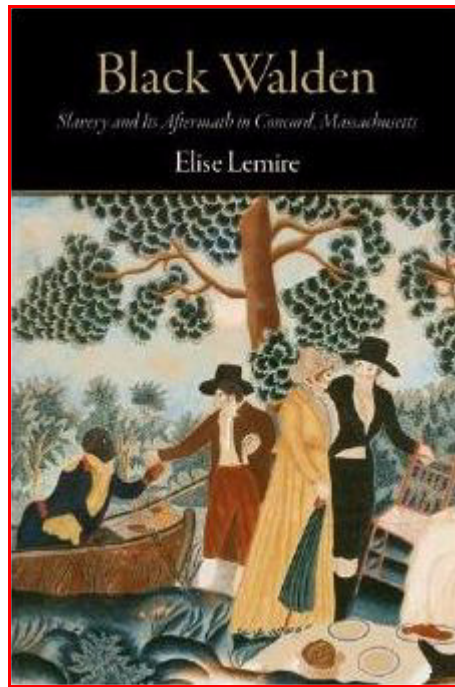


PROFESSOR ELISE LEMIRE ON

BRISTER AND FENDA FREEMAN

Professor Elise Lemire's webpage on [Brister and Fenda Freeman](#), Concord residents mentioned by Henry Thoreau in *WALDEN*, has been temporarily taken down pending publication, in early May 2009, by the press of the University of Pennsylvania, of her new *BLACK WALDEN / SLAVERY AND ITS AFTERMATH IN CONCORD, MASSACHUSETTS*.



U-PENN PRESS WEBPAGE

(Professor Lemire intends to refresh the electronic materials of this webpage when her monograph reaches the bookstores.)

WALDEN: Down the road, on the right hand, on Brister's Hill, lived Brister Freeman, "a handy Negro," slave of Squire Cummings once, -there where grow still the apple-trees which Brister planted and tended; large old trees now, but their fruit still wild and ciderish to my taste. Not long since I read his epitaph in the old Lincoln burying-ground, a little on one side, near the unmarked graves of some British grenadiers who fell in the retreat from Concord, -where he is styled "Sippio Brister,"- Scipio Africanus he had some title to be called, -"a man of color," as if he were discolored. It also told me, with startling emphasis, when he died; which was but an indirect way of informing me that he ever lived. With him dwelt Fenda, his hospitable wife, who told fortunes, yet pleasantly, -large, round, and black, blacker than any of the children of night, such a dusky orb as never rose on Concord before or since.

THOREAU'S WALDEN