

BUTTERMILK PIE

His Steadfast Love, A Civil War Novel

By Golden Keyes Parsons

His Steadfast Love is a Civil War novel set in the small Gulf Coast town of Indianola, TX, which was a major port during the conflict.

The story opens shortly before the war breaks out when the hero, a Union officer, and heroine, a true Southern belle, meet at a church dinner-on-the-grounds over a piece of chess pie. It's a riveting little-known account of the one town in Texas that was occupied by Union troops. A piece of chess pie awaits the returning soldier as he travels back to Texas to claim his sweetheart despite their differences.

What I didn't realize is that many people have no idea what "chess pie" is. I received several emails asking, "What in the world is chess pie?"

Chess pie is a traditional Southern dessert dating back to Colonial days. Southern women would take the everyday ingredients they had in the house, such as butter, sugar, milk or cream, and eggs and make a pie. Thus becoming "jes pie."

Here's my favorite recipe for the yummy dessert, a buttermilk pie.

Mix until light: 6 eggs, 2 ½ - 3 cups sugar, 2 sticks real butter, softened. Add 2 Tbs. vanilla and 1 cup buttermilk. Pour into 2 – 9-inch unbaked pie shells. Bake at 350 degrees for 10-inch, then reduce temperature to 325 degrees and bake for 30 minutes more, or until firm in the middle.

Tip: Don't tell people it's a buttermilk pie until they taste it. This pie is always on our table at Thanksgiving and Christmas. Enjoy!

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