



Jacob Vigue, Grade 4/5, Whitefield, ME

Journal Entry

On December 24, 1850, a cold and snowy day, I visited with Henry Wadsworth Longfellow at his home. I wore my best pair of flannel pants and a dress shirt. I put on my bear skin boots to keep my feet warm and my beaver fur coat.

Mr. Longfellow invited me in to his living room where other people were sitting and visiting. The house was decorated with big wreathes that had pretty red bows. There were long pieces of green garland hanging everywhere.

Mr. Longfellow took me into his kitchen. I smelled the sweet onions the cook was frying. Mr. Longfellow asked me to stay for dinner and I accepted. We ate venison with onions, sweet potatoes, and gravy. The servants fed us warm apple pie for dessert - it was delicious!

After we finished our meal we chatted for a while. Then I went upstairs to see Anne Longfellow's bedroom. Zilpah was in her room trying to get warm. She is Anne's mother and she is an old lady. The next room I visited was Young Hen's room. He had an old leather rocking horse. I wanted to ride it but he said no. Before I left, I looked up in the hallway and saw two black leather buckets. Everyone would gather and put water in their buckets. They made a chin and threw water on the fire.

I thanked Mr. Longfellow for being so friendly and kind to me. I left his house with a full belly knowing I had a long, cold walk ahead! This is an evening I will always remember.



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Responding to Longfellow is a partnership of the Maine Historical Society; Maine's Poet Laureate; and the Stonecoast MFA Program at the University of Southern Maine. For more information, please visit www.hwlongfellow.org

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