

# Candlelight History Hunt

3rd—5th Grade

## Christmas in the 19th Century

Christmas in early Dallas tended to be a simple holiday. Early settlers often used the holidays as a reason to celebrate the passing of another year. By 1848, Dallas hosted annual Christmas balls, featuring music and food.

Christmas trees became common in the 1870s. Many public places, such as churches and schools, would decorate a Christmas tree. It wasn't until a few years later that trees became more common in homes.

Store-bought toys did not become common gifts for children until the turn of the century. Prior to that, items such as fireworks, candy, fruit and clothing were much more common. Santa Claus first appears in Christmas stories in the late 1880s, but our modern image of him doesn't emerge until the 1910s.

While you visit the Village, notice the changes in Christmas celebrations.

\* What household objects in the **de Léon House** suggest holiday celebrations?

\* Why might there be a Christmas tree in the **Renner Schoolhouse**?

\* Look at the **Miller Log House** and **Millermore** decorations. How are they different?

\* Visit the **Blum Brothers General Store**. What would you buy as a holiday gift for someone in your family? What important things help the **Blum Brothers General Store** make money during the holidays?

\* Describe how the **Sullivan House** is decorated.

