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: (800) 975-5920 or info@realchristmastrees.org