

***Christmas Bells* by Jennifer Chiaverini**

Try some historical fiction for the holidays, and trace the roots of a Christmas carol, "Christmas Bells." Perhaps, like me, you have overlooked that Henry Wadsworth Longfellow wrote the words to this classic. The line, "There is no peace on Earth, I said," has always seemed all too apt for modern times. But it came out of the Longfellow family's experiences during the conflict that ripped apart the nation during Christmas of 1863. The carol is even more meaningful to me now, having glimpsed the turmoil that produced it. Chiaverini brings history to life – I recommend this book.