

**“I CAN LOOK AT THE KNOT IN A PIECE OF WOOD
UNTIL IT FRIGHTENS ME.”**



Assistant Professor David Oakley Dowling <david-dowling@uiowa.edu> of the University of Iowa announced in 2012 that he had discovered, in Emerson's protege Thoreau's journal for May 1849, that Thoreau had developed an animosity toward his mentor that he was expressing in the imagery and style of William Blake's poem "A Poison Tree":



I was angry with my friend:
I told my wrath, my wrath did end.
I was angry with my foe:
I told it not, my wrath did grow.



No one appreciates our virtues like our friend, yet methinks that I do not receive from my friend that criticism which is most valuable & indispensable to me until he is estranged from me. He who knows best what we are, knows what we are not. He will never tell me the fatal truth which it concerns me most to know until he is estranged from—& then the harmless truth will be shot with a poisoned arrow will have a poisoned barb.

(Actually, we lack evidence that Thoreau ever heard of Blake.)

**“NARRATIVE HISTORY” AMOUNTS TO FABULATION,
THE REAL STUFF BEING MERE CHRONOLOGY**



WILLIAM BLAKE

WILLIAM BLAKE

1757

November 28, Monday: [William Blake](#) was born in London, 2d son of James Blake, a draper (merchant of hosiery) from Westminster.

James Blake, fearing that his son would be whipped because of his fiery temper, did not send his son [William](#) to school. Instead, the boy was taught at home, and had an opportunity to become well-read in a certain kind of adult literature (Jakob Boehme, Emanuel Swedenborg, etc.). At an early age he saw God's head at the window and was seized by a fit of screaming. He was given to insisting that he saw angels as he was walking. Once, he informed his parents that he'd met the prophet Ezekiel under a tree. He obviously had quite enough imagination to become an artist.

NOBODY COULD GUESS WHAT WOULD HAPPEN NEXT





WILLIAM BLAKE

WILLIAM BLAKE

1768

At the age of 11 [William Blake](#) entered Henry Par's Drawing School in the Strand.

**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.**



WILLIAM BLAKE

WILLIAM BLAKE

1771

At the age of 14 [William Blake](#) was indentured as an apprentice to James Basire, engraver to the Royal Society of Antiquaries.

[William Hayley](#)'s tragedy THE AFFLICTED FATHER was rejected by David Garrick and his translation of Pierre Corneille's *RODOGUNE* as THE SYRIAN QUEEN was declined by George Colman.

DO I HAVE YOUR ATTENTION? GOOD.



WILLIAM BLAKE

WILLIAM BLAKE

1781

[William Blake](#) was jilted by Polly Wood.

THE FUTURE IS MOST READILY PREDICTED IN RETROSPECT





WILLIAM BLAKE

WILLIAM BLAKE

1782

August 18, Sunday: [William Blake](#) got married with Catherine Boucher. He would make of himself a freelance engraver. His main employer would be the radical bookseller, Joseph Johnson, publisher of works by Mary Wollstonecraft and William Godwin (this bookseller, who had in 1774 been involved in the creation of London's initial Unitarian Chapel, influenced Blake's religious views). Briefly, he studied at the Royal Academy of Arts in London, but needed to withdraw because of conflicts with his instructors.

THE FUTURE CAN BE EASILY PREDICTED IN RETROSPECT





WILLIAM BLAKE

WILLIAM BLAKE

1784

Robert Dale Owen moved from his apprenticeship at the drapers in Lincolnshire to a drapers in [London](#).

[William Blake](#) opened a print shop with James Parker at 27 Broad Street (the business would be unsuccessful and by 1786 he would be back working for the radical bookseller, Joseph Johnson).

CHANGE IS ETERNITY, STASIS A FIGMENT



WILLIAM BLAKE

WILLIAM BLAKE

1786

The print shop of [William Blake](#) and James Parker at 27 Broad Street in [London](#) failed, and Blake went back to working for the radical bookseller Joseph Johnson.



WILLIAM BLAKE

WILLIAM BLAKE

1787

The emigrant to America [Thomas Paine](#) exhibited a model of his long, single-span wrought-iron bridge in Philadelphia and then sailed back to England to raise funds to attempt a full-scale construction. With the outbreak of the French Revolution, he would become a citizen of France and be elected to the National Assembly.



The radical bookseller Joseph Johnson introduced [William Blake](#) to the circle of [Mary Wollstonecraft](#), [William Godwin](#), the [Reverend Joseph Priestley](#), and [Thomas Paine](#). Blake began to experiment with a new method of engraving in which the drawings were done in reverse in an impervious liquid on copper plates, and then the unprotected parts eaten away with acid.

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WILLIAM BLAKE

WILLIAM BLAKE

1788

[Thomas Paine](#) returned from France to England to patent an iron bridge, proposing a longer span than ever before. When his design had been reviewed favorably by the French Academy of Sciences, he would go on to construct a demonstration prototype with a 90-foot arch on Paddington Green in London.¹



[William Blake](#) had begun to experiment with a new method of engraving. Using an impervious liquid, the poetry and their illustrations were drawn in reverse on copper plates, and then the plain parts were eaten away with acid. The resultant prints were then colored by hand. At this point the first of his illuminated works, NATURAL RELIGION, appeared.

1. You didn't know he was involved in stuff like this?



WILLIAM BLAKE

WILLIAM BLAKE

1789

William Blake printed an illuminated a few copies of a collection of 19 poems, SONGS OF INNOCENCE:

- The Shepherd
- The Echoing Green
- The Lamb
- The Little Black Boy
- The Blossom
- The Chimney Sweeper
- The Little Boy lost
- The Little Boy found
- Laughing Song
- A Cradle Song
- The Divine Image
- Holy Thursday
- Night
- Spring
- Nurse's Song
- Infant Joy
- A Dream
- On Another's Sorrow

WILLIAM BLAKE



WILLIAM BLAKE

WILLIAM BLAKE

1790

[William Blake](#)'s THE MARRIAGE OF HEAVEN AND HELL.

Those who restrain desire, do so because theirs is weak enough to be restrained; and the restrainer of reason usurps its place and governs the unwilling. And being restrained, it by degrees becomes passive, till it is only the shadow of desire.

WILLIAM BLAKE



WILLIAM BLAKE

WILLIAM BLAKE

1791

[William Blake](#)'s poem THE FRENCH REVOLUTION was printed anonymously and distributed only to political sympathizers.

WILLIAM BLAKE

His "London," in SONGS OF EXPERIENCE, a book that dealt with topics of corruption and social injustice.

I wander thro' each charter'd street,
Near where the charter'd Thames does flow,
And mark in every face I meet
Marks of weakness, marks of woe.

In every cry of every man,
In every Infants cry of fear,
In every voice, in every ban,
The mind-forg'd manacles I hear.

How the Chimney-sweeper's cry
Every black'ning Church appals;
And the hapless Soldier's sigh
Runs in blood down Palace walls.

But most thro' midnight streets I hear
How the youthful Harlots curse
Blasts the new-born infants tear,
And blights with plagues the Marriage hearse.

WILLIAM BLAKE

[HDT](#)[WHAT?](#)[INDEX](#)**WILLIAM BLAKE****WILLIAM BLAKE****1792**

According to the Shakers of the United States, this year was to be the end of the world (Abanes, Richard. END-TIME VISIONS. NY: Four Walls Eight Windows, 1998, page 338).

In England, the Lord visited [Joanna Southcott](#) to “warn her of what was coming upon the whole earth.” She began to set these heavenly testimonies down in writing, many in verse, have each writing certified and witnessed, and put these documents into a Great Box maintained by one of her friends. None of these sealed packets of prophetic verse were to be unsealed prior to 1801.



Although the predictions and fulminations of [Richard Brothers](#) were attracting followers, this wasn't creating much of a sustaining cash flow for his use. On account of his debts, he was sent to Newgate Prison. From this point he would preach against imprisonment for debt. His disciples would come to include a lawyer, John Finlayson, an army captain, Hanclett, and a member of the House of Commons, Nathaniel Halhed. At some



WILLIAM BLAKE

WILLIAM BLAKE

point he would begin to sponsor a philosemitic concept that we now discover in the poetry of [William Blake](#), that England was the New Israel, the lost tribe that was to be prominent just prior to Doomsday. Many Englishmen he discovered to be “hidden Jews,” including the current Prime Minister, William Pitt.² He announced that it was time for all these hidden Jews to assemble together in Palestine (which in that period was under a Turkish mandate) under his leadership as Prince of the Hebrews, to prepare for the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

MILLENNIALISM



2. Eventually Richard Brothers would decide that he had been mistaken about Prime Minister William Pitt — that the man actually was not a hidden Jew and therefore was unworthy of support.



WILLIAM BLAKE

WILLIAM BLAKE

1793

The 1st Universalist Church was built on Lombard Street above 4th Street in Philadelphia.

South Place Chapel near [London](#) was founded as a dissenting Universalist church by the American Elhanan Winchester. (The congregation survives today as South Place Ethical Society, meeting in Conway Hall named in honor of their long-term pastor, the Reverend [Moncure Daniel Conway](#), a center of intellectual, political and cultural life completed in 1929.)

In AMERICA: A PROPHECY and in VISIONS OF THE DAUGHTERS OF ALBION, combining political causes with visionary ecstasy, [William Blake](#) exhibited an attitude of revolt against authority.

WILLIAM BLAKE

**WHAT I'M WRITING IS TRUE BUT NEVER MIND
YOU CAN ALWAYS LIE TO YOURSELF**

October 10, Thursday: [William Blake](#)'s PROSPECTUS: TO THE PUBLIC advertised for sale two engravings, six books of etchings, and two books of engravings.

WILLIAM BLAKE



WILLIAM BLAKE

WILLIAM BLAKE

1794

[Walter Savage Landor](#) fired his shotgun at the windows of a Tory for whom he had formed an aversion, whose evening revels disturbed his studies. Rusticated from Trinity College, when the authorities became willing to allow him to return to his studies at Oxford, he would refuse. Quarreling with his father, young [Walter](#) expressed an intention to leave home for ever. At Tenby in Wales he would have a love affair with one Nancy Evans and write for her some of his earliest love poems. He would also get this young lady pregnant. When his father disapproved of this match, [Walter](#) would remove for a time to lodgings near Portland Place in London. The infant would die.

[William Blake](#) reprinted his illuminated 1789 collection of 19 poems, adding 26 new poems, as SONGS OF INNOCENCE AND OF EXPERIENCE SHOWING THE TWO CONTRARY STATES OF THE HUMAN SOUL:

- Earth's Answer
- The Clod and the Pebble
- Holy Thursday
- The Little Girl Lost
- The Little Girl Found
- The Chimney Sweeper
- Nurse's Song
- The Sick Rose
- The Fly
- The Angel
- The Tyger
- My Pretty Rose Tree
- Ah! Sunflower
- The Lily
- The Garden of Love
- The Little Vagabond
- London
- The Human Abstract
- Infant Sorrow
- A Poison Tree
- A Little Boy Lost
- A Little Girl Lost
- To Tirzah
- The Schoolboy
- The Voice of the Ancient Bard

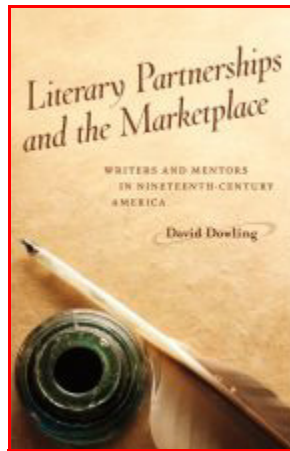
WILLIAM BLAKE



WILLIAM BLAKE

WILLIAM BLAKE

(This collection of poems would be presented by [Miss Elizabeth Palmer Peabody](#) to [Waldo Emerson](#) in 1842, and Emerson's copy inscribed "R.W. Emerson from his friend E.P.P." has notes throughout made by Emerson. We do not have evidence, however, that [Henry Thoreau](#) ever sighted this volume in Emerson's study, nor do we have evidence that Emerson made these notes while Thoreau was alive. It is generally recognized that Blake had no particular influence on either side of the Atlantic prior to the latter part of the 19th Century. In particular we do not have evidence that Thoreau became aware of the poem "A Poison Tree." This is of relevance because, in 2012 in *LITERARY PARTNERSHIPS AND THE MARKETPLACE: WRITERS AND MENTORS IN NINETEENTH-CENTURY AMERICA* (Louisiana State UP), David Oakley Dowling <david-dowling@uiowa.edu> of the University of Iowa –still an assistant professor almost two decades after his PhD– would announce



on his page 135 that he had discovered, in Emerson's protegee Thoreau's journal for May 1849, that Thoreau had developed an animosity toward his mentor that he expressed in the imagery and style of that poem:

I was angry with my friend:
I told my wrath, my wrath did end.
I was angry with my foe:
I told it not, my wrath did grow.

The wording of Thoreau's journal in late May 1849 reveals his animosity toward his patron, whom he felt supported the book's strengths early on only to point out its flaws after it was too late. "No one appreciates our virtue like our friend, yet methinks that I do not receive from my friend that criticism which is most valuable & indispensable to me until he is estranged from [me] – & then the harmless truth will be shot with a poisoned arrow[,] will have a poisoned barb," he wrote. "Poisoned barb" apparently called to mind William Blake's "A Poison Tree" for Thoreau, as the next few lines echo the 1794 poem's simple declarative statements of parallel repetition accounting for the source of poison in their relationship. Blake's lines also paradoxically straddle tones of open, unself-conscious direct confession and venomous "wrath," relating to the events of profoundly complex emotional significance in spare, childlike language. Thoreau takes his keynote and structure from Blake's lines – "I was angry with my friend: / I told my wrath, my wrath did end. / I was angry with my foe: / I told it not, my wrath did grow" – to express the trauma of



WILLIAM BLAKE

WILLIAM BLAKE

Emerson's vacillating attitude toward [A WEEK](#). "I had a friend, I wrote a book, I asked my friend's criticism, I never got but praise for what was good in it – my friend became estranged from me," he wrote, concluding his litany of frustration by ironically casting himself as the poisoned "foe outstretched beneath the tree" at the close of Blake's poem, with Emerson's ill-timed criticism, of course, providing the poison: "and then I got blame for all that was bad, – & so I got at last the criticism I wanted." It took four years for Thoreau to rid himself of the \$300 debt incurred from the publication of [A WEEK](#), and much longer to rid himself of his wrath for Emerson. His journal reflects a tortured soul, obsessing over the loss of his closest friend and greatest literary model. (page 135).

It is generally presumed among Emerson scholars that, in Thoreau's journal of May 1849, in all probability the reference is to Emerson since Emerson was so very important and since Emerson saw Thoreau "not only as his disciple but also as his professional apprentice" and since Emerson "fathered Thoreau's career" — what is not immediately clear is that there is any resemblance whatever in imagery or style between this Blake poem and the indicated Thoreau snippet. Assistant Professor Dowling appears to be just making stuff up out of whole cloth, the way he makes up pseudo-history such as "Thoreau stayed at Emerson's house most evenings while he purportedly was sleeping in his self-made cabin at Walden Pond." Thoreau is not referring at this point in his journal to the fruit of a poisoned tree but to a poisoned arrow/barb, nor is Thoreau considering whether to inform or not inform whatever person it was with whom he had been having this difficulty:



After September 11: Wherever we sat there we might live –what is a house but a sedes a seat –a country seat –& the landscape radiated from us accordingly.– We discovered may a site for a house –which some might have thought too far from the village –not likely soon to be improved. but to our eyes the village might have seemed to far from it. and instantly it became the centre of the world where would not be heard a rumor of the world.

We never have the benefit of our friend's criticism, and none is so severe & searching –until he is estranged from us.

No one appreciates our virtues like our friend, yet methinks that I do not receive from my friend that criticism which is most valuable & indispensable to me until he is estranged from me. He who knows best what we are, knows what we are not. He will never tell me the fatal truth which it concerns me most to know until he is estranged from –& then the harmless truth will be shot with a poisoned arrow will have a poisoned barb.

When we are such friends & have such for our friends that our love is not a partiality, that truth is not crowded out or postponed – or delayed there will be *Friendship*.

Now first we are dealt with absolutely– This truth without that poison & we were friends still & indeed.

The fruit of partiality is enmity

I had a friend, I wrote a book, I asked my friend's criticism, I never got but praise for what was good in it – my friend became estranged from me and then I got blame for all that was bad, –& so I got at last the criticism which I wanted.

While my friend was my friend he flattered me, and I never heard the truth from him, but when he became my enemy he shot it to me on a poisoned arrow

There is as much hatred as love in the world. Hate is a good critic.

When two can treat each other with absolute truth, then there will be but those two in the world. Then men will no longer be divided but be one as God is.

If friendship is but a sweetmeat, I ... {six pages missing}



WILLIAM BLAKE

WILLIAM BLAKE

Other presumptuous remarks by Assistant Professor Dowling include describing Thoreau's literary career as "wayward" and as "rocky," plus the entirely unsupported animadversion "Thoreau stayed at Emerson's house most evenings while he purportedly was sleeping in his self-made cabin at Walden Pond":

Thoreau gravitated toward the Concord transcendentalist literary circle out of a desire to forge a career from his artistic vision. The established circle that published [THE DIAL](#) included influential and powerful figures in the literary world such as Emerson and Margaret Fuller, who represented connections vital to the success of a fledgling writer like Thoreau. Fuller and Emerson were not replacements for the traditional patrician patron of the arts in the way they supported Thoreau. Instead of wealthy, leisure-class genteel amateurs, Fuller and Emerson were literary professionals themselves. Their aid to the young Thoreau was not by means of large financial donations. They were instead exemplars of how to attain success in the field, providers of solid personal references, and mentors of the craft. Simply because Thoreau stayed at Emerson's house most evenings while he purportedly was sleeping in his self-made cabin at Walden Pond does not make him the recipient of eighteenth-century-style patronage. It does, however, make him the recipient of a new style of patronage that would guide his ventures into the Philadelphia and New York markets, albeit unsuccessfully, to try to find work as a writer (pages 3-4).


(Assistant Professor Dowling describes Thoreau as "desperate" and speaks of Thoreau's "venom." He characterizes Chapter 1 of [WALDEN](#) as merely "another agrarian jeremiad lamenting capitalist corruption.")

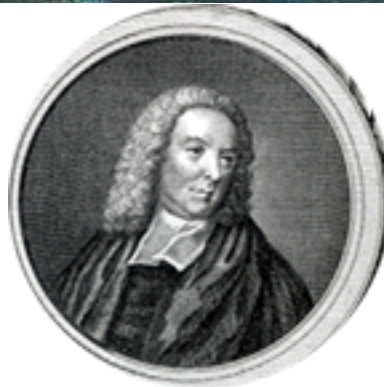


WILLIAM BLAKE

WILLIAM BLAKE

1795

 A bookseller commissioned [William Blake](#) to illustrate an edition of Edward Young's THE COMPLAINT: OR, NIGHT THOUGHTS. By 1797 he would have produced 537 watercolors.





WILLIAM BLAKE

WILLIAM BLAKE

1797

Eliza Bell Hayley had come to be of unsound mind, and she and her husband [William Hayley](#) had been separated for years. In this year she died.

[William Blake](#)'s THE PRICE OF EXPERIENCE:

What is the price of experience? do men buy it for a song?
Or wisdom for a dance in the street?
No, it is bought with the price
Of all a man hath, his house, his wife, his children.
Wisdom is sold in the desolate market where none come to buy,
And in the wither'd field where the farmer plows for bread in vain.

It is an easy thing to triumph in the summer's sun
And in the vintage and to sing on the waggon loaded with corn.
It is an easy thing to talk of prudence to the afflicted,
To speak the laws of prudence to the houseless wanderer,
To listen to the hungry raven's cry in wintry season
When the red blood is fill'd with wine and with the marrow of lambs.

It is an easy thing to laugh at wrathful elements,
To hear the dog howl at the wintry door, the ox in the slaughterhouse moan;
To see a god on every wind and a blessing on every blast;
To hear sounds of love in the thunder-storm that destroys our enemies' house;
To rejoice in the blight that covers his field, and the sickness that cuts off his children,
While our olive and vine sing and laugh round our door, and our children bring fruits and flowers.

Then the groan and the dolour are quite forgotten, and the slave grinding at the mill,
And the captive in chains, and the poor in the prison, and the soldier in the field
When the shatter'd bone hath laid him groaning among the happier dead.
It is an easy thing to rejoice in the tents of prosperity:
Thus could I sing and thus rejoice: but it is not so with me.



WILLIAM BLAKE

WILLIAM BLAKE

1799

May: [William Blake](#) exhibited his painting "[The Last Supper](#)" at the Royal Academy.

The [Reverend George Burder](#)'s bookseller in London had gone out of business. Going to investigate, the Reverend attended the Anniversary Meeting of the London Missionary Society. After hearing a sermon by the Reverend Rowland Hill he brought together a few individuals at St. Paul's Coffee House and, over a period of a couple of days, he, Rowland Hill, Matthew Wilks, Joseph Hughes, and others created the Religious Tract Society. Its seven principles were to be:


- The Tract should contain pure truth, flowing from the fountain of the New Testament, uncontaminated with error, undisturbed with human systems; clear as crystal, like the river of life.
- There should be some account of the way of a sinner's salvation in every Tract; so that, if a person were to see but one, and never had an opportunity of seeing another book, he might plainly perceive that, in order to his salvation, he must be born again of the Spirit, and justified by faith in the obedience unto death. A Tract without this is very defective indeed.
- It should be plain; according to the rhetorician's rule, "that the meaning shall be not only so plain that it may be understood, but so plain that it cannot possibly be misunderstood."
- It should be striking; should have strong, pithy expressions, lively representations of truth, and pathetic addresses.
- It should be entertaining. A plain, didactic essay on a religious subject may be read by a Christian with much pleasure; but the persons for whom these Tracts are chiefly designed will fall asleep over it. This will not do; it is throwing money and labour away. Narrative, dialogue, and other methods which ingenuity will suggest must be employed to give an agreeable relish to truth, and to season it so as to whet the appetite of the reader.
- It should be full of ideas. In the Tract, truth should be compressed. The motto of every Tract should be multum in parvo; and if the foregoing qualities be attended to, there is no danger of compressing too much. Sermons may indeed be diffuse, having to be heard only once, but the printed Tract may be read again and again until fully comprehended.
- Finally, Tracts should be adapted to various situations and conditions: for the young and for the aged, for the children of prosperity and of affliction, for careless and for awakened sinners, and for entering into the reasonings, excuses, temptations, and duties of each, and pointing out to them the way of the Lord.



WILLIAM BLAKE


WILLIAM BLAKE

1800

 In [London](#), the Royal College of Surgeons was founded. [Charles](#) and [Mary Anne Lamb](#) set up housekeeping at Mitre Court Buildings in the Temple district (they would remain together there until 1809). In spite of Charles's bouts of melancholia and alcohol abuse, their home would become a sort of weekly hangout place for theatrical and literary personages of the times.

[William Hayley](#) lost his natural son, Thomas Alphonso Hayley, and grieved. The boy had been a pupil of John Flaxman's, to whom Hayley's *ESSAY ON SCULPTURE* is addressed. Flaxman introduced [William Blake](#) to [Hayley](#), and after the latter had moved in this year to his marine hermitage at Felpham in Sussex, Blake would settle near him for three years to engrave the illustrations for *LIFE OF COWPER*. This, Hayley's best known work, would appear in 1803/1804.

[Blake](#) was commissioned by [Hayley](#) to decorate his library with eighteen heads of poets. While at Felpham [Blake](#) would begin work on his epic poems *MILTON* and *JERUSALEM*.

 September 21, Sunday: [William Blake](#) wrote to John Flaxman about his lodgings at Felpham:

We safely arrived at our cottage, which is more beautiful than I thought and more convenient. Mr. Hayley received us with his usual brotherly affection. I have begun to work. Felpham is a sweet place for study, because it is more spiritual than London. Heaven opens here on all sides her golden gates; her windows are not obstructed by vapours.

[Blake](#) wrote to Thomas Butts about his lodgings at Felpham:

We are safe arrived at our cottage without accident or hindrance. We had seven different chaises and as many different drivers. We travelled through a most beautiful country on a most glorious day. Our cottage is beautiful. If I should ever build a palace it would be only my cottage enlarged. The villagers of Felpham are polite and modest. Meat is cheaper than in London. The sweet air and voices of winds, trees and birds, and the odours of the happy ground, makes it a dwelling for immortals.



WILLIAM BLAKE

WILLIAM BLAKE

A white gentleman of Richmond, Virginia described the events of the time:

By this time, you have no doubt heard of the conspiracy, formed in this country by the negroes, which, but for the interposition of Providence, would have put the metropolis of the State, and even the State itself, into their possession. A dreadful storm with a deluge of rain, which carried away the bridges and rendered the water courses every where impassable, prevented the execution of their plot. *It was extensive and vast in its design. Nothing could have been better contrived. The conspirators were to have seized on the magazine, the treasury, the mills, and the bridges across James river.* They were to have entered the city of Richmond in three places with fire and sword, to commence an indiscriminate slaughter, the French only excepted. They were then to have called on their fellow negroes and the friends of humanity throughout the continent, by proclamation, to rally round their standard. The magazine, which was defenceless, would have supplied them with arms for many thousand men. The treasury would have given them money, the mills bread, and the bridges would have enabled them to let in their friends, and keep out their enemies. Never was there a more propitious season for the accomplishment of their purpose. The country is covered with rich harvests of Indian corn; flocks and herds are every where fat in the fields; and the liberty and equality doctrine, nonsensical and wicked as it is, (in this land of tyrants and slaves,) is for electioneering purposes sounding and resounding through our valleys and mountains in every direction. The city of Richmond and the circumjacent country are in arms, and have been so for ten or twelve days past. The patrollers are doubled through the State, and the Governor, impressed with the magnitude of the danger, has appointed for himself three Aids de Camp. A number of conspirators have been hung, *and a great many more are yet to be hung.* The trials and executions are going on day by day. Poor deluded wretches! *Their democratic deluders, conscious of their own guilt, and fearful of the public vengeance, are most active in bringing them to punishment. "Quicquid delirant reges, plectuntur Achivi!"* Two important facts have been established by the witnesses on the different trials. First, that the plan of the plot was drawn by two Frenchmen in Richmond, and by them given to the negro General Gabriel, who is not yet caught; and secondly, that in the meditated massacre, *not one Frenchman* was to be touched. It is moreover believed, though not positively known, that a great many of our profligate and abandoned whites (who are distinguished by the burlesque appellation of *democrats*) are implicated with the blacks, and would have joined them if they had commenced their operations. The particulars of this horrid affair you will probably see detailed in Davis' paper from Richmond, but certainly in Stewart's paper in Washington. The Jacobin printers and their friends are panic struck. Never was terror more strongly depicted in the countenances of men. They see, they feel, the fatal mischiefs that their preposterous principles and ferocious party spirit have brought upon us.

SERVILE INSURRECTION



WILLIAM BLAKE

WILLIAM BLAKE

1802

 [William Hayley](#)'s A SERIES OF BALLADS, with engravings by [William Blake](#).

WILLIAM BLAKE



WILLIAM BLAKE

WILLIAM BLAKE

1803



August 15, Monday: [William Blake](#) had evicted a drunken soldier, John Scofield, from his garden in [Felpham](#). The man went to the authorities with a tale about things that Blake had said while evicting him, and on the basis of this tainted testimony Blake was put on trial for his life at Chichester on a charge of high treason: “Blake said the French knew our strength very well, and if the French set foot on English ground that every Englishman would be put to his choice whether to have his throat cut or to join the French and that he was a strong man and would certainly begin to cut throats and the strongest man must conquer — that he damned the King of England — his country and his subjects — that his soldiers were all bound for slaves and all the poor people in general.” When relieved of this preposterous accusation, Blake would move back to safer territory, [London](#).

[Sir James Douglas](#) was born.


[Samuel Taylor Coleridge](#) went on a tour of Scotland with [William and Dorothy Wordsworth](#).



WILLIAM BLAKE

WILLIAM BLAKE

1804


 [William Blake](#)'s JERUSALEM, and MILTON. He returned from Felpham to London (after a few unsuccessful showings, he would become an impoverished recluse).

And did those feet in ancient time
Walk upon England's mountain green?
And was the holy Lamb of God
On England's pleasant pastures seen?

And did the Countenance Divine
Shine forth upon our clouded hills?
And was Jerusalem builded here
Among these dark Satanic mills?

Bring me my bow of burning gold!
Bring me my arrows of desire!
Bring me my spear! O clouds, unfold!
Bring me my chariot of fire!

I will not cease from mental fight,
Nor shall my sword sleep in my hand
Till we have built Jerusalem
In England's green and pleasant land.

 January 12, Thursday: [William Blake](#) was acquitted in a Chichester court of sedition (he had been accused by a drunken soldier, John Scofield, whom he was evicting from his garden in [Felpham](#), of having cursed the King).

[Johann Nepomuk Hummel](#) signed a contract to serve as Konzertmeister to Prince Nikolas Esterházy at Eisenstadt.



WILLIAM BLAKE

WILLIAM BLAKE

1805

 [William Hayley](#)'s BALLADS FOUNDED ON ANECDOTES OF ANIMALS (Chichester), with illustrations by [William Blake](#).

WILLIAM BLAKE

[HDT](#)[WHAT?](#)[INDEX](#)**WILLIAM BLAKE****WILLIAM BLAKE****1809**

→ [William Blake](#) celebrated the publication of [Charles Wilkins](#)'s translation of THE *BHAGVAT-GEETA* OR DIALOGUES OF *KREESHNA* AND *ARJOON* into English in his picture "The Bramins," which depicts the Englishman and Brahmin scholars working together on the translation.

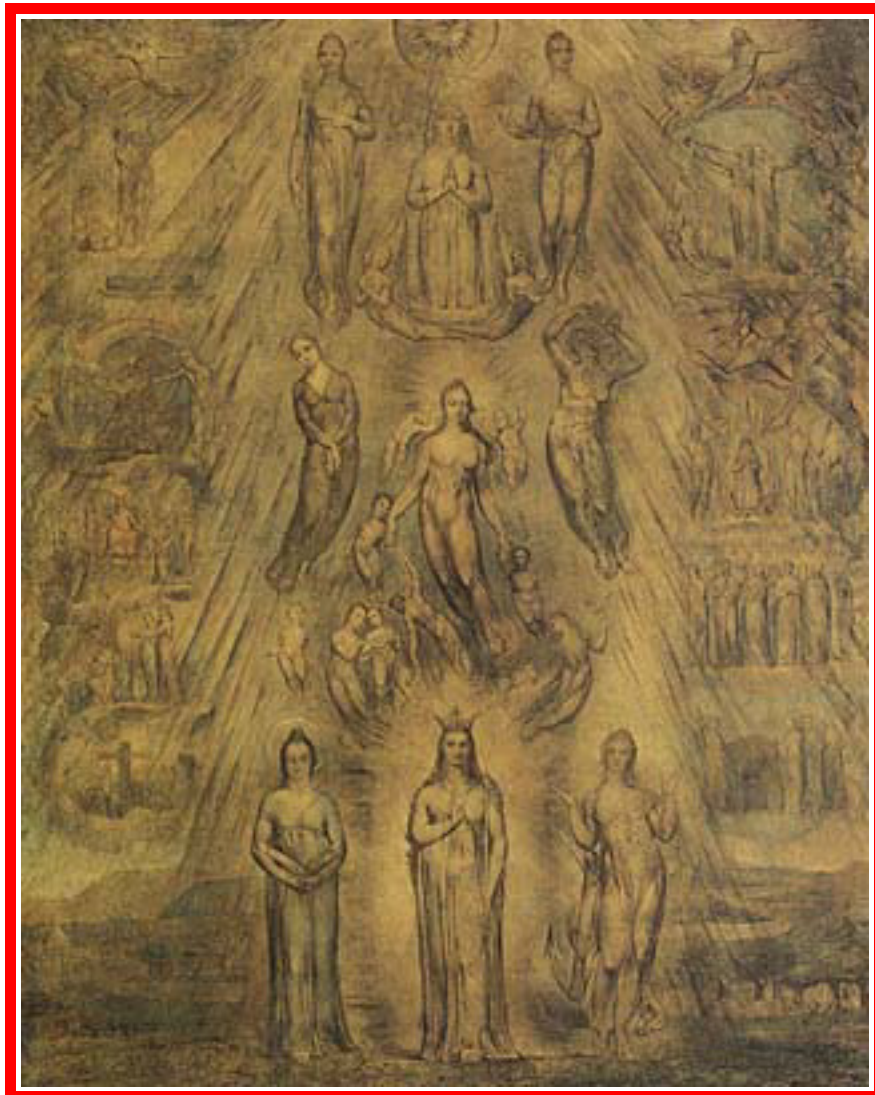
His first and only one-man show of 16 paintings was held in his brother's shop, featuring heroic-satiric allegories of Pitt and Lord Horatio Nelson and a huge painting THE ANCIENT BRITONS; EXHIBIT ACCOMPANIED BY A DESCRIPTIVE CATALOGUE.



At the Royal Academy, an exhibition of [Blake](#)'s was pretty much ignored, and he began to sink into obscurity.

1811

→ William Blake's largest surviving painting (30" x 24"), AN ALLEGORY OF THE SPIRITUAL CONDITION OF MAN.





WILLIAM BLAKE

WILLIAM BLAKE

1812



[William Blake](#)'s "heroic watercolor" [PHILOCTETES AND NEOPTOLEMOS ON LEMNOS](#); at the Associated Painters exhibit, Blake was able to present specimens of his JERUSALEM.



WILLIAM BLAKE

WILLIAM BLAKE

1815




[William Blake's LAOCOÖN.](#)



WILLIAM BLAKE

WILLIAM BLAKE

1816

 [William Blake](#) produced designs for Milton's "L'Allegro" and "Il Penseroso."


WILLIAM BLAKE



WILLIAM BLAKE

WILLIAM BLAKE

1817

 [William Blake](#)'s watercolor, THE JUDGMENT OF PARIS.

WILLIAM BLAKE



WILLIAM BLAKE

WILLIAM BLAKE

1818



[William Blake](#)'s THE EVERLASTING GOSPEL (a poem) and THE GATES OF PARADISE: FOR THE SEXES
PRODUCED.


WILLIAM BLAKE



WILLIAM BLAKE

WILLIAM BLAKE

1819

 [William Blake](#)'s pictures, drawings: VISIONARY HEADS and GHOST OF A FLEA.


WILLIAM BLAKE




WILLIAM BLAKE

WILLIAM BLAKE

1820

 [William Blake](#)'s pictures: woodcuts for Thornton's VIRGIL; poem/pictures ON HOMER'S POETRY and ON VIRGIL issued for 1st time.

WILLIAM BLAKE

 January 20, Thursday: At a party thrown by [Lady Caroline Lamb](#), Lady Charlotte Bury was introduced to an artist named [William Blake](#). She said, later, that this "eccentric little artist by name Blake" whom she had encountered had "appeared gratified" to be able to talk with "a person who comprehended his feelings." She also commented that he had appeared "careworn."

Friedrich VI replaced Friedrich V as Landgrave of Hesse-Homburg.

In [Newport, Rhode Island](#), Friend [Stephen Wanton Gould](#) wrote in his journal:

5th day 20 of 1 M / Our meeting rather small but to me a season of some life & favor, tho' previous to going, was very lean but by turning the mind inward & humbly craving help, I experienced the cloud raised a little, for which I desire to be thankful - in the last (Preparatory) we had no buisness but the usual. -


RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS



WILLIAM BLAKE

WILLIAM BLAKE

1824

 [William Blake](#) produced PILGRIM'S PROGRESS designs and a hundred [Dante Alighieri](#) drawings. On a following screen, for instance, is his depiction of the plight of Ulysses and Diomedes in section 26 of the Inferno.



HELL
Canto 26



WILLIAM BLAKE

WILLIAM BLAKE

1825




The artist George Richmond, at age 16, walking with [William Blake](#) of an evening through the streets of London, was struck by a remark, “I can look at the knot in a piece of wood until it frightens me.”



WILLIAM BLAKE

WILLIAM BLAKE

1826

 When [Thomas Jefferson](#) wrote that “[T]he mass of mankind has not been born with saddles on their backs, nor a favored few booted and spurred, ready to ride them legitimately,” he was quoting the words of [Leveler](#) Richard Rumbold.³

[William Blake](#) and Catherine Blake completed the set of illustrations commissioned for the Book of Job, and received a reward of £150. Not only was this the largest sum of money they had ever seen, but in addition they were given a set of 22 plates.

WILLIAM BLAKE

A Methodist preacher, the Reverend Humphrey Billups, having been elected to Virginia’s House of Delegates, [Thomas Jefferson](#)’s Statute for Religious Freedom of 1786 was put to the test and failed. By a vote of 179 over 2 the Reverend Billups was prevented from taking the seat to which he had been elected. The argument that had proven persuasive was an argument to the effect that what Jefferson had been struggling to accomplish was to prevent domination of the state government by any one religious sect.


SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE



WILLIAM BLAKE

WILLIAM BLAKE

1827

 August 12, Sunday: [William Blake](#) died in London at the age of 69. George Richmond performed the duty of closing the corpse's eyes, and he and his wife Julia would follow the casket to a grave in Bunhill Fields (the grave would remain unmarked).

Friend [Stephen Wanton Gould](#) wrote in his journal:

1st day 12th of 8 M / It was a very rainy forenoon, & both our meetings were very small – a little favour was experienced, but on the whole very low time. –

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

1842

[Miss Elizabeth Palmer Peabody](#) presented to [Waldo Emerson](#) a copy of [William Blake](#)'s illuminated 1789 collection of poems, SONGS OF INNOCENCE AND OF EXPERIENCE SHOWING THE TWO CONTRARY STATES OF THE HUMAN SOUL (sales of this book were almost never occurring during this period, either in England or America). Now, in Emerson's library, we can see his copy inscribed "R.W. Emerson from his friend E.P.P." with notes throughout made by Emerson.



WILLIAM BLAKE

WILLIAM BLAKE

1849

After September 11: [Henry Thoreau](#) made an undated note in his early journal about difficulties he was having with somebody:



After September 11: Wherever we sat there we might live –what is a house but a sedes a seat –a country seat –& the landscape radiated from us accordingly.– We discovered may a site for a house –which some might have thought too far from the village –not likely soon to be improved. but to our eyes the village might have seemed to far from it. and instantly it became the centre of the world where would not be heard a rumor of the world.

We never have the benefit of our friend’s criticism, and none is so severe & searching –until he is estranged from us.

No one appreciates our virtues like our friend, yet methinks that I do not receive from my friend that criticism which is most valuable & indispensable to me until he is estranged from me. He who knows best what we are, knows what we are not. He will never tell me the fatal truth which it concerns me most to know until he is estranged from –& then the harmless truth will be shot with a poisoned arrow will have a poisoned barb.

When we are such friends & have such for our friends that our love is not a partiality, that truth is not crowded out or postponed – or delayed there will be *Friendship*.

Now first we are dealt with absolutely– This truth without that poison & we were friends still & indeed.

The fruit of partiality is enmity

I had a friend, I wrote a book, I asked my friend’s criticism, I never got but praise for what was good in it – my friend became estranged from me and then I got blame for all that was bad, –& so I got at last the criticism which I wanted.

While my friend was my friend he flattered me, and I never heard the truth from him, but when he became my enemy he shot it to me on a poisoned arrow

There is as much hatred as love in the world. Hate is a good critic.

When two can treat each other with absolute truth, then there will be but those two in the world. Then men will no longer be divided but be one as God is.

If friendship is but a sweetmeat, I ... {six pages missing}

Of course it is generally presumed among Emerson scholars that in all probability the reference is to [Waldo Emerson](#) since Emerson was so very important and since Emerson saw Thoreau “not only as his disciple but also as his professional apprentice” and since Emerson “fathered Thoreau’s career.”



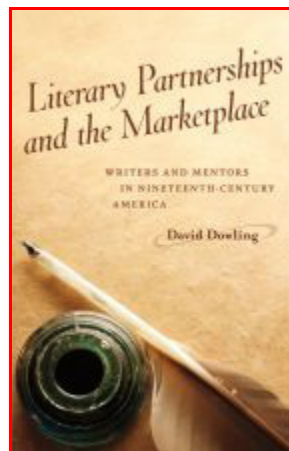
WILLIAM BLAKE

WILLIAM BLAKE

2012

January 16, Monday: Google, faced in India with a criminal charge of failing to cause its search engine to censor objectionable materials, responded to the court that India wasn't a totalitarian regime like China: "The issue relates to a constitutional issue of freedom of speech and expression and suppressing it is not possible... As the right to freedom of speech in democratic India distinguishes us from a totalitarian regime like China." The company's lawyer pointed to the term "virgin" — blocking it would prevent internet users from making business connections with Virgin Airlines or, for that matter, studying about "virgin areas for inventions."

Although I sorta agree with the above, I kinda wish there had been some way we could have offered some prepublication vetting to Assistant Professor David Oakley Dowling of the University of Iowa in regard to his *LITERARY PARTNERSHIPS AND THE MARKETPLACE: WRITERS AND MENTORS IN NINETEENTH-CENTURY AMERICA*, issued incautiously on this day by what supposedly amounts to an academic press, the Louisiana State University Press.



This enchanted treatise declares Chapter 1 of [WALDEN](#) to amount to an agrarian jeremiad lamenting capitalism. Pointing out that [Emerson](#) was a dozen years senior to [Thoreau](#) (the author somehow neglects to mention Emerson being taller), he characterizes the younger striver as "desperate" and refers to his "venom." His abortive literary career is characterized as "wayward" and "rocky" despite all this assistance he was receiving from his betters — plus in an important respect he misrepresented his life: "Thoreau stayed at Emerson's house most evenings while he purportedly was sleeping in his self-made cabin at Walden Pond":

Thoreau gravitated toward the Concord transcendentalist literary circle out of a desire to forge a career from his artistic vision. The established circle that published [THE DIAL](#) included influential and powerful figures in the literary world such as Emerson and Margaret Fuller, who represented connections vital to the success of a fledgling writer like Thoreau. Fuller and Emerson were not replacements for the traditional patrician patron of the arts in the way they supported Thoreau. Instead of wealthy, leisure-class genteel amateurs, Fuller and Emerson were literary professionals themselves. Their aid to the young Thoreau was not by means of large financial donations. They were



WILLIAM BLAKE

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instead exemplars of how to attain success in the field, providers of solid personal references, and mentors of the craft. Simply because Thoreau stayed at Emerson's house most evenings while he purportedly was sleeping in his self-made cabin at Walden Pond does not make him the recipient of eighteenth-century-style patronage. It does, however, make him the recipient of a new style of patronage that would guide his ventures into the Philadelphia and New York markets, albeit unsuccessfully, to try to find work as a writer (pages 3-4).

“MAGISTERIAL HISTORY” IS FANTASIZING: HISTORY IS CHRONOLOGY



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WILLIAM BLAKE



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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: December 25, 2014



WILLIAM BLAKE

WILLIAM BLAKE

ARRGH AUTOMATED RESEARCH REPORT

GENERATION HOTLINE



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.



WILLIAM BLAKE

WILLIAM BLAKE

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.