GEORGE DOUGLAS BREWERTON

“NARRATIVE HISTORY” AMOUNTS TO FABULATION,
THE REAL STUFF BEING MERE CHRONOLOGY
June 3, Sunday: George Douglas Brewerton was born in Newport, Rhode Island while his father Captain Henry Brewerton was working as a military engineer on the fortifications there.¹

¹ Henry Brewerton had been born in New-York. In 1819, since he was at the head of the 2d class at West Point Military Academy, he took the final exam early and was at once commissioned 2d Lieutenant of Engineers, thus spending but three years as a cadet. He made 1st Lieutenant of Engineers on January 1, 1825, Captain on September 21, 1826, Major on August 23, 1856, and Lieutenant Colonel on August 6, 1861. He was assigned to fortifications such as Fort Adams, Newport, Fort Jackson, Louisiana, and the defenses of Charleston harbor, and served on the lighthouse board. In 1847 he received a LLD from Dickinson College. During the Civil War he was superintending engineer of the fortifications and improvements of Baltimore harbor, Maryland and on April 22, 1864 became Colonel of Engineers. He spent Winter 1864/1865 superintending the construction of defensive works in the neighborhood of Hampton Roads and was then transferred to the defenses of New-York. He attained the rank of Brigadier-General on March 13, 1865, retired on March 7, 1867, and in Washington DC he went to his reward on April 17, 1879.
September 23, Wednesday: The Susan Drew, the Loo Choo, and the Thomas Perkins departed the harbor of New-York with Colonel Jonathan Drake Stevenson’s “California B’hoys” regiment, destined to bring civilization to America’s Pacific coast, in the words of the chaplain a “new, distant and dubious settlement.” One of the members of this group was 2d Lieutenant George Douglas Brewerton. This chaplain, a Reverend John McVickar, reminded the soldiers that they represented the Anglo-Saxon race and ought to be a credit to their race, “a race that has never yet turned back, whose course has ever been onward and upward, and over whose destined empire there would seem to hang no other cloud than that which might arise from their possible unworthiness.”

LIFE IS LIVED FORWARD BUT UNDERSTOOD BACKWARD?
— NO, THAT’S GIVING TOO MUCH TO THE HISTORIAN’S STORIES. LIFE ISN’T TO BE UNDERSTOOD EITHER FORWARD OR BACKWARD.
An American Indian contemplating the progress of civilization.
May 22, Saturday: Dam construction proceeded on the Merrimack River, for water power for the mills of Lawrence:

George Douglas Brewerton joined the US Army as a 2d Lieutenant.

CHANGE IS ETERNITY, STASIS A FIGMENT
May 4, Thursday: Asa Gray and Jane Lathrop Loring got married.

Kit Carson set out from Los Angeles, following the old Spanish Trail into New Mexico Territory. Lieutenant George Douglas Brewerton was part of the Army attachment that was accompanying him, as far as Taos.

(Brewerton’s Southwest oil paintings would be some of the 1st landscapes of this territory to be exhibited in New-York.)
June: 2d Lt. George Douglas Brewerton was promoted to 1st Lieutenant.

In New-York, Harper’s Magazine, for which Lt. Brewerton would write, began publication.
Lt. George Douglas Brewerton resigned from the US Army.
August: Harper’s New Monthly Magazine published an article “A Ride with Kit Carson through the Great American Desert and the Rocky Mountains” by George Douglas Brewerton. The trip described is something that had happened in 1848. In 1854 Henry Thoreau would copy from this article into his Indian Notebook #8.²

2. It is presumably safe to infer from such a reference, and from the fact that we also know that Thoreau read an article in the November issue, that an omnivorous reader such as himself would have been familiar with the contents of all the issues of Harper’s Magazine from June to November of this year at least — and therefore all the contents of this particular series of issues of this particular monthly magazine that have come to be bound together as “Volume VII” will be included in this Kouroo Contexture.
This magazine article would become a book, *Overland with Kit Carson. A Narrative of the Old Spanish Trail in ’48*. 
The Genesis of the Earth and of Man appeared, anonymously edited by Edward William Lane’s nephew Reginald Stuart Poole.

A popular account of the Ancient Egyptians, revised and abridged from his larger work, by Sir J. Gardner Wilkinson, D.C.L., F.R.S., &c., in two volumes. Illustrated with five hundred woodcuts (New York: Harper & Brothers, Publishers, 329 & 331 Pearl Street, Franklin Square; illustrated by Joseph Bonomi). These two volumes would be purchased for the personal library of Waldo Emerson and Henry Thoreau would immediately copy from them into his Fact Book, and into his Indian Notebook #8.

1854

Thoreau copied from George Douglas Brewerton’s article in the previous August’s Harper’s New Monthly Magazine “A Ride with Kit Carson through the Great American Desert and the Rocky Mountains,” into his
Indian Notebook #8 (about something that had happened in 1848).

April: Harper’s Magazine published another article by George Douglas Brewerton, “Incidents of travel in New Mexico.”

THE FUTURE CAN BE EASILY PREDICTED IN RETROSPECT
George Douglas Brewerton’s Wars of the Western Border; or, New Homes and a Strange People (New York: Derby & Jackson).

September: This month’s issue of *Harper’s New Monthly Magazine* contained an article “In the buffalo country” by George Douglas Brewerton.
The topics of mail-order pornographic photographs in this year included “Indian Maidens,” “Wood Nymph’s Frolic,” and “Circassian Slavegirls.” The Civil War troops attired in blue and attired in gray could order them, as visualization aids in masturbation, at $0.12 each or $1.20 the dozen.3

During this war former Lieutenant George Douglas Brewerton, rather than himself re-enlisting to serve his nation, would be vending a set of visualization aids for recruits which he denominated the “The Automaton Regiment,” “The Automaton Company,” and “The Automaton Battery.” –Evidently these were decorated pieces of cardboard or particleboard that were to be manipulated by an instructor during basic lectures on military tactics.4

At some point former Lieutenant Brewerton had his portrait made by Matthew Brady — and we can perceive (on a following screen) how very serious he was about civil war as opportunity.

DO I HAVE YOUR ATTENTION? GOOD.

3. Unfortunately, we lack illustrations of these aids.
4. Unfortunately, we lack illustrations of these aids.
George Douglas Brewerton committed yet another of his kitsch daubs, this one of a genre lighthouse:

There is no composition so prosaic and trite that if the price is right, it cannot be merchandised on the sidewalk between a supermarket and its parking lot.

WHAT I’M WRITING IS TRUE BUT NEVER MIND 
YOU CAN ALWAYS LIE TO YOURSELF
George Douglas Brewerton’s *FITZ POODLE AT NEWPORT*: AN INCIDENT OF THE SEASON (Cambridge, Massachusetts: Printed at the Riverside Press, 1869).

Also in this year, his *IDA LEWIS, THE HEROINE OF LIME ROCK BEING A HISTORY OF HER LIFE AND RESCUES, WITH THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE TESTIMONIAL HER HUMANE EXERTIONS HAVE CALLED FORTH ... PREPARED FROM INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTS FURNISHED BY HERSELF* (Newport, Rhode Island: A.J. Ward).
George Douglas Brewerton’s *In the Buffalo Country* (Ashland, Oregon: Lewis Osborne).
September 9, Friday: George Douglas Brewerton’s Argonaut Memories, a Poem Read Before the California Pioneers at the Annual Celebration at Camp Taylor, September 9th, 1887 (San Francisco: F. Eastman & Co., printers, 1887).

“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 8, 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.