

Kids Page

Lowndes County Historical Society

Home for the Holidays

Ever wonder where a song
came from?
Who wrote it?
Where they lived?

*"Dashing through the snow,
In a one-horse open sleigh,
O'er the fields we go,
Laughing all the way..."*

Know that one?

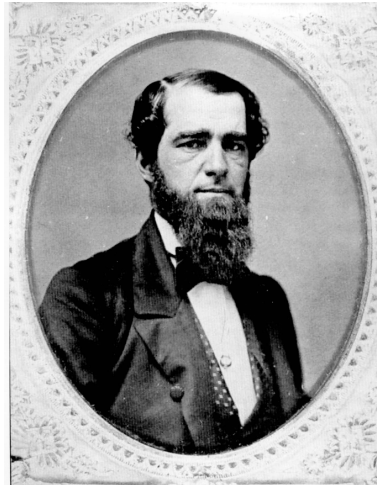
Jingle Bells was written by a man named James Lord Pierpont. He was born in Boston in 1822. His dad was a minister, Rev. John Pierpont, and his mom was Mary Lord Pierpont.

James did not want to be a minister like his father; he preferred to travel. He spent time as a sailor and also looked for gold in California. In the 1850s, he moved to Savannah, Georgia, where he was a music teacher, businessman, and organist at the Unitarian Church where his brother was minister.

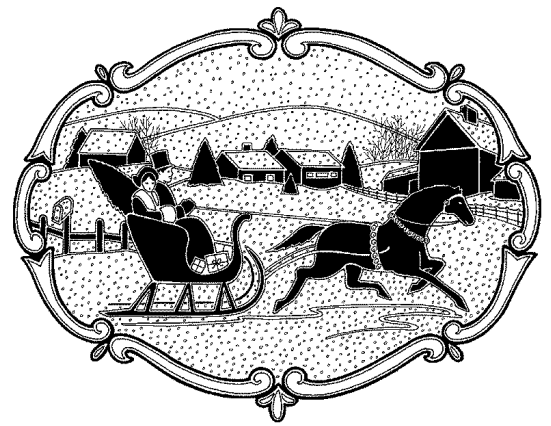
No one knows where Pierpont wrote Jingle Bells. Some people think he wrote it while living in Massachusetts. Certainly more snow there than in Georgia. The song, however, was copyrighted in 1857 while Mr. Pierpont lived in Savannah. During the Civil War Pierpont served in the Confederate Army. After the war he and his wife Eliza moved to Valdosta, where he was an organist and music teacher for many years. In 1871, the Pierponts moved to Quitman where Mr. Pierpont gave music lessons and played the organ at the Presbyterian Church.

In 1886, James and Eliza moved to Winter Haven, Florida, where Eliza died in 1889, and James, in 1893. They are both buried in the Purse-Pierpont plot in Savannah's Laurel Grove Cemetery.

Next time you hear Jingle Bells,
just remember, the man who wrote it lived in Valdosta
for a while!



James Lord Pierpont



James Lord Pierpont The Man Who Wrote Jingle Bells

J.P. **Jingle, Bells** J. PIERPONT
Arr. by Walter Goodell

Lively

1. - Dash-ing through the snow In a one-horse o - pen sleigh, As
2. A day or two a - go I thought I'd take a - ride, And
3. - Now the ground is white, Go it while you're young, -

o'er the fields we go, A laugh-ing all the way; - The bells on bob-tail ring, They're
soon Miss Fan-nie Bright Was seat-ed by my side; - The horse was lean and lank, Mis -
Take the girls to-night, And sing this sleigh-ing song; Just get a bob-tailed nag, Two -

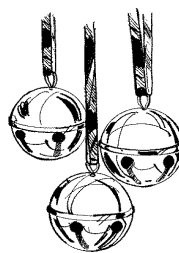
mak-ing spir-its bright What fun it is to ride and sing A sleigh-ing song to-night!
for-tune seem'd his lot, He got in-to a drift-ed bank, And we, we got up-sot.
for - ty for his speed, Then hitch him to an o - pen sleigh, And crack! you'll take the lead.

CHORUS

Jin-gle bells! jin-gle bells! Jin-gle all the way! Oh, what fun it
Jin - gle, jin - gle the way

is to ride In a one-horse o - pen sleigh! - one-horse o - pen sleigh!

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For more about history ask your
parents if you may visit our museum.
The Kids Page is made possible
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Fund

Does your family have special holiday traditions? Do you always have turkey and stuffing on Thanksgiving? Do you bake cookies on Christmas Eve? Do you light the candles on the Menorah to celebrate Hanukah? Traditions are about family, but they are also about history. People often continue traditions started by early ancestors or established in their religion. New traditions begin in families and are added to past traditions—these make our holidays special.



Did you know that the first Christmas in North America was celebrated by Hernando de Soto and his men at the town of Apalachee. This was an Indian town where Tallahassee, Florida is located today. Imagine what it must have been like to be thousands of miles from home, in a strange land, with people who had different beliefs. The explorers kept their traditions and celebrated their holiday in a new land.

Our country is made up of people from many different lands with many different traditions and beliefs. No matter where people go and how their lives change over time, if they build on traditions they will always be home for the holidays.

WORD FIND - Are you up to the challenge?

M	I	B	E	T	I	A	T	R	A	D	I	T	M	L	A
A	R	M	P	H	M	A	H	I	F	Y	S	L	A	P	P
C	H	R	I	S	T	M	A	S	A	E	S	A	C	I	A
A	P	G	E	L	S	I	N	O	Y	K	Y	K	E	N	L
N	I	N	R	O	O	B	K	L	O	R	A	C	H	A	A
K	P	O	P	O	L	E	S	A	M	U	D	I	A	L	C
L	M	L	O	H	T	L	G	H	T	T	I	A	K	L	H
I	E	I	N	N	H	I	I	S	O	N	L	R	U	I	E
G	N	A	T	S	A	E	V	H	I	R	O	K	N	K	E
B	O	S	T	O	N	F	I	R	O	E	H	I	A	L	E
A	R	T	E	R	N	S	N	U	M	A	Y	A	H	R	S
C	A	R	W	E	A	M	G	S	E	T	W	G	L	X	O
O	H	A	O	T	V	T	R	A	D	I	T	I	O	N	S
L	E	V	N	L	A	A	E	T	U	T	I	T	S	N	I
R	W	I	S	K	S	L	L	E	B	E	L	G	N	I	J

Find the following words. They are written forward, backward and upside-down.

CHRISTMAS
THANKSGIVING
CAROL

SNOW
JINGLE BELLS
PIERPONT

SAVANNAH
BOSTON
TURKEY

HANUKAH
MENORAH
APALACHEE

TRADITIONS
BELIEFS
HOLIDAYS