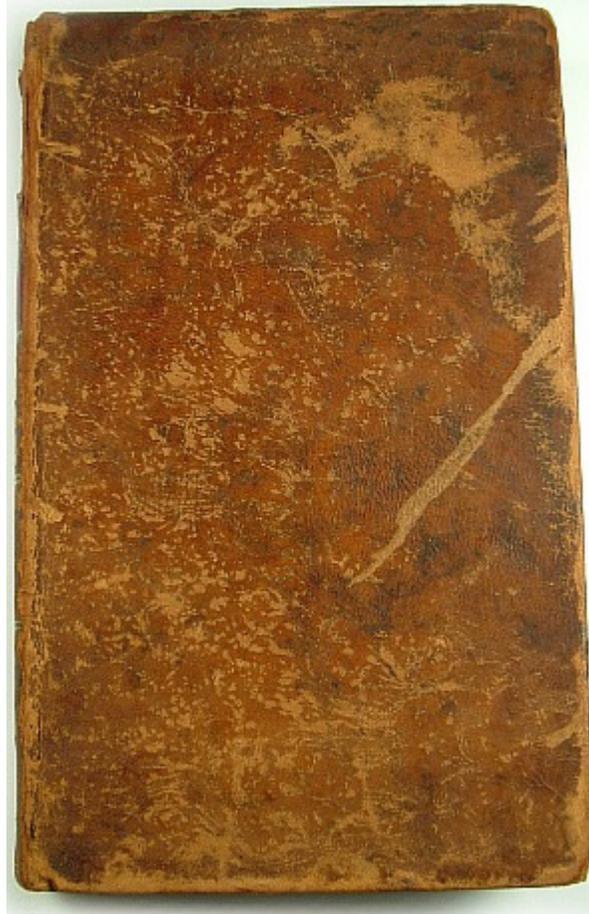


THOREAU AND ALGEBRA: WARREN COLBURN



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



WARREN COLBURN

WARREN COLBURN

1793

March 1, Friday: [Warren Colburn](#) was born to poor parents in Dedham, Massachusetts. As a child he would be put to work in various factories as his parents moved from town to town. He would be apprenticed to a machinist.

NOBODY COULD GUESS WHAT WOULD HAPPEN NEXT





WARREN COLBURN

WARREN COLBURN

1820

 [Henry Nelson Coleridge](#) won both the Latin Ode prize and the Greek Ode prize at [King's College of Cambridge University](#).

Due to a great facility in mathematics, [Warren Colburn](#) had been enabled to study at [Harvard College](#). While an undergraduate he had conceived a plan for a new method of instruction in mathematics, and eventually he would be creating the textbook for such a course. Immediately upon graduation in this year, he began a select school in Boston. Eventually he would function as an examiner in mathematics at his *alma matter*.

NEW "HARVARD MEN"

**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.**



WARREN COLBURN

WARREN COLBURN

1821

 [Warren Colburn](#)'s FIRST LESSONS IN INTELLECTUAL ARITHMETIC, for which he had been planning even during his undergraduate years at [Harvard College](#), was printed in Boston.

THE FUTURE IS MOST READILY PREDICTED IN RETROSPECT





WARREN COLBURN

WARREN COLBURN

1822



[Warren Colburn](#)'s FIRST LESSONS IN ARITHMETIC ON THE PLAN OF PESTALOZZI: WITH SOME IMPROVEMENTS and his ARITHMETIC: BEING A SEQUEL TO FIRST LESSONS IN ARITHMETIC was published by Cummings and Hilliard of Boston.

THE FUTURE CAN BE EASILY PREDICTED IN RETROSPECT





WARREN COLBURN

WARREN COLBURN

1823



April: School headmaster [Warren Colburn](#) was hired to supervise the facilities of the Boston Manufacturing Company at Waltham, Massachusetts.

CHANGE IS ETERNITY, STASIS A FIGMENT



WARREN COLBURN

WARREN COLBURN

1824



August: [Warren Colburn](#) was hired to supervise the facility of the Merrimack Manufacturing Company at Lowell, Massachusetts. He would also become Superintendent of Schools there.



WARREN COLBURN

WARREN COLBURN

1825

 [Warren Colburn](#)'s AN INTRODUCTION TO ALGEBRA UPON THE INDUCTIVE METHOD OF INSTRUCTION (Boston: Hilliard, Gary, Little, and Wilkins). A copy of the 1826 republication of this, stereotyped at the [Boston Type and Stereotype Foundry](#) late of T.H. Carter and Co., would make its way into the personal library of mathematics student [David Henry Thoreau](#).

COLBURN'S ALGEBRA

DO I HAVE YOUR ATTENTION? GOOD.



WARREN COLBURN

WARREN COLBURN

1827

 [Warren Colburn](#) was made a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.



WARREN COLBURN

WARREN COLBURN

1831



[Warren Colburn](#)'s SECOND LESSONS IN READING AND GRAMMAR and FIRST LESSONS IN READING AND GRAMMAR: FOR THE USE OF SCHOOLS: CHIEFLY FROM THE WORKS OF MISS [MARIA] EDGEWORTH were printed by Hilliard, Gray, Little & Wilkins of Boston.



WARREN COLBURN

WARREN COLBURN

1833

 A revised edition of [Warren Colburn](#)'s SEQUEL to his FIRST LESSONS IN INTELLECTUAL ARITHMETIC of 1824.

 September 13, Friday: [Warren Colburn](#) died in Lowell, Massachusetts.

An old bombard was sold for scrap metal at Agra, [India](#) near the Taj Mahal. The gun had been composed of 67,618 pounds of copper and tin in the ratio of 9 to 1 and had heaved 22-inch stones weighing about 567 pounds. It was covered all over with inscriptions from the Koran and had probably been cast during the period of Akbar the Great (16th Century) or Shahjahan (17th Century).¹

“MAGISTERIAL HISTORY” IS FANTASIZING, HISTORY IS CHRONOLOGY

1. There is an urban legend that this bombard had heaved balls of cast iron weighing 1,500 pounds and was the largest ever made. In fact, however, cast iron was not used in bombards of this size and a number of those that helped capture Constantinople in 1453 had been able to heave stones 30 inches in diameter.



WARREN COLBURN

WARREN COLBURN



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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: June 23, 2014



WARREN COLBURN

WARREN COLBURN

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.



WARREN COLBURN

WARREN COLBURN

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.