

Three Centuries of New England Garden History
November 2022

Dear Class Members:

Welcome to our time together to explore historic gardening in New England in all its aspects. My perspective is that of an educator and a museum professional who sees landscapes & gardens as cultural artifacts reflecting our needs, desires, beliefs and values as they change over time. We will look at distinguishing characteristics of colonial landscapes to early 20th century designs so that you will be better able to judge the authenticity of historic landscapes, whether re-creations or restorations, and read more thoughtfully about their development. Whether particular plants or horticultural techniques, my desire is to educate the consumer about landscape/garden history.

We will look at Native American & Colonial landscapes in PDF:
William Cronon's, Changes in the Land: Indians, Colonists & the Ecology of New England, (NY, 1983) Read Chap. 2

To further your learning here are two other books I would recommend but you don't have to buy them. These are strictly for your enrichment.

If you want a good, detailed overview of New England garden history, buy Alan Emmet, So Fine A Prospect, Historic New England Gardens, (University Press of New England, 1996). It is out of print but very good to use over & over again. I will refer to sites and interpretations from this work. My interpretation will not always agree with her's. For particular historic sites in Maine, see Theresa Mattor & Lucie Teegarden, Designing the Maine Landscape, (Down East Books, 2009).

Best regards & hope to meet you soon,
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