



Robert Gorrill, 5th Grade, Whitefield, ME

December 24, 1850

Dear Journal,

It was Christmas Eve and I was walking to the Longfellow House to celebrate and eat. I walked up to the door and knocked. Anne Longfellow opened the door and told me to come in. I walked inside their beautiful house, which was decorated with ivy, nuts, and mistletoe. Anne showed me around the house. I thought that the rooms were pretty small. She showed me how to cook in the kitchen and asked me if I wanted to help make the turkey. "Sure!!" I replied.

I wish I could have met Henry, the poet, and have him tell me all his poems. He could have told me about his life and what he has been through.

After a long time of thinking about Henry, I got up and entered the kitchen where Ann was waiting for me. I did a lot of the stuff such as setting the table, bringing out the potatoes, and I even got to bring out the turkey. After eating a long meal, we all sat by the fire and chatted and played dominoes and other games for a very long time.

While I was there I had to use the privy. It was outside near the garden where Anne grew vegetables, herbs, and flowers in the summertime.

Finally I decided to go back to my house and go to sleep. So I said goodbye and walked to my house and took off my jacket and jumped into my bed. I said to myself, "What a Christmas Eve!"



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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](http://www.hwlongfellow.org)

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