# **History Of American Christmas**

Washington Irving

Christmas in America Penne L. Restad, 1996-12-05 The manger or Macy's? Americans might well wonder which is the real shrine of Christmas, as they take part each year in a mix of churchgoing, shopping, and family togetherness. But the history of Christmas cannot be summed up so easily as the commercialization of a sacred day. As Penne Restad reveals in this marvelous new book, it has always been an ambiguous meld of sacred thoughts and worldly actions-- as well as a fascinating reflection of our changing society. In Christmas in America, Restad brilliantly captures the rise and transformation of our most universal national holiday. In colonial times, it was celebrated either as an utterly solemn or a wildly social event--if it was celebrated at all. Virginians hunted, danced, and feasted. City dwellers flooded the streets in raucous demonstrations. Puritan New Englanders denounced the whole affair. Restad shows that as times changed, Christmas changed--and grew in popularity. In the early 1800s, New York served as an epicenter of the newly emerging holiday, drawing on its roots as a Dutch colony (St. Nicholas was particularly popular in the Netherlands, even after the Reformation), and aided by such men as Washington Irving. In 1822, another New Yorker named Clement Clarke Moore penned a poem now known as 'Twas the Night Before Christmas, virtually inventing the modern Santa Claus. Well-to-do townspeople displayed a German novelty, the decorated fir tree, in their parlors; an enterprising printer discovered the money to be made from Christmas cards; and a hodgepodge of year-end celebrations began to coalesce around December 25 and the figure of Santa. The homecoming significance of the holiday increased with the Civil War, and by the end of the nineteenth century a full-fledged national holiday had materialized, forged out of borrowed and invented custom alike, and driven by a passion for gift-giving. In the twentieth century, Christmas seeped into every niche of our conscious and unconscious lives to become a festival of epic proportions. Indeed, Restad carries the story through to our own time, unwrapping the messages hidden inside countless movies, books, and television shows, revealing the inescapable presence--and ambiguous meaning--of Christmas in contemporary culture. Filled with colorful detail and shining insight, Christmas in America reveals not only much about the emergence of the holiday, but also what our celebrations tell us about ourselves. From drunken revelry along colonial curbstones to family rituals around the tree, from Thomas Nast drawing the semiofficial portrait of St. Nick to the making of the film Home Alone, Restad's sparkling account offers much to amuse and ponder.

Christmas in America Penne L. Restad, 1996-12-05 The manger or Macy's? Americans might well wonder which is the real shrine of Christmas, as they take part each year in a mix of churchgoing, shopping, and family togetherness. But the history of Christmas cannot be summed up so easily as the commercialization of a sacred day. As Penne Restad reveals in this marvelous new book, it has always been an ambiguous meld of sacred thoughts and worldly actions-- as well as a fascinating reflection of our changing society. In Christmas in America, Restad brilliantly captures the rise and transformation of our most universal national holiday. In colonial times, it was celebrated either as an utterly solemn or a wildly social event--if it was celebrated at all. Virginians hunted, danced, and feasted. City dwellers flooded the streets in raucous demonstrations. Puritan New Englanders denounced the whole affair. Restad shows that as times changed, Christmas changed--and grew in popularity. In the early 1800s, New York served as an epicenter of the newly emerging holiday, drawing on its roots as a Dutch colony (St. Nicholas was particularly popular in the Netherlands, even after the Reformation), and aided by such men as Washington Irving. In 1822, another New Yorker named Clement Clarke Moore penned a poem now known as 'Twas the Night Before Christmas, virtually inventing the modern Santa Claus. Well-to-do townspeople displayed a German novelty, the decorated fir tree, in their parlors; an enterprising printer discovered the money to be made from Christmas cards; and a hodgepodge of year-end celebrations began to coalesce around December 25 and the figure of Santa. The homecoming significance of the holiday increased with the Civil War, and by the end of the nineteenth century a full-fledged national holiday had materialized, forged out of borrowed and invented custom alike, and driven by a passion for gift-giving. In the twentieth century, Christmas seeped into every niche of our conscious and unconscious lives to become a festival of epic proportions. Indeed, Restad carries the story through to our own time, unwrapping the messages hidden inside countless movies, books, and television shows, revealing the inescapable presence--and ambiguous meaning--of Christmas in contemporary culture. Filled with colorful detail and shining insight, Christmas in America reveals not only much about the emergence of the holiday, but also what our celebrations tell us about ourselves. From drunken revely along colonial curbstones to family rituals around the tree, from Thomas Nast drawing the semiofficial portrait of St. Nick to the making of the film Home Alone, Restad's sparkling account offers much to amuse and ponder.

**Christmas** Bruce David Forbes,2007-10-10 Written for everyone who loves and is simultaneously driven crazy by the holiday season, Christmas: A Candid History provides an enlightening, entertaining perspective on how the annual Yuletide celebration got to be what it is today. In a fascinating, concise tour through history, the book tells the story of Christmas—from its pre-Christian roots, through the birth of Jesus, to the holiday's spread across Europe into the Americas and beyond, and to its mind-boggling transformation through modern consumerism. Packed with intriguing stories, based on research into myriad sources, full of insights, the book explores the historical origins of traditions including Santa, the reindeer, gift giving, the Christmas tree, Christmas songs and movies, and more. The book also offers some provocative ideas for reclaiming the joy and meaning of this beloved, yet often frustrating, season amid the pressures of our fast-paced consumer culture. DID YOU KNOW For three centuries Christians did not celebrate Christmas? Puritans in England and New England made Christmas observances illegal? St. Nicholas is an elf in the famous poem The Night Before Christmas? President Franklin Roosevelt changed the dateof Thanksgiving in order to lengthen the Christmas shopping season? Coca-Cola helped fashion Santa Claus's look in an advertising campaign?

#### The Encyclopaedia Britannica Hugh Chisholm,1911

An Early American Christmas Tomie dePaola,2013-11-05 A new family shows the neighborhood what Christmas is all about In this small New England village, no one makes much of a fuss about Christmas—until a new family moves in, that is. The family works tirelessly to prepare for the holiday: decorating the house, hand-dipping candles, baking mounds of delicious cookies, and carving nativity pieces. In the end, these new neighbors show their small village how to celebrate the holiday in a very special way. This fixed-layout ebook, which preserves the design and layout of the original print book, features read-along narration.

The History of the American Christmas And Its Traditions AQEEL AHMED,2022-11-11 A History of the American Christmas and Its Traditions - Discover Our Most Cherished Christmas Traditions We Celebrate in America - Christmas may be a time for celebration across the us. Families and friends gather for each day of festive merry making. Christmas: Where It All Began Christmas. The word itself inspires feelings of joy and good will towards our fellow man. each day when the best gift altogether the planet was bestowed upon us from Heaven. When you consider the name Christmas, what immediately involves your mind? The birth of Jesus? Yes, traditionally, that's what we believe is that the reason behind the Christmas holiday and celebration. The birth of Jesus. I mean, goodness's sake! His name is within the word itself! But is that basically where the start of the Christmas holiday comes from? Or is it somewhere else? Would you think that it's indeed rooted somewhere else?! Let's return though to the time before Jesus Christ's birth, and see if we can't add up of this. Centuries BC was born there was a gaggle of individuals who celebrated something they called The Winter Solstice. In this celebration, early Europeans would gather and rejoice that the worst a part of the Winter Season was passing which that they had managed to survive another harsh, cold Winter. And, that they might begin enjoying longer days. In other words, this was a celebration of sunshine itself. And life also. This celebration of sunshine and survival would happen around December 21st or the 22nd per annum . And, counting on the calendar shift, it could occur anywhere between December 20th to the 23rd. Pretty on the brink of the time once we traditionally celebrate our Christmas holiday, wouldn't you agree? Indeed, across the ecu countryside, the top of December was an ideal time to possess a celebration due in most part because cattle were slaughtered in order that they

might not need to be fed throughout Winter. And for many people, this is able to be one among the sole times throughout the entire year that they might have access to fresh meat. Not only this, but most beverages consumed, like beer and wine, cultivated throughout the year had finished the fermentation cycle and were able to be consumed. Beer and burgers? Now if that aren't a celebration, I don't know what is! One last item to say is that in Germany, during this point, many people would pay tribute to the pagan god Oden. Now, long ago, many Germans who believed during this god were extremely scared of him. The reason for this is often because they believed that Oden would make nightly rounds to see abreast of his people, deciding who would thrive and who would, well, not. thanks to this, many German people would stay indoors with their families.

All American Christmas Rachel Campos-Duffy, Sean Duffy, 2021-11-16 A #1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER! Pull up a chair, pour some eggnog, and enjoy the Christmas spirit with friends... From the wind-swept, snowy ranges of Wyoming to Florida beaches glowing with Christmas lights, All American Christmas traces holiday traditions across the United States. In this beautiful personal keepsake, Rachel Campos-Duffy and Sean Duffy present a dazzling collection of emotional stories, treasured family photographs, and homegrown Christmas recipes from some of Fox News' most beloved personalities. Dana Perino takes readers out west to the cattle ranch where she celebrated Christmas with real life "Marlboro Men"—her uncles and grandfather. Maria Bartiromo reflects on growing up in Brooklyn and the famously brilliant light displays in her neighborhood. Brit Hume looks back at the day he and a friend rushed onto the Washington Senators' field—and how his parents later warned him that he was now on Santa Claus' naughty list. For Lauren Green, her understanding of Christmas has evolved with her growing faith. Beautifully designed to reflect the color and spirit and sparkle of the season and featuring 16 pages of color photographs, All American Christmas is a gift of love from the Fox News family and is sure to be cherished for seasons to come.

The Modern Christmas in America William Waits, 1994-10-01 In days of old, Christmas was defined by the custom of exchanging simple handmade gifts. Today, it has become a multi-billion industry, synonymous with commercialism and consumption. How did this transformation occur? In this incisive and engaging examination of how Christmas has evolved since 1880, Waits chronicles the history of the holiday, from its origin to its current form. The book is illustrated with dozens of historical photographs and will be of interest to cultural and social historians alike. Christmas was a relatively modest occasion in the English-speaking world, celebrated by the exchange of modest handmade gifts, until the Victorians invested the holiday with immense significance as part of a larger effort to celebrate home, family, and a mythic past of well-ordered communities. By the late 19th century, Christmas had become a major American festival. Today, it is a multi-billion dollar industry and easily the most important seasonal event of the year. In this survey of the modern American Christmas, William Waits shows us how this holiday emerged, tracing its evolution from the days prior to 1880 when people presented one another with simple crafted presents to the turn of the century when industrialization brought with it waves of inexpensive, tawdry gimcracks. In the early twentieth century, reform-minded Americans reflecting on the new Christmas prompted a backlash against this cheapening of the Yule tradition, and the Christmas card was born. Henceforth, family members and close friends exchanged useful, costly items, while cards were sent to acquaintances and distant relatives. These reformers also persuaded retail stores to keep their regular hours of business during the holiday, rather than lengthening them, to give trade workers the opportunity to join in the celebration. They also rationalized the collection and distribution of holiday charity, resulting in the Christmas celebration we have today. Waits's book clearly illustrates that the notion that Christmas is uncontrollable is simply untrue. An incisive and engaging history of giftgiving, The Modern Christmas in Americaalso examines the differing traditions of giftgiving to friends, employees, the poor, and among entire communities. Handsomely illustrated with dozens of historical photographs, this book is not only the perfect holiday gift but will also be of interest to any student of American history and culture.

**Circle of Wonder** N. Scott Momaday,1999 A touching Christmas tale from Jemez Pueblo, illustrated in color by the author.

**The Battle for Christmas** Stephen Nissenbaum,2010-12-01 PULITZER PRIZE FINALIST • Drawing on a wealth of research, this fascinating book (The New York Times Book Review) charts the invention of our current Yuletide traditions, from St. Nicholas to the Christmas tree and, perhaps most radically, the practice of giving gifts to children. Anyone who laments the excesses of Christmas might consider the Puritans of colonial Massachusetts: they simply outlawed the holiday. The Puritans had their reasons, since Christmas was once an occasion for drunkenness and riot, when poor wassailers extorted food and drink from the well-to-do. In this intriguing and innovative work of social history, Stephen Nissenbaum rediscovers Christmas's carnival origins and shows how it was transformed, during the nineteenth century, into a festival of domesticity and consumerism. Bursting with detail, filled with subversive readings of such seasonal classics as A Visit from St. Nicholas" and A Christmas Carol, The Battle for Christmas captures the glorious strangeness of the past even as it helps us better understand our present.

<u>A Child's Christmas in Wales</u> Dylan Thomas,1995 A Welsh poet recalls the celebration of Christmas in Wales and the feelings it evoked in him as a child.

History of the American Christmas And Its Traditions AHMED. AQEEL AHMED, 2022

<u>Old Christmas</u> Washington Irving,2015-01-08 Washington Irving (April 3, 1783 - November 28, 1859) was an American author of the early 19th century. Best known for his short stories The Legend of Sleepy Hollow and Rip van Winkle (both of which appear in his book The Sketch Book of Geoffrey Crayon), he was also a prolific essayist, biographer and historian. Irving and James Fenimore Cooper were the first American writers to earn acclaim in Europe, and Irving is said to have encouraged authors such as Nathaniel Hawthorne, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, and Edgar Allan Poe. Irving was also the U.S. minister to Spain 1842-1846.

<u>Christmas</u> Bruce David Forbes,2007-10-10 In a fascinating, concise tour through history, the book tells the story of Christmasfrom its pre-Christian roots, through the birth of Jesus, to the holiday's spread across Europe into the Americas and beyond, and to its mind baggling transformation through modern consumer culture. Page 2 of cover

mind-boggling transformation through modern consumer culture.--Page 2 of cover.

Christmas 1945: The Greatest Celebration in American Hstory Matthew Litt, 2018-11-10 The American Christmas of 1945 was a four-day period in American history unrivaled in its spirit, beauty, and poignancy. Epic peril, sacrifice, and tragedy prepared Americans to celebrate that holiday with a spirituality that underlies the true meaning of Christmas. Christmas 1945 was a time of healing. The war had been over for four months and the sacrifices made by victors and vanguished alike resulted in a scarcity of goods commonly used for the Christmas holiday. In Europe and Asia, for those who celebrated, food for the banquet table was scarce, and in the United States, gifts for the stocking were not readily available. Those who celebrated Christmas found a joy in celebrating by turning to their neighbors in need and to the church pew to give thanks. It was a holiday that found expression in good will toward mankind. Christmas in 1945 was a four-day event. President Truman proclaimed it so for the Federal employees, mostly out-oftowners, who had held fast to their desks during the Christmases of the four dark years of war, and the nation followed. The warweary military participated in the Christmas celebration too. Operation Magic Carpet and Operation Santa Claus, the former to return tens of thousands of peacekeeping troops home, the latter to discharge them in time to be home for the holiday in a high-spirited rush that jammed train stations, bus depots, and airports, creating, at that time, the biggest traffic jam in the nation's history The press too, contributed substantially to the great celebration. At the time, information flow was provided by wire- connected newspapers that brought homes, communities, and towns together. When the hearts of American citizens were tapped for their intrinsic goodness, it was the newspaper, ever on hand for a good human interest story, that enthusiastically reported it. Numerous streams of affection, love, and good will toward men were brought to public attention by the press sharing the nation's abundant Christmas spirit with its

readers. This book is about that special Christmas when reaching out to the less fortunate, the grieving, and the wounded played a larger role than opening a present under a tree.

The Christmas Carol Charles Dickens, 1964

<u>A Treasury of African American Christmas Stories</u> Bettye Collier-Thomas,2018-10-09 An Esquire "Best Christmas Book to Read During the Holidays" A collection of Christmas stories written by African-American journalists, activists, and writers from the late 19th century to the modern civil rights movement. Back in print for the first time in over a decade, this landmark collection features writings from well-known black writers, activists, and visionaries such as Pauline Hopkins, Langston Hughes, and John Henrik Clarke along with literary gems from rediscovered writers. Originally published in African American newspapers, periodicals, and journals between 1880 and 1953, these enchanting Christmas tales are part of the black literary tradition that flourished after the Civil War. Edited and assembled by esteemed historian Dr. Bettye Collier-Thomas, the short stories and poems in this collection reflect the Christmas experiences of everyday African Americans and explore familial and romantic love, faith, and more serious topics such as racism, violence, poverty, and racial identity. Featuring the best stories and poems from previous editions along with new material including "The Sermon in the Cradle" by W. E. B. Du Bois, A Treasury of African American Christmas Stories celebrates a rich storytelling tradition and will be cherished by readers for years to come.

*Sleigh Rides, Jingle Bells, and Silent Nights* Ronald D. Lankford,2013-10-01 When Bing Crosby's White Christmas debuted in 1942, no one imagined that a holiday song would top the charts year after year. One of the best-selling singles ever released, it remains on rotation at tree lighting ceremonies across the country, in crowded shopping malls on Black Friday, and at warm diners on lonely Christmas Eve nights. Over the years, other favorites have been added to America's annual playlist, including Elvis Presley's Blue Christmas, the King Cole Trio's The Christmas Song, Gene Autry's Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, Willie Nelson's Pretty Paper, and, of course, Elmo & Patsy's Grandma Got Run Over by a Reindeer. Viewing American holiday values through the filter of familiar Christmas songs, Ronald Lankford examines popular culture, consumerism, and the dynamics of the traditional American family. He surveys more than seventy-five years of songs and reveals that the "modern American Christmas" has carried a complex and sometimes contradictory set of meanings. Interpreting tunes against the backdrop of the eras in which they were first released, he identifies the repeated themes of nostalgia, commerce, holiday blues, carnival, and travesty that underscore so much beloved music. This first full-length analysis of the lyrics, images, and commercial forces inextricably linked to Yuletide music hits the heart of what many Americans think Christmas is-or should be.

Christmas 1945 Matthew Litt,2010 The Greatest celebration in American History. Best seller on BN. Com. Sells all year.. <u>Consumer Rites</u> Leigh Eric Schmidt,1995 Reexamining the story of holidays in the United States, Leigh Schmidt shows that commercial appropriations of these occasions were actually as religious in form as they were secular. The new rituals of America's holiday bazaar offered a luxuriant merger of the holy and the profane - a heady blend of fashion and faith, merchandising and gift giving, profits and sentiments. In this richly illustrated book that captures both the blessings and ballyhoo of American holiday observances from the mid-eighteenth century through the twentieth, the author offers a reassessment of the consumer rites that various social critics have long decried for their spiritual emptiness and banal sentimentality.

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# Table of Contents History Of American Christmas

- 1. Understanding the eBook History Of American Christmas
  - The Rise of Digital Reading History Of American Christmas
  - Advantages of eBooks Over Traditional Books
- 2. Identifying History Of American Christmas
  - Exploring Different Genres
  - Considering Fiction vs. Non-Fiction

- Determining Your Reading Goals
- 3. Choosing the Right eBook Platform
  - Popular eBook Platforms
  - Features to Look for in an History Of American Christmas
  - User-Friendly Interface
- 4. Exploring eBook Recommendations from History Of American Christmas
  - Personalized Recommendations
  - History Of American Christmas User Reviews and Ratings
  - History Of American Christmas and Bestseller Lists
- 5. Accessing History Of American

Christmas Free and Paid eBooks

- History Of American Christmas Public Domain eBooks
- History Of American Christmas eBook Subscription Services
- History Of American Christmas Budget-Friendly Options
- 6. Navigating History Of American Christmas eBook Formats
  - ePub, PDF, MOBI, and More
  - History Of American Christmas Compatibility with Devices
  - History Of American Christmas Enhanced eBook Features
- 7. Enhancing Your Reading Experience

**History Of American Christmas** 

- Adjustable Fonts and Text Sizes of History Of American Christmas
- Highlighting and Note-Taking History Of American Christmas
- Interactive Elements History Of American Christmas
- 8. Staying Engaged with History Of American Christmas
  - Joining Online Reading Communities
  - Participating in Virtual Book Clubs
  - Following Authors and Publishers History Of American Christmas
- 9. Balancing eBooks and Physical Books History Of American Christmas
  - Benefits of a Digital Library
    - Creating a Diverse Reading Collection History Of American Christmas
- 10. Overcoming Reading Challenges
  - Dealing with Digital Eye Strain
    - $\circ\,$  Minimizing Distractions
    - $\circ\,$  Managing Screen Time
- 11. Cultivating a Reading Routine History Of American Christmas
  - Setting Reading Goals History Of American Christmas
  - Carving Out Dedicated Reading Time
- 12. Sourcing Reliable Information of History Of American Christmas
  - Fact-Checking eBook Content of
  - History Of American Christmas
  - $\circ\,$  Distinguishing Credible Sources
- 13. Promoting Lifelong Learning
  - Utilizing eBooks for Skill Development
    - Evoloring Edu
- Exploring Educational eBooks
  14. Embracing eBook Trends
  - Integration of Multimedia Elements
  - Interactive and Gamified eBooks

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