

## Ellwood 19th Century Christmas



Photos by Dan McFarland

The Friends of Wilderness Battlefield hosted "A 19th Century Christmas" at Ellwood Manor Saturday, Dec 17 with a full array of yuletide activities for young and old. Santa (in appropriate Victorian attire) was available to chat with kids, while youngsters waiting their turn were able to try their hand at creating special crafts or learning about period toys and games. For the adults, FoWB volunteers were on hand to discuss and explain Ellwood's history, share stories of a mid-19th century Christmas, and read Civil-War era Christmas letters between soldiers and their families. Carolyn Elstner, Ellwood Restoration Chair for the FoWB, expressed her thanks to the Fawn Lake Garden Club for decorating the historic home, and to John Tole, who provided the Christmas tree from his tree farm in Woodville. Pictured, top to bottom, sisters Amara, 7, left, and Alexa, 4, Roland enjoy their chat with Santa. A steady stream of visitors, young and old, enjoy Ellwood's "19th Century Christmas" celebration. Below right, Santa Claus waits for visitors next to an Ellwood fireplace. Below left, John Tole, of Evergreen Shade, adds Christmas music to the Ellwood experience. Bottom, Margaret Heelen, 11, tries her hand at penmanship with a quill pen.

