CUDGOE, A SLAVE FOR LIFE

You'll notice instantly that Cudgoe isn't anywhere in this picture.
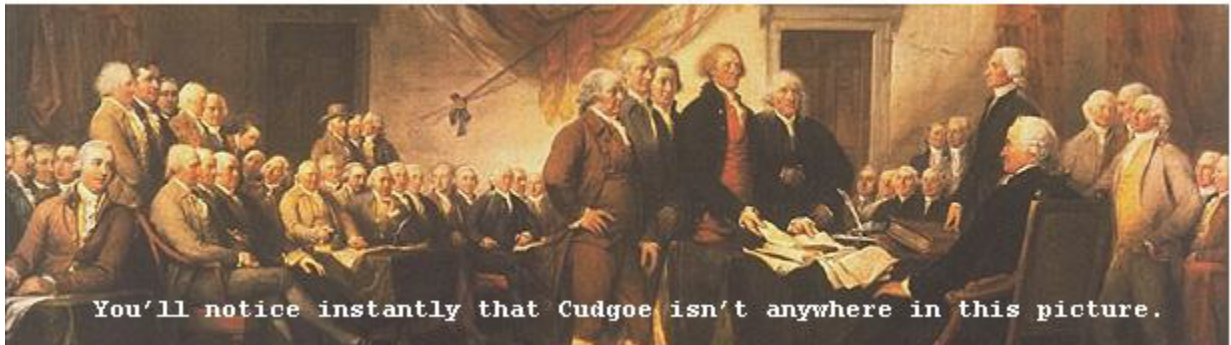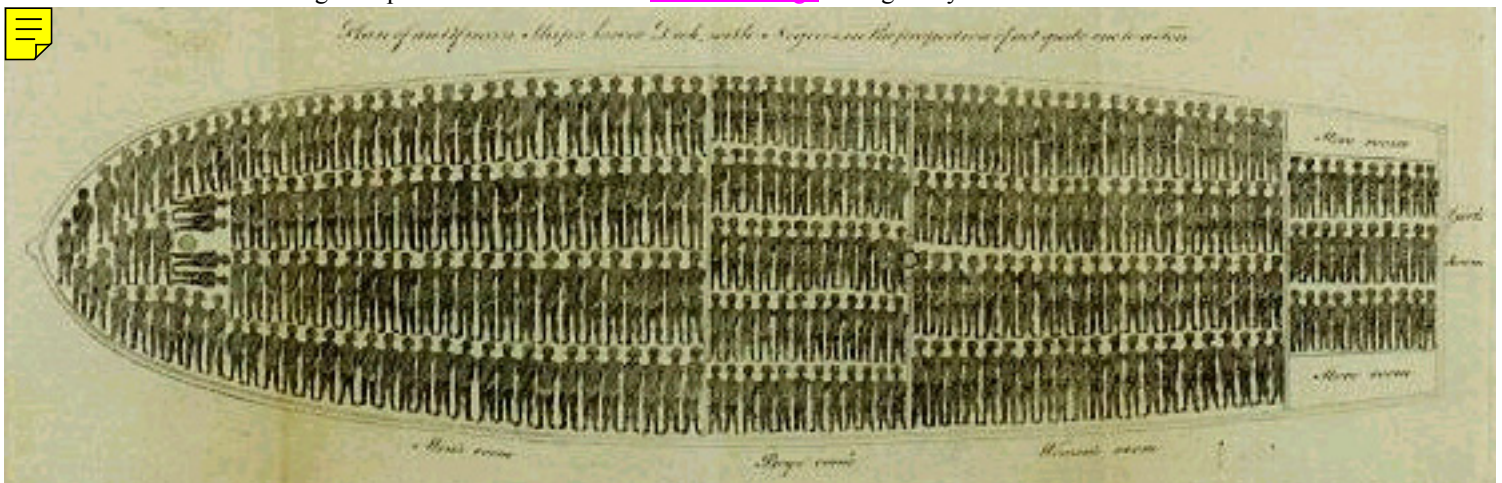
1735

In Rhode Island harbors alone, during this year alone, it has been estimated by Alexander Boyd Hawes, some 9 negreros were being fitted out for the international slave trade. If an average cargo of slaves was 109 –as we have estimated on the basis of a number of known cargos– then a total of something like 981 souls would have been being transported over the dreadful Middle Passage during this year in Rhode Island bottoms alone.

In approximately this year a person named Cudgoe was born. We don't at this point know whether he was born in Rhode Island or in Africa, but we know what his life trajectory would be — he would be used all his life by American white men as a useful object of labor, in 1768 he would be passed from hand to hand as a piece of property, he would almost be present for the signing of our Declaration of Independence in 1776 (almost but not quite), and then in extreme old age in 1806 he would finally again come to the white man's attention (but, only as a needy neglected object of charity).

Also during this year the slave cargo aboard the *Dolphin*, a London vessel on the coast of Africa, attempted unsuccessfully to take control of their lives. Not being able to proceed any further than seizing control of the powder room, they blew up themselves, the crew, and the vessel.

SERVILE INSURRECTION

1768

January 14, Thursday: Isabel Marchant sold a "Negro Man Slave named Cajoe aged about Thirty three Years" to Governor Samuel Ward of Rhode Island. (Cudgoe would accompany this slavemaster to Philadelphia when this white man would journey there in 1776 to assist in the deliberations of the other white men assembled there in regard to preparation of a Declaration of Independence for these American colonies, and Cudgoe would attend at the deathbed of his slavemaster there in 1776. In 1806, a certificate from the Town Council of Westerly, Rhode Island would name "Cuggo" and "Pegg" as being "in want" and as requiring "some speedy support" from the heirs of Governor Samuel Ward. If Cudgoe had been 33 in 1768, this slave would have reached the age of 71 or 72 in 1806, so it is apparent that Cuggo and Pegg, since as slaves they had never been allowed wages during their working lives, would have needed at that point some assistance, from the community if not from the heirs of their former slavemaster.)
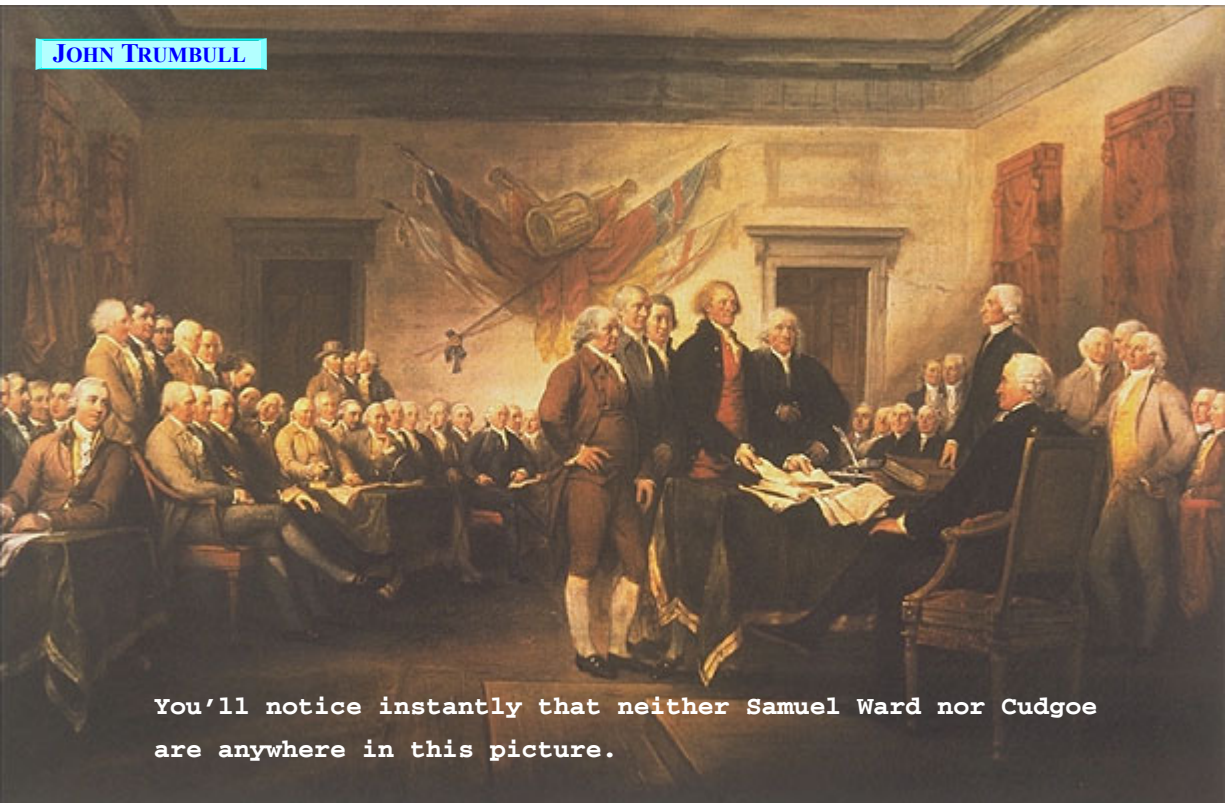
1776

March 25, Monday: Governor Samuel Ward of Rhode Island had died of the small pox in Philadelphia just three months prior to the Declaration of Independence, which would have included his signature. Attending him at his deathbed was his slave Cudgoe, whom he had purchased in 1768. His place at the Continental Congress had been taken on March 17th by the newly elected attorney William Ellery of Newport. His remains would be interred in the graveyard of the 1st Baptist Church in Philadelphia (in 1860 they would patriotically be relocated to the Common Burial Ground in Newport).

JOHN TRUMBULL

You'll notice instantly that neither Samuel Ward nor Cudgoe are anywhere in this picture.

In regard both to the Reverend William Ellery Channing and to the poet Ellery Channing of Thoreau's time period in Concord, bear in mind, as everyone else did during this period, that this name was a most famous name, for regardless of whoever gets credit for creating the Declaration of Independence, a William Ellery (1727-1820) later cosigned it on behalf of Rhode Island:

New Hampshire: *Josiah Bartlett, William Whipple, Matthew Thornton*

Massachusetts: *John Hancock, Samuel Adams, John Adams, Robert Treat Paine, Elbridge Gerry*

Rhode Island: *Stephen Hopkins, William Ellery*

Connecticut: *Roger Sherman, Samuel Huntington, William Williams,*

Oliver Wolcott

New York: *William Floyd, Philip Livingston, Francis Lewis, Lewis Morris*
New Jersey: *Richard Stockton, John Witherspoon, Francis Hopkinson, John Hart, Abraham Clark*
Pennsylvania: *Robert Morris, Dr. Benjamin Rush, Benjamin Franklin, John Morton, George Clymer, James Smith, George Taylor, James Wilson, George Ross*
Delaware: *Caesar Rodney, George Read, Thomas McKean*
Maryland: *Samuel Chase, William Paca, Thomas Stone, Charles Carroll of Carrollton*
Virginia: *George Wythe, Richard Henry Lee, Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Harrison, Thomas Nelson, Jr., Francis Lightfoot Lee, Carter Braxton*
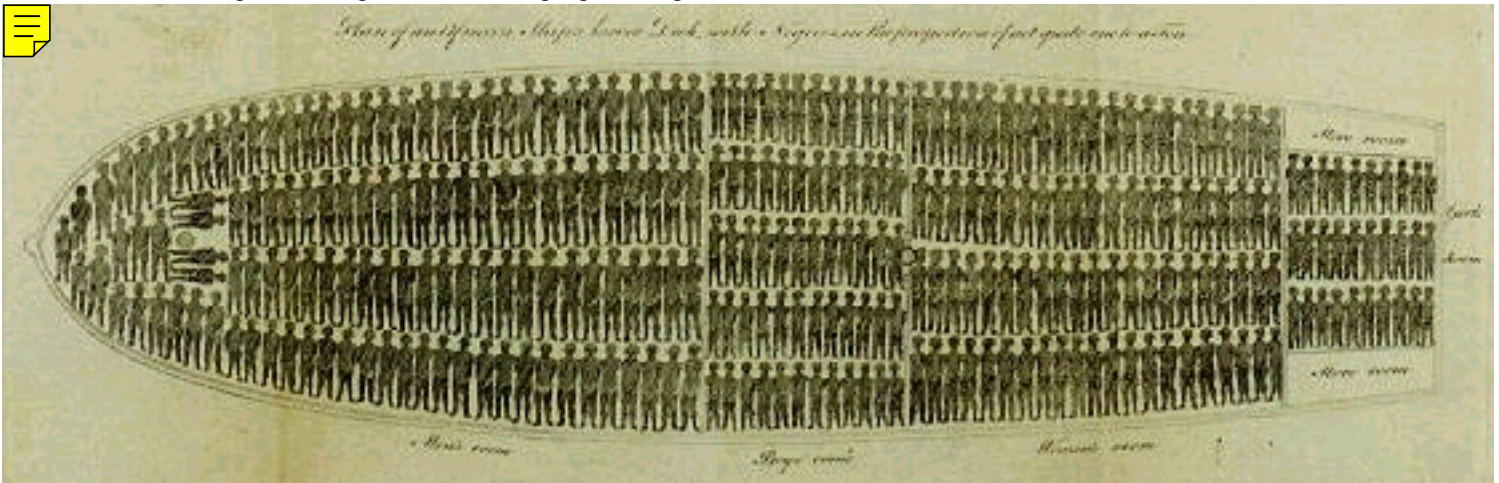**North Carolina:** *William Hooper, Joseph Hewes, John Penn*
South Carolina: *Edward Rutledge, Thomas Heyward, Jr., Thomas Lynch, Jr., Arthur Middleton*
Georgia: *Button Gwinnett, Lyman Hall, George Walton*

1806

In this year the Rhode Island brig *Factor* brought a cargo of 102 new African slaves to America, and the brig *Neptune* a cargo of 132. –New people, to replace the ones that had been worn out in service!

INTERNATIONAL SLAVE TRADE

W.E. Burghardt Du Bois: Of the twenty years from 1787 to 1807 it can only be said that they were, on the whole, a period of disappointment so far as the suppression of the slave-trade was concerned. Fear, interest, and philanthropy united for a time in an effort which bade fair to suppress the trade; then the real weakness of the constitutional compromise appeared, and the interests of the few overcame the fears and the humanity of the many.

In 1768, Isabel Marchant had sold a "Negro Man Slave named Cajoe aged about Thirty three Years" to Governor Samuel Ward. Cudgoe had accompanied his slavemaster to Philadelphia where this white man assisted in the deliberations of the other white men assembled there, about the preparation of a Declaration of Independence for these American colonies, and Cudgoe had attended at the deathbed of his slavemaster there in 1776 (unfortunately this slavemaster died before being able to affix his signature to our Declaration — which is why we find instead the signature of William Ellery of Newport). In this year there comes to our attention a certificate issued by the Town Council of Westerly, Rhode Island naming "Cuggo" and "Pegg" as being "in want" and as requiring "some speedy support" from the heirs of Governor Samuel Ward. If Cudgoe had been 33 in 1768, this slave would by this point have reached the age of 71 or 72, so it is apparent that Cuggo and Pegg, who as working slaves would never have been allowed wages, would have needed at that point some assistance, from the community if not from the heirs of their former slavemaster.)

"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: September 30, 2013

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, upon someone's request we have pulled it out of the hat of a pirate that has grown out of the shoulder of our pet parrot "Laura" (depicted above). What these chronological lists are: they are research reports compiled by ARRGH algorithms out of a database of data 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 program has obvious deficiencies and so we need to go back into the data modules stored in the contexture and do a minor amount of tweaking, and then we need to punch that button again and do a recompile of the chronology — but there is nothing here that remotely resembles the ordinary "writerly" process which 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 your requests with <Kouroo@kouroo.info>.
　　Arrgh.