



**DR. RONALD EARL CLAPPER**



**RONALD EARL CLAPPER**

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**1938**

July 5, Tuesday: [Ronald Earl Clapper](#) was born in Long Beach, California.

[Jerome N. Frank](#), Commissioner of the Securities and Exchange Commission, spoke before the Institute of Public Affairs in Charlottesville, Virginia on the power of words, and on why we ought to save America before attempting to save Europe.

**SAVE AMERICA FIRST**

**NEVER READ AHEAD! TO APPRECIATE JULY 5TH, 1938 AT ALL ONE MUST APPRECIATE IT AS A TODAY (THE FOLLOWING DAY, TOMORROW, IS BUT A PORTION OF THE UNREALIZED FUTURE AND IFFY AT BEST; WHAT WILL HAPPEN LATER IN THE LIFE OF RONALD EARL CLAPPER IS AS YET NOT ONLY UNKNOWN BUT ALSO UNDECIDED).**



RONALD EARL CLAPPER

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1961

[Kenneth Walter Cameron](#)'s EMERSON THE ESSAYIST; AN OUTLINE OF HIS PHILOSOPHICAL DEVELOPMENT THROUGH 1836, WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON THE SOURCES AND INTERPRETATION OF NATURE, ALSO BIBLIOGRAPHICAL APPENDICES OF GENERAL AND SPECIAL INTEREST TO STUDENTS OF AMERICAN LITERATURE, EMPHASIZING THOREAU, EMERSON, THE BOSTON LIBRARY SOCIETY AND SELECTED DOCUMENTS OF NEW ENGLAND TRANSCENDENTALISM (Hartford, Connecticut; Box A, Station A, Hartford 06126: Transcendental Books).

[Ronald Earl Clapper](#) received his BA from UCLA, the University of California – Los Angeles. He had studied American literature under Professors Leon Howard, Blake R. Nevius, and Robert P. Falk.

Perry Miller's "Thoreau in the Context of International Romanticism," [New England Quarterly](#) 34 (June 1961) 147-159.

### "A Review From Professor Ross's Seminar"

In the introduction to his article, Miller states that [Emerson](#), like many later Thoreauvians, thought of [Thoreau](#) mainly as a Naturalist. He then traces the development of Romanticism in Europe and America, focusing on Wordsworth and [Johann Wolfgang von Goethe](#). Wordsworth was rebelling against the poetic diction of the Neoclassical age; against the "formalized and stereotyped abstract adjectives of Pope and [Samuel Johnson](#)." He believed that poetry should use "the real language of men." However he was not a Realist; he believed that poetry should have form and that passion comes into literature as "emotion recollected in tranquility." And one of Goethe's contributions to Romanticism is in "giving an exact description of objects as they appear to him" so that "even the reflections of the author do not interfere with his descriptions."

Americans were initially hostile to Wordsworth. His gaining popularity resulted, in part, from the Hudson River School of landscape painting. The artists, especially Asher Durand, dramatized Wordsworth's great "Idea" of the balance between the fact and the idea, between the specific and general in their "union of graphic detail and organizing design." According to Miller the challenge of Romanticism is in striking and maintaining the delicate balance between object and reflection, of fact and truth, of minute observation and generalized concept." But Thoreau achieves this through his "duality of vision." He inspects nature in minute detail and yet makes experience intelligible through typology. He was a Transcendentalist as well as a Natural Historian.

(Katherine A. O'Meara, April 14, 1989).



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**YOUR GARDEN-VARIETY ACADEMIC HISTORIAN INVITES YOU TO CLIMB  
ABOARD A HOVERING TIME MACHINE TO SKIM IN METATIME BACK  
ACROSS THE GEOLOGY OF OUR PAST TIMESLICES, WHILE OFFERING UP  
A GARDEN VARIETY OF COGENT ASSESSMENTS OF OUR PROGRESSION.  
WHAT A LOAD OF CRAP! YOU SHOULD REFUSE THIS HELICOPTERISH  
OVERVIEW OF THE HISTORICAL PAST, FOR IN THE REAL WORLD THINGS  
HAPPEN ONLY AS THEY HAPPEN. WHAT THIS SORT WRITES AMOUNTS,  
LIKE MERE “SCIENCE FICTION,” MERELY TO “HISTORY FICTION”:  
IT’S NOT WORTH YOUR ATTENTION.**



**RONALD EARL CLAPPER**

**RONALD EARL CLAPPER**

**1962**

[Ronald Earl Clapper](#) received his MA from the University of California — Los Angeles. He had studied 19th Century English Literature under Professor Ada B. Nisbet.

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



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**1963**

From this year into 1965, [Ronald Earl Clapper](#) would be serving as a teaching assistant in the Department of English at the University of California – Los Angeles.

Douglas Edward Leach (ed.) A RHODE ISLANDER REPORTS ON [KING PHILIP](#)'S WAR: THE SECOND WILLIAM HARRIS LETTER OF AUGUST, 1676 (Rhode Island Historical Society, Providence).

[Kenneth Walter Cameron](#)'s INDEX-CONCORDANCE TO EMERSON'S SERMONS; WITH HOMILETICAL PAPERS. (Hartford, Connecticut; Box A, Station A, Hartford 06126: Transcendental Books).

[Cameron](#)'s TRANSCENDENTAL CLIMATE: NEW RESOURCES FOR THE STUDY OF EMERSON, THOREAU AND THEIR CONTEMPORARIES (3 volumes, Hartford CT: Transcendental Books,).

Among the materials here published by Cameron were facsimiles of three map tracings that allegedly had been prepared by Henry Thoreau, that existed in a forlorn map drawer at the Library of Congress.

**CARTOGRAPHY**

This contains, in Volume II, a facsimile of [Henry Thoreau](#)'s "Canadian Notebook."

**NOBODY COULD GUESS WHAT WOULD HAPPEN NEXT**





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**1965**

[Roderick Nash](#) graduated from the University of Wisconsin – Madison with a PhD in American intellectual history. His dissertation was entitled “Wilderness and the American Mind.”

During this year and the following one, [Ronald Earl Clapper](#) would be a University Fellow at the University of California – Los Angeles.

Elizabeth Bancroft Schlessinger’s “Two Early [Harvard](#) Wives: [Eliza Farrar](#) and Eliza Follen” appeared in [New England Quarterly](#), Volume 38, Issue #2.

## **MATHEMATICS AT HARVARD**

[Kenneth Walter Cameron](#) self-published [THOREAU](#) AND HIS [HARVARD](#) CLASSMATES.<sup>1</sup>

Although later in his life Thoreau wrote that his experience at Harvard was unimportant and forgotten for him, Cameron makes a good case that Thoreau’s experience shaped him in many important ways. The book is also a veritable treasure house of primary documents and source material on Thoreau’s Harvard Years, edited and laid out in a zany manner I found refreshing. How important it is, however, to know the words to the Harvard Class Song of 1836 is debatable, but Thoreau’s participation with a group of students to improve Harvard pedagogy by requesting that instructors grade more upon the content of their work than upon attendance and assignment completion certainly shaped his work at his own school. [Shawn Gillen, February 1992]

1. [Kenneth Walter Cameron](#) THOREAU AND HIS HARVARD CLASSMATES. Hartford CT: Transcendental Books, 1965



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**1966**

During this year and the following one, [Ronald Earl Clapper](#) would be an acting instructor at UCLA.

A complete edition of [WALDEN](#) became available in the Marathi language.

**[TIMELINE OF WALDEN](#)**

[Professor Walter Roy Harding](#)'s THE DAYS OF [HENRY THOREAU](#): A BIOGRAPHY (NY: Alfred A. Knopf; an enlarged and corrected edition would be put out by Dover in 1982 and another edition would be published by

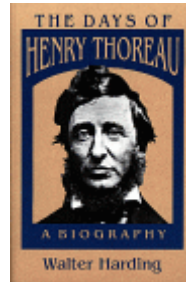




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Princeton UP in 1992).



### **“A Review From Professor Ross’s Seminar”**

This seems like an interesting biography, however I just skimmed through looking for details on Thoreau’s relationships with women. Thoreau’s mother, Cynthia, is described as a dynamic woman who was involved in charities and reform. She dominated not only her meek husband, but the whole household. And she had the reputation in the neighborhood of being an excellent wife and mother.

Thoreau had two unsuccessful affairs with women. When he was twenty-two he fell in love with Ellen Devereux Sewall but, unfortunately, so did John Shepard Keyes and John Thoreau, Henry’s brother. John Thoreau proposed first, and Ellen accepted although she regretted doing so because she realized that she loved Henry. Then her mother encouraged her to break off the engagement because it would hurt her Unitarian father to have a Transcendental son-in-law. So when Henry proposed she unwillingly rejected him also. She married Joseph Osgood instead and evidently had a happy marriage. Thoreau remained friends with the Osgoods and visited them frequently.

For motherly consolation after Ellen’s rejection, Thoreau turned to Mrs. Lucy Jackson Brown who was Emerson’s sister-in-law. She was twenty years Henry’s senior and boarded with the Thoreaus. However Thoreau was not discouraged yet; he fell in love again. This time it was with Mary Russell, a friend of Mrs. Emerson’s. She was three years younger than Thoreau. He wrote a poem to her “To the Maiden in the East” but she did not return his affection. This was his last romance.

Thus Thoreau remained a confirmed bachelor who delighted in jibing at women and marriage. He replaced women with nature, and told the Reverend David Wasson that marriage as an institution is like a skunk cabbage. Harding then interjects, “It should be added that perhaps Wasson did not fully realize how much affection Thoreau had for skunk cabbages.”

(Katherine A. O’Meara, May 26, 1989)

THE PORTABLE THOREAU / Henry David Thoreau; edited and with an introduction by Carl Bode (NY: Viking Press, originally issued in 1947, re-released in 1957 and 1963, reissued in 1964 and 1966 with the addition of



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presumptuous psychobabble).



A new version of [Kenneth Walter Cameron](#)'s 1941 work on RALPH WALDO EMERSON'S READING: A GUIDE FOR SOURCE HUNTERS AND SCHOLARS TO THE ONE THOUSAND VOLUMES WHICH HE WITHDREW FROM LIBRARIES, TOGETHER WITH SOME UNPUBLISHED LETTERS AND A LIST OF EMERSON'S CONTEMPORARIES, 1827-1850 ...; ALSO OTHER EMERSON ... THE CHARGING RECORDS OF THE BOSTON ATHENAEUM (NY: Haskell House).

Incomplete documentation of [Emerson](#)'s borrowings at three different libraries: The Boston Athenaeum, The Harvard College Library, and the Harvard Divinity School Library. Each book is listed twice; once by author and a second time in chronological order according to the date of Emerson's borrowing. In the latter of these listings, the dated return of the book is included as well, in addition to any specific volume number. (Stephen R. Webb, February 20, 1986)

Intended as a guide for source-hunters and scholars to the one thousand volumes which Emerson withdrew from libraries. This book also includes a list of Emerson's contemporaries whose book borrowings are inscribed in the charging records of the Boston Athenaeum. Besides those from the Athenaeum, Emerson's book charging records include those from the Harvard Divinity School's and Harvard College Libraries. In general, Emerson's reading as described in these lists focuses on classical and romantic philosophers but also particularly on biographies and memoirs. (David J. Pink, January 1992)

A helpful listing of Emerson's library charges from the Boston Athenaeum, Harvard College Library, and Harvard Divinity School; with titles, authors, dates of publication and of Emerson's withdrawals, as well as notation of which library the materials were taken from. [Cecily F. Brown, March 1992]



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Also, his THOREAU'S FACT BOOK and his THOREAU'S HARVARD YEARS (Hartford CT: Transcendental Books).

**THE FUTURE CAN BE EASILY PREDICTED IN RETROSPECT**





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1967

[Ronald Earl Clapper](#)'s "The Development of WALDEN: A Genetic Text" (Dissertation, UCLA, for which in this year he received his PhD in "Language and Literature, general"). The Henry E. Huntington Library in Pasadena, California had permitted him access to their WALDEN manuscripts for purposes of this genetic study. The dissertation was approved by Professor Leon Howard as chair, and by George R. Guffey, Blake R. Nevius, Victor A. Oswald, Jr., and Roger Daniels. In REIMAGINING THOREAU (New York: Cambridge UP, 1995, page 55), Robert Milder has commented appropriately in regard to this fine and helpful dissertation that:

To "deconstruct" WALDEN with the help of Clapper's genetic text and within the framework of Thoreau's extensive journal is to read its temporally layered surface for the lines of force that generated, strained against, and repeatedly disrupted the author's successive intentions. It is to ask not merely what WALDEN is but how and why it came to be so.

THE GENETIC TEXT OF WALDEN

[Francis Henry Allen](#)'s A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF HENRY DAVID THOREAU, COMPILED BY FRANCIS H. ALLEN (Boston: Houghton, Mifflin, 1908; NY: Johnson Reprint Corporation, in this year).

[Kenneth Walter Cameron](#)'s EMERSON AMONG HIS CONTEMPORARIES – A HARVEST OF ESTIMATES, INSIGHTS, AND ANECDOTES FROM THE VICTORIAN LITERARY WORLD AND AN INDEX (Hartford, Connecticut; Box A, Station A, Hartford 06126: Transcendental Books).

"A Review From Professor Ross's Seminar"

A literally gigantic book with a real treasure of nineteenth century criticism about Emerson in particular and the transcendentalists in general. It also has a huge index to make it accessible. It contains articles from newspapers and magazines, photographs, portraits etc. etc. A real gem.

(Nicole E. Reith, 1986)

[Cameron](#)'s THOREAU'S CANADIAN NOTEBOOK AND RECORD OF SURVEYS (Hartford: Transcendental Books).

This contains a facsimile of Henry Thoreau's "Canadian Notebook" (which is at the Pierpont Morgan Library in New York City as MA595) and a facsimile of his "Record of Surveys" notebook.

LIFE IS LIVED FORWARD BUT UNDERSTOOD BACKWARD?  
— NO, THAT'S GIVING TOO MUCH TO THE HISTORIAN'S STORIES.



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**LIFE ISN'T TO BE UNDERSTOOD EITHER FORWARD OR BACKWARD.**



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1968

[Ronald Earl Clapper](#) copyrighted his dissertation “The Development of [WALDEN](#): A Genetic Text.” Since then it has been being printed from the microfilm “onesy-twosy fashion” for the use of individual scholars by University Microfilms, Inc. of Ann Arbor. (Dr. Clapper has now been located, and thanked — and we found out that he had kept up his good work well beyond his point of this publication.)

[TIMELINE OF WALDEN](#)

[Kenneth Walter Cameron](#)’s “What Thoreau Taught in 1837” ([Emerson Society Quarterly](#) 52: 100).

Cameron, undoubtedly the most industrious literary archeologist working in the American Renaissance, reprints yet another obscure document relating to Thoreau, a page from the report sent to Boston by the School Committeemen of the Concord Common Schools in 1838. The report lists all of the texts Thoreau would have used during his 2-week stint as teacher at the Center School. In addition, a statistical report includes enrollment, attendance, composition of the faculty by gender (7 male, 3 female in winter; 9 female, 1 male in summer). Interestingly, the average monthly salary for a male teacher was \$32 (\$10.<sup>80</sup> for a female teacher); this means that Thoreau’s annual salary of \$500 was much greater than average. [John Barz, March 1992]



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Norman Foerster's "The Intellectual Heritage of [Thoreau](#)," in TWENTIETH CENTURY INTERPRETATIONS OF [WALDEN](#) (Englewood Cliffs NJ: Prentice-Hall).

### "A Review From Professor Ross's Seminar"

Foerster reminds us at the beginning of his essay, that "Every man is a bundle of his ancestors" (34). The most significant ancestors that [Thoreau](#) possessed, according to Foerster, were his intellectual ones. Foerster goes on to write that Thoreau was deeply indebted to [Emerson](#), who almost experienced orthodoxy and then doubts for him, who struggled with some issues so that Thoreau could avoid them. Thoreau inherited Transcendentalism, which had grown out of Unitarianism, which in turn had grown out of Calvinism.

Foerster goes on to point out the indebtedness of New England Transcendentalism to Europe, to [Rousseau](#), the French Revolution, Kant and the Romantic movement (both in Germany and England). It is also indebted to the Classics. Foerster sees Transcendentalism as a complex movement: it was defined by Emerson as Idealism, and contrasted with "the skeptical philosophy of [Locke](#), which insisted that there was nothing in the intellect which was not previously in the experience of the senses" (35). The Transcendentalists expanded on Kant's conception of Transcendental forms. Therefore,

[T]he possibility of transcending the ordinary experience of the senses is constant – since the divine is immanent in the world, and the soul of the individual has access to the soul of the whole, or Oversoul, as Emerson called it. (36)

Foerster points out that this Transcendentalism was Thoreau's heritage, as was his classical education. Channing writes of Thoreau:

He had no favorites among the French and Germans and I do not recall a modern writer except Carlyle and Ruskin whom he valued much. (38)

Foerster points out that Thoreau was well read in the English literature of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, especially Wordsworth, Coleridge, and Carlyle. Foerster conjectures that Thoreau's interest in [Goethe](#), however small, came from Emerson. (I wondered from other reading if it hadn't come from Margaret Fuller).

Foerster points out Thoreau's evident provincialism and then counters with the Eastern influence in his life, and his "extensive reading in the lore of the North American Indian and other savage people."

Finally, Foerster looks more closely at works with which Thoreau would have been familiar: Shakespeare, Chaucer, etc. from the Elizabethan period, and his "insistent commitment to the Classics" (48). Foerster points out serious gaps in Thoreau's reading, and closes by saying that much of what Thoreau read was judged through his Transcendental environment.

{Mary Ellen Ashcroft 1989}



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sem princípio,” “Paraíso (a ser) recobrado,” “Um apelo em prol do Capitão John Brown.” São Paulo: Cultrix, 1968. 130 pages. Also, *WALDEN. INTRODUÇÃO DE BROOKS ATKINSON. TRADUÇÃO DE E. C. CALDAS*. Rio de Janeiro: Edições de Ouro. 350 pages.

[TIMELINE OF WALDEN](#)

Republication of [Thoreau](#)’s “RESISTANCE TO CIVIL GOVERNMENT” (Elizabeth Peabody’s *ÆSTHETIC PAPERS*, Volume I, 1849).

[Professor Walter Roy Harding](#). *WALDEN AND CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE: THE VARIORUM EDITIONS*. NY: Washington Square P, 1968

Thomas Woodson’s “The Two Beginnings of [WALDEN](#): A Distinction in Styles.” *ELH* 35 (1968):440-73.

### “A Review From Professor Ross’s Seminar”

The two beginnings which Woodson refers to are the early lecture, “The History of Myself,” delivered in February, 1847 and the journal entries for July 5-6, 1845 which grew into “Where I Lived and What I Lived For.” These two beginnings are seen to represent two distinct styles, the private (Where) and the public (Economy) which are distinguished by the following contrasts: personal/social, narrative/expository, Walden-directed/Concord-directed, synthetic/analytic, mythopoeic/rhetorical. Woodson finds that the musing and meditative private beginning is embodied in a loose, paratactic and highly metaphorical style which reaches out to “create the vital facts of a new mythology.” Revisions make the final version less personal and less mythical than earlier drafts. While the private style is described as “spontaneous” and “natural,” the public style is considered “artful” and “contrived.” There is a conscious intent to focus the audience’s attention on language; definition, precise diction, and the use of puns are characteristic of the public style. Personae are sometimes adopted to control the relationship between Thoreau and his audience. After discussing the public and private styles, Woodson attempts to place them in a broader literary perspective, examining their origins in ancient literature and then considering them in light of 19th century literature. (Patti S. Bleifus, March 14, 1986)

[TIMELINE OF WALDEN](#)

**FIGURING OUT WHAT AMOUNTS TO A “HISTORICAL CONTEXT” IS WHAT THE CRAFT OF HISTORICIZING AMOUNTS TO, AND THIS NECESSITATES DISTINGUISHING BETWEEN THE SET OF EVENTS THAT MUST HAVE TAKEN PLACE BEFORE EVENT E COULD BECOME POSSIBLE, AND MOST CAREFULLY DISTINGUISHING THEM FROM ANOTHER SET OF EVENTS**





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**THAT COULD NOT POSSIBLY OCCUR UNTIL SUBSEQUENT TO EVENT E.**



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**2014**

The Fluid Text edition of [WALDEN](#) presented 7 successive versions of Thoreau's book using the Versioning Machine tool and Text Encoding Initiative mark-up. You can now view the evolution of Walden as Thoreau honed it over 8 years. This has been based on the scholarship of [Dr. Ronald Earl Clapper](#). A simple click on the text will highlight the cross-edition variations. You can step behind the screen to examine TEI mark-up and XSLT.

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**TIMELINE OF WALDEN**

## **CONTINGENCY**

**ALTHOUGH VERY MANY OUTCOMES ARE OVERDETERMINED, WE TRUST  
THAT SOMETIMES WE ACTUALLY MAKE REAL CHOICES.**



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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: January 29, 2016



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# 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.



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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.