

Writerly (Greater) Brunswick: How Words and Place Have Shaped Each Other

Course Leader: Larissa Picard

The “Pejepscot” region has produced an array of wordsmiths; some marquee-famous, others known in smaller circles, even those whose words were simply recorded by others. This 6-week course includes voices from pre-European times to the present day, looking at several people whose words extracted meaning from, and made meaning of, this place. A variety of readings including short stories, essays, and poetry are included. Each session includes a short introduction with context provided for the era and the writer(s) in question, but the emphasis is on facilitated discussion.

April 7: Early Recorders of The Local Story

- [Pere Pol \(Abenaki\), naming the Androscoggin](#), 1793 (or PDF1)

<https://www.mainememory.net/record/6242/image/62>

- [King’s Pine Journal](#), 1768 (or PDF2)

<https://www.mainememory.net/record/9568/image/9568>

- *Memoir of Capt. John Rogers*, ca. 1795 (PDF3)
- “Some Vague Reminiscences of Olden Times in Brunswick,” Mary Ann Kendrick (PDF4)

April 14: A Who’s Who of Brunswick

- Bowdoin, Class of 1825: Longfellow and Hawthorne
 - [“A Psalm of Life”](#) Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/44644/a-psalm-of-life>

- [“The Hollow of the Three Hills”](#) Nathaniel Hawthorne

<https://americanliterature.com/author/nathaniel-hawthorne/short-story/the-hollow-of-the-three-hills>

- *Brunswick: An Historical Play*, 1913, Frank N. Whittier & Albert W. Tolman (PDF5)

April 21: Reckoning with a Not-so-civil Society

- [“The Two Altars”](#) Harriet Beecher Stowe (or PDF6)

<https://americanliterature.com/author/harriet-beecher-stowe/short-story/the-two-altars-or-two-pictures-in-one>

- “Narrative of Phebe Ann Jacobs,” Phebe Upham (PDF7)
- Excerpt from *Facts About Brunswick*, John Furbish (PDF8)
- “Loyalty,” February 22, 1866 speech, collected in *Military essays and recollections of the Pennsylvania Commandery, Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States*, Joshua Chamberlain (PDF9)

April 28: Putting Maine (Food) on the Map

- [“Night of Lobster,”](#) and [“Shore Dinner,”](#) originally published in *Gourmet Magazine*, Robert P. T. Tristram Coffin

<http://www.gourmet.com.s3-website-us-east-1.amazonaws.com/magazine/1940s/1946/09/nightoflobster.html>

<http://www.gourmet.com.s3-website-us-east-1.amazonaws.com/magazine/1950s/1951/08/shoredinner.html>

- “Foreword” to *Cooking Down East* and “Keep Cooking—the Maine Way,” Marjorie Standish (PDF10)

May 5: Contemporary Scene I: Nonfiction

- [“The Clearing”](#) and [“The Bright Idea of Stewardship”](#), Jane Brox

<https://www.littletoller.co.uk/the-clearing/hiraeth-and-hwyl-the-home-path-by-jane-brox/>

https://www.phikappaphiforum-digital.org/phikappaphiforum/spring_2024/MobilePagedArticle.action?articleId=1963662#articleId1963662

- [“My Mother’s Burning Body”](#), Jaed Coffin

<https://www.thesunmagazine.org/articles/27440-my-mother-s-burning-body>

May 12: Contemporary Scene II: Poets and A Very Famous Prose Writer

- Poem: [“Some Clear Night,”](#) Gary Lawless

<https://www.maine.gov/msl/poetry/displaypoet.shtml?id=658505>

- Poem: [“The Abandoned Orchards of Maine”](#), Pam Smith

<https://www.mainepublic.org/show/poems-from-here-with-maine-poet-laureate-stuart-kestenbaum/2019-09-06/the-abandoned-orchards-of-maine>

- Poem: [“Root Cellar,”](#) Helene McGlaughlin

<https://www.pressherald.com/2023/02/19/deep-water-root-cellar-by-helene-mcglaulin/>

- [“If I ever return to a small town, I want you to kill me,”](#) Elizabeth Strout

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2017/jun/09/elizabeth-strout-divide-two-places-point-of-view>