

## **Austen's *Mansfield Park*: A Vindication of the Rights of Fanny Price**

4 monthly sessions: Thursdays, Feb 27, Mar 19, Apr 23, May 21 | 6:00–8:00 p.m.

Tuition: \$200

Led by Paul Savidge, Jane Austen Society of North America and Edward G. Pettit, The Rosenbach

Fanny Price, the heroine of Jane Austen's *Mansfield Park*, may not have the dazzling Lizzie Bennet wit, or charming Emma Woodhouse schemes, but she remains one of the most compelling of Austen's female characters. Fanny is a young vulnerable woman, raised in a working-class seaside town, brought to her relations in a dazzlingly wealthy estate home, where she must navigate an intimidating societal environment. As 2020 is the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage in the United States, we'll look at Fanny Price through the lens of women's rights in the early 19<sup>th</sup> Century. Austen was acutely aware of the position women held in her society and, in a way, her books are about how women dealt with scenarios in which they had little rights and even less control over their conditions. We'll highlight our reading of *Mansfield Park* with some contemporary critical essays and women's rights works from Austen's lifetime.

Reading schedule:

Feb 27

*Mansfield Park* Volume One

Mar 19

*Mansfield* Volume Two

Apr 23

*Mansfield* Volume Three

May 21

*Mansfield Park* adaptations to be determined by the class

Supplementary readings coming soon.

### **About the instructors**

**Paul Savidge** is on the board of directors (and former Regional Coordinator) for the Jane Austen Society of North America, Eastern PA Region.



The "Rice Portrait" believed to be Jane Austen at age 13.

**Edward G. Pettit** is the Sunstein Manager of Public Programs at The Rosenbach where he has taught courses on Austen (*Northanger Abbey*, *Emma*), Mary Shelley, Charles Dickens, and many other authors and topics including Edgar Allan Poe, vampire literature, mystery and suspense fiction. When not attending Moby-Dick Marathon Readings, he can usually be found at literary-themed cocktail parties.