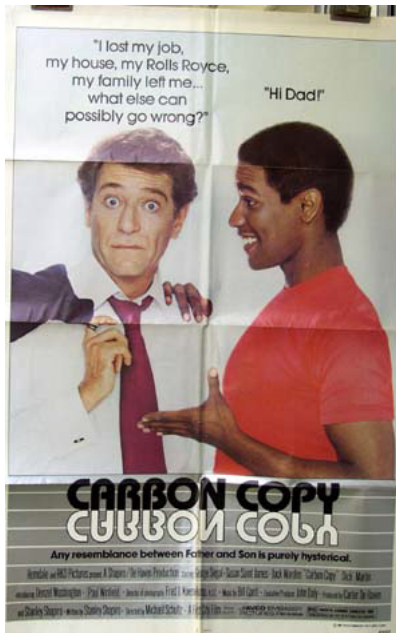


THE INVENTION OF CYRUS DAKIN OF CONCORD



If you didn't know that carbon paper was invented in Concord, you didn't know this because it ain't so.

Around the turn of the 19th Century, a form of carbon paper was produced in England using lard and lampblack. According to the internet page <http://www.ohiokids.org/tz/mar03-image.shtml>, Ralph Wedgwood obtained an English patent for a "Stylographic Writer" device in 1806, which substituted for the conventional quill pen a metal stylus used with a set of guide wires, and then Pellegrino Turri devised a typewriter-like machine that used a coated paper, but then "In 1823 Cyrus Dakin of Massachusetts was making paper coated with carbon pigment for copying purposes, and he was selling it to newspapers." According to the article "Carbon Paper After 150 Years" in *The Office Magazine* 76:124-5 (1972), Dakin was employing a combination of ink and naphtha. In the November 1997 *Scientific American* there was a column of commentary by James Burke on pages 122-3 entitled "Healthy Blooms," according to which this person was a resident of Concord, Massachusetts and had been using not ink and naphtha but paraffin wax and carbon black. In this column Burke explored the connection between Concord and the development of copying technology, as follows:

James Watt's steam engine was so popular that he couldn't keep up with the paperwork, so he next invented a copying machine. Writing (or any design to be copied) was done on paper with a special ink whose ingredients included gum arabic. The completed original was then rolled against wet paper, on which the copy would appear (and last for 24 hours). In 1823 Cyrus Dakin of Concord, Mass., improved on the idea by coating one side of a sheet of paper with paraffin wax and carbon black. Pressing onto the sheet transferred a copy to the paper beneath. Dakin called the product "carbon paper" and sold it to the Associated Press. In 1868 the AP covered a balloon ascent by Lebbeus Rogers (a biscuit maker). Rogers was in the AP office being interviewed when he saw Dakin's paper at work. Instantly quitting biscuits



CYRUS DAKIN

CYRUS DAKIN

and balloons, Rogers went into the carbon-paper business. In 1873 he attended a demonstration of the amazing new [Remington] typewriter, where he persuaded the typist to try one of his carbon sheets. And the rest is history (unusually, repeating).

There was a Joseph Dakin as one of the students at the Concord Academy of the Thoreau brothers in like 1839. There was a cluster of homes near the Lowell Road and Dodge's or Dakin's Brook, on the north side of the Assabet River beyond the Lowell Road Bridge from the center of town, pertaining to E. Dakin, F. Dakin, J. Dakin, and J.H. Dakin. It has been difficult to reconstruct from Thoreau's journal alone, how to discriminate among these people. At least one Dakin seems to have owned and made much use of a horse and cart. Another seems to have made pumps for a living, and either lived or had his shop, or presumably both, near one of the rivers in Concord center. There was a [Deacon L. Dakin](#) who lived at Gleason K3, just across the town line on Canoe Birch Road in Sudbury near Strawberry Hill and a silver mine, and there was a Dakin mentioned by Thoreau to be a pumpmaker, and a carpenter named Sameul (probably Samuel) Dakin who bought the Brown Dakin house (#81) from the heirs of Thomas and Bridget Brown, and there were a Franklin Dakin and son A.B.C. Dakin who lived in a house (#616) built perhaps in about 1810 on an old road branching off beyond the Lowell Road Bridge, passing the Hunt/Hosmer house and crossing fields to a planting field, on or near the Joseph Davis house site of 1754. This A.B.C. Dakin's initials are said to be carved into a block of granite which was once at the entrance to the driveway, but is now incorporated within the stone wall. Would this A.B.C. Dakin be the Cyrus P. Dakin who allegedly had invented carbon paper in 1823, selling his invention to the Associated Press? Probably not.

DAKIN, Cyrus Parkman b: 11 NOV 1800 in Concord, Middlesex Co., Massachusetts, USA d: 05 AUG 1888 in Jersey City, Hudson Co., New Jersey, USA

- Residence: 1840 New York, New York, United States
- Residence: 1850 New York Ward 8, New York, New York
- Residence: 1860 New York Ward 8 District 3, New York, New York, United States
- Residence: 1870 Jersey City Ward 12, Hudson, New Jersey, United States
- Residence: 1880 Jersey City, Hudson, New Jersey, United States
- Death: 05 AUG 1888 in Jersey City, Hudson Co., New Jersey, USA

DAKIN, Cyrus Parkman Jr b: 01 FEB 1839 in New York, USA d: 05 AUG 1888 in New Jersey

- "Dakin, Saml Jr. (father), and Sophia [no surname shown], had a baby boy, Cyrus Parkman Dakin born 11 Nov 1800 in Concord, Massachusetts." Samuel Dakin was born in 1768 and died in 1818. He was the son of Lieutenant Samuel Dakin (1744-1811). The mother's maiden name would presumably, according to the naming conventions of that time and place, have been Sophia Parkman. Sophia Parkman was born in 1774, which would put her at the age of 26 at this birth.
- "By 1823 Cyrus P. Dakin of Concord, Massachusetts, was making carbon paper similar to Wedgwood's, and selling it exclusively to the Associated Press."
- "In 1823 Cyrus P. Dakin began making carbons, papers coated with oil and carbon black."
- "Early Settlers of New Jersey": Elizabeth Layton born March 3, 1803; died July 14, 1869; married June 6, 1824, Cyrus P. Dakin.
- Cyrus P. Dakin married with Anna P. Fenton in 1872 in Manhattan.
- Cyrus P. Dakin buried in the Menke plot with no inscription, at Hoboken Cemetery in North Bergen, New Jersey. Date of death August 8, 1889.
- Cyrus P. Dakin was listed as the parent or guardian of Albert H. Dakin, a student in a public school of the City and County of New York.
- Carrie Smith Hull, 1843, of New York City, daughter of Jedediah B. Hull and Mary Elizabeth Mallory Hull, was married May 18, 1865 to Albert H. Dakin, son of Cyrus Parkman Dakin and his wife Elizabeth Layton.

A DIRECTORY OF NEW YORK: "Dakin Cyrus P. manifoldwriters 5 Maiden-l. h. 35 Watts"



- “Bro. Samuel Dakin, Jr. was initiated in this Lodge [Corinthian Lodge of Concord, Massachusetts] June 7, 1799, and admitted to membership Dec. 16, 1799. He was Senior Steward in 1801 and ‘02, Junior Deacon in 1804 and ‘05, Junior Warden in 1806, Senior Warden in 1807 and ‘08, and Master in 1809 and ‘10. He was born in Concord in 1768, and was a carpenter by trade. His house, which was taken down many years ago, was situated on the cross road from “Jarvis’s Corner” to Mrs. Hildreth’s, on the present site of Eli Dakin’s house. He was married twice: first to Elizabeth, daughter of Abner Wheeler, of Lincoln; she died in early life, leaving an only child, Elizabeth, who is the wife of Abel Walker, of Ashby, Mass. He was married again in 1795, to Sophia, second daughter of Dea. William Parkman, of Concord. Of their five children two only are living, viz.: Mrs. Sarah Richardson, of Concord, and Cyrus Parkman Dakin, of New York city.”

1780

[Concord](#)’s revolutionary Committee of Correspondence, Inspection and Safety was renewed.

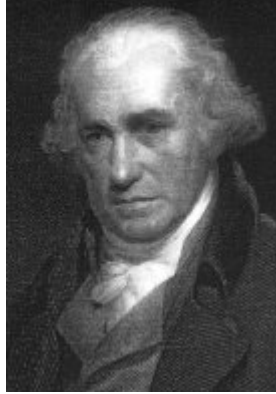
The committee of correspondence, etc., chosen March, 1776 [for [Concord](#)], were [John Cuming](#), Esq., Ephraim Wood, Jr., Esq., Capt. Jonas Heywood, Capt. Joseph Hosmer, James Barrett, Esq., Capt. David Brown, and Capt. George Minot. In 1777, Colonel John Buttrick, Josiah Merriam, Isaac Hubbard, Capt. Abishai Brown, Capt. David Wheeler, Mr. Ephraim Potter, and Lieut. Nathan Stow. In 1778, [John Cuming](#), Esq., Colonel John Buttrick, Ephraim Wood, Jr., Esq., Jonas Heywood, Esq., James Barrett, Esq., Capt. David Brown, and Mr. Josiah Merriam. These were re-elected in 1779, 1780, 1781 & 1782. In 1783, James Barrett, Esq., Jonas Heywood, Esq., Ephraim Wood, Jr., Esq., Capt. David Wood, and Lieut. Joseph Hayward. This committee was not chosen afterwards.¹

A news item relating to the development of ELECTRIC WALDEN technology:

- Before the first documented use of the term “carbonated paper,” when Ralph Wedgwood would obtain an English patent for a “Stylographic Writer” in 1806, and before [Cyrus P. Dakin](#) of [Concord](#)’s alleged invention of carbon paper in Concord in 1823 (actually we have no record of such a person ever having resided in the vicinity), the best that anyone was able to achieve by way of automatic copying was a scheme by James Watt dating to this year, for writing with a special ink containing gum arabic. By pressing his freshly written sheet of paper firmly against a sheet of wet paper the inventor of components for the steam engine found that he was able to create a copy of his writing that would remain legible for about 24 hours — but you needed to look at it with a mirror. (Watt’s copying method would develop in the direction of the business letter-copying book

1. [Lemuel Shattuck](#)’s 1835 [A HISTORY OF THE TOWN OF CONCORD:....](#) Boston MA: Russell, Odiorne, and Company; Concord MA: [John Stacy](#), 1835
(On or about November 11, 1837 [Henry David Thoreau](#) would indicate a familiarity with the contents of at least pages 2-3 and 6-9 of this historical study.)

which would have become standard procedure in business by the 1870s; Watt would also pioneer a device for the creation of pretty-good copies of sculpture.)



CARBON PAPER

1800



News items relating to the development of ELECTRIC WALDEN technology:

- The iron-frame printing press as patented by Charles Stanhope enabled large sheet printing and development of thick advertising fonts.
- A sort of primitive carbon paper was produced in England, by mixing lampblack into lard.
- Louis-Étienne Hernan invented the cliché. No, it's a printing plate created out of a special wax mold imprinted by an ordinary frame of lead/antimony type. A general name for this technology is: the stereotype.²

L. JOHNSON & CO'S TYPE AND STEREOTYPE FOUNDRY, SANSOM STREET, PHILADELPHIA.



Once this stuff was made with a curve, to fit it over the drum of a rotary press, it would be termed:

boilerplate. Hernan was helping to transform printing from a craft to an industry. He came into a book trade in which an “edition” was usually some 500 copies each copy retailing at maybe seven and a half franks, because that many copies would pretty much wear out a printing plate, and left it an industry in which one could print off in excess of 10,000 copies and never worry about having to pay a craftsman to reset type. From 1815 onward, as the end of Napoleonic censorship brought a mass market, the prices people would have to pay for their reading material –that is to say, the amount of their workday during which they would have to labor at some flunky job in order to be able to afford something to lift them up in their free time– would be cut in half. By the early 1820s it would be possible to pick up new titles in a bookstall for three franks. Scoff, if you are an elitist, but there is nothing **inherent** in the size of a production run that **requires** the reading material to be of lesser significance.

However, it is clear that the rule of thumb, that **given half a chance publishers will republish something that has already been published anytime, rather than publish something that has not been published**, is not a rule of thumb that had to wait to be invented until this marvelous 20th Century. By the turn of the 19th Century almost 30 editions of [Mistress Mary Rowlandson](#)’s captivity narrative THE SOVERAIGNTY AND GOODNESS OF GOD, TOGETHER WITH THE FAITHFULNESS OF HIS PROMISES DISPLAYED; BEING A NARRATIVE OF THE [CAPTIVITY AND RESTAURATION](#) OF MRS. MARY ROWLANDSON had already appeared!



“Among all the manufactures which -for the mental and mechanical skill required in their prosecution, the remarkable steps by which they have attained their present rank, and the influence which they exert on society generally- claim our attention and admiration, none perhaps is more striking than the **manufacture of a book.**”



– George Dodd’s DAYS AT THE FACTORIES

1806



A news item relating to the development of ELECTRIC WALDEN technology:

- The first documented use of a term similar to “[carbon paper](#),” the term “[carbonated paper](#),” came in this year when Ralph Wedgwood obtained an English patent for what he designated as his “Stylographic Writer.” His focus was not on the making of copies but on helping the blind to write by the use of a mechanism, and his “carbonated paper” was merely a means of applying ink. In Wedgwood’s application, a piece of paper was soaked in printer’s ink and dried, and then was placed between two sheets of writing paper in order to transfer a copy onto the bottom sheet. Horizontal metal wires on the writing-board acted as feeler-guides for the stylus and presumably helped the blind to write. It would not be until a few years later that Wedgwood would develop his idea in the direction of making copies of private or business letters and other documents at the time

2. We computer freaks look on all this as early versions of copy-and-paste, versions which involved that horror of horrors of the pre-electronics era, moving parts:

Mem: never trust anything with moving parts.

“Stack of the Artist of Kouroo” Project



of writing by relying upon his ink-impregnated paper. Then the writer would use a metal stylus on a sheet of paper thin enough to be transparent, using one of the carbon sheets so as to obtain a black copy on another sheet of paper placed underneath. This other sheet of paper was a good quality writing paper and the “copy” on it formed the original which was to be sent out. The retained copy was in reverse on the underside of the transparent top sheet but, since the paper was very thin (what we know today as “tissue” paper), could be read without difficulty from the other side. A deficiency was that such carbon copies could not be used for contracts or for proving anything in court, since they would not be admissible as evidence.

1808




November 6, Sunday: In [Italy](#), Countess Carolina Fantoni, who had become blind “in the flower of her youth and beauty,” wrote to her lover Pellegrino Turri that “I am desperate because I find myself almost without black paper.” The explanation this apparently strange communication is that Turri had devised for his lover’s use a typewriter-like machine that utilized a coated “black paper” in its operation. His focus had been not on the making of copies by means of such “[carbon paper](#),” but on giving his blind paramour a way to create intimate correspondence in privacy by the use of a mechanism. His coated paper was merely a means of applying ink (several of the intimate letters the countess created still exist and it is clear from them that Turri’s machine combined carbon paper and the typewriter in a way that would not become prevalent for another 65 years). Although the Countess would preserve her lover’s machine carefully (“I will never forget that it is a precious gift made by you”), the mechanism itself would be returned to the son of the inventor upon the countess’s death in 1841 and has since disappeared.

1823

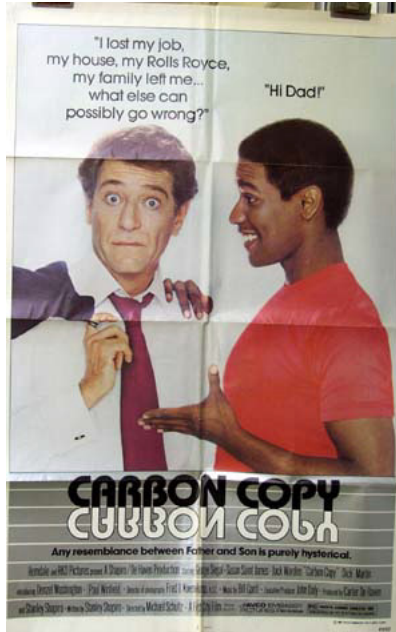


A news item relating to the development of ELECTRIC WALDEN technology:

- According to an unprovenanced tale which has appeared several times on TV, one [Cyrus Dakin](#) of [Concord](#) (there is no local record of such a person) devised a technique for automatically copying anything which was being inscribed in pencil, which he promptly began to term “[carbon paper](#).” He allegedly coated the bottom side of sheets of writing paper with paraffin wax and carbon black, or with naphtha and ink, in such manner that the pressure on the paper produced by one’s pencil point would create a copy of whatever one was writing on the piece of paper beneath.³

3. Previous to this, the best that anyone had been able to achieve by way of automatic copying had been a 1780  scheme by James Watt for writing with a special ink containing gum arabic. By pressing his freshly written sheet of paper firmly against a sheet of wet paper the inventor of components for the steam engine had been able to create a copy of his writing, but you needed to look at it with a mirror, plus, Watt hadn’t been able to figure out how to get this reverse copy to remain legible for longer than about 24 hours. (Watt also invented a device for the creation of copies of sculpture, which was somewhat more successful.)

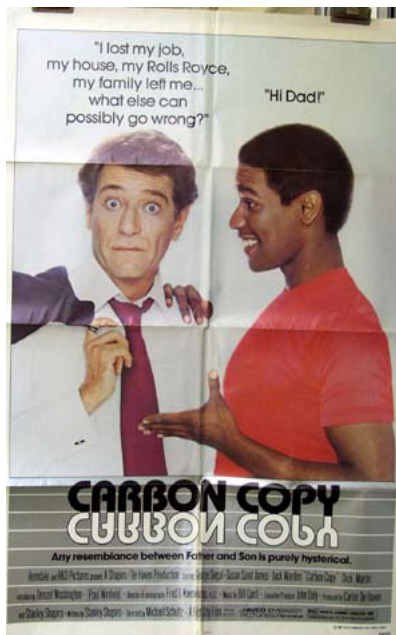
Dakin allegedly would sell the rights to his invention to the Associated Press.



If you are able to credit such a story you will certainly enjoy the above movie!

1868

Lebbeus H. Rogers the balloonist had just made a promotional ascent in Cincinnati on behalf of a biscuit and grocery firm of which he had just been made a partner, and was giving an interview to the Associated Press in their offices after his ascent, when he observed them using [Cyrus Dakin's](#) invention, [carbon paper](#). He immediately lost all interest in going up in balloons and, abandoning his new interest in the biscuit business, went into the mass manufacture of carbon paper as the firm of L.H. Rogers & Co. in New York.⁴




Whereas carbon paper had been being made entirely by hand, by using a wide brush to apply a mixture of carbon black (a pigment) and oil in naphtha (a solvent) to sheets of paper, Rogers's company eventually would develop the first carbon-coating machine and introduce the use of hot wax applied by rollers to replace that messy oil applied by brush. In 1870 this firm would achieve its first major sale (\$1,500), and it goes without saying, this sale would be to the United States Department of War.

1873



A news item relating to the development of ELECTRIC WALDEN technology:

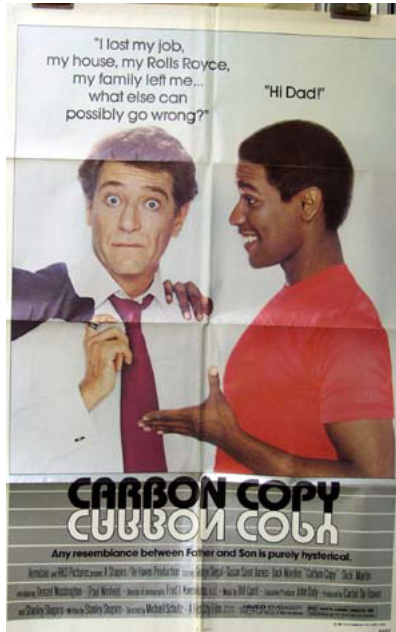
- The Sholes typewriter went into production in the shop of an arms manufacturer, Remington. The Remington Type Writer would soon need to be superseded by a "Model 2" because on this original device, which could produce only capital letters, the operator was forced to type blind being unable to view the results.

4. [Dakin](#) allegedly had invented [carbon paper](#) in Concord, Massachusetts in 1823  and sold the rights to the Associated Press. None of this has been in any manner corroborated.

CYRUS DAKIN

CYRUS DAKIN

Lebbeus Rogers, who had in 1868  perceived the possibilities in the mass-manufacture of [Cyrus Dakin's](#) 1823  invention, [carbon paper](#), attended a demonstration of a Sholes and Glidden typing machine being manufactured by the gunmaker E. Remington and persuaded the “typewriter” (that is to say, persuaded the trained person who was typing on this typing machine) to insert one of his sheets of carbon paper into the machine. Rogers would go on to produce the first typewriter ribbons, which amounted to long thin strips of his carbon paper.





COPYRIGHT NOTICE: In addition to the property of others, such as extensive quotations and reproductions of images, this "read-only" computer file contains a great deal of special work product of Austin Meredith, copyright ©2013. Access to these interim materials will eventually be offered for a fee in order to recoup some of the costs of preparation. My hypercontext button invention which, instead of creating a hypertext leap through hyperspace –resulting in navigation problems– allows for an utter alteration of the context within which one is experiencing a specific content already being viewed, is claimed as proprietary to Austin Meredith – and therefore freely available for use by all. Limited permission to copy such files, or any material from such files, must be obtained in advance in writing from the "Stack of the Artist of Kouroo" Project, 833 Berkeley St., Durham NC 27705. Please contact the project at <Kouroo@kouroo.info>.

"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: July 4, 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.



CYRUS DAKIN

CYRUS DAKIN

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.