



About John Adams,

John Adams is a local historian, author and heritage consultant well known for his historical walking tours around Victoria.

His books include *Old Square-toes and his Lady: the Life of James and Amelia Douglas*, *Historic Guide to Ross Bay Cemetery*, *Ghosts and Legends of Bastion Square*, *Christmas in Old Victoria*, *The Ker Family of Victoria, 1859–1976: Pioneer Industrialists in Western Canada* and *Chinese Victoria*.

About :

Christmas was observed as a religious event during the early days of Fort Victoria, but by the time the Fraser River Gold Rush began in 1858 it had started to take on a more secular appearance. Find out how Christmas was observed in Victoria during the 19th century, from the annual decoration of the churches to the competition between butcher shops for the fanciest store window displays. In this illustrated talk, John Adams will draw upon the reminiscences of Emily Carr, Dr. John S. Helmcken and many other residents of the city who vividly describe their Christmas traditions and memories. If you think that the commercialization of Christmas is a recent phenomenon, you will be amazed to discover it was happening here back in the 1880s.

NOTE: The information and the picture on this page were taken verbatim from UVic's Continuing Studies website to expedite the sending of the Christmas Lunch invitation to the membership.

Since putting this invitation on Eventbrite, John has advised that, in addition to speaking about the above, he " will recount what was served at Christmas dinner during the days of Fort Victoria, a very different menu from what the University Club will be providing in the lunch buffet for UVRA on December 14."