

American Studies 335
New England
Roger Williams University
CAS 228
M, W, & F 11:00-12:00
Fall Semester, 2008

Michael R. H. Swanson, Ph. D.
Office: CAS 110
Hours: M, F, 9:00-10:00
T, Th 11:00-12:30 or by appointment
Phone: 254 3230
E-mail: amst335@gmail.com

Week of October 14, 2008

Monday having been hijacked by Vikings celebrating Lief Ericson's Day, we're holding class Tuesday instead. Columbus day was on Sunday, so if you missed it, and you're Italian, a belated Happy Christopher Columbus Day to you.

For ***Tuesday, October 14***

Read, in *The New England Village*,

Chapter 4. *Villages in the Federal Period*, pp. 88 - 113

Notes on the Readings

In many ways Chapter 4 is the core of Wood's book. Here we learn that the village forms we traditionally have associated with colonial New England are actually products of the early 19th century. There are some terms you'll need to understand here:

- elaboration
- Central-Place Theory (note that not all towns or villages are central places)
- Town Division as a Process (when and with what results)
- Center Villages (and the economic changes which led to their creation)
- Turnpikes (and the influence of transportation patterns on town growth or decline)

Give some time to studying the figures showing town development (figures 4.3, 4.4, 4.5, 4.8, 4.10, and 4.11) See if you can form a hypothesis about the different patterns of town development you see in each place.

For *Wednesday, October 15*

Illustrations of these villages played a prominent part in Wood's Chapter 4:

- Ware, MA (1837)
- Wickford, RI (c. 1780)
- Francestown, NH (1780, 1800, 1820)
- Pittsfield, MA (1780, 1800)
- Dedham, MA (1762, 1795, 1817)
- Meriden, CT (1780, 1806, and 1835)
- Walpole, NH (1780, 1810)
- Norwich, VT (1778 , 1820)
- Shirley Centre and South Village (1883)

So it is **Treasure Hunt Time** again. I'd like each of you to find one or more illustrations, contemporary, or historical, from **ONE** of the towns listed above and post it with a brief description to your journal. Don't repeat the "finds" of others in the class, which means taking a quick look to see what's been posted before you hunt, yourself. First come, first served, and happy hunting.

For *Friday, October 17*

Read, in *The New England Village*,
Chapter 5, "*The Village as a Vernacular Form*", 114-134

Download and Read,

[*Identification of Historic Landscapes*](#) by the National Park Service

Notes on the Readings:

Regarding Chapter 5, it is important to understand the concept "vernacular" To help you with this, I've asked you to read the The National Park Service bulletin above.

Spend time looking at the woodcuts and period illustrations in this chapter, not only because they are valuable sources of information, but also because they are quite charming in their own right. The dates of the illustrations are important, as they show the evolution of typical New England townscapes.