

## Tales of Christmas Past School Program

### Post Visit Activities

#### The Prouty Family and Christmas

Based on what students learned at the museum and from Mrs. Prouty's diary entries, discuss the following:

1. Considering what the Prouty house looks like and what you learned about the family, do you think the Proutys were rich? Did Mrs. Prouty think her family was rich?
2. How was the Prouty family's celebration like your family's celebration? How was it different?
3. How was the Prouty family's celebration in 1890 different from their celebration in 1861? How was it the same?

After reading and discussing Mrs. Prouty's diary entries, have students do one of the following:

- write diary entries for Milly, Phinny, or Granty imagining what they thought about Christmas and how they felt about their gifts or
- write a letter to Santa from Phinny or Milly
- write about what Christmas may have been like for the Prouty's servants, who included a cook, a maid and a gardener/hired hand
- draw a picture of the Prouty family in their parlor on Christmas day and a picture of the servants on Christmas day, doing what you think they might be doing
- using the newspaper ads, make a shopping list for Mrs. Prouty's trip to shop for Millie and Allie in 1862, then make a list for her trip to shop for Phinny and Granty in 1890