



From the Minnesota State Archives:  
[Minnesota Governor] Proclamations.

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# THANKSGIVING DAY.

## PROCLAMATION

By Alexander Ramsey, Governor of the State of  
Minnesota.

The falling leaves of Autumn find our garnerers full of wheat. Warehouses are crowded and steamers groan with the varied products of the harvest.

In every section of the State during the past summer, the sentiment of the Psalmist was applicable, "The pastures were clothed with flocks, the valleys also stood so thick with grain that they shouted for joy, and sang." In the gathering of crops there has been unwonted health.

Bright skies and pure air greeted the reaper from day to day, and the farmer, now that his labor is over, finds his family free from the diseases so common in lower latitudes, and ready to enjoy the abundance with which they have been blessed.

Hope is seen in every face, and the day seems not far off when there shall be a complete recovery from embarrassments caused by the late financial revulsion.

Not only are our people fed with the "finest of wheat," but peace prevails within our borders. While foreign lands are convulsed by revolution, and exposed to the horrors of civil war, our citizens from every nation under Heaven, are tolerant and in the midst of the excitement incident to a Presidential election, maintain the courtesies of life, exhibiting the power of self-government to a high degree.

In view of our manifold blessings and increasing prosperity, it seems highly appropriate to give thanks unto the Father of Mercies.

In accordance with a custom now prevalent in the States of the Union, I respectfully recommend to the people of Minnesota to observe in their own way, the last

**THURSDAY, THE 29TH OF NOVEMBER**

next, as a day of praise and thanksgiving.

In witness whereof I have hereunto signed my name, and caused the Seal of the State to be affixed, at the city of St. Paul, this 23d day of October, in the year of our Lord, One Thousand Eight Hundred and Sixty.



**ALEXANDER RAMSEY.**

BY THE GOVERNOR.

**J. H. BAKER, Secretary of State.**

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# THANKSGIVING PROCLAMATION



BY HIS EXCELLENCY  
**HENRY A. SWIFT,**  
Governor of Minnesota.

A law of this State requires that the Governor shall, by proclamation, set apart one day in each year for solemn and public thanksgiving to Almighty God, for his blessings to us as a State and a nation.

This law, standing permanently upon our statute book, is a general and constant recognition by the people of Minnesota of a great truth, that while our nation lives, and our State laws have force, whatever temporary clouds of adversity may overshadow or threaten us, the devout patriot can always find abundant reasons for thanksgiving to Him "who doeth all things well."

A wicked Rebellion may be striking at the heart of our Government; savages become a terror upon our borders; the heavens refuse to give us rain for a season; and frosts arrest the maturity of our crops;—but we know that all these events are overruled by One whose chastening is a sure evidence of His love.

In observance, therefore, of the law and custom of this commonwealth, and in accordance with a Proclamation of the President of the United States, I, HENRY A. SWIFT, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA, do appoint *THURSDAY, THE TWENTY-SIXTH DAY OF NOVEMBER, INST.*, as a day of solemn and public Thanksgiving and Praise to Almighty God, and recommend that the people, refraining from their usual vocations on that day, do assemble in their places of worship, and, as each heart shall dictate, acknowledge the blessings that have crowned the year.

Let us remember with gratitude that the toil of the husbandman has been more abundantly rewarded in our State than we dared to hope; that the murderous hand of the savage is for the time stayed upon our frontier; that the tide of immigration has brought unexpected accessions to our population and wealth; that universal health has prevailed among our people; and that unusual prosperity has flowed in in all the channels of industry.

Let us thank God for the glorious victories achieved by our brave soldiers in the fierce struggle for the maintenance of our Government against traitors in the field, and for the loyalty which inspires our people to continue and support a vigorous prosecution of the war until Rebellion shall yield to respect for Constitution and Law.

Let us praise him for unexampled national prosperity, notwithstanding the ravages of war in the land, for the prospect of an early termination of this fratricidal strife, for the extension of the area of human freedom, and for the bright hopes we may cherish for the future of our beloved country.

Let us be thankful for the absence of foreign intervention in our domestic contentions, and for the sympathy extended to us by the friends of Liberty, Order, and Equal Rights throughout the world.

And in our gratitude for State and National blessings, and our enjoyment of individual comforts at home, let not the brave spirits who "stand between us and war's desolation" be forgotten; let us call for God's blessings upon them in field and camp and hospital; and let us remember in sympathy those whose homes and hearts mourn for loved heroes who will celebrate Thanksgiving Day with them no more.

Let us with due humility and penitence acknowledge our many national and individual sins, and imploring forgiveness through the infinite merits of One "who was acquainted with grief," let us pledge that our future walk shall be closer with Him.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto subscribed my hand and caused the great seal of the State to be affixed, at the Capitol, in the City of Saint Paul, this tenth day of November, A. D. one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three.

By the Governor:

D. BLAKELY, Secretary of State.

**HENRY A. SWIFT.**