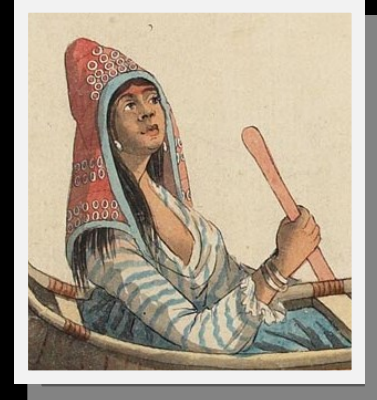


The Many Captivities of Esther Wheelwright: Communities of Women in the Northeastern Borderlands



Ann Little

Associate Professor, History
Colorado State University

Thursday

February 25 - 4:10pm

Williams Hall

Roemmele Global Commons

Esther Wheelwright is the most important person in early America you've never heard of. A woman, a Francophone, and a Catholic, she has remained marginal to an American history focused on the male, Anglophone, and Protestant victors in the conquest of North America. She rose from an obscure childhood as a little girl in New England and Wabanaki war captive to become the thrice-elected Mother Superior of the Ursuline convent in Quebec in the eighteenth century just after the British Conquest. Convents were important social institutions in early Canada, and Mother Esther led her community through the uncertain years before the Quebec Act, which for the first time guaranteed religious liberty to Catholics in a British colony.

Come hear how her border-crossing and history among the women of Massachusetts, Quebec, and among the Wabanaki gave her the education and skills she needed to succeed in the eventful years between the Seven Years War and the American Revolution.

The Humanities Center and the Gipson Institute are honored to host Ann Little as a scholar-in-residence at Lehigh University this spring, where she will be giving talks, leading discussions, and holding office hours. An Associate Professor in History at Colorado State University, Ann M. Little is the author of *Abraham in Arms: War and Gender in Colonial New England* (UPenn Press, 2007) and of *The Many Captivities of Esther Wheelwright* (Yale U Press, forthcoming 2016). In addition to her scholarly writing, Professor Little blogs about history, feminism, and academic life at *historiann.com*.

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