

History 2129 / ENVS 2449
Fall 2021, Oct. 21/22 to Nov. 12
Bowdoin Marine Science Semester
Schiller Coastal Studies Center

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A HISTORY OF HARPSWELL AND THE COAST OF MAINE

This intermediate-level course examines the long history of Harpswell as part of the coast of Maine, and the research methodologies used to uncover and analyze that history from environmental, community, socio-economic, political, racial and ethnic, and cultural perspectives. Topics include bonds and tensions in a peninsula and islands community, coastal agriculture and stone walls, inshore and deep-sea fisheries, shipbuilding and shipping, poverty and living on the margin, and the rise of tourism.

Course requirements: The seminar consists of a preview class and thirteen class days; students are expected to attend all class meetings. On most days, we will meet at the Schiller Coastal Studies Center on Orrs Island at 9:00 a.m. for a discussion and occasional lecture class meeting in the morning. All assigned readings for each class should be completed by that class meeting. Students are expected to arrive prepared to participate in a discussion and analysis of the assigned readings [50% of final grade]. The *History 2129 / ENVS 2449 Reading Guide* (use the link on Blackboard) provides questions to help you focus your reading for the class discussions as well as electronic links to the assigned articles, either through e-reserve or an online Library database. If you miss a class, you are expected to write an informal (ungraded) but thoughtful evaluation (2-3 pages) of the assigned readings for that class. The afternoon portion of the class may include, both at the CSC and beyond: a walking tour around the Wyer farm; trips to local libraries, archives and museums; discussions about research projects, methodologies, and source databases; individual meetings and independent work.

During the Oct. 21-Nov.13 module, students will design a research project that focuses on an aspect of the history of Harpswell and/or the coast of Maine, posing a historical question or problem about that aspect, and proposing a hypothesis to answer or resolve the question or problem. Students will locate both primary and secondary sources that address the subject and begin to analyze those sources. Short, informal writing assignments during the semester will focus on aspects of the research and early writing process: articulating the question or problem and finding and beginning to analyze sources [10% of final grade]. The course will culminate with a detailed research project prospectus which will include an introduction and a hypothesis or thesis statement, a section on sources and methodology, and a preliminary discussion and analysis of the sources. The prospectus should represent a substantial first stage in a process that might culminate, during another semester, in an independent study project and final paper. At the end of the course, students will present a work-in-progress report to the class. The final prospectus will be due Friday, Nov. 12, at midnight [40% of final grade].

All students are expected to read, understand, and abide by The Bowdoin College Academic Honor Code and by the rules of citation described on the Academic Honesty and Plagiarism site at <https://www.bowdoin.edu/dean-of-students/judicial-board/academic-honesty-and-plagiarism/index.html>.

Required text: Richard Wescott, *A History of Harpswell, Maine* (Harpswell Historical Society, 2010)

Links to the *History 2129/EnvS 2449 Reading Guide*, Electronic Reserve Reading Links, and other online resources can be found through *Blackboard* and/or at <https://tildesites.bowdoin.edu/~smcmahon/courses/hist2129/index.html>.

WEEK 1

10/21/2 THINKING HISTORICALLY AND THINKING ABOUT MAINE (83 pages)

Robert Blackey, et al., Teaching Innovations Forum: "Thinking Historically in the Classroom," *AHA Perspectives* 33.7 (October 1995). (link to summary notes)

Alan Taylor, "Center and Peripheries: Locating Maine's History," *Maine History* 39:1 (Spring 2000), 3-16. (e-reserve)

Edwin H. Churchill, "Evolution of Maine Place Names," *Maine Historical Society Quarterly* 29:2 (1989), 66-90. (e-reserve)

document: W.H. Doughty, *Orr's Island Souvenir: Historical Sketch of Orr's Island, with Landscape Descriptions* (1899). (HL SCA link)

Doing history: the story of Lewis Hanson's horses:

"Reminiscences of Mrs. William H. (Irma) Thalheimer," 1988 (link)

W.H. Doughty, *Orr's Island Souvenir*, "Orr's Island in Winter," 50-51.

Short writing assignment due Fri. Oct. 22: research topics that interest/intrigue you

WEEK 2

10/25 THINKING ENVIRONMENTALLY AND THINKING ABOUT MAINE (104 pages)

Two readings from Char Miller and Hal Rothman, eds., *Out of the Woods: Essays in Environmental History* (1997). (e-reserve: Introduction; Part I, Ideas Matter), endnotes (link):

Donald Worster, "The Ecology of Order and Chaos" (1989), 3-17.

William Cronon, "The Trouble with Wilderness: Or, Getting Back to the Wrong Nature" (1994) 28-50.

Roger Howell, "Introduction," in Roger Howell, ed., *Maine in the Age of Discovery: Christopher Levett's Voyage, 1623-24* (Maine Historical Society, 1988), 7-31. (e-reserve)

document: Christopher Levett, "A Voyage to New England, begun in 1623 and ended in 1624" in Roger Howell, ed., *Maine in the Age of Discovery: Christopher Levett's Voyage, 1623-24* (Maine Historical Society, 1988), 33-68. (e-reserve)

Guidelines for writing a research paper prospectus in History (link)

Doing history: building stone walls:

"Reminiscences of Mrs. William H. (Irma) Thalheimer," 1988 (link)

Coastal Survey of Casco Bay, 1870 (north end of Orr's Island); Coastal Survey preliminary sketch (Wyer Farm 1865); Stone walls 1865 survey and 2018 Google Earth Pro (4 links)

Afternoon: Individual meetings about potential research projects (at the farmhouse or marine lab)

Colonial and Early National Eras

10/26 THE COAST OF MAINE: NATIVE AMERICANS AND EARLY ENGLISH SETTLEMENTS (92 pages)

Emerson Baker, "Finding the Almouchiquois: Native American Families, Territories, and Land Sales in Southern Maine," *Ethnohistory* 51.1 (2004), 73-100. (ProQuest)

E.A. Churchill, "A Most Ordinary Lot of Men: The Fishermen at Richmond Island, Maine, in the Early Seventeenth Century," *New England Quarterly* 57 (1984), 184-204. (JSTOR)

Alaric Faulkner, "Archaeology of the Cod Fishery: Damariscove Island," *Historical Archaeology* 19.2 (1985), 57-86. (JSTOR)

Richard Wescott, *A History of Harpswell, Maine* (2010), skim Foreword, Preface, Introduction, vii-xii; read Ch.1, "The Environment and the Native Americans," Ch.2, "Exploration and Early Settlement," 2-16.

Doing history: building the new farmhouse, the barn addition, and hard work on the farm:

Brunswick Record, Jan. 16, 1964, "Active Islander to have 100th Birthday this Week (link)

"Reminiscences of Mrs. William H. (Irma) Thalheimer," 1988. (link) *continued next page*

Lewis Hanson's real estate valuations: 1900, 1901, 1907, 1908, 1909, 1910 (link)
Coastal Surveys of Casco Bay, 1865, 1870, North end of Orr's Island (links)

Afternoon: Individual meetings about potential research projects

10/27 THE SETTLEMENT, UNSETTLEMENT, AND RESETTLEMENT OF HARPSWELL AND THE MAINE COAST (86 pages)

Christopher Bilodeau, "Creating an Indian Enemy in the Borderlands: King Philip's War in Maine, 1675-1678," *Maine History* 47.1, (2013), 11-41. (e-reserve)

Mary Beth Norton, "George Burroughs and the Girls from Casco: The Maine Roots of Salem Witchcraft," *Maine History* 40:4 (Winter 2001-2002), 259-277. (e-reserve)

Wescott, *History of Harpswell*, Ch.3, "Johnson Harmon: an Early Settler," Ch.4, "Beginning of the Settlement of Harpswell," Ch.5, "The Separation of Harpswell from North Yarmouth," 17-53.

Lunch at Bowdoin. *Library tour* with Barbara Levergood, Reference Librarian, and Marieke Van Der Steenhoven, Special Collections Education and Outreach Librarian, 1:15-3:30. We will meet at 1:15 pm at Bookhenge, HL Library

The Nineteenth Century

10/28 RURAL LIFE IN EARLY NINETEENTH CENTURY MAINE (68 pages)

David Smith, "Maine's Changing Landscape to 1820," in Charles E. Clark et al., *Maine in the Early Republic: From Revolution to Statehood* (1988), 13-25. (e-reserve)

Jamie H. Eves, "'The Valley White with Mist': A Cape Cod Colony in Maine, 1770-1820," *Maine Historical Society Quarterly* 32:2 (1992), 74-107. (e-reserve)

Wescott, *History of Harpswell*, Ch.9, "Farming, Fishing, and Shipbuilding, 1730-1820," 86-106.

Exploring databases: America's Historical Newspapers; Ancestry Library

Short writing assignment due Fri. Oct.29: present your preliminary ideas about your research question or problem. What kinds of sources, both primary and secondary, might help you explore the subject, and answer, clarify, and/or explain the question/problem?

WEEK 3

11/1 FISHERMEN, SAILORS AND DEEP SEA FISHERIES (116 pages)

Wayne M. O'Leary, Ch.1, "The Rise of the Maine Sea Fisheries"; Ch.3, "The Industry at High Tide: The Fisheries"; Ch.9, "Changing Markets in a Changing World," in *Maine Sea Fisheries: The Rise and Fall of a Native Industry, 1830-1890* (1996), 5-39; 80-111; 252-292; endnotes: 299-303, 306-309; 328-333; appendices: 344-363. (e-reserve)

Wescott, *History of Harpswell*, Ch.17, "Commercial Fishing, 1820-1995," 187-204.

Afternoon: Individual meetings

11/2 FARMING ON THE MAINE COAST (63 pages)

William N. Locke, "Research Note: The Rise and Demise of the Cattle Pound, Harpswell and Maine" *Maine Historical Society Quarterly* 33:3-4 (1993-4), 210-221. (e-reserve)

David C. Smith, Victor Konrad, et.al. "Salt Marshes as a Factor in the Agriculture of Northeastern North America," *Agricultural History* 63 (1989), 270-294. (e-reserve)

Thomas Hubka, "Farm Family Mutuality: The Mid-Nineteenth-Century Maine Farm Neighborhood," *The Farm* (Dublin Seminar for New England Folklife, 1988), 13-23. (e-reserve).

Wescott, *History of Harpswell*, Ch.13, "The Second Century of Farming, 1820-1920," 137-147, Ch.19, "The Decline of Farming, 1920-1950," 208-211.

- 11/3 COASTAL AND ISLAND ECONOMIES: INSHORE FISHERIES (61 pages)
 Charles A. Scontras, "Maine Lobstermen and the Labor Movement: The Lobster Fishermen's International Protective Association, 1907," *Maine Historical Society Quarterly* 29:1 (1989), 30-51. (e-reserve)
 Edward M. Holmes, "Vinalhaven Lobstermen's Cooperative, 1938," *Maine Historical Society Quarterly* 29:1 (1989), 52-57. (e-reserve)
 Nancy Payne Alexander, "'Taking up the Slack': Penobscot Bay Women and the Netting Industry," *Maine History* 45.3 (2010), 259-280. (e-reserve)
 Wescott, *History of Harpswell*, review Ch.17, "Commercial Fishing, 1820-1995," 194-199.
 film: *Maine Independents: Our Fishing Heritage*, PBS (1999).

Afternoon: Individual meetings

- 11/4 SHIPBUILDING AND SEAFARING COMMUNITIES (68 pages)
 Erminie S. Reynolds and Kenneth R. Martin, Ch.4, "Launched in Gallant Style"; Ch 5, "Business is at a Perfect Standstill," in "'A Singleness of Purpose': The Skolfields and their Ships" (1987), 39-86. (e-reserve)
 Lisa Norling, "Ahab's Wife: Women and the American Whaling Industry, 1820-1870," in Margaret S. Creighton and Lisa Norling, *Iron Men, Wooden Women: Gender and Seafaring in the Atlantic World, 1700-1920* (1996), 70-91, fn.246-253. (e-reserve)

Afternoon: trip to the Maine Maritime Museum

Short writing assignment due Fri. Nov. 5: what progress have you made in refining, clarifying, adjusting or changing your topic, question, problem? What sources have you found and what do they show? Where have you encountered or hit stumbling blocks?

WEEK 4

- 11/8 RACE, CLASS AND COMMUNITY: THE MAINE COAST, CUNDY'S HARBOR, MALAGA ISLAND (65 pages)
 Randy Stakeman, "The Black Population of Maine, 1764-1900," *New England Journal of Black Studies* no. 8 (1989), 17-35. (e-reserve)
 Carl Patrick Burrowes, "A Child of the Atlantic: The Maine Years of John Brown Russwurm," *Maine History* 47.2 (2013), 163-189. (e-reserve)
 William D. Barry, "The Shameful Story of Malaga Island," *Down East Magazine*, XXVII:4 (November 1980), 53-56, 83-86. (e-reserve)
document: Holman Day, "The Queer Folk of the Maine Coast," *Harper's Monthly Magazine* CXIX.712 (September 1909), 521-530. (e-reserve)
document: Lauris Percy, "Strange Scenes on a Strange Island," *Casco Bay Breeze*, Aug. 24, 1905
 film: *Anchor of the Soul* 60 Minutes (1994).

Afternoon: Individual meetings as needed

Late 19th and early 20th century

- 11/9 COASTAL TOURISM AND SUMMER PEOPLE (74 pages)
 Dona Brown, Ch. 6, "The Problem of the Summer: Race, Class and the Colonial Vacation in Southern Maine, 1890-1910," in *Inventing New England: Regional Tourism in the Nineteenth Century* (1995), 169-199, 241-244. (e-reserve).
 Wescott, *History of Harpswell*, Ch.14, "The Summer Trade, 1820-1920," 148-160. *continued next page*

document: Edwin Lawrence Godkin, "The Evolution of the Summer Resort" (1882-89), in *Reflections and Comments, 1865-1895* (1895), 295-308. (e-reserve)

document: Samuel Adams Drake, Ch. XXII, "In and Out of Bar Harbor," in Drake, *The Pine-Tree Coast* (1891), 304-319. (e-reserve)

Afternoon: Individual meetings as needed

11/10 FISHERMEN, SPORTSMEN AND CONSERVATION (53 pages)

Richard R. Wescott, "Early Conservation Programs and the Development of the Vacation Industry in Maine, 1865-1900," *Maine Historical Society Quarterly* 27.1 (1987), 2-13. (e-reserve)

Richard W. Judd, "Reshaping Maine's Landscape: Rural Culture, Tourism, and Conservation, 1890-1929," *Journal of Forest History* 32 (1988), 180-190. (e-reserve)

Richard W. Judd, "Saving the Fisherman as Well as the Fish: Conservation and Commercial Rivalry in Maine's Lobster Industry, 1872-1933," *Business History Review* 62 (Winter 1988), 596-625. (e-reserve)

Afternoon: Individual meetings as needed

11/11 Work-in-Progress presentations

11/12 Research Paper Prospectuses due Friday Nov. 12, midnight