

Christmas Tree Folklore and History

- 1510, the first decorated Christmas Tree is in Riga, Latvia. Early Christmas Trees are decorated with paper, fruits and sweets.
- 1531, the first retail Christmas Tree lots are started in German cities.
- By the 1600's, Christmas Trees are decorated with ribbon, tin shapes, small books and lace as well as food.
- 18th century, the first recorded Christmas Tree decorated with lit candles.
- 1777, the tradition of the Christmas Tree is brought to Colonial America by Hessian troops fighting for Britain in the Revolution War.
- 1804, U.S. soldiers stationed at Fort Dearborn (now Chicago) bring evergreen trees into their barracks at Christmas.
- 1842, Charles Minnegrode introduces the custom of a decorated Christmas Tree in Williamsburg, Va.
- 1851, Mark Carr opens a retail Christmas Tree lot in New York City, the first in the United States.
- 1856, Franklin Pierce, our 14th President, brings the first Christmas Tree into the White House.
- 1923, President Calvin Coolidge starts the National Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony now held every year on the Ellipse between the White House and the Washington Monument.
- 1966, members of the National Christmas Tree Association start the tradition of presenting a Real Christmas Tree each year to the First Lady for display in the Blue Room of the White House.

Source: National Christmas Tree Association and your local Christmas Tree professional. For more information contact: Rick Dungey, 636-449-5071
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