

Emily Lind

English, CLA, 2009

Mentor: Donald Ross, Writing
Studies

Violence and Vengeance in Early American Literature

This semester, I have been working with Dr. Donald Ross to examine literary accounts of interactions between Native Americans and Europeans in the United States in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. My research has focused specifically on motifs of violence and vengeance and the actual and perceived attitudes of both Native Americans and Europeans toward these themes. At this stage in my research, Christianity is emerging as an important theme in texts such as Joseph Ingraham's *Scarlet Feather*, L.H. Sigourney's "Legend of Oxford," and in the words of James Hall. These and other texts suggest that Christianity played an integral role in both the promotion and prevention of violence. Research on the relations between peoples who clash both culturally and physically, particularly in respect to violence and vengeance, has an important place in the contemporary academic and cultural dialogue. It is my hope that my research will contribute to an understanding of the role of violence and vengeance both in shaping early American culture and in our increasingly interconnected socio-political world.

Poster Number: Session:

