



**BYERS' CHOICE®**

The Carolers  
A HANDCRAFTED  
CHRISTMAS TRADITION

CHRISTMAS 2011

**THE CANDY CANE**

**CAROLS & POEMS**

**A CIVIL WAR  
CHRISTMAS**

**PLUS: Winter Soup**



On the Cover



Holiday Toast

The cover features our lovely **Wine Santa**. A unique gift for wine lovers, he is attired in richly colored fabrics, fur and gold embellishments and embodies the tidings of joy throughout the season.



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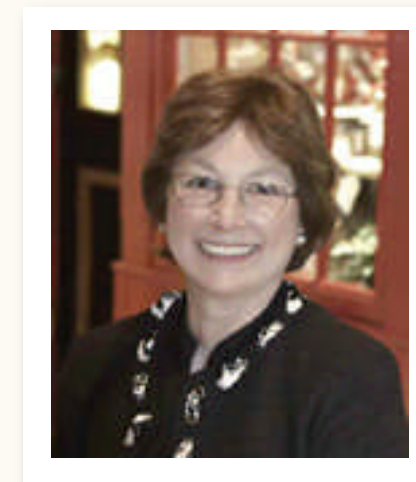
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Mother's Day Celebration

note from joyce

JOYCE BYERS

Founder & Designer, Byers' Choice Ltd.



**It's Fall! My favorite time of the year.** I love the cooler weather, woolier clothes, and beautiful autumnal colors; plus the anticipation and preparation for the celebrations of this festive season.

Since ancient times, the last day of October has been a time of celebration. Our ancestors chose All Hallows' Eve, the mass day for All Saints, as a time to thank the spirits for providing a harvest that would allow them to survive the coming winter.

In November, we celebrate Thanksgiving to give thanks for family and sustenance. Many Byers' Choice fans tell us that they look forward to Thanksgiving, for that is when they take their Carolers from their boxes and begin to decorate their homes. These figures spark pleasant memories of special times and friends throughout the Christmas season.

Of course, Christmas is another day to be thankful. Thankful to God for the baby Jesus and the light which He brought into the world.

From the entire family at Byers' Choice, may this holiday season be filled with good health, peace and love. **Merry Christmas!**

*Joyce*



# A Christmas Alphabet

Anonymous (c. 1890)



Woman in White Sleigh

*A* is for Animals who shared the stable.

*B* is for the Babe in the manger cradle.

*C* is for the Carols so blithe and so gay.

*D* for December, the twenty-fifth day.

*E* for the Eve when we're all so excited.

*F* for the Fun when the tree's at last lighted.

*G* for the Goose, so round and so fat.

*H* for the Holly you stick in your hat.

*I* for the Ivy that clings to the wall.

*J* is for Jesus, the cause of it all.

*K* for the Kindness begot by this feast.

*L* is the Light shining way in the east.

*M* for the Mistletoe, all green and white.



*N* for the Noels we sing Christmas night.

*O* for the Oxen, the first to adore Him.

*P* for the Presents Wise Men laid before Him.

*Q* for the quaking of shepherds in fear, when the bright angels brought them the words of good cheer.

*R* for the Reindeer leaping the roofs.

*S* for the Stockings that Santa Claus stuffs.

**So now to you all, wherever you be,  
a Merry, Merry Christmas, and many  
may you see!**



Dingaling Kindle

*T* for the Toys, the Tinsel, the Tree.

*U* is for Us – the whole family.

*V* is for Visitors bringing us cheer.

*W* is Welcome to the happy New Year.

*X Y Z* bother me!  
All I can say, this is the end of my Christmas lay.



Tangle Kindle

# SOUP'S *On!*



One of the pleasures of winter is homemade vegetable soup. The aroma, which fills the house as it simmers, brings feelings of warmth and security to an overcast, chilly day.

**Tortellini Soup Recipe, Page 7**



Chef with Soup Pot, Chef with Wine & Cheese, Chef with Cupcake

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**There is no one tried-and-true recipe.** Each pot varies depending on the ingredients used. You can start out with a meaty soup bone, braised with onions and simmered for hours to produce a rich broth.

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**If you're short on time, you can use prepared broth.** Leftover meats can be cut into small chunks and added to the broth. Almost any combination of fresh, frozen or canned vegetables can be added. Just keep in mind the length of cooking time for each. For example, fresh potatoes will need to cook in the broth much longer than canned peas.

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**Be creative.** Put on a pot of soup while you're decorating your Christmas tree. When you are finished, you can curl up in a comfy chair with a warm bowl of soup and a chunk of good bread. Relax and enjoy the memories of Christmases past as you admire your beautiful tree! \*

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# NORTH POLE REALTY

215-822-6700



## HERSHEY'S GINGERBREAD HOUSE

123 Cocoa Ave. Cozy home with new chocolate roof and sweet shutters awaits new owners!  
Resin; 10"W x 12.5"H x 8"D



## PRETZEL STICK CABIN

Enjoy year-round mountain views from this rustic log home with crisp styling.  
Resin; 7.5"W x 9"H x 7.5"D



## SPEARMINT HOLLY MANOR

Beautifully kept Victorian with candy cane trim and gumdrop gables.  
Resin; 12"W x 17"H x 10"D



## VANILLA ICING GINGERBREAD HOUSE

Just Listed! Dramatic home sweetened with "eye-candy" details. Great for a large family!  
Resin; 14"W x 16.5"H x 9"D



## ROCK CANDY CHIMNEY HOUSE

Sturdy central fireplace warms up this 3-bedroom Tudor-style home with 'sweetheart' front door.  
Resin; 13"W x 18"H x 9"D



## SUGAR COOKIE COTTAGE

Quaint cottage boasts steeply pitched confectionary roof and dramatic icing details.  
Resin; 12"W x 14"H x 8"D

## Tortellini Soup

Thank you to everyone who sent in recipes on our Facebook page contest. Lisa Miles Spalding of Monroe City, Missouri submitted the winning recipe. Thank you for sharing, Lisa!

We hope everyone enjoys it!

### INGREDIENTS:

- 1 pound Sweet Italian sausage
- 1 cup minced onion
- 3 cloves garlic
- 5 cups beef broth
- ½ cup water
- ½ cup red wine
- 1-2 sliced carrots
- 2 cups peeled tomatoes
- ½ tsp. dried basil
- ½ tsp. oregano
- 8 oz. tomato sauce
- \*1-½ cups sliced zucchini
- \*1 box cheese tortellini
- \*1 cup sliced mushrooms
- \*1 cup shredded cabbage

### DIRECTIONS:

Brown sausage, add all but \* ingredients and simmer for 30 minutes. Add \* ingredients and cook covered for 1 hour.

The best way  
to eat hot soup is  
little by little.



Abraham Lincoln



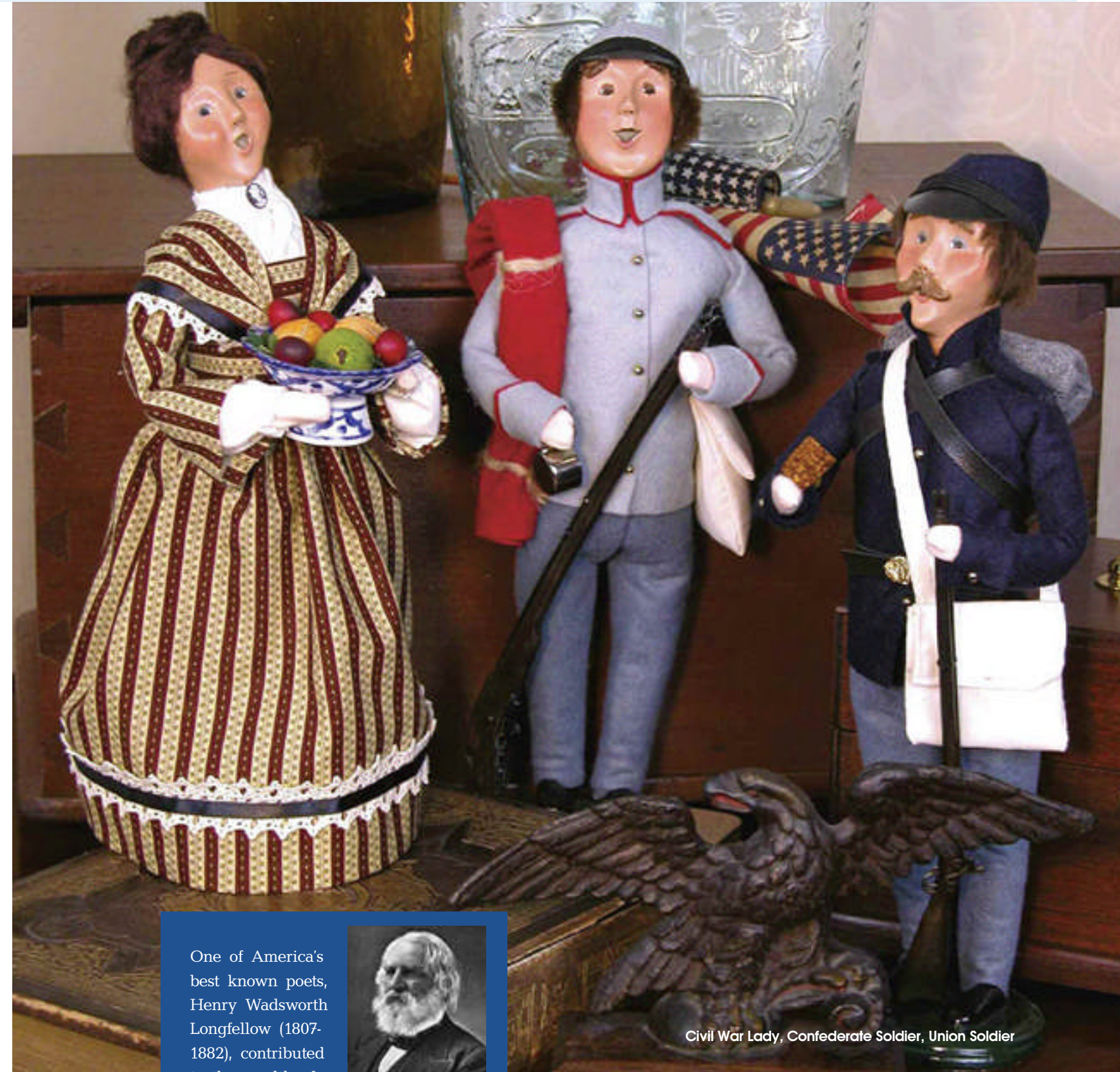
CHRISTMAS BOXES IN CAMP  
Christmas 1861, Thomas Nast  
(Harper's Weekly JAN 4th, 1862)

### "I HEARD THE BELLS ON CHRISTMAS DAY"

was penned on Christmas morning 1864 by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. The Civil War was deep into its third tragic year. Longfellow's oldest son, Charles, had joined the Union cause without his father's blessing. "I have tried hard to resist the temptation of going without your leave but I cannot any longer," he wrote. "I feel it to be my first duty to do what I can for my country and I would willingly lay down my life for it if it would be of any good."

The poem was first published in February 1865, and was later set to music in 1872 by English organist, John Baptiste Calkin.

*Continued on page 10*



Civil War Lady, Confederate Soldier, Union Soldier

One of America's best known poets, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807-1882), contributed to the wealth of carols sung each Christmas season, when he composed the words to "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day" on December 25th, 1864.





Man with Bells

Continued from page 8

# Christmas Bells

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, 1864

*I heard the bells on Christmas Day  
Their old, familiar carols play,  
And wild and sweet  
The words repeat  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!*

*And thought how, as the day had come,  
The belfries of all Christendom  
Had rolled along  
The unbroken song  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!*

*Till, ringing, singing on its way  
The world revolved from night to day,  
A voice, a chime,  
A chant sublime  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!*

*Then from each black, accursed mouth  
The cannon thundered in the South,  
And with the sound  
The Carols drowned  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!*

*And in despair I bowed my head;  
'There is no peace on earth,' I said;  
'For hate is strong,  
And mocks the song  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!'*

*Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:  
'God is not dead; nor doth he sleep!  
The Wrong shall fail,  
The Right prevail,  
With peace on earth, good-will to men!'*



Woman Selling Bumpershoots

Another name for umbrella is bumpershoot. The first example of bumpershoot is in *Professor Lighter's Random House Historical Dictionary of the American Language*, 1896. There were some variations in the early days, such as bumpersol (with sol presumably taken from parasol) and bumperell. By the first decade of the twentieth century, it had settled down to bumpershoot. \*



**Byers' Choice would love for you to visit our page the next time you're on Facebook.**

Our Facebook page is a great way to stay in the Christmas spirit year round and to stay up-to-date on the latest Byers' Choice happenings. If you like us, please consider becoming a Fan and "Like" our company's page on the social networking site.

Our Facebook page is a permanent tribute to the holiday season, all year round. By becoming a Fan, you will be connected with a community of Christmas lovers that enjoy the Carolers as much as you do. Byers' Choice Facebook Fans get all of the news first about the latest products and company activities. You'll also have the chance to share your opinions, questions and memories about Byers' Choice with other Fans and the Byers family.

**"We have such a wonderful Fan community on Facebook," said Joyce Byers, founder and designer of Byers' Choice Ltd.**

"I love reading their wonderful memories, but it's especially nice to get their feedback about favorite Carolers and to see their 'wish lists.' It's a nice reminder to our artisans that we're helping to spread Christmas cheer 365 days of the year."

To add excitement, Byers' Choice runs contests on its page throughout the year for chances to win exciting prizes—including some of the latest Carolers!

To become a fan of the Byers' Choice Facebook page and share in the Christmas spirit, please visit [www.facebook.com/byerschoice](http://www.facebook.com/byerschoice) and click the "Like" button at the top of the page. \*

 **Become a Fan on Facebook**

Bells are rung during Christmas to announce the arrival of the season, to proclaim the birth of Christ, and to herald in the New Year.



SPREAD SOME  
HOLIDAY  
*Cheer*  
BY CAROLING THIS YEAR

*Out of all the holiday traditions, Christmas caroling may be the most enduring.*

Woman with Sheet Music

Caroling is a time-honored tradition that is as fun for the performers as it is for the recipients. Groups of families, friends and neighbors join together in fellowship and goodwill to spread holiday cheer in their community. Why not start a caroling group of your own this year? Whether you decide to perform the traditional door-to-door method, at a busy shopping thoroughfare, or at a local senior center, caroling is a wonderful way to spread the gift of holiday cheer and will create fond memories that will be cherished for a lifetime.



Victorian Family with Wreaths

**“The fastest way to spread Christmas cheer is to sing a carol for all to hear.”**  
- Buddy the Elf

It's really easy to start your own caroling group. Simply gather together some friends and family. Whether or not they can sing on key is not of concern. When it comes to caroling, the more the merrier. By chance, if you can find at least one or two really good singers to join your group, be sure to put them in the front.

Do your best to help your group dress the part. Carolers always sound better when they are dressed in top hats, stocking caps and long colorful scarves. If you live in a colder region, suggest that they include mittens and earmuffs to complete their attire.

Next you'll need some music and song sheets to hand out. You can find the lyrics to many of the classic Christmas carols on our website at [www.byerschoice.com](http://www.byerschoice.com). Give your makeshift choir a string of bells to jingle. Sing songs that everyone knows, such as "Jingle Bells" and "Frosty the Snowman." "Silent Night" is a great song to end with, as is "We Wish You A Merry Christmas."

If you're caroling at night, bring along some flashlights or candles to light the way. Arrange to end the evening with yummy Christmas cookies and warm apple cider in the comfort of a friend's home. \*

In 1647, Oliver Cromwell and the Puritans came to power and outlawed the singing of Christmas carols in England. Many carols were lost or forgotten until Victorian times when an effort was made to restore this tradition. Official carol singers could be hired and would stand outside someone's home and sing carols on Christmas Eve. Carols were also printed and sold on street corners. Fortunately, the Christmas tradition of caroling, which dates back thousands of years, was saved.



## Skate into the holidays!

The pastime of ice skating predates indoor rinks by several centuries. Aside from the skates, it cost nothing to skate on a frozen pond or river and any number of people could join a skating party. Skating was enjoyed around the globe—at least anywhere temperatures dipped low enough to produce a safe layer of ice.

It might truly be said that ice skating brought families, communities, and individuals of all ages together as they sped over the ice! ❄️



Victorian Skating Family

Christmas with family is a wonderful experience that can create lifetime memories.

It is also one of the busiest travel days of the year. Before you hit the road, here are a few tips to remember: plan for delays; pack the essentials; wrap and pack the Christmas presents; for a long car ride, bring activities to entertain young children. And most importantly, make sure your car is in tip-top shape! If driving or flying seems daunting, there are train and bus lines with trips to some great holiday destinations. ❄️

Family  
makes traveling  
worth it on  
Christmas Eve.



Traditional Family with Bells

Believe it or not, *Jingle Bells*—one of the most famous American Christmas songs—was originally written for Thanksgiving! The author of *Jingle Bells* was a minister named James Pierpoint. He composed the song in 1857 for children celebrating his Boston Sunday School Thanksgiving. The song was so popular that it was repeated at Christmas, and indeed *Jingle Bells* has been reprised ever since. The essence of a traditional Christmas is captured in the lyrics of *Jingle Bells*. The sound effects using the bells have become synonymous with the arrival of Santa Claus to the delight of children of all ages!



Traditional Family with Dusters



# Williamsburg®

These days, the Christmas season seems to begin right after Halloween and come to a screeching halt by Christmas dinner (or with the first tears or worn-out battery, whichever comes first).

Colonial Williamsburg emphasizes the build-up, the preparation, the anticipation. Celebrants in the eighteenth century saw Christmas Day itself as only the first day of festivities. Probably because customs then were fewer and preparations simpler, colonial Virginians looked to the twelve days beyond December 25th as a way to extend and more fully savor the most joyful season of the year.

Photos courtesy of  
The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation,  
Williamsburg, VA.



# Traditional Wooden Advent Calendar

*A tradition that lasts!*



Fireside Advent Calendar 15"H x 18.5"W



Toy Shoppe Advent Calendar 18.5"H x 15"W



Santa's Sleigh Advent Calendar 15"H x 18.5"W



Christmas House Advent Calendar 22"H x 16"W



Nativity Advent Calendar 15"H x 18.5"W

### Treat Ideas:

- Candies • Poems
- Jewelry • Small Toy Cars
- Stickers • Pictures
- Coins • Special Notes

**It's never too late to start a tradition like this for your family, one that will become a real treasure in the years to come.**

**For generations, families have marked the coming of Christmas in a variety of ways.**

From simple chalk markings to lighting candles, families have employed unique ways to enjoy counting each of the 24 days before Christmas. The first printed calendar was produced in the 1800s by Gerhard Lang in Germany and consisted of miniature colored pictures that were then attached to a piece of cardboard for each day in December.

Advent calendars can be found everywhere Christmas is celebrated and have been made with many different themes. The traditional ones are still a paper/cardboard piece with a small treasure behind the doors. The treasures can range from a beautiful miniature religious picture, perhaps a little wooden toy or even a piece of candy (sure to cause problems when there is more than one child in the household).

*Traditions by Byers Choice® Ltd.* has produced a traditional Advent Calendar that combines the customs of the past with a new twist that is sure to please. Our wooden Advent Calendar is thoughtfully designed with 24 numbered doors. Behind each numbered door, there is room for a small surprise for each day. Imagine the excitement and joy the calendar creates in your home as the young ones find toy cars, sweets, jewelry and other small gifts each day until Santa arrives! The wooden calendars can be used year after year providing a tradition that your family is sure to treasure. \*



Christmas Tree Advent Calendar

# Countdown to Christmas



# A Christmas Carol

“It’s Christmas Day!”  
 said Scrooge to himself.  
 “I haven’t missed it. The Spirits  
 have done it all in one night.  
 They can do anything they like.  
 Of course they can. Of course  
 they can.”



Happy Scrooge

We are very excited to announce that Gerald Dickens, the great-great grandson of famed author Charles Dickens, will be returning this year to tour the United States and perform the beloved story, *A Christmas Carol*. He will travel around the United States from mid-November through the end of December.

To find a performance near you, please visit [www.byerschoice.com](http://www.byerschoice.com).



## Dickens on Dickens

Given what “A Christmas Carol” meant to Charles Dickens, what it means to my family, and to me, I am honoured to be performing it throughout the United States for the American people.

— GERALD CHARLES DICKENS

Left (clockwise): Spirit of Christmas Future, Bob Cratchit & Tiny Tim, Mrs. Cratchit, Scrooge, Marley’s Ghost (not available), Spirit of Christmas Present, Spirit of Christmas Past



Parson



Nutmacker Vendor



Clockmaker



Wine Santa



German Santa



Postman



Man with Coffee & Donuts



Woman with War Cries

# T'was the night before Christmas . . .

and, in every house, children are preparing a snack for St. Nick. Milk and cookies are the favorite choice but let's pause for a moment. How about something with a dash of imagination and culinary creativity? Maybe hot chocolate and shortbread? Or warm mulled cider with gingerbread cookies. Perhaps eggnog and chocolate brownies! Don't forget apples for the reindeer.

## "The Night Before Christmas"

As I drew in my head, and was turning around,  
Down the chimney *St. Nicholas*  
came with a bound.

He was dressed all in *fur*, from his head to his foot,  
And his clothes were all tarnished with ashes and soot;  
A bundle of *toys* he had flung on his back,  
And he looked like a peddler just opening his pack.

His eyes — how they *twinkled!*  
his dimples how merry!

His cheeks were like *roses*, his nose like a cherry!

His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow,  
And the beard of his chin was as *white* as the snow!

To read this classic poem in its entirety,  
please visit [www.byerschoice.com/Page-Moore\\_83.aspx](http://www.byerschoice.com/Page-Moore_83.aspx)



Night Before Christmas Santa and Children

# 12 Days of Christmas



Partridge in a Pear Tree Santa, Two Turtledoves Woman, Three French Hens Chef, Four Calling Birds Man, Woman with Five Gold Rings, Six Geese A-Laying Man, Seven Swans A-Swimming Woman, Eight Maids A-Milking Woman, Nine Ladies Dancing Woman, Ten Lords A-Leaping Man, Eleven Pipers Piping Man, Twelve Drummers Drumming Man



Caroler Condo (17.5"L x 15.5"W x 14"H)

## STORING YOUR CAROLERS®

A tidy little home for your Carolers! Safely store your collection until the next time you put it on display. Stores twelve Caroler figurines; made of sturdy cardboard with protective vinyl cover.

The Twelve Days of Christmas are the days between Christmas Day and Epiphany and represent the length of time that the Three Wise Men took to reach the manger in Bethlehem.



"The Twelve Days of Christmas" Jigsaw Puzzle  
500 Pieces / 21.25" x 15" assembled

**You can't have too many "Twelve Days of Christmas" ideas. Have some fun — write your own verses to this holiday classic!**



Spearmint Holly Manor Resin Gingerbread House, Wisky Bakerkin

*I made a house of gingerbread.*

*It was so sugary sweet.*

*It took me all day long to make.*

*But, it lasted just a week.*

*Monday – I ate the ceiling.*

*Tuesday – I ate the door.*

*Wednesday – I ate the windows.*

*Thursday – I ate the floor.*

*Friday – I ate all four walls.*

*Saturday – I ate the lawn.*

*Sunday – I licked up all  
the crumbs.*

*My gingerbread house is gone!*



Sugar Cookie Cottage Resin Gingerbread House

**Gingerbread houses first became popular in Germany in the 19th century with the publishing of the Brothers Grimm fairy tale collection which included “Hansel and Gretel.”**



Gretel, German Santa, Hansel



*Flowers* are always a lovely gift whether in an arrangement or a traditional Christmas plant such as the poinsettia or Christmas cactus. Both are native to warmer climates.

The poinsettia is relatively easy to maintain. A little bit of water will keep it looking beautiful through the holiday season. Many plants will survive well past the holidays and, if cared for, will bloom again in subsequent weeks.

Pair a "Gardening Mrs. Claus" (right) with a Christmas flower for a special gift. Great for the person who doesn't have space for a tree. Mrs. Claus with her watering can is a gentle reminder to care for the plant.



Gardening Mrs. Claus

Red poinsettias are still the most popular color, with white coming in a far second and pink in third. What color poinsettia are you going to buy this year?

When grown outdoors in subtropical climates, the Christmas poinsettia grows into a large shrub or tree that can reach a height of 16 feet!



Scottish Santa



*Shortbread*, Scottish in origin, is a rich, tender and crumbly biscuit that was once only served during Christmas and New Year's Eve.

Shortbreads are traditionally made with just three ingredients: butter, sugar, and flour.

Shortbread is traditionally formed into one of three shapes: one large circle divided into segments; individual round biscuits; or a thick rectangular slab cut into "fingers."

The word *Christmas* comes from the Old English name 'Cristes Maesse' or Christ's Mass, and is the celebration of the birth of Jesus. The first recorded observance occurred in Rome in AD360, but it wasn't until AD440 that the Christian Church fixed a celebration date of the 25th of December.

## Quick & Easy Simple Shortbread

32 Servings

### Ingredients:

- 1 cup butter
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 2-1/2 cups sifted flour

### Preparation:

- Cream the butter with sugar.
- Add flour until well combined. Chill.
- Pat into two 7-inch circles.
- Place on baking sheet and mark 16 wedges in each.
- Bake at 300°F for 30 minutes.
- Cool on sheet for 10 minutes. Cut each warm shortbread into 16 wedges. Cool completely.

# Christmas Gifts



*Ten* Christmas presents standing in line;  
Robert took the bicycle, then there were nine.

*Nine* Christmas presents ranged in order straight;  
Bob took the steam-engine, then there were eight.

*Eight* Christmas presents – and one came from Devon;  
Robbie took the jack-knife, then there were seven.

*Seven* Christmas presents direct from St. Nick's.  
Bobby took the candy-box, then there were six.

*Six* Christmas presents, one of them alive;  
Rob took the puppy-dog, then there were five.

*Five* Christmas presents yet on the floor;  
Bobbie took the soldier-cap, then there were four.

*Four* Christmas presents underneath the tree;  
Bobbet took the writing-desk, then there were three.

*Three* Christmas presents still in full view;  
Robin took the checker-board, then there were two.

*Two* Christmas presents, promising fun,  
Bobbles took the picture-book, and there was one.

*One* Christmas present – and now the list is done;  
Bobbinet took the sled, and then there was none.

And the same happy child received every toy,  
So many nicknames had one little boy.

*Poem by Carolyn Wells (c. 1899)*

## Yes, Virginia

“Is there a Santa Claus?” was the title of an editorial appearing in the September 21, 1897 edition of the New York Sun. The editorial, which included the famous reply “Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus,” has become an indelible part of popular Christmas folklore in the United States and Canada.

In 1897 Dr. Philip O’Hanlon, from Manhattan’s Upper West Side, was asked by his then eight-year-old daughter, Virginia (1889–1971), whether Santa Claus really existed. Virginia O’Hanlon had begun to doubt there was a Santa Claus, because her friends had told her that he did not exist.

Dr. O’Hanlon suggested she write to the New York Sun, a prominent New York City newspaper at the time, assuring her that “If you see it in The Sun, it’s so.” While he may have been passing the buck, he unwittingly gave one of the paper’s editors, Francis Pharcellus Church, an opportunity to rise above the simple question, and address the philosophical issues behind it.

Although the paper ran the editorial in the seventh place on the editorial page, its message was very moving to many people who read it. More than a century later it remains the most reprinted editorial ever to run in any newspaper in the English language.

“Yes, Virginia” Newsmen  
Virginia



# HISTORY OF THE *candy cane*



Not only are candy canes used as sweet Christmas-time treats, but they are also used for decoration. How did this seasonal candy get its familiar shape, and when did it become part of Christmas tradition?

*Continued on page 36*

**Right:** Candy Cane Mrs. Claus, Candy Cane Table (7"W x 10"H x 3.5"D; wood)





Hot cocoa with peppermint—you'll warm right up with this minty chocolate drink!

Top it off with some fresh whipped cream for a decadent treat!

**From its plain early beginnings to its familiar shape and colors of today, the candy cane is a symbol of Christmas and a reminder of the meaning of the holiday.**

The origin of the candy cane goes back over 350 years, when candy-makers both professional and amateur were making hard sugar sticks. The original candy was straight and completely white in color.

Around the seventeenth century, European-Christians began to adopt the use of Christmas trees as part of their Christmas celebrations. They made special decorations for their trees from foods like cookies and sugar-stick candy.

The first historical reference to the familiar cane shape goes back to 1670, when the choirmaster at the Cologne Cathedral in Germany bent the sugar-sticks into canes to represent a shepherd's staff. The all-white candy canes were given out to children during the long-winded nativity services.

The clergymen's custom of handing out candy canes during Christmas services spread throughout Europe and later to America. The canes were still white, but sometimes the candy-makers would add sugar-roses to decorate the canes further.

It was not until the early 1900's that the first red-and-white striped candy canes appeared. No one knows exactly who invented the stripes. Christmas cards prior to the year 1900 showed only all-white candy canes. Christmas cards after 1900 showed illustrations of striped candy canes. Around the same time, candy-makers added peppermint and wintergreen flavors to their candy canes and those flavors then became the traditional favorites.

Decoration or treat, one thing is for sure—candy canes are sweet, sometimes minty and always delicious! ❄️

What is it about candy canes and the smell of *peppermint* that startles our senses into *Christmas* memories?



Candy Cane Santa

the candy man



## HAVE YOU EVER TRIED TO MAKE *candy canes?*

They are kind of tricky and arguably not worth the effort. But if you are looking for a holiday project for you and your children, why not give it a try?

Candy canes have been made for centuries. As candy makers know, sugar must be heated to the correct temperature making a candy thermometer essential. Melted sugar is very, very hot and must be watched closely which is why small children should not take part in this first process.

Of course, the traditional flavor is peppermint. However, you can be creative here. Food coloring and flavors are added to separate portions of the mixture to give it a stripe. The mixture is then poured onto a smooth surface and must be kneaded and stretched as it cools. As the candy begins to cool, it can be twisted and shaped into canes, circles or whatever your imagination conjures.

This type of candy making dates back to the middle ages. The story goes that the candy was originally white, and the red was added later to symbolize the blood of Christ. Children were given these treats at Christmas to emphasize the religious significance of the season. Candy canes have remained an inexpensive, festive, special treat for hundreds of years. \*

Man Selling Candy Canes



Many families partake in Christmas baking because it is a great way to talk, eat, and enjoy being together.

Family Baking, Baking Table (7"W x 10"H x 3.5"D; wood)





Singing Dog



Snow Tree



Toddler



Decorated Fence



Stair Riser



Seated Polar Bear Cub



Lamp Post



Music Stand



Wrought Iron Fence



Fireplace with Candelabrum



Milk & Cookies on Table



Snowman



Decorated Tree with Lights



English Mailbox



Door



Singing Cat



Nautical Santas

# Making Waves

[www.byerschoice.com](http://www.byerschoice.com)



See the pretty  
snowflakes  
Falling from the sky;  
On the wall and  
housetops  
Soft and thick  
they lie.



## snow day

The weather outside is frightful, and everyone is home from school and work. Here are some ideas to pass the day with family fun!

- \* Snuggle on the couch under a warm blanket and watch a favorite Christmas movie.
- \* Dust off an old board game and bring back memories as you pass the time.
- \* Get out an old photo album and share stories of people and places from when you were your child's age.
- \* Tell Christmas stories or read a book aloud to your kids.
- \* Sort through old clothes and toys which can be donated to a local thrift store or shelter.
- \* Get crafty! Make paper snowflakes from scrap paper or leftover gift wrap.
- \* Decorate a tree with yummy treats for the neighborhood wildlife. One idea: smear peanut butter over a plain unpainted pine cone, and roll it in bird seed. Hang it in the tree with a bit of yarn.
- \* Bundle up and head to the nearest sledding hill!
- \* Build an igloo or fort out of snow—perfect cover during a snowball fight.
- \* Turn on the oven and bake some of Grandma's famous sugar cookies. Decorate and enjoy with a cup of cocoa!
- \* Make a family of snow angels or build a snowman, and decorate them. Food coloring and water in a spray bottle adds to the fun, but be careful not to stain your clothes.



**Above:** Polar Girl with Candy Cane, Polar Bear Cub  
**Right:** Toddler on Sled, Toddler in Wagon, Toddler with Candy Cane, Red Wagon with Toys, Toddler with Cookie, Decorated Picket Fence, Snow Trees

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Whether you come to visit the attractions or take a leisurely drive through covered bridges and up River Road, these and many more Bucks County treasures, including Byers' Choice, look forward to hosting you and your family and friends for a relaxing countryside getaway.

For more information about Bucks County, call 215-639-0300 or visit [Facebook.com/VisitBucksPA](https://www.facebook.com/VisitBucksPA).

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*Art* is the colors and textures  
of your *imagination*.



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Please visit our website for details, [www.byerschoicecraftshow.com](http://www.byerschoicecraftshow.com).



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