

Three Christmas Stories

Plus Our Holiday Wishes!



Story Number One

The Animals Tell Their Stories



The Animals' Christmas Eve is a Little Golden Book written by Gale Wiersum, and illustrated by Jim Robison.

In this fun counting story, one hen, two white doves, four brown horses, five gray donkeys, six spotted calves, seven goats, eight nesting kittens, nine woolly sheep, ten soft lambs, and eleven puppies remember the very first Christmas.

You can listen to the story read by a young girl by [clicking on this link](#) that will take you to YouTube

For a different take on this story, [click here to be taken to Dwayne Gillispie's version](#).

Story Number Two

The History of Saint Nicholas, Santa Claus, and a 195-Year-Old Poem Most Everyone Can Still Recite!

Did you know that the commercialization of Christmas goes back to around 1820! And that live store Santas have been delighting children since 1841?

I certainly didn't, but this informative article from the History network will fill you in on all the stories from the original St. Nicholas from 280 A.D, to why we call him Santa Claus today, and much more!



To listen to "T'was the Night Before Christmas", the poem that turns 195 this year, [click here to be taken to YouTube where you can hear it read by Lorne Greene.](#)

When I create a newsletter, I start with some idea of what I want to talk about. It's not a fully-fleshed idea, because I never know what pieces of information are going to resonate me and help shape it.

That's what happened with the third and final story of these week's newsletter.

My original idea was to end with a musical version of a story. I had planned on The Little Drummer Boy, but after listening to and looking at a variety of performances, I didn't find one that spoke to me.

That's when I went further afield and looked at group Christmas events even if they didn't do Little Drummer Boy. Many were quite good, but only one got me choked up.

The first Christmas story is farm related.

The second story is a global history of Christmas.

Story Number Three

This is a story about today. It's about us, and all the good things that America stands for.



[Click here to be taken to YouTube and the U.S. Air Force Band's 2017 Surprise Concert at Gaylord National.](#)



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