the Mendocino Coast for the past 19 years, but her love for Mendocino has been present ever since she was a kid. She was excited to collaborate with the Kelley House Museum on this project and hopes you will feel the enchantment of this area as much as she does.



**Kelley House Museum &  
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