



## *Christmas with the Hollingsworths - 1812*

*It's* December, 1812. The War of 1812 is in full swing. Attacks have occurred on both sides and blood has been spilled. The Head of Elk is but a few miles from the Chesapeake Bay where rumors abound about the presence of British ships. Tensions are high. At Elk Landing, there is an uneasy calm as the Hollingsworth Family gathers to celebrate Christmas. Family matriarch and widow, Mary Hollingsworth worries about her son who is serving in the Cecil Militia. Neighbors too are anxious about what the new year will bring.



In the midst of this uncertain time comes the message of Christmas and the promise of renewal in the new year. There is singing, decorating of the Hollingsworth mansion, baking of holiday cookies and drinking of traditional wassail. Then, as darkness descends on The Landing, comes Zebulon Hollingsworth with a story of cheer for the children.

This scene isn't from 1812, it's from 2012 and Historic Elk Landing's "Christmas with the Hollingsworths, 1812" celebration on Saturday, December 15<sup>th</sup>. Come see our decorated house, sample our fresh baked cookies and steaming hot wassail, and get into the holiday spirit singing the ancient carols, stringing popcorn, and taking a break from this frantic season. And though it's a little outside our timeline, stay for the reading of "T'was the Night Before Christmas" to the Hollingsworth children by Zebulon Hollingsworth at the parlor hearth.

Festivities, on the 15<sup>th</sup>, begin at 6 p.m. with the doors open until 8. Admission is free, but donations are accepted to benefit future programming at Historic Elk Landing.

See our website at [www.elklanding.org](http://www.elklanding.org) for directions.