



MEDALLIC ART COMPANY



# BE THANKFUL

## AMERICA'S FIRST THANKSGIVING WAS ABOUT PRAYER, NOT FOOD

From Ancient times, Native People of North America held ceremonies to give thanks for successful harvests, for hope of a good growing season in the early spring and for other good fortune as child birth. Giving thanks was, and still is, the primary reason for their ceremonies and celebrations.

American History has taught our children about the landing of the Mayflower at Plymouth Rock, Massachusetts in 1620 and the 1<sup>st</sup> Thanksgiving in 1621. However, in 1619 at Berkeley Hundred (Plantation), 24 miles southwest of Richmond, VA., a group of English settlers arrived on the "Margaret" led by Captain John Woodlief. After they arrived on the shores of the James River, the settlers got on their knees and gave thanks for safe passage. They feasted on oysters, wild turkey, venison, vegetables and beer.

The mission of those aboard the "Margaret" was to settle 8,000 acres of land along the James River that had been granted to them by the London-based Berkeley Company.

Native American, Squanto, a Patuxet band of the Wampanoag tribe who spoke English, taught pilgrims how to fish, grow corn and extract maple syrup from trees. He also helped establish peace and friendship between colonists and the Wampanoag tribe.

The "Mother of Thanksgiving" is a title that goes to Sarah Josepha Hale. Hale, a prominent writer and editor had written the poem "Mary Had A Little Lamb" in 1830 and founded the American Ladies Magazine and was instrumental in the creation of Vassar College. She petitioned several presidents to make Thanksgiving an annual event. Finally in 1863, President Abraham Lincoln declared a national Thanksgiving Day in hopes of uniting a war-torn country.



### Sculptor: Anthony Notaro (1915-1984)

Born in Italy, studied at Rinehart School of Sculptor /Maryland Institute College of Art, also with sculptors Herbert Adams and William Simpson. Notaro's works include Society of Medalists, Universities, Colleges, Corporations and Foundations.



Self-Portrait (Society of Medalists # 94) 1976, 1930-001-094. This bears the self-portrait of the sculptor and his family in 17<sup>th</sup> century dress. (Notaro).

### Sarah Josepha Hale: 1957-080. (Notaro).

Society of Medalists: Man Must Sow To Reap, 1930-001-041 #41, 1950. (Hord).

Sculptor: Donald Hord (1902-1966). Born in Wisconsin, moved to the San Diego area in 1916, attended Santa Barbara School of Art, worked and lived out his life there.

