What's Cooking?

The holiday season is here. Time to put on our historic chef hats, preheat the oven, and get started on our winter weather menus!

*Executive Chef Cliff Ledford and Mary Bloxson prepare a salad in the kitchen of the Mustin Beach Officers Club. Naval Air Station, Pensacola, 2/16/1990.* [National Archives Identifier 6453020](#)

This time of year always inspires us to peruse the [National Archives Catalog](#) for historic recipes and food related records, many of which were favorite recipes of the First Families, as well as those prepared by White House kitchen staff for special events through the years.
A view of the Thanksgiving dinner served to U.S. troops taking part in Exercise Bright Star '82, 11/1/1981. [National Archives Identifier 6347662]

President Truman White House Menu, 11/26/1947 Thanksgiving. [National Archives Identifier 6882370]

We hope you find inspiration from these historic recipes and photographs found in the National Archives. Bon Appetit!

Serving brunch this year? Why not try Julie Nixon Eisenhower’s Spanish Eggs recipe. She recommends it served with sliced tomatoes, green salad or fruit. [National Archives Identifier 6727957]
When it's time for a cocktail, we're intrigued by this recipe for a "Cinpac Special" developed by Admiral Nimitz when he was Commander in Chief of the Pacific during World War II. At the time, liquor was rationed to a bottle a week per person and frequently rum was the only kind available.

If a cocktail is not your style, how about a mocktail? Try this Recipe for Punch that serves 200.

You’ll need some appetizers to go along with your cocktails. Why don’t you serve the Plains Special Cheese Ring. It’s a staff favorite around here!

Is it Dressing or Stuffing? Bess Truman called hers “Turkey Dressing” and the recipe includes sausage, rice and pecans. Mrs. Truman has a second Turkey Dressing recipe if you prefer a bread base with the option of adding oysters.
Looking for some side dishes? Rosalynn Carter shared a favorite recipe for Eggplant Souffle. In true 1950s style, this Eisenhower recipe for Honeydew Melon, Filled and Frosted includes Jello. You can also try the Georgia Sweet Potato Souffle found on page 5 of The Republican Congressional Cook Book.
Do you like to serve bread, rolls or biscuits? There are lots of options that can be found in the Catalog. Try Sequoia Orange Biscuits or Bran Rolls. If you are looking for a recipe that reads like a baking show challenge, try Bess Truman’s Drop Biscuits where the recipe doesn’t include information on how to bake the biscuits.

_Baking Biscuits at Fort Dix, 9/1/1954. [National Archives Identifier 7385035](https://www.archives.gov/)

Time for dessert! Do you serve pumpkin or pecan pie for Thanksgiving? Why choose just one? Whip up Nancy Reagan’s Pumpkin Pecan Pie. Or skip the pie all together and make a cake. Try the Truman family’s 200 Year Old Pound Cake, Rosalynn Carter’s recipe for Japanese Fruit Cake, or adjust the proportions and make the White House Wedding Cake for Tricia Nixon Cox’s Wedding.

*Salvation Army Girls, Gladys and Irene McIntyre, Myrtle Turkington and Stella Young, with steel helmets and gas masks, making pies free for soldiers. 26th Division, Ansonville,*

*White House Executive Chef Cris Comerford plates Quinoa Black Bean and Corn Salad in the Old Family Dining Room of the White House before the Kids’ State Dinner, Aug. 20, 2012. The salad was a winning recipe from*
Looking for more? Browse a selection of additional recipes in our Catalog. If you’ve tried any of these recipes, we’d love to know how they turned out! Email us at catalog@nara.gov.

And be sure to check out National Archives News for Thanksgiving records and stories from the National Archives.

We can’t let Thanksgiving go by without expressing our gratitude to each and every one of our Catalog users and Citizen Archivists. We especially want to thank you for your patience through last week’s Catalog maintenance. We are grateful every day for your time and efforts that help make the records of the National Archives more searchable online.

Wishing you a happy and healthy Thanksgiving from all of us at the National Archives!
jump in to participate! Our latest missions include Escape and Evasion reports from World War II, American Civil War military service records, Reports of Clerks, Wagonmasters, and Printers Employed at Various Posts, 1865, and more. Every contribution you make helps make these records easier to find in our Catalog.

An air controlman eats Thanksgiving dinner while keeping an eye on the radar scope in the helicopter direction center aboard the amphibious assault ship USS OKINAWA (LPH 3), 11/26/1987. Scene Camera Operator: PH2 (Sw) Jeffrey A. Elliott. National Archives Identifier 6432955

Every word you transcribe helps to make these records more searchable and accessible online. Get started transcribing!

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Who was the first president to pardon a turkey at Thanksgiving?

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I need help translating the French items on this steamship dinner menu from 1911.

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COVID-19 Update

The National Archives is committed to the health and safety of our visitors and staff. We are closely monitoring the situation regarding COVID-19, and we are working with public health officials and our counterpart agencies to monitor and respond to the evolving conditions and following CDC guidelines.

For more information, visit https://www.archives.gov/coronavirus

Questions or comments? Email us at catalog@nara.gov.