

to become the president of Bowdoin, and Jacobs joined the Allen

family with Marie. Jacobs was freed sometime between 1812 and 1820, when Allen assumed the presidency of Bowdoin college. Jacobs moved to Brunswick with the Allen family in 1820 and worked as a domestic servant in their household. After Marie's unexpected death in 1828, Jacobs stayed on with the Allen family for four more years before leaving in 1834 because of a rift between her and William Allen's second wife, Sarah. After leaving the Allen family Jacobs lived independently in a small cabin near campus. Phebe earned a living doing laundry and ironing for Bowdoin students. She died in 1850 at the age of 64.

I began my project by reading as much information on the life of Phebe Jacobs as I could find and taking careful notes. Although there is not a lot of information on Jacob's

U-16

Jr

during the first few weeks of my project. I also did research into the life of various people that were adjacent to the life of Phebe Jacobs and I thought could play a role in my novel. This included people like Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Nathaniel Hawthorne and Franklin Pierce who were all students at Bowdoin while Jacob's was working in the Allen family, Phoebe Upham who was the wife of a Bowdoin professor and w novels that were either

related to my subject matter or were in styles that I was hoping to draw inspiration from. I started by reading A.S. Byatt which i ra