

Maine Literary Legacies

A new program for high school students presented by Historic New England and Maine Historical Society



Explore America's historic and literary traditions through the works and lives of two of Maine's most beloved literary figures, Sarah Orne Jewett and Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.

Jewett and Longfellow were extraordinarily popular writers in the nineteenth century. Both lived during a century of intense economic, demographic, and technological change. They wrote evocatively of what they feared might be a "disappearing" landscape, and this subject was a large part of their appeal during their lives and the legacy they've left to future generations.

What should we make of these writers today? Have they too disappeared along with the changing landscape they so vividly described? Can their words and the preserved spaces they left behind help us discover the past and illuminate the present?

During this program, students meet with museum educators from both Historic New England and Maine Historical Society to discuss the work, lives, and times of Sarah Orne Jewett and Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. Educators from these organizations can visit your classroom or offer programming at their museums. Field trips allow students to immerse themselves in the physical space and material culture that shaped Longfellow and Jewett, and are encouraged.

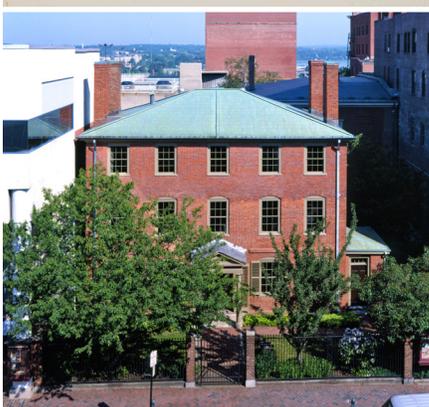
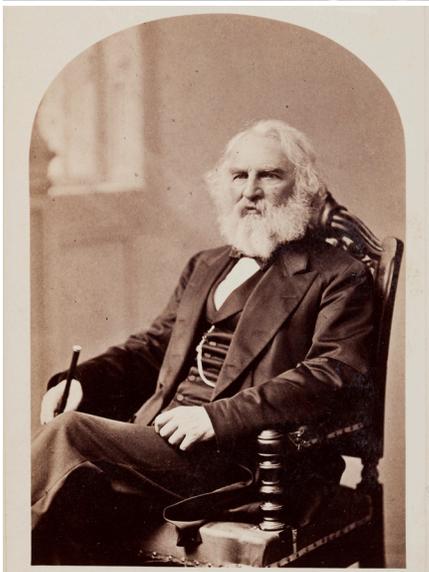
Following these two visits, students are invited to write either a creative or an expository piece reflecting on the legacies of Jewett and Longfellow.

This program aligns with Common Core standards and is designed to provide opportunities for students to:

- Gain literary and cultural knowledge through the exploration of foundational nineteenth-century works of American literature and material culture
- Become proficient readers of complex literary and informational texts
- Analyze the viewpoint and cultural experience of authors
- Examine how texts from the same period treat similar themes and topics

For more information or to schedule a program, please contact Historic New England's Maine Education Coordinator Jessica Graham at 207-384-2454 ext. 2 or MaineEd@HistoricNewEngland.org.

Top three photographs courtesy of Historic New England. Bottom photograph courtesy of Collections of the Maine Historical Society




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