



In Christmas Past...



Christmas card from the MWH collection



McFaddin-Ward House Museum
Christmas Interpretation
2020

McFaddins in Christmas Past

The McFaddin family was part of this bright bustle, enjoying the season's offerings in various ways. Ida and Mamie shopped endlessly on Pearl Street ("Shopped I think all day," Mamie reported to her diary in 1921), wrapped mountains of gifts, hosted and attended social functions, and ensured that the holidays went smoothly. The men pursued their own interests, whether planning a dance (Perry Jr.), singing in the St. Mark's Oratorio (Caldwell), socializing with other Texas A&M alumni (Carroll Ward), or going to a party after working at the ranch all day (W.P.H.).

In the 1920s, the McFaddin family could enjoy a "modern" Christmas without leaving town. Shoppers could go downtown and purchase all their holiday needs along Pearl Street, whether clothing, jewelry, flowers, groceries, guns, cigars, cars, or even a new hairdo. For entertainment, Pearl Street provided traditional Vaudeville and the latest movies—"talkies."



All objects shown belong to the McFaddin-Ward House collection, unless otherwise stated.

McFaddins in Christmas Past

Entrance Hall

- Carroll Ward's tuxedo suit, wool, Battlestein's, 1928.
- Evening gown, sequin, lace, ca. 1930.
- White Boa, fox, ca. 1930.

Parlor

- Two-piece fur, velvet jacket with skirt trimmed, rabbit fur, lined with silk, ca. 1915.



Each Christmas, Ida and Mamie hosted holiday dinners for the McFaddin and Ward families. Mamie planned as carefully for a family dinner as for a reception for 200.

Dining Room

- ♦ Dinner plates, porcelain, Limoges, France, ca. 1920
- ♦ Bread plates, porcelain, Limoges, France, ca. 1894-1900, monogrammed: "ICM"
- ♦ Wine goblets, glass with gilt overlay, ca. 1910
- ♦ Flatware, silver, Baltimore Rose pattern, the Schofield Company, Baltimore, Maryland, ca. 1910



The McFaddins were known for delicious meals, prepared for many years by Louis Lemon. McFaddin employees recalled good food at the McFaddins' and that they could eat all three meals there. Ida and Mammie always remembered each of them with a Christmas gift.

McFaddins in Christmas Past

Ida and Mamie gave generously—to family, friends, employees, retail clerks, and family doctors and nurses. Mamie spent many hours wrapping her gifts and often Ida's. Both women welcomed innovations, such as scotch tape and patterned wrapping paper, and enjoyed decorating with electric lights.



1920: December 25 (Sat)—Xmas—Looked at presents had Egg-Nog then Carroll & I went down to Wards to see them after Mama at church



Breakfast Room

- **Chased Punch Bowl & Cup set, silver, Reed & Barton, Connecticut, ca. 1900.**
- **Soup Bowl monogrammed “ICM” & “MOC”, porcelain, Limoges, France, 1927.**
- **Cup & Saucer, porcelain, The F. Schultze Co., Cincinnati, Ohio, ca. 1900.**

“Ten years ago outdoor Christmas Eve caroling...was almost unknown in this country. The beautiful old custom...had all but died. But, thanks to the widespread adoption of the community Christmas tree, Christmas Eve caroling is being revived and Beaumont is falling into line this year with characteristic enthusiasm.” *Beaumont Enterprise*, Dec. 20, 1925



Music Room

- **Opera Cape, satin, beaded, 1920.**
- **Gold Purse, mesh, beads, silk, ca. 1920.**
- **Opera Glasses, chrome, shell, Lemaire FT, Houston, Texas, ca. 1960.**
- **White Gloves, nylon, beads, Miss Aris, Philippines, ca. 1975.**

McFaddins in Christmas Past

Modern trends notwithstanding, tradition still governed McFaddin Christmas celebrations. Christmas was a time for family. Ida's note to Mamie, written to accompany a Christmas gift sometime in the 1920s, said it all: "Mamie, With my whole heartful of love. May the sweet spirit of this Blessed season abide with my precious girl." It was signed "Mother."





SCHEDULE A TOUR!

For reservations, call (409)832-2134

Hours: Wednesday—Saturday, 9AM—2PM

Self-guided audio tours. Masks required.

www.mcfaddin-ward.org

