

Study Questions for HSB-41
Week of March 7, 2006

1- "It has been the lot of the unfortunate aborigines of this country, to be doubly wronged by the white man – first, driven from their native soil by the sword of the invader, and then darkly slandered by the pen of the historian." (Apess 61).

What has been the power of the pen in shaping King Philip's War? What is at stake in debates about the written account of a historical event?

2-How does William Apess use the power of the pen to create a new understandings of "civilization" and "savagery," "Christianity" and "idolatry? Can the pen be an instrument of liberation as well as an instrument of colonization?

3-What was William Apess' relationship to American society and to the landscape of New England? Was he a nineteenth-century New Englander?

4-Last week, we discussed Jane Kamensky's contention that "To ask whether [the Indians'] version is true is to ask the wrong question." How would Apess respond to Kamensky's argument? How do this week's readings about King Philip influence our understanding of last week's discussion of Thanksgiving?

5- What kind of roles do men and women play in "Metamora?" How do these roles compare to gender divisions discussed in Horace Bushnell's oration and in Chapter 1 of Laurel Ulrich's *Age of Hometown*?

6 -What does "historical ventriloquism" mean for Jill Lepore? How does it relate to the "layers of history" we have been talking about in this course?