It is customary to have pork on New Year’s Day. The superstition is that it will bring you good luck all year long.

Mary Tobak was a little girl living in Cleveland in 1923 when her father purchased a suckling pig from a farmer a few days before New Year’s Day. Of course, the pig had to be killed so it could be prepared for the New Year’s day meal.

But to kill the pig, someone had to CATCH the pig! Down in the basement the chase was on – and for awhile the pig was winning. Mary’s father thought he had a firm grasp on the suckling, but somehow it got away from him and began running around the furnace which was in the middle of the basement. Eventually the poor pig collapsed from exhaustion.

Little Mary sat on the basement steps and cried for the poor little suckling pig. It was a long time before she could sit down at the supper table and enjoy a roast pork dinner again!

*May your Holidays be Happy and whatever you eat on New Year’s day bring you luck and health in the New Year.*

This story is based on a letter to the author from Mary Tobak Toth (January 18, 1994). The incident took place at 9316 Manor Ave; Cleveland, Ohio around 1923.
The New Year’s Dinner is from EVE’s storytelling program STORIES FROM A CHRISTMAS PAST. Other stories of the season are available in its companion book with the same name. (For more information visit our us at http://edenvalleyenterprises.org/bookschr.html )

Eden Valley Enterprises is dedicated to providing unique educational experiences. Our philosophy is that learning and doing are fun and our basic tool is theatre. While we specialize in living history programs, storytelling, and musical trips back in time, we are equally adept at other kinds of programs.

From CANAL SONGS AND STORIES, a fun and informative program that features music and stories from the Ohio-Erie Canal, to DOCTOR PUTNAM’S MIRACLE MIXTURE, a vivid, high-spirited living history program, Eden Valley gives your audiences drama that brims with energy, humor, and fantasy and features a magical cast of characters.

Eden Valley has a wide assortment of existing programs available for presentation and if these programs don’t meet your needs, we’d be happy to put together one especially for you! If you would like to arrange a performance for your group or would like more information about any of Eden Valley services, programs and publications, for complete information visit our website at www.edenvalleyenterprises.org .