

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

SIR KENELM DIGBY



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

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WALDEN: Though I gave them no manure, and did not hoe them all once, I hoed them unusually well as far as I went, and was paid for it in the end, "there being in truth," as Evelyn says, "no compost or latation whatsoever comparable to this continual motion, repastination, and turning of the mould with the spade." "The earth," he adds elsewhere, "especially if fresh, has a certain magnetism in it, by which it attracts the salt, power, or virtue (call it either) which gives it life, and is the logic of all the labor and stir we keep about it, to sustain us; all dungings and other sordid temperings being but the vicars succedaneous to this improvement." Moreover, this being one of those "worn-out and exhausted lay fields which enjoy their sabbath," had perchance, as Sir Kenelm Digby thinks likely, attracted "vital spirits" from the air. I harvested twelve bushels of beans.

PEOPLE OF
WALDEN

SIR KENELM DIGBY

JOHN EVELYN



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1603

April 23, Saturday (Old Style): As part of his progress toward London and coronation as King of England, at Belvoir Castle [James IV](#) knighted [Evard Digby](#).

July 11, Sunday (Old Style): [Kenelm Digby](#) was born into a family of gentry that had converted to [Catholicism](#), at Gayhurst in Buckinghamshire.

NOBODY COULD GUESS WHAT WOULD HAPPEN NEXT



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1605

November 5, Tuesday (Old Style): [Guy Fawkes](#) had been recruited with a band of Roman Catholics, perhaps on the basis of his familiarity with explosives and with sapping, to tunnel under the House of Parliament. There is no doubt that, though his name has been fixed to the conspiracy for English Catholics to take over the government, Fawkes had been a mere functionary. It was an advantage that, having for some time been abroad, he was not known in London. Coming to [London](#), he had used the alias Johnson. There is no doubt as to his courage, and the 36 ninety-pound barrels of black powder that they had purchased from a London fireworks maker named Charles Pain were discovered while Fawkes was outside the building else he surely would have fired them.¹



Thomas Shepard was born at the very hour on which the British Parliament was scheduled to be blown up, with the monarch and a princely son.

1. In England (and inter alia, some former colonies), November the 5th is still celebrated as [Guy Fawkes Night](#), when bonfires and fireworks are ignited to celebrate the successful detection of this Roman Catholic plot to detonate King and Parliament. At Lewes in County Sussex, the celebration still suggests something of an anti-Catholic animus. In colonial [Boston](#), Pope's Day would be a continuation on this anti-Catholic day of rioting, and the jingoistic parades would continue until one year a small boy would be crushed by one of the "Pope" effigies being wheeled through the streets by firemen (the volunteer fire brigades of athletic, drunken young men were principal leaders in such rioting).



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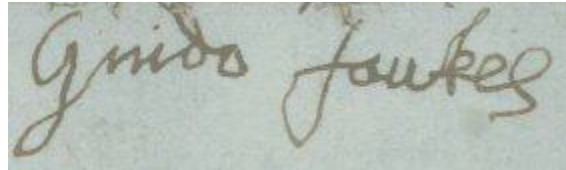
November 8, Friday (Old Style): Upon the discovery of the Gunpowder Plot against King and Parliament, Robert Catesby, Thomas Percy, Kit Wright, and John Wright were shot dead at Holbeach House. (The recoverable bodies would later be dug up, to be decapitated.) The conspirators taken alive would be interrogated in the Queens House of the [Tower of London](#). This was the 3rd imprisonment in the Tower for Thomas Abington, who would be released (the letter of warning that led to the unraveling of the scheme is said to have been written by his wife). Hugh Owen would live until his old age in Rome. [Guy Fawkes](#) was a 36-year-old [Catholic](#) convert who had served in the Spanish army before becoming involved in the Gunpowder Plot. He would be racked, probably in the basement of Wakefield Tower.

LONDON
HEADCHOPPING

This is his signature, “Guido,” on his confession immediately after the rack:



And here is his signature, “Guido Fawkes,” on a supplemental confession made eight days afterward:



Upon the discovery of this plot against King and Parliament, various trusted Protestants were sent out into the nation, to round up the usual suspects. For instance, [Sir John Ferne, newly minted knight](#), got dispatched to York to coordinate the arrest of suspects there. Sir John’s manner of suppressing this conspiracy would be not merely to persecute English [Catholics](#) but also, tarring with a wider brush, to attack the ecclesiastical establishment — for having been insufficiently diligent in their previous persecutions of these disloyal ones.

[Thomas Hariot](#)’s patron Henry Percy, 9th Earl of Northumberland, was one of those imprisoned in connection with the Gunpowder Plot, on account of his being a 2d cousin of one of the conspirators, Thomas Percy (Hariot himself would be briefly imprisoned under interrogation, but would soon obtain a release).

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1606

January 27, Monday (1605, Old Style): [Sir Eward Digby](#), an occupant of the [Tower of London](#) (he had carved an inscription into a wall there), was tried for high treason for the part he had played in the [Catholic](#) “Gunpowder Plot” — and pled “Guilty.” He had sponsored a “hunting party” at Coughton Court in Warwickshire made up of armed horsemen standing by for the explosion beneath the House of Lords. Their specific role in the plot had been to kidnap 9-year-old [Princess Elizabeth Stuart](#) immediately upon the demise in the explosion of her father [King James I of England](#) and older brother Prince Henry, so that she could be retrained by them in the Catholic faith and safely married off to a Catholic bridegroom and come out of her period of regency as the Catholic monarch of England, Ireland, and Scotland.

January 30, Thursday (1605, Old Style): [Sir Eward Digby](#), Robert Wintour, John Grant, and Thomas Bates were dragged on hurdles to the west end of the churchyard of Old St Paul’s Cathedral in [London](#) (as depicted below) and there hanged, drawn, and quartered for the part they had played in the Catholic “Gunpowder Plot.” The first to be processed, Sir Eward Digby, after being suspended for a short period, was cut down still conscious, taken to the block, and castrated, then disembowelled, then quartered. At the age of three his son [Kenelm Digby](#) would be removed from the custody of his Catholic mother Lady Mary (Maria) Neale Mulshaw Digby, daughter of Francis Neale of Keythorpe in Leicestershire, and reared in a Protestant household as a ward of Chancery.



After litigation, [Kenelm Digby](#) would inherit unconfiscated lands that would generate for him the truly enormous personal income of \$15,000 a year.



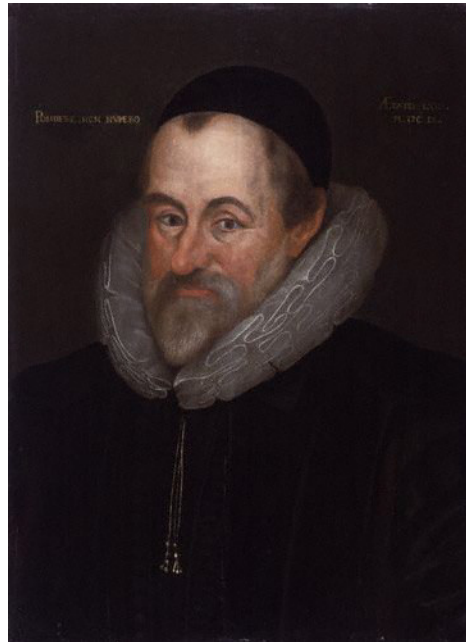
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1618

[William Camden](#) had come to be in poor health. Before his death he would “give back” by creating a lectureship in history at the [University of Oxford](#).



[Kenelm Digby](#) entered Gloucester Hall of Oxford (now Worcester College). Here he would be under the care of Thomas Allen, a mathematician and occultist, and would study physical science. Allen would bequeath to Digby his books and MSS, which Sir Kenelm would pass on to the Bodleian Library.

**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.**



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1620

[Kenelm Digby](#) left [Oxford University](#) without a degree. By this time he was deeply in love with Venitia, the beautiful daughter of Sir Edward Stanley, Kt., of Tonge Castle, Shropshire. His mother Lady Mary (Maria) Neale Mulshaw Digby opposing the match, he withdrew to the Continent, visiting France and Italy and finally Spain.

THE FUTURE IS MOST READILY PREDICTED IN RETROSPECT





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1623

March: When [Prince of Wales Charles](#) arrived in Madrid in an attempt to obtain a suitable spouse, 20-year-old Protestant [Kenelm Digby](#) joined his entourage. When the prince then returned to England without being able to make marriage arrangements, so that [Digby](#) could become one of the prince's gentleman of the privy chamber his father [King James I](#) elevated him to the knighthood.

CHANGE IS ETERNITY, STASIS A FIGMENT



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1625

[Sir Kenelm Digby](#) got married “privily” with [Venitia Anastasia Stanley](#). This lady’s court reputation had not been spotless, yet their conjugal life would be happy despite her headaches and she would bear her husband four sons Kenelm, John, George, and Edward (one of whom would die in infancy), and a daughter (I do not know her daughter’s name) before unexpectedly and mysteriously dying.

The [bubonic plague](#) in [London](#), called the [Black Death](#).



The 1st description of [hydrogen](#), by [Jan Baptist van Helmont](#) (not called by such a name — however, this would be the initial deployment of a term such as “gas”).

March 27, Sunday (Old Style): [King James VI](#) of [Scotland](#), [King James I](#) of England died at Theobolds Park in Herts, England at the age of 59.² The body would be interred at Westminster Abbey and his son Prince of Wales Charles would take over as the new monarch.

2. As an exception among English monarchs, this monarch had produced no bastards — the reason behind such a rarity, however, was not sexual restraint, for his bosom buddy had not been capable of producing children. His son James II would be playing catch-up by producing four (undeniable, or acknowledged) bastards.

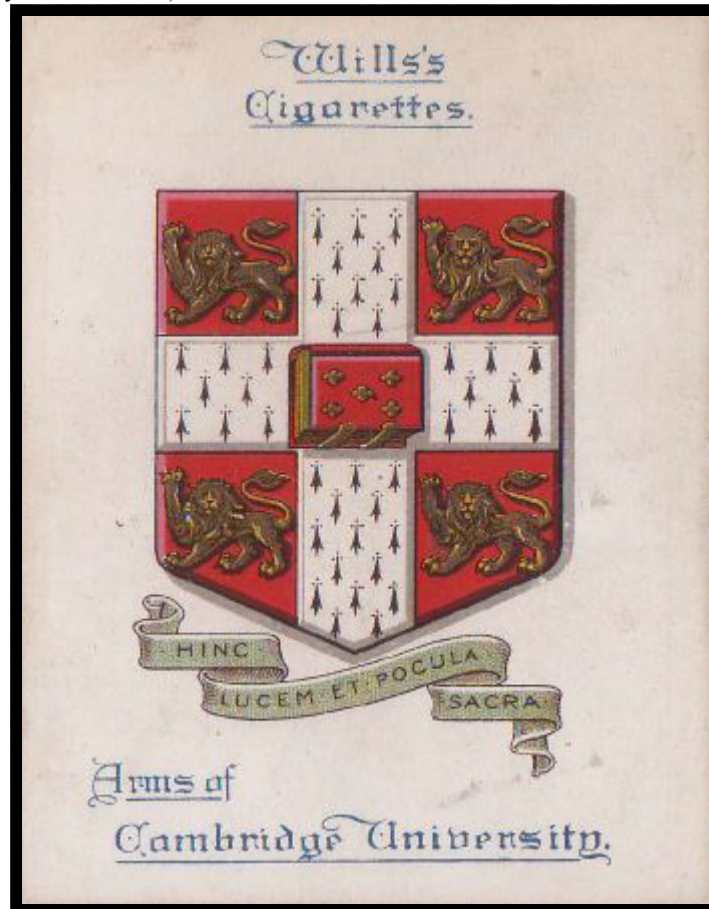


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University Public Orator [George Herbert](#) made the egregious blunder of delegating to another the duty of delivering the [Cambridge](#) funeral oration in regard to this royal death (they would therefore need to replace him as University Public Orator).



DO I HAVE YOUR ATTENTION? GOOD.



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1627

Christmas: Having obtained the leave of [King Charles I](#) of England and taken out letters of marque, at about this point [Sir Kenelm Digby](#) sailed from Deal on a [privateering](#) expedition against French ships anchored in the Venetian haven of Iskanderun or Alexandretta on the Mediterranean coast of Turkey. There would be various adventures on the voyage, but his two vessels would arrive at Iskanderun on June 10th, 1628.

THE FUTURE CAN BE EASILY PREDICTED IN RETROSPECT





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1628

June 11, Wednesday (Old Style): The two vessels of [Sir Kenelm Digby](#) that had sailed in the previous year under a letter of marque from [King Charles I](#) of England attacked the various French and Venetian galleys anchored in the haven of Iskanderun or Alexandretta on the Mediterranean coast of Turkey. The enterprise succeeded and the English [privateers](#) would return in a leisurely manner to their home base, arriving during the following February.



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1629

February: The two [privateering](#) vessels of [Sir Kenelm Digby](#) that had sailed in 1627 under a letter of marque from [King Charles I](#) returned to their home port in England laden with the spoils of the various French and Venetian galleys which they had looted in 1628 in the Venetian haven of Iskanderun or Alexandretta on the Mediterranean coast of Turkey.



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1632

[John Milton](#) graduated with a scholastic M.A. from [Christ College at Cambridge University](#) and began private study in his father's home. His first works would be the poem "Lycidas" and the masque COMUS, a dramatization of the conflict between good and evil.



At London, performance of [John Ford](#)'s *Love's Sacrifice* (printed 1633).

There was talk of [Sir Kenelm Digby](#) becoming the secretary of state.



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1633

May 1, Wednesday (Old Style): [Sir Kenelm Digby](#) was thrown unexpectedly into grief when on this morning his wife [Venetia Anastasia Stanley Digby](#) could not be awakened. After an inconclusive autopsy the body would be consigned to the graveyard at Christ Church, Newgate. The widower would spend two years in entire seclusion, amusing himself as best he could with chemical experiments.



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1636

[Oliver Cromwell](#) was at Ely.

[Sir Kenelm Digby](#) was reconciled to the [Roman Catholic](#) faith (this appears to have taken place in France).



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1639

[Ralph Cudworth](#) took his MA degree and became fellow and tutor of [Emmanuel College of Cambridge University](#).

Andrew Marvell, who had prepared at Hull grammar school, received his BA at [Cambridge](#).

[John Birkenhead](#) became a Fellow of All Souls' at [Oriel College of Oxford University](#).

[Sir Kenelm Digby](#) was back in England, but his intimacy as a [Catholic](#) with the king and queen would rouse suspicions in the Long Parliament.

WHAT I'M WRITING IS TRUE BUT NEVER MIND
YOU CAN ALWAYS LIE TO YOURSELF



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1641

[William Habington](#)'s OBSERVATIONS VPON HISTORIE (Printed by T. Cotes for Will. Cooke, and are to be sold at his shop, neere Furnivalls-Inne gate in Holborne), created in collaboration with his father [Sir Thomas Habington](#).



At a meeting in Maidstone, Kent, [Richard Lovelace](#) led a group of men who seized and destroyed a pro-Parliament, anti-Episcopacy petition which had been signed by 15,000 Englishmen, for the abolition of Episcopal rule.

The Long Parliament summoned [Sir Kenelm Digby](#). Are you now or have you ever been a [Roman Catholic](#)?

Due to the onset of the [English Civil War](#), in Broadwindsor the Reverend [Thomas Fuller](#), his curate Henry Sanders, the churchwardens, and five others needed to certify that each and every adult male of their parish, 242 in total, had sworn the Protestation oath that had been ordered by the speaker of the Long Parliament. Although he would not be formally dispossessed of his living and prebend on the triumph of the Presbyterian party, at about this period he would relinquish both preferments. For a short time he would preach at the Inns of Court and then, at the invitation of Walter Balcanqual, the master of the Savoy, and the brotherhood of that foundation, he would become lecturer at their chapel of St Mary Savoy. Sometimes his hearers there would overflow the structure and stand in the chapel-yard looking in at the windows and doors. In one of his sermons he would set forth the hindrances to peace, and urge the signing of peace petitions directed both to [King Charles I](#) at Oxford, and to the Parliament.

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1642

[Ralph Cudworth](#) took on the [Roman Catholics](#) of England with A DISCOURSE CONCERNING THE TRUE NOTION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER. He considered this sacrament to be that of a "feast upon a sacrifice," analogous to the feasts which followed the legal sacrifices among the Jews; not itself *sacrificium*, but, in Tertullian's language, *participatio sacrificii*. Soon he would add to this THE UNION OF CHRIST AND THE CHURCH; IN A SHADOW, in which he would attempt to depict marriage as more than a mere family contract.



The Long Parliament packed the influential [Roman Catholic](#) court-hanger-on [Sir Kenelm Digby](#) off to prison. He would be released only upon his pledge that he would immediately go into exile in France. He went to Paris and his English estate was forfeit.

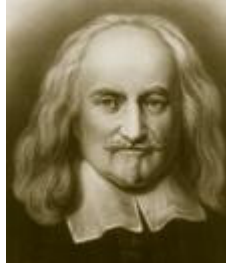


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Thomas Hobbes's *DE CIVI* was published at Paris.



Soon Hobbes would present a copy of this initial edition to his friend [Sir Kenelm Digby](#) (Digby having been in England when it was published) with the inscription “To Mr Kenelm Digby, most distinguished by his birth, his virtues, his knowledge, and his deeds, as a tribute from the author.”



As soon as political conditions permitted, Hobbes would have this published also in English in England, as *PHILOSOPHICAL RUDIMENTS CONCERNING GOVERNMENT AND SOCIETY*.



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1644

In Paris, [Sir Kenelm Digby](#) brought out “A Treatise of the Nature of Bodies” and “A Treatise declaring the operations and nature of man’s fovle, out of which the immortality of reafonable fovles is evinced.” These profound things would soon also be printed in London.

TWO TREATISES:: ... DIGBY

[Vicar Robert Herrick](#) would have written his poem “To the King upon his Coming with his Army into the West” in this year.

WELCOME, most welcome to our vows and us,
Most great and universal genius!
The drooping west, which hitherto has stood
As one, in long-lamented widowhood,
Looks like a bride now, or a bed of flowers,
Newly refresh’d, both by the sun and showers.
War, which before was horrid, now appears
Lovely in you, brave prince of cavaliers!
A deal of courage in each bosom springs
By your access, O you the best of kings!
Ride on with all white omens ; so that where
Your standard’s up, we fix a conquest there.

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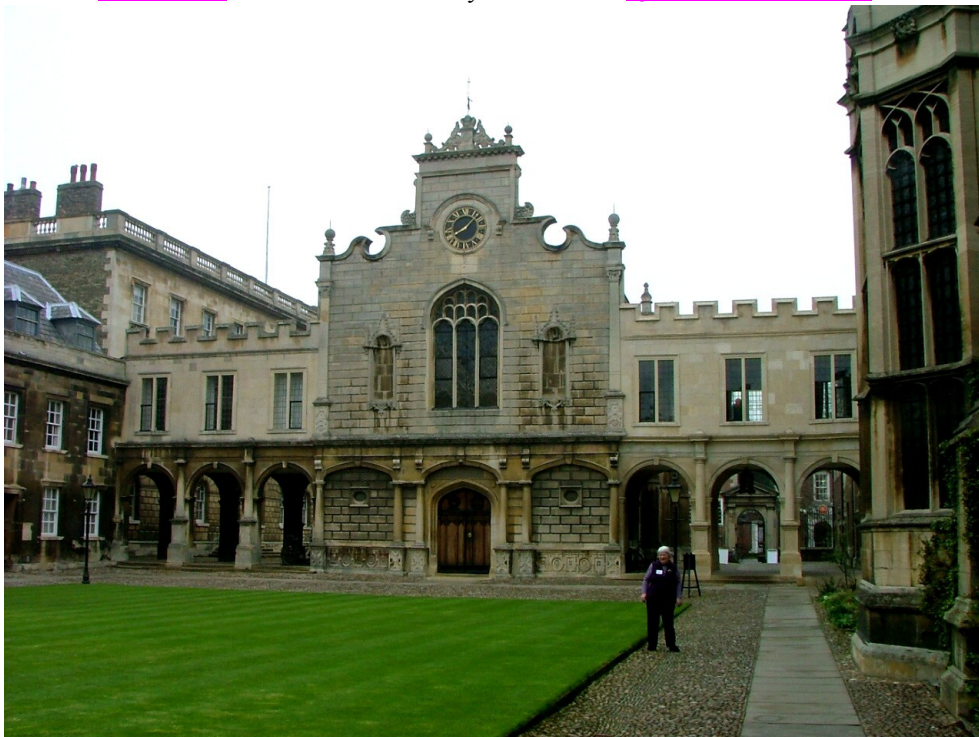
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Despite his humble birth, at the age of 16 [John Wray or Ray](#) had been sent to study at [Trinity College and Catharine Hall in Cambridge University](#).

After the disintegration in the vicinity of Cambridge of the influence of [King Charles I](#) in the ongoing [English Civil War](#), [Richard Crashaw](#) refused to take the oath of the Covenant and was forcibly ejected by Parliamentarians from his fellowship at [Peterhouse College of Cambridge University](#). Escaping to Paris, he converted to [Catholicism](#) and became a secretary to the exiled [Queen Henrietta Maria](#) and her court.



HDT

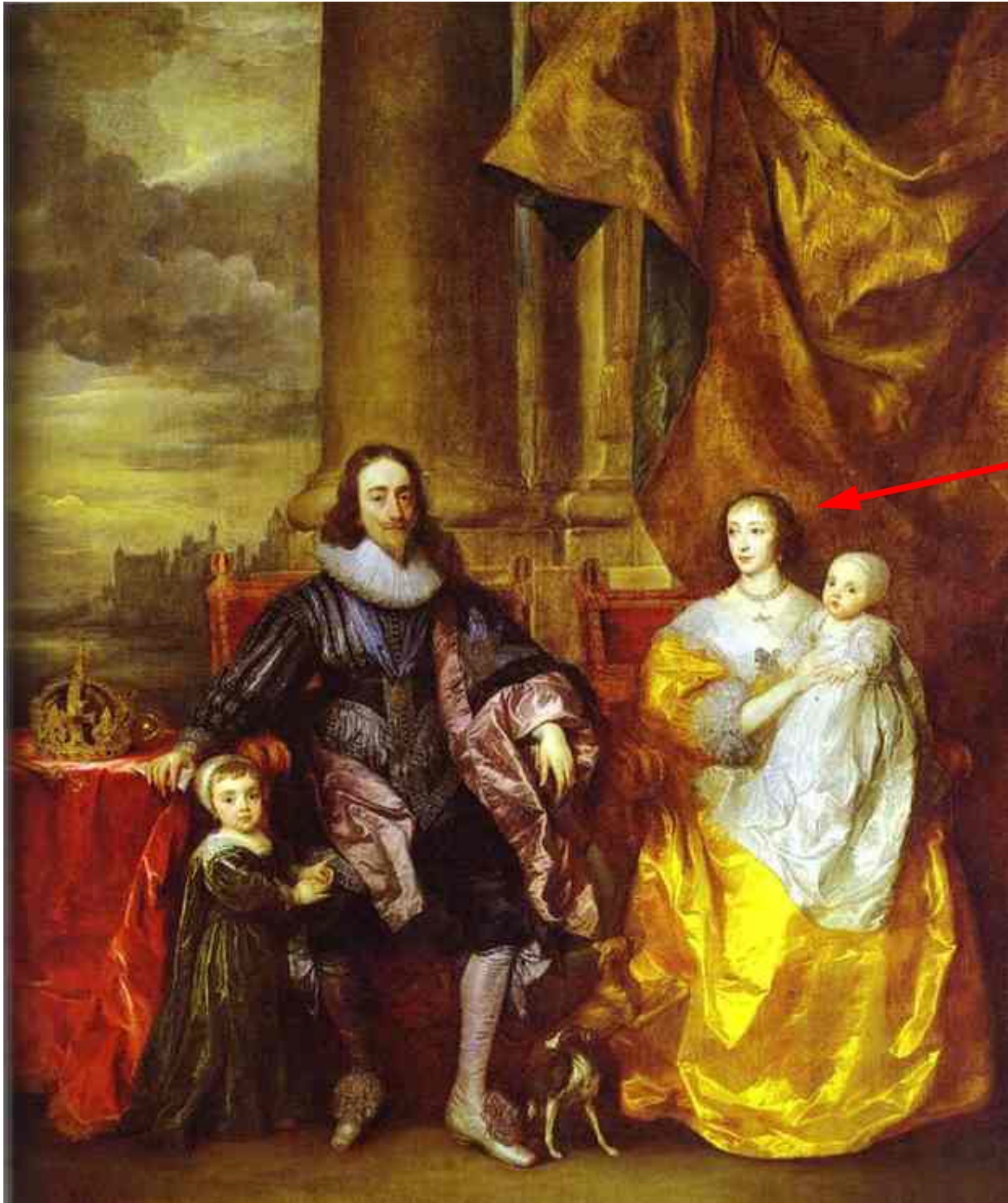
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Queen
Henrietta
Maria



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1645

[Sir Kenelm Digby](#) was sent by the English [Catholic](#) Committee at Paris upon a diplomatic mission to Rome, whither he would be sent again in 1647 — but on neither trip would he achieve anything of any significance.

In a house called “Whitehall,” in Cheam, Surrey, the Reverend George Aldrich began the Cheam School.

[Ralph Cudworth](#) was appointed as master of Clare Hall and elected as Regius Professor of Hebrew. From this point he would be recognized as a leader among the “Cambridge Platonists,” a group that was more or less in sympathy with the Parliament and more or less at odds with the faction of the royals. He would be consulted in regard to university and government appointments by John Thurloe, [Oliver Cromwell](#)’s secretary to the council of state.



Parliamentary soldiers were reorganizing the English army. Each regiment of the “New Model Army” was to have 10 companies, and be commanded by a colonel. Line companies were authorized to contain about 100 enlisted men, at the rate of two musketeers (shoulder firearm with matchlock) for each pikeman. Each company had a captain, a lieutenant, and an ensign to carry the flag. Sergeants lead the troops on the march, and corporals drilled them in pike and musket coordination. Their drummers controlled the company movement by the use of eight basic calls. Headquarters companies, which included the lieutenant colonel and the sergeant major, were somewhat larger. The dragoons, the cavalry, and the artillery were in other units, and then of course there were the sutlers, following along behind. Cavalrymen, and soldiers assigned to artillery units, carried shoulder firearms that used the wheel-lock or flint-lock mechanisms, in order to avoid accidents with slow matches that could cause powder wagons to explode. The New Model Army would turn out to need only five chaplains, and their sole duty would be to pray for victory in battle and then –if God gave them the victory– offer thanksgiving.



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1649

After another venture into England, the [Catholic](#) courtier [Sir Kenelm Digby](#) was again banished.

Upon the execution of the monarch [Charles I](#), [Charles II](#) was recognized as King on the Isle of [Jersey](#). At Elizabeth Castle there, he repaid George Carteret's loyalty by granting him an island off the coast of Virginia—designating this as the colony of “New Jersey”—and appointed [Sir William Davenant](#) as treasurer of the colony of Virginia.

Publication of Davenant's *Love and Honour*—although it seems that this play had been enacted years earlier under the title *The Courage of Love*. Also during this year, Davenant's *The Nonpareilles, or The Matchless Maids*.

René Descartes completed his *LES PASSIONS DE L'ÂME*.

[Sir Kenelm Digby](#)'s patron in England [Charles I](#) having been executed, he sought out Descartes at Egmond in Holland and the two philosophers discussed their mutual hot topic, which was, the possibility of indefinitely extending the human lifespan.



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1651

November: [John Evelyn](#) visited [Sir Kenelm Digby](#) in Paris, and with him attended the chemistry lectures of [M. Nicasius le Febure](#) at the Jardin du Roi (Evelyn had previously attended such a course of lectures during February 1647).



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1654

[Sir Kenelm Digby](#) got leave to return to England and became an agent for Lord Protector [Oliver Cromwell](#) in the hope that this would help English [Catholics](#) recover their civil rights.



The Lord Protector, striving to overthrow the Spanish power in the West Indies, fitted out large naval and military forces under Admiral Penn and General Venables and sent them to Jamaica to operate against Hispaniola. He named a board of three commissioners, with controlling authority, of which [Edward Winslow](#) became the head.



With [Ireland](#)'s armies in defeat and exile, the only mounted persons on the island were English soldiers.



To the English ruling class Ireland was a tabula rasa on which it could inscribe what it would.

At about this point one of these English soldiers, Friend [William Edmundson](#), got on his horse and visited two Quaker families in Rosenallis in county Laois in Ireland, apparently the Cantrill family of Tineil and the Chander family of Ballyhide.



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RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS



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1659

[Richard Cromwell](#) was forced by the army to resign, and the “Rump” Parliament was restored. [Sir Henry Vane](#) returned to the House of Commons, when he became the leader of the Republican party. The fall of Richard Cromwell’s government brought about [Major-General William Goffe](#)’s loss of influence.

[REGICIDE](#)

The ongoing collapse of the English Commonwealth led to opening of negotiations by George Monk for the restoration of the Monarchy under King [Charles I](#)’s firstborn son [Charles](#).

In the course of the Restoration, [Sir Kenelm Digby](#) would be able to return to England for good.

Friend [Samuel Shattuck](#) and a number of other prominent New England members of the [Religious Society of Friends](#) were residing in [London](#), in exile from their homes on this side of the pond.

Friend [William Edmundson](#) and a group of Quakers settled in the vicinity of Mountmellick in county Laois in [Ireland](#). The other Friends were:

William Archer
William Barcrof (*circa* 1612-1696)
Thomas Beale
Evan Bevan
Rodger Boswel (died in 1666)
Godfrey Cantrel (died in 1686)
William Capton (died in 1672)
John Chandler
John Edmundson
John Gee
John Goodbody
Nicholas Gribbell (*circa* 1641-1728)
John Hug
Richard Jackson (1643-1697)
William Moon (died in 1659)
William Neale
William Parker
John Pim (1641-1718)
Tobias Pladwell
John Savage
Richard Scot (1625-1707)
Thomas Stalker
Thomas Stevenson
John Thompson (died in 1695)
William Walpole (died in 1691)
Robert Wardel



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1660

[Sir Kenelm Digby](#) lectured at Gresham College on the vegetation of plants.

THE SCARLET LETTER: Such was the young clergyman's condition, and so imminent the prospect that his dawning light would be extinguished, all untimely, when Roger Chillingworth made his advent to the town. His first entry on the scene, few people could tell whence, dropping down as it were out of the sky or starting from the nether earth, had an aspect of mystery, which was easily heightened to the miraculous. He was now known to be a man of skill; it was observed that he gathered herbs and the blossoms of wild-flowers, and dug up roots and plucked off twigs from the forest-trees like one acquainted with hidden virtues in what was valueless to common eyes. He was heard to speak of Sir Kenelm Digby and other famous men -whose scientific attainments were esteemed hardly less than supernatural- as having been his correspondents or associates. Why, with such rank in the learned world, had he come hither? What, could he, whose sphere was in great cities, be seeking in the wilderness? In answer to this query, a rumour gained ground -and however absurd, was entertained by some very sensible people- that Heaven had wrought an absolute miracle, by transporting an eminent Doctor of Physic from a German university bodily through the air and setting him down at the door of Mr. Dimmesdale's study! Individuals of wiser faith, indeed, who knew that Heaven promotes its purposes without aiming at the stage-effect of what is called miraculous interposition, were inclined to see a providential hand in Roger Chillingworth's so opportune arrival.

BOTANIZING

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1663

When the Royal Society was 1st incorporated, [Sir Kenelm Digby](#) was on it council.

The Royal Society recommended the planting of [potatoes](#) to provide food for the peasantry in the event of a [famine](#).



(What could go wrong?)





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1665

June 11, Sunday (Old Style): [Sir Kenelm Digby](#) died in Covent Garden, Westminster of stone (kidneystones?). The body would be placed beside that of his wife [Venetia Anastasia Stanley Digby](#) in Christ Church, Newgate, and by his explicit instruction, no mention of his name was placed on the tombstone there.



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1669

[John Dryden](#)'s heroic tragedy *Tyrannick Love*.

A servant named Hartman and his son John prepared, from his master's notes, THE CLOSET OF THE EMINENTLY LEARNED [SIR KENELME DIGBIE KT.](#) OPENED: WHEREBY IS DISCOVERED SEVERAL WAYS FOR MAKING OF METHEGLIN, SIDER, CHERRY-WINE, &C. TOGETHER WITH EXCELLENT DIRECTIONS FOR COOKERY: AS ALFO FOR PREFERVING, CONFERVING, CANDYING, &C. / PUBLIFHED BY HIS SON'S CONFENT. (London, Printed by E.C. for H. Browne, at the Star in Little Britain.)



THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

SIR KENELM DIGBY

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1671

Publication by [Jean de La Fontaine](#) of additional *CONTES* and *FABLES* (at the request of the Port-Royalists, he was serving as editor of a volume of sacred poetry dedicated to the Prince of Conti).

A 2d edition of THE CLOSET OF THE EMINENTLY LEARNED [SIR KENELME DIGBY KT.](#) OPENED: WHEREBY IS DISCOVERED SEVERAL WAYS FOR MAKING OF METHEGLIN, SIDER, CHERRY-WINE, &C. TOGETHER WITH EXCELLENT DIRECTIONS FOR COOKERY: AS ALFO FOR PREFERVING, CONFERVING, CANDYING, &C. / PUBLIFHED BY HIS SON'S CONFENT. (London, Printed by E.C. & A.C. for H. Browne, at the Weft End of St. Pauls.)³

3. The book had been constructed by a servant and his son from his master's notes.



THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

SIR KENELM DIGBY

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1729

[John Woodward](#)'s AN ATTEMPT TOWARDS A NATURAL HISTORY OF ENGLAND described as "pinecones" what upon more careful more recent inspection would turn out to be coprolites.

THE SCIENCE OF 1729

PALEONTOLOGY

[John Evelyn](#)'s A PHILOSOPHICAL DISCOURSE OF EARTH, RELATING TO THE CULTURE AND IMPROVEMENT OF IT FOR VEGETATION, AND THE PROPAGATION OF PLANTS, &C. AS IT WAS PRESENTED TO THE ROYAL SOCIETY, APRIL 29. 1675. BY J. EVELYN ESQ; FELLOW OF THE SAID SOCIETY was printed in London by instruction of the Royal Society. [Henry Thoreau](#) would use material from pages 14-16 of a 1778 edition of this (and a remark about [Sir Kenelm Digby](#)):

WALDEN: Though I gave them no manure, and did not hoe them all once, I hoed them unusually well as far as I went, and was paid for it in the end, "there being in truth," as Evelyn says, "no compost or latation whatsoever comparable to this continual motion, repastination, and turning of the mould with the spade." "The earth," he adds elsewhere, "especially if fresh, has a certain magnetism in it, by which it attracts the salt, power, or virtue (call it either) which gives it life, and is the logic of all the labor and stir we keep about it, to sustain us; all dungings and other sordid temperings being but the vicars succedaneous to this improvement." Moreover, this being one of those "worn-out and exhausted lay fields which enjoy their sabbath," had perchance, as Sir Kenelm Digby thinks likely, attracted "vital spirits" from the air. I harvested twelve bushels of beans.

PEOPLE OF
WALDEN

SIR KENELM DIGBY

JOHN EVELYN



THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

SIR KENELM DIGBY

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

THE BEANFIELD



JOHN EVELYN'S TERRA



THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

SIR KENELM DIGBY

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1778

[John Evelyn](#)'s *TERRA: A PHILOSOPHICAL DISCOURSE OF EARTH, RELATING TO THE CULTURE AND IMPROVEMENT OF IT FOR VEGETATION, AND THE PROPAGATION OF PLANTS, &C. AS IT WAS PRESENTED TO THE ROYAL SOCIETY, APRIL 29. 1675. BY J. EVELYN ESQ; FELLOW OF THE SAID SOCIETY* was reprinted in York by A. Wood for J. Dodsley [etc.]. [Henry Thoreau](#) would use material from pages 14-16 of this (and a remark about [Sir Kenelm Digby](#)):

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PEOPLE OF WALDEN

SIR KENELM DIGBY
JOHN EVELYN



JOHN EVELYN'S TERRA



THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

SIR KENELM DIGBY

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

“MAGISTERIAL HISTORY” IS FANTASIZING: HISTORY IS CHRONOLOGY

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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 30, 2014



THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

SIR KENELM DIGBY

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

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.



THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

SIR KENELM DIGBY

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

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.