PEOPLE MENTIONED IN THOREAU’S CAPE COD:

FRANCIS TREVELYAN BUCKLAND

“NARRATIVE HISTORY” AMOUNTS TO FABULATION, THE REAL STUFF BEING MERE CHRONOLOGY
The Reverend Professor William Buckland, D.D., F.R.S.,’s “Notice on the Megalosaurus” or “giant lizard” — the 1st such fossil to be described and named (this would be in 1842 the initial genus that Richard Owen would incorporate into the family Dinosauria, although at this point such a term as “dinosaur” was yet to be coined).

The Reverend also announced the discovery of the 1st fossil mammal from the Mesozoic Era.
December 17, Sunday: In Newport, Rhode Island, Friend Stephen Wanton Gould wrote in his journal:

1st day 17th 12 M 1826 / Our Meeting this forenoon was silent & solid. – When we returned home we found a letter from Benjamin Marchall, encouraging us to send John immediately to Hudson to enter his Cotton establishment there, which seemed very sudden & unexpected to us, tho we had calculated on his going there in the Spring or summer coming -- after considering & turning the proposition in our minds for a little while, - I saw no other way than to consult my dear Aged Mother & Uncle & Aunt Stanton on the subject who all have a deep interest in Johns wellfare & accordingly set out on foot & arrived there by sunset. – Our united conclusion was to consult John & say [lay?] the subject fully before him. - Tho' we all felt seriously affected at the Idea of taking him from the Boarding School at Providence, so suddenly where he seems to be laying a good foundation for the time to come. – I went to bed & rose early on 2nd day [Monday] Morning & got home by 8 OC, & waited the whole day, consulting such of our friends, as came in our way who all seemed to concur with the Idea of leaving the exchange, chiefly to his decision - We accordingly wrote him this eveng, intending it for the Mail tomorrow morning. – The prospect as to the outward is uncommonly good for him, but I see many things which will be a great drawback on prospects of that Kind, but what can we do in our present situation, but to trust him to that Kind Providence which has from his birth to the present day signally favoured him –

His father was a Canon of Christ Church, one of the largest Colleges of the University of Oxford (as well as being a college, Christ Church is also the cathedral church of the diocese of Oxford, to wit Christ Church Cathedral).

His father was also the geologist and paleontologist who had written the 1st full account of a fossil dinosaur. His father was a friend of Sir Richard Owen, Order of the Bath, a biologist, comparative anatomist, and paleontologist who is remembered today not only as the person who had coined the term “Dinosauria” but also as an opponent of Charles Darwin’s theory of origin of new species by gradual modification and adaptation. His father’s great hobby was the consumption of such unusual items as mice in batter, squirrel pie, horse’s tongue, and ostrich (in fact he was “heavy into” grossing people out big time in every way possible and according to one story he gobbled the preserved heart of King Louis XIV), and this “zoophagy” would become the portly son’s favorite hobbyhorse as well.

THE SCIENCE OF 1826
CHRIST CHURCH
THE PEOPLE OF CAPE COD:  FRANCIS TREVELYAN BUCKLAND
The President of the Royal Society, Davies Gilbert, Esq., the Archbishop of Canterbury, and the Bishop of London, implementing the last will and testament of the Right Honourable and Reverend Francis Henry, Earl of Bridgewater, who had died during February 1828, invited the Reverend William Kirby to craft one of the offerings in a series that would become known as the “Bridgewater Treatises.”

1. The Earl of Bridgewater had directed his trustees to invest £8,000 in the public funds, and use the accruing dividends to subsidize the publication of 1,000 copies of a work “On the Power, Wisdom, and Goodness of God, as manifested in the Creation,” illustrating such work by all reasonable arguments, as, for instance, the variety and formation of God’s creatures in the animal, vegetable, and mineral kingdoms; the effect of digestion, and thereby of conversion; the construction of the hand of man, and an infinite variety of other arguments: as also by discoveries, ancient and modern, in arts, sciences, and the whole extent of literature. The immediate inspiration for this project had been the Reverend William Paley, archdeacon of Carlisle’s 1802 crowdpleaser, NATURAL THEOLOGY: OR, EVIDENCES OF THE EXISTENCE AND ATTRIBUTES OF THE DEITY, COLLECTED FROM THE APPEARANCES OF NATURE.

NATURAL THEOLOGY, I

NATURAL THEOLOGY, II

With the advice of his Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Bishop of London, and with the concurrence of a nobleman immediately connected with the deceased, the Royal Society settled upon eight authors they could trust to write with appropriate piety and tendentiousness on different aspects of the assigned topic:

Professor William Whewell: On Astronomy and General Physics.
Dr. Peter Mark Roget, FRS: Animal and Vegetable Physiology Considered with Reference to Natural Theology.
The Reverend Professor William Buckland, D.D., F.R.S., Dean of Westminster: Geology and Mineralogy Considered with Reference to Natural Theology.
The Reverend William Kirby: On the History Habits and Instincts of Animals.
Dr. William Prout, FRS: Chemistry, Meteorology, and the Function of Digestion.
Eight-year-old Francis Trevelyan Buckland, who had been being home-schooled by his mother, was at this point sent out to a boarding school in Cotterstock, a village in Northamptonshire in the England East Midlands.

WHAT I'M WRITING IS TRUE BUT NEVER MIND
YOU CAN ALWAYS LIE TO YOURSELF
Francis Trevelyan Buckland, who had been being educated at a boarding school at Cotterstock in Northamptonshire, at this point went on to a preparatory school in Laleham, in the county of Surrey in South East England, that was run by his uncle John Buckland. Unfortunately, this was an uncle who had a tendency to create opportunities for educational flogging.
Francis Trevelyan Buckland, who had been being educated at his uncle John Buckland’s preparatory school in Northamptonshire, received a scholarship to Winchester College, a boys’ independent school in the city of Winchester in Hampshire that had been in existence for some 600 years. The Second Master, Charles Wordsworth, would send letters praising this pupil to the family of origin.
Although Francis Trevelyan Buckland was not accepted into Corpus Christi College at Oxford, he did get accepted by Christ Church College.
On his 2d try Francis Trevelyan Buckland managed to secure his Bachelor of Arts degree from Christ Church College in Oxford, and moved on to London to study surgery at St George’s Hospital.
On a visit to Paris, Francis Trevelyan Buckland got an opportunity to contrast Continental surgical techniques with those prevalent in British hospitals.
Francis Trevelyan Buckland became a member of the Royal College of Surgeons. His mistress Hannah Papps presented him with a son. Although the child would die, despite a radical difference in class the couple would marry in 1863.

**THE FUTURE IS MOST READILY PREDICTED IN RETROSPECT**
Francis Trevelyan Buckland was appointed house-surgeon (“Assistant Surgeon”) at St. George’s Hospital in London.

This surgeon’s hobby being the same as his father’s, zoophagy or the consumption of the various species of the animal kingdom, his colleague Charles Lloyd would offer the following description of his person:

Four and a half feet in height and rather more in breadth – what he measured round the chest is not known to mortal man. His chief passion was surgery – elderly maidens called their cats indoors as he passed by and young mothers who lived in the neighbourhood gave their nurses more than ordinarily strict injunctions as to their babies. To a lover of natural history it was a pleasant sight to see him at dinner with a chicken before him ... and see how, undeterred by foolish prejudices, he devoured the brain.

NOBODY COULD GUESS WHAT WOULD HAPPEN NEXT
February: Francis Trevelyan Buckland was elected to the Athenaeum Club. Later in the year he would be gazetted as Assistant Surgeon to the Second Life Guards of the British Army, a position he would hold until 1863.
The 1st of the four volumes of Francis Trevelyan Buckland, M.A.’s CURIOSITIES OF NATURAL HISTORY.

CHANGE IS ETERNITY, STASIS A FIGMENT
Francis Trevelyan Buckland, M.A.’s *Curiosities of Natural History* (New York: Rudd & Carleton).

Thoreau would view this curious volume in Albert Stacy’s Circulating Library in Concord — and would copy from it into his Indian Notebook #12 and 2d Commonplace Book — and would manage to extract at least one intriguing item of information from it:

**CAPE COD**: Buckland in his Curiosities of Natural History (page 50) says: “An oyster who has once taken up his position and fixed himself when quite young, can never make a change. Oysters, nevertheless, that have not fixed themselves, but remain loose at the bottom of the sea, have the power of locomotion; they open their shells to their fullest extent, and then suddenly contracting them, the expulsion of the water forwards gives a motion backwards. A fisherman at Guernsey told me that he had frequently seen oysters moving in this way.”

F.T. Buckland
After an “Eland Dinner” organized in this year by Sir Richard Owen at the London Tavern, Francis Trevelyan Buckland, M.A. set up an Acclimatization Society to search for new species of the animal kingdom that might be consumed (this sort of hobby is termed “zoophagy”). His home at 37 Albany Street in London would become famous for its menagerie and its varied menus.
At Willis’ Rooms in London, as a product of the “Acclimatization Society” that had been set up by Francis Trevelyan Buckland, M.A., 100 zoologically adventurous diners sampled Japanese sea slug, sea cucumber, kangaroo, guans, curassows, and Honduras turkey.

In Islington, London, the Agricultural Hall opened.

In London, Lambeth Bridge opened.

In London, a new Westminster Bridge opened.

In London, Lyon’s Inn was demolished.
THE PEOPLE OF CAPE COD:  FRANCIS TREVELYAN BUCKLAND

In London, Hungerford Market was demolished.

In London, Peabody Trust was established.

In London, the Collins’s Music Hall opened.

In Kensington, London, an International Exhibition was held on the grounds of the Royal Agricultural Society and William Dickes was awarded a prize.

George Grote became the Vice-Chancellor of the University of London.

DO I HAVE YOUR ATTENTION? GOOD.
Francis Trevelyan Buckland, M.A.'s FISH HATCHING. He got married with his mistress Hannah Papps, who had borne him a son in 1851.
January 27, Saturday: The initial issue of Francis Trevelyan Buckland, M.A.’s periodical Land and Water.

2. Despite the fact that Buckland was an opponent of Darwinism, Charles Darwin would access this Land and Water for some of the material in his THE DESCENT OF MAN.
Francis Trevelyan Buckland, M.A., was appointed Inspector of Salmon Fisheries.
The last of the four volumes of Francis Trevelyan Buckland, M.A.'s CURIOSITIES OF NATURAL HISTORY.
Francis Trevelyan Buckland, M.A.'s Log Book of a Fisherman and Zoologist.
December 19, Sunday: Francis Trevelyan Buckland died. Since his death was preceded by lung hemorrhages, the cause might have been tuberculosis, or lung cancer. The body would be buried in Brompton Cemetery in the western part of London.
Francis Trevelyan Buckland, M.A.'s *Natural History of British Fishes.*

“MAGISTERIAL HISTORY” IS FANTASIZING, HISTORY IS CHRONOLOGY
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“It’s all now you see. Yesterday won’t be over until tomorrow and tomorrow began ten thousand years ago.”

- Remark by character “Garin Stevens” in William Faulkner’s *Intruder in the Dust*

Prepared: May 7, 2014
This stuff presumably looks to you as if it were generated by a human. Such is not the case. Instead, someone has requested that we pull it out of the hat of a pirate who has grown out of the shoulder of our pet parrot "Laura" (as above). What these chronological lists are: they are research reports compiled by ARRGH algorithms out of a database of modules which we term the Kouroo Contexture (this is data mining). To respond to such a request for information we merely push a button.

Commonly, the first output of the algorithm has obvious
deficiencies and we need to go back into the modules stored in
the contexture and do a minor amount of tweaking, and then we
need to punch that button again and recompile the chronology —
but there is nothing here that remotely resembles the ordinary
"writerly" process you know and love. As the contents of this
originating contexture improve, and as the programming improves,
and as funding becomes available (to date no funding whatever
has been needed in the creation of this facility, the entire
operation being run out of pocket change) we expect a diminished
need to do such tweaking and recompiling, and we fully expect
to achieve a simulation of a generous and untiring robotic
research librarian. Onward and upward in this brave new world.

First come first serve. There is no charge.
Place requests with <Kouroo@kouroo.info>. Arrgh.