PEOPLE MENTIONED IN THE MAINE WOODS:

DANIEL DEFOE

“NARRATIVE HISTORY” AMOUNTS TO FABULATION,
THE REAL STUFF BEING MERE CHRONOLOGY
THE MAINE WOODS: Setting out on our return to the river, still at an early hour in the day, we decided to follow the course of the torrent, which we supposed to be Murch Brook, as long as it would not lead us too far out of our way. We thus travelled about four miles in the very torrent itself, continually crossing and recrossing it, leaping from rock to rock, and jumping with the stream down falls of seven or eight feet, or sometimes sliding down on our backs in a thin sheet of water. This ravine had been the scene of an extraordinary freshet in the spring, apparently accompanied by a slide from the mountain. It must have been filled with a stream of stones and water, at least twenty feet above the present level of the torrent. For a rod or two, on either side of its channel, the trees were barked and splintered up to their tops, the birches bent over, twisted, and sometimes finely split, like a stable-broom; some, a foot in diameter, snapped off, and whole clumps of trees bent over with the weight of rocks piled on them. In one place we noticed a rock, two or three feet in diameter, lodged nearly twenty feet high in the crotch of a tree. For the whole four miles, we saw but one rill emptying in, and the volume of water did not seem to be increased from the first. We travelled thus very rapidly with a downward impetus, and grew remarkably expert at leaping from rock to rock, for leap we must, and leap we did, whether there was any rock at the right distance or not. It was a pleasant picture when the foremost turned about and looked up the winding ravine, walled in with rocks and the green forest, to see, at intervals of a rod or two, a red-shirted or green-jacketed mountaineer against the white torrent, leaping down the channel with his pack on his back, or pausing upon a convenient rock in the midst of the torrent to mend a rent in his clothes, or unstrap the dipper at his belt to take a draught of the water. At one place we were startled by seeing, on a little sandy shelf by the side of the stream, the fresh print of a man’s foot, and for a moment realized how Robinson Crusoe felt in a similar case; but at last we remembered that we had struck this stream on our way up, though we could not have told where, and one had descended into the ravine for a drink. The cool air above, and the continual bathing of our bodies in mountain water, alternate foot, sitz, douche, and plunge baths, made this walk exceedingly refreshing, and we had travelled only a mile or two, after leaving the torrent, before every thread of our clothes was as dry as usual, owing perhaps to a peculiar quality in the atmosphere.
Daniel Defoe was born in London. He would be a hosier and, having failed in business with debts of £17,000, when this royal patron William III would die, would find himself in severe financial difficulties. His creditors, convinced of his integrity, would allow him to continue his business while he attempted to cover this debt.

**Nobody could guess what would happen next**
Spring: When the Great Plague broke out in London, Dr. Thomas Sydenham abandoned its sufferers to their fate, seeking relative personal safety in the English countryside. In Europe during the Great Plague, the clouds of tobacco smoke would be hoped to be having some protective effect. In a Royal Society experiment, Samuel Pepys noted, a cat had quickly died upon being fed a single “drop of distilled oil of tobacco.”

Villages such as Cheam on the far west side of Runnymede from London were being overrun with children of wealthy families, being rusticated there in an attempt to safeguard them from the mysterious and fatal epidemic.

Of course, people were suspicious that this disaster had been brought by the great comet that had just recently passed through their skies. Even as late as 1722, Daniel Defoe would be referring to this suspicion in his A JOURNAL OF THE PLAGUE YEAR.

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.
September 2, Sunday (Old Style): The great London fire began on Pudding Lane, in the house of the king’s baker.

1660 Episcopacy restored in England and Scotland.

1662 The Royal Society established at London by Charles II.

1663 Carolina planted; 1728, divided into two separate governments.

1664 The New Netherlands, in North America, conquered from the Swedes and Dutch, by the English.

1665 The plague rages in London, and carries off 68,000 persons.

1666 The great fire of London began September 2, and continued three days, in which were destroyed 13,000 houses, and 400 streets.

Tea first used in England.

1667 The peace of Breda, which confirms to the English the New Netherlands, now known by the names of Pennsylvania, New York, and New Jersey.

St. James’s Park planted, and made a thoroughfare for public use, by Charles II.

1670 The English Hudson’s Bay company incorporated.

1672 Louis XIV. over-runs great part of Holland, when the Dutch open their sluices, being determined to drown their country, and retire to their settlements in the East Indies.

1678 The peace of Nimègue.

The habeas corpus act passed.

1680 A great comet appeared, and from its nearness to our earth, alarmed the inhabitants. It continued visible from November 3 to March 9.

William Penn, a Quaker, receives a charter for planting Pennsylvania.

1683 India stock sold from 360 to 500 per cent.

1685 Charles II. dies, aged 55, and is succeeded by his brother James II.

The duke of Monmouth, natural son to Charles II. raises a rebellion, but is defeated at the battle of Sedgmoor, and beheaded.

The edict of Nantes infamously revoked by Louis XIV. and the Protestants
John Evelyn’s Diary

This fatal night about ten, began that deplorable fire, neere Fish-streete in London.

I had pub: prayers at home: after dinner the fire continuing, with my Wife & Sonn took Coach & went to the bank side in Southwark, where we beheld that dismal spectacle, the whole City in dreadfull flames neere the Water side, & had now consumed all the houses from the bridge all Thames Streete & up-wards towards Cheape side, downe to the three Cranes, & so returned exceedingly astonishd, what would become of the rest:

By September the 5th, this great fire would have reduced 4/5ths of the city to ashes. Only the northeast corner, and the extreme west end, of the city would remain intact. This was, however, a property fire with ample warning: there would be relatively little loss of life. Instead of horror the fire would inspire humor, as for instance in 1693 when a joke book would point out that Cannon Street had roared, Wood Street had burnt to Ashes, Bread Street had burnt to a Coal, Pie Corner had over bak’d, and Snow Hill had melted down.
There had just been a great comet, and so there was a widespread belief that the great comet had brought the great conflagration. Even as late as 1722, Daniel Defoe would be referring to this suspicion in his A JOURNAL OF THE PLAGUE YEAR.

DO I HAVE YOUR ATTENTION? GOOD.
THE VOYAGES AND TRAVELS OF AMBASSADORS SENT BY FREDERICK DUKE OF HOLSTEIN TO THE GRAND DUKE OF MUSCOVY AND THE KING OF PERSIA BEGUN IN 1633 AND FINISHED IN 1634 WHERETO ARE ADDED THE TRAVELS OF J.A. DE MANDELSLO was translated into English after having originally been prepared in German in 1647. This volume carried an account of a shipwreck which had occurred in 1601, which had marooned a Frenchman on the island of Mauritius, causing him to walk about knocking 50-pound dodos on the head with a stick in order to have a plenty of flesh to eat. This account would be read by Daniel Defoe and would evidently (among other such reports) be used in his construction of ROBINSON CRUSOE.
Alexander Selcraig was born in Largo, Scotland, a seacoast village.¹

CHANGE IS ETERNITY, STASIS A FIGMENT

¹ For a useful account of Alexander Selkirk’s life, refer to John Howell’s THE LIFE AND ADVENTURES OF ALEXANDER SELKIRK, which takes fully into account the major contemporary accounts such as Captain Woodes Rogers’s A CRUISING VOYAGE ROUND THE WORLD, Richard Steele’s 1713 essay “Alexander Selkirk” in The Englishman, William Dampier’s A NEW VOYAGE AROUND THE WORLD, and William Funnell’s A VOYAGE ROUND THE WORLD, CONTAINING AN ACCOUNT OF CAPTAIN DAMPIER’S EXPEDITION.
Alexander Selkirk (Alexander Selcraig) returned to Largo, Scotland, where he had grown up, but almost immediately he got in a fight with his brothers. As a joke they had given him a mug of seawater.

In Scotland, a habeas corpus act expressly excluded the workers in the coal mines and the salt pans. That is to say, those who were for life white slaves were not to be protected under such a law.

WHAT I’M WRITING IS TRUE BUT NEVER MIND
YOU CAN ALWAYS LIE TO YOURSELF
Daniel Defoe was required by the British government to pay a fine of £3,000 for libel. From this point he would become a political writer and for his attacks on the government of Queen Anne would be imprisoned for thirteen months in Newgate Prison.
April 30, Friday (Old Style): The Dampier expedition sailed, with Alexander Selkirk aboard.
Daniel Defoe’s THE STORM describes a great windstorm of this year. As might be expected, Defoe found a number of “remarkable providences” and “footprints of God” in the weather disturbance.

THE FUTURE CAN BE EASILY PREDICTED IN RETROSPECT
January: The Dampier expedition rounded the horn of South America (this was the second British ship to do so) and ventured into the “Spanish Lake,” that is to say, the Pacific Ocean. Soon they arrived at Más á Tierra Island in the Juan Fernández group 400 miles off the coast of Chile, which Captain Dampier had visited while with Captain John Cook in 1684. While in these waters there would be violent arguments aboard the vessel and they would fight naval engagements with French and Spanish vessels. Finding the timbers of the ship full of worms, Alexander Selkirk became convinced that there was little chance that such a skipper and such a crew and such a hull would get him safely home, and consequently asked to be abandoned on Más á Tierra.

2. A naval engagement, particularly if it was with a French vessel, would probably involve attempts to destroy enemy rope rigging and spars and sails by the firing of bar shot known as “doublehead.” Here is a contemporary sketch of the shot used, with a photo of a doublehead that has been found lying at the floor of the ocean:
At Eastern Point in Gloucester, the 1st “schooner,” a faster fishing boat, was launched from Cape Ann, by Andrew Robinson. The objective was to reduce sailing time to and from Georges Bank, and thus render the salt cod business more cost-effective.

On April 11, 1713, the Treaty of Utrecht granted the South Sea Company a monopoly, “asientos,” to import 4,800 African slaves per year for a period of 30 years into Spain’s American colonies to date from May 1, 1713. (The French had previously held this monopoly, and before them the Dutch.) This South Sea Company had been two years earlier in anticipation of receiving these asientos: the company was essentially a British finance company rather than a trading firm, but this began the most active period of British participation in the slave trade.
The South Sea Company chartered in this year was deeply involved with the British government, which invested in the Spanish trade in the hope that profits would pay off the national debt. The first governor of the company was Robert Harley, Chancellor of the Exchequer; when he would fall from power in 1714, he would be succeeded at first by the prince of Wales, and then by King George I himself. The trade consisted primarily of slaves; by contract, 4,800 each year were shipped from Africa to the Spanish West Indies. Although this business was not a great success, shares of the company kept soaring in price until, in 1720, the bubble collapsed — the greatest stock-market crash in English history up to that time. Much of the British elite lost large sums of money. The shareholders included such leading authors as Jonathan Swift, Daniel Defoe, Alexander Pope, Gay, and Lady Mary Wortley Montagu. By luck and good management of the crisis, Robert Walpole took control of the government; his dominance would last for more than twenty years.

Hubble Bubble; all is smoke,
Hubble Bubble; all is broke,
Farewell your Houses, Lands and Flocks
For all you have is now in Stocks.
— Anonymous pamphlet

3. There is not just one date associated with the Peace of Utrecht because this was not one but a complex series of treaties. The April 11th date was when Louis XIV recognized the English succession as established in the house of Hanover and confirmed the renunciation of the claims to the French throne of Louis's grandson, Philip V of Spain. The French fortifications of Dunkirk were to be razed and the harbor filled up, and the Hudson Bay territory, Acadia, St. Kitts, and Newfoundland were ceded to England. By a commercial treaty England and France granted each other most-favored-nation treatment. By a treaty with the Netherlands France agreed to surrender to Austria the Spanish Netherlands still in French hands; these were to be held in trust by the Netherlands until the conclusion of a treaty between the Netherlands and the Holy Roman emperor. A commercial treaty between France and the Netherlands was also signed. France furthermore restored Savoy and Nice to Victor Amadeus II, recognizing him as king of Savoy. France also signed a treaty with Portugal and one with Prussia confirming the kingship of the Prussian rulers. The July 13th date, on the other hand, was when an Anglo-Spanish treaty confirmed the clauses of the Anglo-French treaties relating to the English and French successions. Spain ceded Gibraltar and Minorca to Great Britain and ceded Sicily (to be exchanged in 1720 for Sardinia) to Savoy. Britain and Spain signed the Asiento, an agreement giving Britain the sole right to the slave trade with Spanish America. The March 7th, 1714 date was when Louis XIV and Holy Roman Emperor Charles VI made their peace, and the September 7th, 1714 date was when the Treaty of Baden completed the settlement, restoring the right bank of the Rhine to the empire and confirming Austria in possession of the formerly Spanish Netherlands, of Naples, and of Milan. The November 15th, 1715 date was when the Third Barrier Treaty regulated trade relations between the Dutch and Austrian Netherlands.
December 3, Thursday (Old Style): In an article in *The Englishmen*, #26, pages 121-4, one Richard Steele appraised the Alexander Selkirk story as “a memorable example, that he is happiest who confines his wants to natural necessities; and he that goes further in his desire, increases his wants in proportion to his acquisitions.” Steele’s article was titled “*Talia monstrabat relegens errata retrorum.*” Actually, however, according to William Dampier’s *A NEW VOYAGE ROUND THE WORLD*, seaman Selkirk had been preceded on the island of Juan Fernandez off the coast of Chile by a native American man of the Moskito tribe, name unknown to me, who had lived on goat’s flesh and fish on that island for three years. Seaman Selkirk was the follow-on tenant, living there alone for four years and four months on goat’s flesh, turnips, parsnips, and a kind of “cabbages that grew on trees.” Of course Selkirk would get all the fame of having been able to confine his wants to natural necessities, since he had hermited 43% longer — and since even on a remote isle it is only a white man’s suffering that is of any consequence. What they don’t tell you is that Selkirk not only milked the goats, and ate them, and fashioned clothing and umbrellas from their hides, but also married (I think that’s how you spell it) with them.
April 25, Saturday (Old Style): Daniel Defoe’s ROBINSON CRUSOE was published when its author was 60 (on the cigar box below, he’s rather a young-looking 60).

The historical original of the island hermit Robinson Crusoe is alleged to have been Alexander SelCraig, the 7th son of John SelCraig and Euphan Mackie, a sailor who had been born in 1676 in Largo, Scotland. He was sent to sea in 1695, changing his name to Selkirk, and on May 18, 1703 sailed in the Cinque Ports galley, 96 tons, 18 guns, and 63 men, Charles Pickering, Captain; Thomas Stradling, Lieutenant; and himself, Selkirk, Sailing Master. In that year they anchored at La Granda, Brazil, where Captain Pickering died, with the command falling upon Stradling. February of the following year saw them anchor at an uninhabited island off...
They left in pursuit of a French ship on February 29 but returned in September. During this time Selkirk had frequent quarrels with Stradling and ultimately felt that the ship was not sea-worthy. So when the Cinque Ports departed at the end of the month, all his effects, with additional supplies, were taken on shore and he remained alone on the island. Selkirk was recovered on February 2, 1709 by the Duke and Duchess, under the command of Captain Woodes Rogers. He was taken on as mate of the Duke and they sailed on February 12, arriving at Erith on the Thames, on October 14, 1711. The following year captain Rogers had published an account of his voyages in which he related the finding of Selkirk and how he had lived alone on the island “four years and four months”. Another officer of the same expedition, Captain Edward Cooke, published a similar volume and stated on the title page “Wherein an Account is given of Mr. Alexander Selkirk, his manner of living and taming some wild Beasts during the four Years and four Months he lived upon the uninhabited Island of Juan Fernandez.” After his time on the Duke Selkirk returned to Largo in 1712 and invested the money he had made. In 1717 he went to sea again and became a Lieutenant in the Royal Navy. He died at sea in 1723.

However, writing in the Sunday London Times for April 19, 1998, Christina Lamb reports that:

The long-cherished belief that a Scottish adventurer inspired Robinson Crusoe, the castaway hero of the first great English novel, is under attack. A leading Portuguese historian claims Daniel Defoe stole the character from accounts of a 16th-century traitor from Lisbon who fled to a desert island. British school children are usually taught that Crusoe was based on Alexander Selkirk, who ran away to sea and was stranded on one of the uninhabited Juan Fernandez islands in the Pacific. Selkirk was rescued 10 years before the publication of Defoe’s novel in 1719. According to Fernanda Durão Ferreira, however, Defoe’s novel is strikingly similar to accounts of the life of Fernão Lopez, whose ears, nose, right hand and left thumb were cut off.
after he was accused of treason. He found refuge on St. Helena, in the Atlantic, where he died in 1546. His constant companions, according to 16th-century travelogues, were a Javanese servant, like Man Friday, and a faithful cockerel which followed him everywhere, just as Crusoe’s parrot did.

“I’ve absolutely no doubt that Crusoe was Lopez,” said Ferreira last week. “The structure of the book was Defoe’s but the story is a complete patchwork of Portuguese travel literature.”
Ferreira’s claims are made in a book, *THE PORTUGUESE INSPIRATION FOR ROBINSON CRUSOE*. It is being published during a drive to emphasize Portugal’s maritime glories in the run-up to Expo, a £2 billion international exhibition in which the focus will be on oceans. The organizers of the event, which opens next month in Lisbon, want to emphasize that Portuguese explorers discovered and mapped two-thirds of the world.... “Portuguese travel literature was very much in vogue at that time, and Defoe was a personal friend of some of the translators,” said Ferreira, an expert on the discoveries period. “The more I read and checked, the more I found things in Crusoe which were almost word-for-word copies of Portuguese travelogues of the 15th and 16th centuries.” Defoe’s description of Crusoe’s island matches Portuguese accounts of the island of Goreia, off the coast of Senegal. An episode in which cannibals on Crusoe’s island prepare to eat Spaniards on a ship laden with silver from South America resembles a description by Duarte Pacheco Pereira, a Portuguese writer, of an attack by cannibals on a boat laden with gold.... Ferreira believes Defoe deliberately left clues to Crusoe’s true origin. After escaping from his Moroccan jail, Crusoe is saved by a Portuguese ship. When he reaches Europe, he arrives in Lisbon — and when he tries to salvage belongings from the shipwreck he manages to get “three Bibles and some Portuguese books....”

Nevertheless, the Juan Fernandez group of islands 360 miles from Valparaiso, Chile now bear the names Isla Santa Clara, Isla Alejandro Selkirk, and *Isla Robinson Crusoe*, and there is a plaque:

4. I have silently corrected Fernão Lopes to Fernão Lopez to avoid confusion with the Portuguese historian Lopes.
Not only have we been supposing that Defoe based his story of the castaway Crusoe on Selkirk, when we do not have evidence that that was the case and when it might well be otherwise, but also, we have been supposing that Thoreau read Defoe’s story of the castaway Crusoe, when we do not have evidence that that was the case and when it might well be otherwise. For we do not actually know that Thoreau ever perused a printed edition of this story, and we do know that Thoreau studied a volume about the author Defoe, to wit the 1st of the three volumes of Walter Wilson, Esq.’s MEMOIRS OF THE LIFE AND TIMES OF DANIEL DE FOE: CONTAINING A REVIEW OF HIS WRITINGS, AND HIS OPINIONS UPON A VARIETY OF IMPORTANT MATTERS, CIVIL AND ECCLESIASTICAL (London: Hurst, Chance, and Co., 1830), and we do know that all the details of the story of which Thoreau was aware, were present in that volume.
The drinking of “hard” alcoholic spirits, although widespread among the British ruling classes, was on the decline due to the spread of coffee. In France, the court of King Louis XV in particular had developed a taste for this beverage, and in this year the 1st coffeehouse appeared in Berlin. More of it was being consumed at this point in London than in any other city on earth. Daniel DeFoe, however, was able to speak of the “honest drunken fellow” as an archetypal Englishman because high import duties and other legislation in control of alcoholic beverages were having such an effect, in encouraging home distillation of cheap potent spirits, that among the lower classes drunkenness was coming to be considered essentially harmless. In America, rum and whiskey were supplanting traditional beers and hard ciders, and more and more taverns were being founded since drinking was considered to be primarily a male pastime and to be indulged in away from the wife and children.

December 13, Wednesday (Old Style): Alexander Selkirk died at sea. It is likely that he never heard that a book had been written about his self-incarceration.
THE PEOPLE OF MAINE WOODS  DANIEL DEFOE
In an “Address to Parents” at the beginning of The Children’s Robinson Crusoe, Mrs. Eliza Ware Rotch Farrar noted that Daniel Defoe’s work had been “exactly what it purports to be, the narrative of a profane, ill-educated, runaway apprentice of the 17th century,” and therefore had been in need of being expurgated before it could conceivably be offered as part of a properly guarded education for our tender innocent children: “Can such a tale, though perfect in itself, be suited to children who have been carefully guarded from all profaneness, vulgarity, and superstition?” She not only elided Crusoe’s “disobedience to his parents, and his inordinate love of adventure,” replacing such negatives with such positive traits as: “industry, perseverance, resignation to the will of God.” Friday she altered to make him be your perfect colored servant: “of a mild, affectionate, and tractable nature.” Deliberately, she wove into the narrative “as much information about domestic arts as could well be interwoven with the story.”

Walter Wilson, Esq.’s Memoirs of the Life and Times of Daniel Defoe: Containing a Review of His Writings, and His Opinions Upon a Variety of Important Matters, Civil and Ecclesiastical (London: Hurst, Chance, and Co.).

5. Of the three volumes of this Henry Thoreau would check out only the 1st.
The Maine Woods: Setting out on our return to the river, still at an early hour in the day, we decided to follow the course of the torrent, which we supposed to be Murch Brook, as long as it would not lead us too far out of our way. We thus travelled about four miles in the very torrent itself, continually crossing and recrossing it, leaping from rock to rock, and jumping with the stream down falls of seven or eight feet, or sometimes sliding down on our backs in a thin sheet of water. This ravine had been the scene of an extraordinary freshet in the spring, apparently accompanied by a slide from the mountain. It must have been filled with a stream of stones and water, at least twenty feet above the present level of the torrent. For a rod or two, on either side of its channel, the trees were barked and splintered up to their tops, the birches bent over, twisted, and sometimes finely split, like a stable-broom; some, a foot in diameter, snapped off, and whole clumps of trees bent over with the weight of rocks piled on them. In one place we noticed a rock, two or three feet in diameter, lodged nearly twenty feet high in the crotch of a tree. For the whole four miles, we saw but one rill emptying in, and the volume of water did not seem to be increased from the first. We travelled thus very rapidly with a downward impetus, and grew remarkably expert at leaping from rock to rock, for leap we must, and leap we did, whether there was any rock at the right distance or not. It was a pleasant picture when the foremost turned about and looked up the winding ravine, walled in with rocks and the green forest, to see, at intervals of a rod or two, a red-shirted or green-jacketed mountaineer against the white torrent, leaping down the channel with his pack on his back, or pausing upon a convenient rock in the midst of the torrent to mend a rent in his clothes, or unstrap the dipper at his belt to take a draught of the water. At one place we were startled by seeing, on a little sandy shelf by the side of the stream, the fresh print of a man’s foot, and for a moment realized how Robinson Crusoe felt in a similar case; but at last we remembered that we had struck this stream on our way up, though we could not have told where, and one had descended into the ravine for a drink. The cool air above, and the continual bathing of our bodies in mountain water, alternate foot, sitz, douche, and plunge baths, made this walk exceedingly refreshing, and we had travelled only a mile or two, after leaving the torrent, before every thread of our clothes was as dry as usual, owing perhaps to a peculiar quality in the atmosphere.
Having survived middle school, Friedrich Gerstäcker was made an apprentice in Kassel. After a few months he absconded, returning to his mother’s home at Leipzig on foot to inform her that he was going to emigrate. He had learned, from Daniel Defoe’s ROBINSON CRUSOE and James Fenimore Cooper’s initial LEATHERSTOCKING TALES, approximately what sort of adventure awaited in the New World.
THOREAU’S HARVARD LIBRARY READING LIST FOR 1834

"There is no Frigate like a Book
To take us Lands away"
— Emily Dickinson

January 29 (10) The Reverend Thomas Harwood. GREEK ANTIQUITIES; OR, AN ACCOUNT OF THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE LIFE OF THE GREEKS ... (T. Cadell and W. Davies, 1801)
February 6 (11) Benjamin Franklin Fisk. GREEK EXERCISES; CONTAINING THE SUBSTANCE OF THE GREEK SYNTAX, ILLUSTRATED BY PASSAGES FROM THE BEST GREEK AUTHORS, TO BE WRITTEN OUT FROM THE WORDS GIVEN IN THEIR SIMPLEST FORM (Boston: Hilliard, Gray, Little, and Wilkins, 1831)
February 12 (13) Charles Dexter Cleveland. AN EPITOME OF GREEK ANTIQUITIES. FOR THE USE OF SCHOOLS (Boston, 1827)
February 19 (14) Lydia Maria Child. HOBOMOK, A TALE OF EARLY TIMES (1824)
February 19 (14) Lydia Maria Child. THE REBELS (1825)
March 6 (16) Mary Barney. A BIOGRAPHICAL MEMOIR OF THE LATE COMMODORE JOSHUA BARNEY (1832)
March 26 (19) Thomas Gray. THE VESTAL, OR A TALE OF POMPEII (Boston: Gray and Bowen, 1830)

6. The Harvard Library had in 1830 and 1831 published its shelflist. In this year it issued a supplemental volume:

April 23 (21) “Lewis P. Clapperton” “10.1.4”6 (It is surmised that this consisted of a work by Meriwether Lewis and another by Hugh Clapperton, though we lack positive evidence. Clapperton published his Journal of a second expedition into the interior of Africa in London, 1829.)


April 30 (23) Oliver Goldsmith. The History of England from the Earliest Times to the Death of George the Second, ... with a Continuation ... (The margin reads: “C.S. Wheeler for
Thoreau.”, In the margin: “A.G. Peabody for Thoreau.”

May 7 (24) Lydia Howard Huntley Sigourney. TRAITS OF THE ABORIGINES OF AMERICA A POEM (Cambridge MA: Hilliard and Metcalf, 1822) (?)


June 10 (26) John Marshall. A HISTORY OF THE COLONIES PLANTED BY THE ENGLISH ON THE CONTINENT OF NORTH AMERICA, FROM THEIR SETTLEMENT, TO THE COMMENCEMENT OF THAT WAR WHICH TERMINATED IN THEIR INDEPENDENCE.... (Philadelphia: Abraham Small, 1824)

September 16(27) Samuel Bailey. ESSAYS ON THE FORMATION AND PUBLICATION OF OPINIONS

September 16(28) Gasparo Grimani. NEW AND IMPROVED GRAMMAR OF THE ITALIAN LANGUAGE, WITH COPIOUS EXERCISES, UNDER EVERY RULE AND OBSERVATION (1820)


George Waddington’s and the Reverend Barnard Hanbury’s JOURNAL OF A VISIT TO SOME PARTS OF ETHIOPIA (London: John Murray, 1822)

April 30, Wednesday: David Henry Thoreau checked out, from Harvard Library, the 1st volume of Walter Wilson, Esq.’s MEMOIRS OF THE LIFE AND TIMES OF DANIEL DE FOE (London, 1830).

7. A caveat: There were many editions of some of these works which Thoreau consulted, and since I do not presently know which edition it was that he consulted, I have tried to standardize by listing the edition and year in which the material had first become available.
THE MAINE WOODS: Setting out on our return to the river, still at an early hour in the day, we decided to follow the course of the torrent, which we supposed to be Murch Brook, as long as it would not lead us too far out of our way. We thus travelled about four miles in the very torrent itself, continually crossing and recrossing it, leaping from rock to rock, and jumping with the stream down falls of seven or eight feet, or sometimes sliding down on our backs in a thin sheet of water. This ravine had been the scene of an extraordinary freshet in the spring, apparently accompanied by a slide from the mountain. It must have been filled with a stream of stones and water, at least twenty feet above the present level of the torrent. For a rod or two, on either side of its channel, the trees were barked and splintered up to their tops, the birches bent over, twisted, and sometimes finely split, like a stable-broom; some, a foot in diameter, snapped off, and whole clumps of trees bent over with the weight of rocks piled on them. In one place we noticed a rock, two or three feet in diameter, lodged nearly twenty feet high in the crotch of a tree. For the whole four miles, we saw but one rill emptying in, and the volume of water did not seem to be increased from the first. We travelled thus very rapidly with a downward impetus, and grew remarkably expert at leaping from rock to rock, for leap we must, and leap we did, whether there was any rock at the right distance or not. It was a pleasant picture when the foremost turned about and looked up the winding ravine, walled in with rocks and the green forest, to see, at intervals of a rod or two, a red-shirted or green-jacketed mountaineer against the white torrent, leaping down the channel with his pack on his back, or pausing upon a convenient rock in the midst of the torrent to mend a rent in his clothes, or unstrap the dipper at his belt to take a draught of the water. At one place we were startled by seeing, on a little sandy shelf by the side of the stream, the fresh print of a man’s foot, and for a moment realized how Robinson Crusoe felt in a similar case; but at last we remembered that we had struck this stream on our way up, though we could not have told where, and one had descended into the ravine for a drink. The cool air above, and the continual bathing of our bodies in mountain water, alternate foot, sitz, douche, and plunge baths, made this walk exceedingly refreshing, and we had travelled only a mile or two, after leaving the torrent, before every thread of our clothes was as dry as usual, owing perhaps to a peculiar quality in the atmosphere.
THE PEOPLE OF MAINE WOODS

DANIEL Defoe
Thoreau also checked out Oliver Goldsmith’s *The History of England from the Earliest Times to the Death of George the Second*, ... with a continuation to the Treaty Concluded at Paris in the Year 1815.

This had originally been issued in 1771 and had covered the history of England only down to 1760. The volumes Thoreau consulted may have been from any one of a number of expanded editions, for instance an expanded edition by Charles Coote (1819) that continued the history of England into the year 1815:

Friend Stephen Wanton Gould wrote in his journal:

> 4th day 30th of 4 M / Rode this Morning to Greenwich to attend the Quarterly Meeting - The Select Meeting this day held was a season of favour After the Meeting for Sufferings in the
Afternoon We went to Daniel Howlands & lodged

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS
Here is Lawrence Buell on Thoreau’s tweaking of the “great bourgeois (sub)urbanite anxiety” on page 149 of THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMAGINATION: THOREAU, NATURE WRITING, AND THE FORMATION OF AMERICAN CULTURE:

WALDEN’s ideological ambience can be pinned down ... by comparing it to the Anglophone Protestant classic about homesteading that it most resembles: Defoe’s ROBINSON CRUSOE. CRUSOE was already a classic in Thoreau’s day. Thoreau knew the Crusoe story well, both the original and several recent imitations, such as Mayne Reid’s juvenile novel THE DESERT HOME (1853) and Ephraim Squier’s faintly Typee-like WAikna; OR, ADVENTURES ON THE MOSQUITO SHORE (1855), about a beach- and junglecombing American artist-adventurer in Central America.... Thoreau was not wholly immune to the Crusoe syndrome.... Still, of the two, Thoreau is the sponsor of technological devolution and the attenuation of authority structures. Like their nightmarish complement, the gothic romance, CRUSOE and WALDEN both cater to the great bourgeois (sub)urbanite anxiety. Can I survive when cast back on my own resources, without the usual social and material supports?
THE PEOPLE OF MAINE WOODS

DANIEL DEFOE
THE PEOPLE OF MAINE WOODS

THE MAINE WOODS: Setting out on our return to the river, still at an early hour in the day, we decided to follow the course of the torrent, which we supposed to be Murch Brook, as long as it would not lead us too far out of our way. We thus travelled about four miles in the very torrent itself, continually crossing and recrossing it, leaping from rock to rock, and jumping with the stream down falls of seven or eight feet, or sometimes sliding down on our backs in a thin sheet of water. This ravine had been the scene of an extraordinary freshet in the spring, apparently accompanied by a slide from the mountain. It must have been filled with a stream of stones and water, at least twenty feet above the present level of the torrent. For a rod or two, on either side of its channel, the trees were barked and splintered up to their tops, the birches bent over, twisted, and sometimes finely split, like a stable-broom; some, a foot in diameter, snapped off, and whole clumps of trees bent over with the weight of rocks piled on them. In one place we noticed a rock, two or three feet in diameter, lodged nearly twenty feet high in the crotch of a tree. For the whole four miles, we saw but one rill emptying in, and the volume of water did not seem to be increased from the first. We travelled thus very rapidly with a downward impetus, and grew remarkably expert at leaping from rock to rock, for leap we must, and leap we did, whether there was any rock at the right distance or not. It was a pleasant picture when the foremost turned about and looked up the winding ravine, walled in with rocks and the green forest, to see, at intervals of a rod or two, a red-shirted or green-jacketed mountaineer against the white torrent, leaping down the channel with his pack on his back, or pausing upon a convenient rock in the midst of the torrent to mend a rent in his clothes, or unstrap the dipper at his belt to take a draught of the water. At one place we were startled by seeing, on a little sandy shelf by the side of the stream, the fresh print of a man’s foot, and for a moment realized how Robinson Crusoe felt in a similar case; but at last we remembered that we had struck this stream on our way up, though we could not have told where, and one had descended into the ravine for a drink. The cool air above, and the continual bathing of our bodies in mountain water, alternate foot, sitz, douche, and plunge baths, made this walk exceedingly refreshing, and we had travelled only a mile or two, after leaving the torrent, before every thread of our clothes was as dry as usual, owing perhaps to a peculiar quality in the atmosphere.

“**MAGISTERIAL HISTORY**” IS FANTASIZING: HISTORY IS CHRONOLOGY
THE PEOPLE OF MAINE WOODS

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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: September 13, 2014
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.

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.