

PEOPLE OF CONCORD, MASSACHUSETTS

These Adobe Reader files which you are here perusing by way of the internet have been generated out of a computer database we term our "Kouroo Contexture." The materials will fool you, because they are not so much written by a human, as compiled by a machine (they make use of a new technology called *hypercontext*®).^a

If you can think of a Concord historical person who should be included in the list below, but is not yet even mentioned, please notify kouroo@brown.edu. Also, if there is a person whose bio-file we have not yet uploaded to the web, whose bio you feel ought urgently to be put up on the web **next** without further delay, please tell us that:

- Abba Alcott
- Abby May Alcott
- Abner Buttrick
- Albert Stacy
- Alfred Sereno Hudson
- Alfred Winslow Hosmer
- Almira Barlow
- [Ammi White](#) (Did a Concord man scalp a British soldier in Concord, as the army troops would allege?)
- Anna Bronson Alcott
- Anna Maria Whiting
- Ball Family of Concord, Massachusetts

a. *Hypercontext*® is to hypertext as Star Trek's transporter is to a tricycle. (Basically, in hypertext you press a button and you have gone somewhere else with a stupid and uncontrollable and obsolete "GoTo" instruction (as if you were still programming in BASIC), creating the "Lost in Hyperspace" effect, whereas in *hypercontext* you press a button and you have gone absolutely nowhere, but everything around you has been mysteriously rearranged in database-mode into a very different configuration.) Here is a file that will provide you with an explanation of our agenda for deployment of this new *hypercontext* tool:

[The motivation for the creation of the Kouroo Contexture](#)

- Benjamin West Ball
- Bronson Alcott
- Brooks Family of Concord, Massachusetts
- Burrill Curtis
- Calvin C. Damon
- Captain Charles Miles
- Captain Isaac Davis
- Captain John Stacy
- Captain Nathan Barrett
- Charles B. Davis
- Charles Bartlett
- Charles Bowers
- Charles Cummings
- Charles H. Walcott
- Cynthia Dunbar Thoreau
- Cyrus Bartol
- Cyrus Dakin's Carbon Paper
If you don't know that carbon paper was invented in Concord, Massachusetts, perhaps you don't know that — because it's not true?
- Cyrus Hubbard
- Cyrus Pierce
- Cyrus Stow
- Daniel Bliss
- Daniel Chester French
Concord's favorite son sculptor really scraped the bottom of the barrel for subjects to sculpt. He did such bit players as the editor of the Atlantic Monthly, Lowell, people we just don't read anymore. —Yet he never

considered doing a bust of Henry David Thoreau. The reason why he never thought to do this tells us a whole lot about how much we have changed as a reading public in the last century and a half.

- Daniel Hoar
- Daniel Shattuck
- David Buttrick
- David Hubbard
- David Loring
- Deacons of Concord, Massachusetts
- Deacon Brown
- Deacon Francis Jarvis
- Deacon John White
- Deacon Thomas Hubbard
- Doctor Edward Jarvis
- Doctor Edward Waldo Emerson
- Doctor Josiah Bartlett
- Dr. Dillingham
- Doctor John Cuming
- Eben J Loomis
- Ebenezer Hubbard
- Edmund Hosmer
- Edward Jarvis
- Edward Sherman Hoar
- Edwin Bigelow
- Elijah Wood
- Elizabeth Alcott
- Elizabeth Davis

- Elizabeth Sewall Alcott
- Elizabeth Sherman Hoar
- Ellen Emerson
- Emily R Lyman
- Ephraim Merriam
- Ephraim Wales Bull
- Ephraim Wheeler
- Eseek Coombs of Concord
Was Eseek Coombs of Concord, hunter of passenger pigeons, perhaps part Native American?
- Brister and Fenda Freeman
- Francis Le Grosse
- Frank Pierce
- Franklin Benjamin Sanborn
- Frederic Hudson
- George Brooks
- George Frisbie Hoar
- George Hubbard
- George Keyes
- George Minott
Henry David Thoreau’s favorite farmer was George Minott. Would someone please write up a biography of this Concord man, and send it by email to Kouroo@brown.edu? We’d put it up on the web! Your help will be greatly appreciated!
- George Prescott
- George William Curtis
- Henry David Thoreau
Wasn’t this guy an anarchist?

- **Black-Paper Silhouette of Henry Thoreau**
Wouldn't you like to see what young Henry Thoreau looked like in his mortarboard and gown, on the day he graduated from Harvard College in 1837?
- **Henry David Thoreau's father John Thoreau, Senior**
- **Henry's mother Cynthia Dunbar Thoreau**
- **His relatives and ancestors**
Nobody had bothered to write biographies of Henry David Thoreau's parents. –What, were they nobodies?
- **The Reverend Grindall Reynolds**
Waldo Emerson requested that Henry Thoreau's funeral be staged at Concord's Unitarian Church, and presided over by the Reverend Grindall Reynolds. This wasn't such a poor choice. What sort of person, then, was the Reverend Reynolds?
- Heywood family
- Horace Rice Hosmer
- Humphrey Buttrick
- Isaac Davis
- Jacob Baker
- **James Baker**
Thoreau has a chapter in WALDEN about the Baker Farm near Walden Pond. Here are his journal entries in regard to that stretch of Concord land.
- James Collins
- James Hosmer
- Jane Hosmer
- Jenny Dugan
- Jesse Harding
- Jesse Hosmer
- Joel W. Walcott

- John Augustus Stone

If it is your ambition to be a favorite local son, plan not to commit suicide.

- John Buttrick

- John C. Breed

- John Flint

- John Hoar

- John Hosmer

- John Jack

Have you ever noticed that in the first half of the 19th Century in America there were exactly two books that took the lives of real, ordinary people of color seriously, and that one of these books was Frederick Douglass's and the other was Henry Thoreau's?

- John S. Keyes

- John T. Hilton

- John Thoreau, Senior

- Jonas Potter

- Jonathan Fay Barrett

- Joseph Estabrook

- Joseph Merriam

- Joshua Buttrick

- Josiah Bartlett

- Josiah Davis

- Lemuel Curtis

- Lemuel Shattuck's 1835 History of Concord (In 1835 Lemuel Shattuck published a history of the town of Concord, Massachusetts. Here we're struggling to provide the Concord Free Public Library with electronic text for its webpage. This etext still needs further proofreading by fresh pairs of eyes. Please volunteer by contacting kouroo@brown.edu.)

- **Preface**, proofread by Hugh C. Lauer
- **Chapter One**, proofread by Asli Memisoglu (Indian Tribes. — Musketaquid Indians. — Local Situation. — Settlement projected. — Act of Incorporation. — Purchase from the Indians. — Depositions. — First Settlers. — Johnson’s Account. — Additional Grants. — Sufferings of the Inhabitants. — Wet Meadows. — Petition to the General Court. — Condition of the Town. — Chronological Items.)
- **Chapter Two**, proofread by Gretchen O’Connor (Efforts to civilize the Indians. — Eliot begins the Work. — Effects at Nonantum and at Concord. — Laws for the Indians. — Opposition. — Eliot’s Labors and Petition. — Nashobah. — Notices of several Indians. — Account of the Praying Indians. — Nashobah sold.)
- **Chapter Three**, proofread by Rich Stevenson (Division of the Town. — Records. — Additional Grants. — Indian Deeds. — Iron Works built. — Town Farm. — Town of Stow granted. — Chronological Items.)
- **Chapter Four**, proofread by Claude and Robin Cicchetti (Philip’s War. — State of the Country. — Garrison Houses. — Expedition to Brookfield. — Proceedings of Government; and of the Town. — Lancaster Burnt. — Christian Indians in Concord. — Feelings towards the Indians. — Abraham and Isaac Shepherd killed. — Groton burnt. — People remove to Concord. — Proceedings of Government. — Sudbury Fight. — Henchman’s Letters. — Soldiers at Concord. — Christian Indian Soldiers. — War Taxes.)
- **Chapter Five**, proofread by Gretchen O’Connor and Hugh C. Lauer (Year 1684 important. — Bloods’ Farms annexed to Concord. — The Fifty subsequent Years. — Lovewell’s Fight. — Cuba Expedition. — French War. — Notices of various Services in the War. — Divisions in the Town and Incorporation of new Towns. — Emigration to other Places.)
- **Chapter Six**, not yet proofread (American Revolution. — Proceedings of the Town. — Act respecting Tea. — Non-consumption Covenant. — Sentiments of the People. — Country Convention. — People march to Cambridge. — Courts stopped. — treatment of the Tories. — Proceedings of the Town. — Provincial Congress meets. — Public Stores. — New Town Covenant. — Minute Companies formed. — Mr. Emerson preaches. — Expedition of the

British Spies. — Provincial Congress. — Public Stores. — Excitement.)

- **Chapter Seven**, proofread by Bette Aschaffenburg and Hugh C. Lauer (Battle of Concord, April 19th, 1775.)
- **Chapter Eight**, proofread by Bette Aschaffenburg and Hugh C. Lauer (State of Feeling on the 20th of April. — Tories. — College removed to Concord. — Committees of Correspondence. — Proceedings in Relation to the Monopoly Acts. — Revolutionary Soldiers. — Table of Different Campaigns. — Public pecuniary Sacrifices. — Taxes. — Constitution Adopted.)
- **Chapter Nine**, not yet proofread (State of Feeling subsequent to the Revolution. — Proceedings of the County and of the Town. — Mr. Avery’s Letter. — Armed Men assemble at Concord. — Courts stopped. — Notice of the Insurgents. — Proceedings of the Town. — The War of 1812. — County Courts and Shire Towns regulated. — Proceedings of the Town on this Subject.)
- **Chapter Ten**, not yet proofread (Organization of the Church. — Installation of the Rev. Mr. Bulkeley and Mr. Jones. — Church Covenant. — Proceedings of the Church. — Notice of the Rev. Mr. Jones. — Letters of the Rev. Mr. Bulkeley, and Notice of his life and Writings. — Rev. Edward Bulkeley. — Rev. Joseph Estabrook. — Rev. John Whiting.)
- **Chapter Eleven**, not yet proofread (Ordination of Mr. Bliss. — State of the Church. — Revivals. — Proceedings of different Ecclesiastical Councils and of the Church. — Divisions in the Parish and Church. — Death of Mr. Bliss. — Ordination of Mr. Emerson. — Proceedings of the Church. — Notice of the Rev. Mr. Emerson. — Ordination of Mr. Ripley. — Proceedings of the Church. — Covenants. — Funds. — Ordination of Mr. Goodwin. — Succession of Deacons. — Trinitarian Church.))
- **Chapter Twelve**, not yet proofread (Climate. — Geology. — Botany. — Ponds. — Rivers. — Brooks. — Fish. — Quadrupeds. — Birds.)
- **Chapter Thirteen**, not yet proofread (Boundaries. — Roads. — Bridges. — Stages. — Post-Office. — Public Buildings. — Printing Office. — Burying-grounds.)

- [Chapter Fourteen](#), not yet proofread (Population. — Valuation. — Finances. — Employment. — Maintenance of the Poor. — Education. — Bill of Mortality.)
- [Chapter Fifteen](#), not yet proofread (Social and Official History. — Military Companies. — Various Associations. — Concord Bank. — Agricultural Society. — Insurance Company. — Official History. — Town-Officers. — Representatives. — Senators. — County Officers. — Attorneys and Counsellors at Law. —Physicians.)
- [Chapter Sixteen](#), not yet proofread (Biographical Notices of College Graduates and other Individuals belonging to Concord.)
- [Chapter Seventeen](#), proofread by Reed Anthony (HISTORY OF BEDFORD. — General History. — Ecclesiastical History. — Description. — Miscellaneous Notices.)
- [Chapter Eighteen](#), not yet proofread (HISTORY OF ACTON. — General History. — Ecclesiastical History. — Description. — Miscellaneous Notices.)
- [Chapter Nineteen](#), not yet proofread (HISTORY OF LINCOLN. — General History. — Ecclesiastical History. — Description. — Statistics. — Biographical Notices.)
- [Chapter Twenty](#), proofread by Hugh C. Lauer (HISTORY OF CARLISLE. — General History. — Miscellaneous Notices. — Ecclesiastical History.)
- [Appendix I](#), not yet proofread (Historical View of the Evidence relating to the Events of the 19th April, 1775.)
- [Appendix II](#), not yet proofread (Notices of Military Services performed by the People of Concord in the Revolution.)
- [Appendix III](#), not yet proofread (Notices of Early Families and Distinguished Men.)
- [Appendix IV](#), proofread by Hugh C. Lauer (Old and New Style.)
- [Appendix V](#), proofread by Hugh C. Lauer (Notice of the Rev. Samuel Stearns.)
- [Appendix VI](#), proofread by Hugh C. Lauer (Votes for Governor.)

- [Index](#), not yet proofread

- [Lemuel Shattuck](#)

Although this man never acquired a medical diploma, it could be argued that he did more to extend the duration of human life under civilization than any other single person before or since. He also wrote about Concord town history.

- [Leslie Perrin Wilson](#)

Leslie Perrin Wilson of the Concord Free Public Library.

- Louis A. Surette
- Louisa May Alcott
- Lucy Jackson Brown
- Luke Dodge
- Luther Blanchard
- Lydia Lidian Asia Jackson Emerson
- Major James Barrett
- Major Simon Willard
- [Mary Minot White](#)
- Mary Minot
- Mary Nathan Brooks
- Mary Russell
- [Min Thoreau](#)

As long as I was writing bios of Henry Thoreau’s mom and dad, I thought I’d toss in the family cat, Min.
- Miss Mary Moody Emerson
- Mrs. Almira Barlow
- Mrs. Lucy Jackson Brown
- Nabby Kettle
- Nathan Barrett

- Nathan Brooks
- Nathaniel Hawthorne
- Nehemiah Ball
- Paulina Wright Davis
- Perez Blood
- Peter Wheeler
- Phineas Allen
- Reuben N. Rice
- Reverend Addison Grant Fay
- Reverend Daniel Bliss
- Reverend Daniel Foster
- Reverend Edward Bulkeley
- Reverend Ezra Ripley

Imagine a reverend who would preach to you about the error of your ways, and then with his congregation would take you out and hang you by the neck until you are dead. The Concord, Massachusetts of history is not merely different, it is to us a foreign country.

- Reverend Grindall Reynolds
- Reverend John Jones
- Reverend Joseph Estabrook
- Reverend Peter Bulkeley
- Reverend Ralph Waldo Emerson
- Reverend Samuel Ripley
- Reverend William Emerson
- Richard Warner
- Robert Bartlett
- Rufus Morse

- Ruth R. Wheeler
- Samuel Barrett
- Samuel Heywood
- Samuel Hoar
- Samuel Ripley Bartlett
- Samuel Smith (The burglar, he of the cropped ears, who finally got himself offed)

What do you do with a guy you can't do anything with? You put him in prison and he doesn't learn. You put him in the army and he deserts. You put him out on an island and he just gets away. You trim off his ears and he still won't listen to reason — he keeps on burglarizing your houses. Well, what you did in Concord, Massachusetts, once upon a time, is, you preach a sermon at him and then you lead him out into the cemetery and hang him in front of the congregation. Then you put the scaffold on which he was hanged on permanent display in the county courthouse, for a couple of generations of human life. —What can I tell you, Henry Thoreau had a problem with that!

- Sherman Barrett
- Simon Willard
- Sippio Brister
- Sophia Foord

A teacher-lady in Concord (the first person ever to create personal savings account in a bank) was unlucky in love. She thought she had found her soul twin in Henry Thoreau — and was firmly rebuffed — but her love for this poet never dwindled despite the fact that it needed to be expressed mutely and at a considerable distance.

- Stedman Buttrick
- Stephen Barrett
- Squaw Sachem of Concord

Did a bunch of white men with guns purchase more than 36 square miles of Massachusetts real estate for chump

change — or did they take some hostess gifts to a house party and then, long after the fact, develop a rancid attitude about this?

- Thomas Dugan
- Tolman Family of Concord, Massachusetts
- Townsend Scudder
- Waldo Wallie Emerson
- Warren Miles
- Warren Nixon

- Whiting Family of Concord, Massachusetts

Here is what we currently know about the various Whiting family members who were living in Concord, Massachusetts during the 19th Century.

- William Buttrick
- William Davis
- William Ellery Channing II
- William Monroe
- The first three generations of white intrusives in Concord

A history of white inland settlement in the Massachusetts Bay Colony during the 17th Century.

- The 18th Century of Concord, Massachusetts

A history of the 4th generation into the 8th generation, of the town of Concord in Massachusetts — including the prehistory of parts of the grant to Concord that eventually would split off into surrounding communities such as Lincoln, Carlyle, etc.

- A Real Romance You Will Enjoy Reading

A heartwarming true story about a cross-eyed man, and the beautiful woman who loved him dearly.

- The Concord Free Public Library

Hey! Why isn't there something like this in your town?

- Henry David Thoreau and Education

Famously, when Henry David Thoreau was a public school teacher in Concord, the school board required that he whip his pupils. Well then, he did so with abandon and immediately resigned. Soon after this incident, he made a presentation at the town lyceum. Here I attempt to make a case that the subject of this poorly documented first lyceum lecture by Thoreau was a moral comment upon what had just gone down in the local public school, and a considered derogation of the wisdom of the town fathers who made up this local school board.

- Henry Thoreau’s WALDEN “parable” of the losted hound, the losted bay horse, and the losted turtle-dove

There’s a name for the person who figures out what you want to hear, and tells it to you, and figures out what you don’t want to hear, and helps you avoid hearing it. –Can you say “panderer”? There is a century and a half of Thoreau scholarship, organized around the principle of **not** understanding Thoreau’s paragraph in WALDEN about the three animals, and of marking it for safety as a mere “parable” subject to all sorts of fantastical allegorical “interpretations” — and thus insulating us against coming to grips with the information about the affect of loss, that Thoreau was attempting to explicate for our enlightenment. Here, arranged in chronological sequence, is the record (the spoor) left by a century and a half of this scholarly pandering.

- Henry Thoreau wouldn’t run around the corner to see the world end

There’s always some preacher wanting to tell you that the world is coming to an end. Why is that?

- About Thoreau’s “Different Drummer”

Have you heard people say they step to the beat of a different drummer? –This is a very popular comment, but what does it mean to say this? And, what did Thoreau mean in WALDEN, when he originated this phrase?

- Henry Thoreau was opposed to capital punishment

The death case of seaman Washington Goode in Boston reveals that Henry Thoreau was unalterably opposed to capital punishment — and reveals also that Henry’s father John Thoreau was of a different persuasion.

- [Dentistry and Anesthesia](#)

Henry Thoreau had all his teeth pulled at once. –Perhaps understanding something about the history of dentistry and anesthesia will make this seem like a plausible thingie?

- [Henry Thoreau and the Woodpeckers](#)

- [Ivory-billed Woodpecker](#)

There are two files here, one for the woodpeckers that Thoreau did see, the other for the Ivory-billed Woodpecker that is hot news right now, that Thoreau did not see.

- [Henry Thoreau’s “yellow hammer,” the yellow-shafted flicker](#)

Have you taken a snapshot of a bird of a species that Henry Thoreau observed? Or, have you made an audio recording of this bird’s call? If so, please email it to us as an attachment, at Kouroo@brown.edu. We will **immediately** put up a PDF file listing Henry’s primary sightings and reports of this bird species — featuring your fully credited snapshot and/or audio recording!

- [Theological controversy in Concord, and death in Texas](#)

If you were a Trinitarian in Unitarian Concord and weren’t getting anywhere in persuading the locals of the truths of your plain reading of Scripture, would you give up and go to the Texas province of Mexico to convert Catholics to Protestantism? Professor Robert A. Gross has recently come across a trove of letters that inform us of how a theological controversy in 19th-Century Concord — over the absolute uniqueness of Christ as the only Son of God and our only hope of Salvation — had, as its ultimate product, a number of unfortunate deaths in Texas. (Henry David Thoreau’s mother Cynthia was up to her neck in this one.)

- [Nautical Problemsolving](#)

The oldest course presently offered by Harvard University. Henry Thoreau took it.

- [Thoreau versus the artist of hope](#)

I have recently come across a source that has helped me better understand Thoreau’s essay “Paradise (To Be) Regained.”

- **The books Henry Thoreau checked out from Harvard Library**

According to the USA Patriot Act, you can learn a whole lot about a suspect person by looking at their public library records. The FBI can get a secret order from a secret court, and your librarian would be making herself a prosecutable criminal if she told you that the government was trying to get the goods on you. We have complete records of the books Henry David Thoreau checked out from Harvard Library, for the entire course of his life. What would these records tell the steely-eyed agents of our FBI about this guy — who was in our society just about the ultimate subversive?

- **Thoreau’s Religious Practices**

The Reverend Malcolm Clemens Young’s new ThD dissertation at the Harvard Divinity School (hot off the laser printer, not yet cataloged).

- **Henry David Thoreau, the farmer of Walden Woods**

You think you know about Henry David Thoreau the hermit of Walden Pond. You think you know about Henry the poet, Henry the author, Henry the nature boy. – But, my guess is that you don’t know beans about Hank the farmer.

- **The Various Thoreau Residences, in Concord and Elsewhere**

The Thoreau family resided, over the course of years, under nine different roofs in Concord. In addition, they resided for a while in Chelmsford, and in Boston. A number of the houses don’t exist anymore, or are off limits in private hands. In addition, their son Henry Thoreau resided for a while in Cambridge, while in college, and on Staten Island, while tutoring, and at Walden Pond, while writing his first book. It gets complicated unless you keep track of all the moves year by year — as is done here.

- **Building Castles in the Air**

Thoreau’s WALDEN went through a number of revisions, which he carefully preserved.

You may be able to learn something about the craft of writing by inspecting the numerous changes he made over the years, to his famous passage about building castles in the air.



- **Emerson’s Shanty at Walden Pond**

We all think of the cabin that Thoreau built at Walden Pond as “Thoreau’s” cabin — but it was on land that belonged to Ralph Waldo Emerson and, after Thoreau moved on in his life, Emerson sold the structure to his gardener and put the money in his own pocket. Well, it’s not hopelessly wrong, to think of the shanty as Thoreau’s shanty — but there are some people who read the book **WALDEN; OR, LIFE IN THE WOODS** and suppose it to be a book about living in a house, or living on a pond, or living in a woods, and are simply clueless as to the fact that actually, the house and the pond and the woods are a mere setting, a *mis en scene* — and this book is a book about **living**.

- **The amateur archeology of Roland Wells Robbins at Walden Pond**

Thoreau had built his shanty precisely where he then marked it, on his survey map of Walden Pond.

- **Pencils**

The Thoreau family of Concord was a manufacturing family. They made pencils, isinglass, sandpaper, etc. Here is the story of their pencil manufactory shed, which later burned down.

- **Henry David Thoreau Speaks to Quakers**

A question has been raised on the internet: “Would anyone care to tell me whether there is any evidence that Thoreau was directly influenced by Quakerism? I have never heard of such an influence, but I have not made any serious effort to research this. And yes, I do now see just how much the Friend John Woolman and Thoreau were alike. (Simplicity. A concern to not abuse domesticated animals. Anti-slavery. Etc.)” To respond to this inquiry, I have wracked my brains to think of a single instance in which a major American author has risen during the silence of a Quaker meeting for worship, and spoken a message to assembled Friends. I suppose that Friend John Greenleaf Whittier must have at one point or another done so, but if so, we don’t have a record of it. The sole such author I can think of who has ever done so, of which I have an actual definitive record, was Thoreau. **Here is the context in which Thoreau spoke to Quakers.**

- **Charles F. Duffy on Thoreau and the Irish Immigrants**



From time to time, somebody is going to tell you that Henry David Thoreau was prejudiced against Irish immigrants. Well, if this interests you, read about it here.