

THE WIFE MRS. ELLEN LOUISA TUCKER EMERSON (1811?-1831);

THE NAMESAKE DAUGHTER ELLEN TUCKER EMERSON (1839-1909)



Ellen Tucker in 1829

**WALDO'S
RELATIVES**

**THIS FILE
IS ABOUT
THE WIFE**

	BORN	1812	1813	1814	1815	1816	1817	1818	1819
1820	1821	1822	1823	1824	1825	1826	1827	1828	1829
1830	DIED								



ELLEN LOUISA TUCKER EMERSON

ELLEN TUCKER EMERSON

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



ELLEN TUCKER EMERSON

ELLEN LOUISA TUCKER EMERSON

1811



We suspect this is the year in which [Ellen Louisa Tucker](#) was born.

NOBODY COULD GUESS WHAT WOULD HAPPEN NEXT





ELLEN LOUISA TUCKER EMERSON

ELLEN TUCKER EMERSON

1827

➡ December: The Reverend [Waldo Emerson](#) met [Miss Ellen Louisa Tucker](#) and, returning to [Harvard College](#), met the Reverend [Frederic Henry Hedge](#):



Pommer, Henry F. EMERSON'S FIRST MARRIAGE. Carbondale IL: Southern Illinois Press, 1967

"A Review From Professor Ross's Seminar"

The chapter on "Of Women and a Second Wife" gives an idea of [Waldo Emerson's](#) attitudes towards women. For the most part he praised them for being a civilizing influence. They were made to be served, he believed, not to serve. However he wanted to exclude women from the Town and Country Club, and he did not want them to assume (or wish to assume) political functions.

When he married [Lydia Jackson](#), he called her his "sober joy." He respected her but did not love her in the same way he loved [Ellen Louisa Tucker](#), his first wife. Emerson never stopped referring to Ellen, and he still wrote poems and journal entries about her even after he married Lidian. He did not fail to love Lidian, but he always loved Ellen more. And in later years Emerson was closer to his daughter, named Ellen, than he was to his second wife Lidian.

The first part of the book gives biographical information on Emerson's relationship with Ellen. They first met on [Christmas](#) in 1827 when he was preaching at [Concord](#). She was sixteen and he was twenty-four. On Dec. 17, 1828 they were formally engaged and were married on Sept. 30, 1829. Throughout her short life –she was not yet twenty when she died– Ellen was affectionate, virtuous, religious, and cheerful, but she was not subtle or profound. That did not seem to bother Emerson – Ellen was his ideal of womanhood. She died of [consumption](#) on Feb. 8, 1831.

(Katherine A. O'Meara, May 25, 1989)

DO I HAVE YOUR ATTENTION? GOOD.

[HDT](#)

[WHAT?](#)

[INDEX](#)

ELLEN TUCKER EMERSON

ELLEN LOUISA TUCKER EMERSON







ELLEN LOUISA TUCKER EMERSON

ELLEN TUCKER EMERSON

1828

 December 6, Saturday: The Reverend [Waldo Emerson](#) went to [Concord, New Hampshire](#) to court the sickly 17-year-old heiress Miss [Ellen Louisa Tucker](#), whose guardian was William Sewell.¹

 December 17, Wednesday: Ellen said yes. The Reverend [Waldo Emerson](#) became engaged to wed the sickly heiress to a fortune, Miss [Ellen Louisa Tucker](#) (and vice versa).

**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.**

1. This suitor and this guardian may have had something in common since certain of Emerson’s own ancestors had been Sewalls, to wit Hannah Sewall (*circa* 1677-January 29, 1728); John Sewall (England, October 10, 1654-Newbury MA, 1699); the Reverend Henry Sewall (*circa* 1613/14-Newbury MA, May 16, 1700).

[HDT](#)

[WHAT?](#)

[INDEX](#)

ELLEN TUCKER EMERSON

ELLEN LOUISA TUCKER EMERSON





ELLEN LOUISA TUCKER EMERSON

ELLEN TUCKER EMERSON

1829

→ January 17, Saturday: The Yeoman's Gazette carried a report of an "adjourned meeting of a large number of the Citizens of Concord" which had taken place on January 7th and which had been about the planned formation of a town Lyceum.

The Reverend Waldo Emerson wrote in his journal:

I am called by an ancient and respectable church to become its pastor. I recognize in these events, ... the hand of my heavenly Father. This happiness awakens in me a certain awe: I know my imperfections: I know my ill-deserts; and the beauty of God makes me feel my own sinfulness the more.... O God direct and guard and bless me, and ... especially her [his fiancée Miss Ellen Louisa Tucker] in whom I am blessed.

In Providence, Rhode Island, Friend Stephen Wanton Gould wrote in his journal:

*7th day 17th of 1 M 1829 / I trust I am under a thankful sense of the many favours & mercies which I receive from the good hand & providence of God, who I know has [?] extended kindness towards me far beyond my deserts
Various occurrences to day have called to mind some very interesting Scenes & incidents of my early life, & may they long remain. -
Yesterday we had a satisfactory letter from our dear John, on his acct we feel a mixture of gratitude & fear - Gratitude that he is doing as well as he is doing, & Fear as to what may befall him in his tender Years. -*

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

THE FUTURE IS MOST READILY PREDICTED IN RETROSPECT





ELLEN TUCKER EMERSON

ELLEN LOUISA TUCKER EMERSON



August 7, Friday: Friend [Stephen Wanton Gould](#) wrote in his journal:

6th day Today has been our General School committee, which has been large & was a Season of encouragement – notwithstanding several who were in former years & days want to meet with us, are now disqualified & unfitted from the grievous embarrassment of their outward circumstances. –

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

King Charles X conferred the Legion of Honor on Gioachino Rossini.

[Felix Mendelssohn](#) and Karl Klingemann reached Oban on the west coast of Scotland. The composer looked offshore to the Hebrides Islands and conceived the theme for his overture The Hebrides.

While on excursion in the White Mountains, the Reverend [Waldo Emerson](#) made a suggestion to his *fiancée* [Ellen Louisa Tucker](#) about legal and money matters, which was communicated to her guardian William Sewell and which was described as an “ugly subject” and as a “plan which has been convulsing the wise heads.” However, the executor of the family estate, Pliny Cutler, did make the necessary arrangement.²

The portrait of Ellen on the following screen was painted during this year. She was 18 or 19.

2. The poet W.H. Auden has in 1962 brought forward a snippet from [A WEEK](#) as:

THE VIKING BOOK OF APHORISMS, A PERSONAL SELECTION BY W.H. AUDEN...

Pg	Topic	Aphorism Selected by Auden out of Thoreau
394	Ages of Man	Men execute nothing so faithfully as the wills of the dead, to the last codicil and letter. They rule this world, and the living are but their executors.

[HDT](#)

[WHAT?](#)

[INDEX](#)

ELLEN LOUISA TUCKER EMERSON

ELLEN TUCKER EMERSON



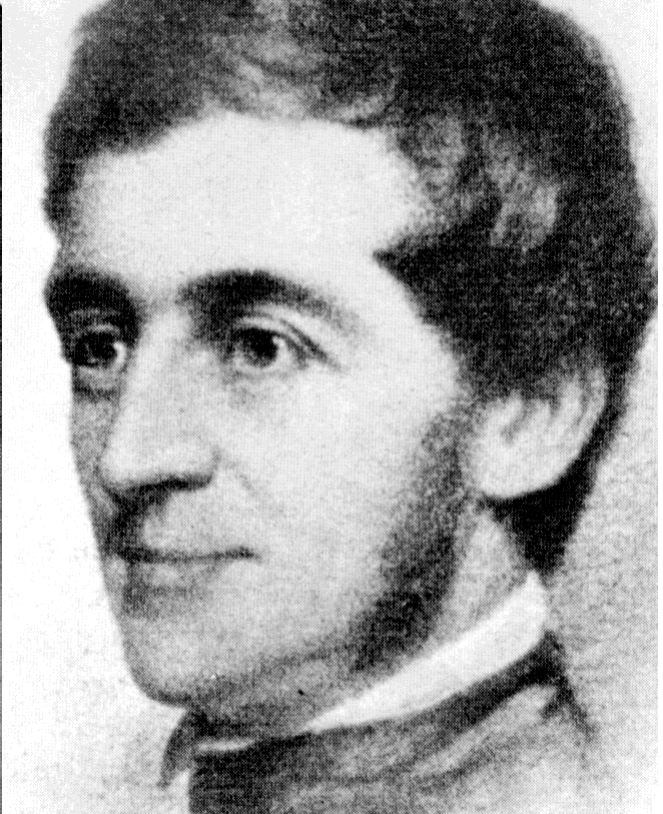


ELLEN TUCKER EMERSON

ELLEN LOUISA TUCKER EMERSON



September 30, Wednesday: The Reverend [Waldo Emerson](#) wedded his teenage bride [Ellen Louisa Tucker](#).



The couple would reside at Mrs. Keating's boardinghouse on Chardon Street in [Boston](#).

THE FUTURE CAN BE EASILY PREDICTED IN RETROSPECT







ELLEN LOUISA TUCKER EMERSON

ELLEN TUCKER EMERSON

1830

 March: The [Reverend Waldo Emersons](#) visited in Philadelphia by way of Hartford and New-York.

 End of the year: Evidently concerned that his family not expect too much help from him considering that he was now financially better off, [Waldo Emerson](#) wrote to them:

I have a fancy that if you shd examine my income & outlay since my marriage you wd say I as poorer not richer, therefor. But richer I surely am by all Ellen, if she bro't no penny.



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



ELLEN TUCKER EMERSON

ELLEN LOUISA TUCKER EMERSON

1831

February 8, Tuesday: After a final illness lasting several weeks, at 9AM, at the age of 19, Mrs. [Ellen Louisa Tucker Emerson](#) died of [tuberculosis](#) under opiates, leaving a bereaved 27-year-old [Waldo Emerson](#) as prearranged in sole control of her estate of \$24,000.⁰⁰ in cash plus other assets. “My angel is gone to heaven this morning...”³

As Junior Pastor at the Second Church in Boston, the Reverend Emerson made two death entries in the church record pertaining to this day. The first was of the death of “a Portugueze Sailor.” The second was:

Mrs Ellen Tucker Emerson, aet. 19. consumption.



Over the course of Emerson’s three and a half years at this church, there would be a total of 71 deaths recorded in his hand. Of these 71, 18 would be reported as having been due to “[consumption](#).”

Andrew Jackson wrote to Robert Y. Hayne: “In all Republics the voice of a majority must prevail ... assert that a state may declare acts passed by congress inoperative and void, and revolution [is bound to follow].”

3. \$24,000.⁰⁰ approximates the total that a diligent laboring man of the period, such as Thoreau, might be able to earn at day wages in two lifetimes, if he did exactly nothing else with his life but eat, sleep, and work at his trade.

HDT

WHAT?

INDEX

ELLEN LOUISA TUCKER EMERSON

ELLEN TUCKER EMERSON

1832



March 29, Thursday: After a funeral service, the remains of Muzio Clementi were laid to rest in the Cloisters of Westminster Abbey. The Abbey was packed with mourners, among them were many musicians, including Clementi's most famous pupil John Field.

A cholera epidemic was officially announced in Paris. Before it would recede during September, some 18,000 would succumb in the city to the disease — some 13,000 during April alone.

[Waldo Emerson](#) "visited Ellen's tomb & opened the coffin."⁴



**“Dead Bride”: A Piece of 1804 Necrophilia
(notice there's a nipple peeking at you)**

ELLEN LOUISA TUCKER EMERSON

I visited Ellen's tomb & opened the coffin.



ELLEN TUCKER EMERSON

ELLEN LOUISA TUCKER EMERSON

Emerson biographer Gay Wilson Allen has observed that this act “remains so unnatural as to seem almost insane.” Emerson’s biographer Robert D. Richardson has, however, assured us that this was not some grisly gothic gesture, that what Emerson did in opening not only the family vault but also the coffin itself was in fact not unique to American history. He cites two other contemporary examples of this sort of thing: “The act was essential Emerson. He had to see for himself.”


CHANGE IS ETERNITY, STASIS A FIGMENT



ELLEN LOUISA TUCKER EMERSON

ELLEN TUCKER EMERSON

1834

 May: Early in the month, [Waldo Emerson](#) received half the cash from the estate of Mrs. [Ellen Louisa Tucker Emerson](#).

For a real howler: Emerson scholar George J. Stack has described this Tucker inheritance as “modest” — actually it amounted, in that period, to a truly staggering sum. At one fell swoop Waldo had made himself exceedingly comfortably. As I recall the figure, this initial half of the settlement alone amounted to some \$12,000 (at that time one should have been able to purchase almost the finest home in Concord for merely some \$800, in effect leaving of the eventual \$24,000 total of the cash portion of the estate some \$23,200 after providing indefinitely for all one’s extended family’s future housing needs). Since one might in that era expect to provide everything one’s family needed by way of food and clothing and education, richly, for some \$500 per year, this means that not even taking interest income into consideration, whatever family Emerson would choose to establish was at this point amply provided for during the following $23 \times 2 = 46$ years of their lives. That is by no one’s description (not even Professor Stack’s) a “modest” amount of money. Consider for instance how much of today’s currency it would take –in winning a PowerBall lottery maybe– to equal that size of windfall. To purchase even a modest home in Concord today would set you back better than a million dollars up front. Then, to provide for one’s family for 46 years at a decent standard of living would require perhaps \$50,000 per year, or a sum total of another \$2,300,000. This means that the very 1st installment of the Tucker inheritance, alone, would have been the equivalent of a lottery winning, tax free, of better than three million dollars today. A “modest” triple millionaire in an era in which this very term “millionaire” itself had only seven years before been coined!⁵

5. This egregious blunder on the part of an Emerson scholar reminds me of a more recent egregious blunder, in which an incautious Thoreau scholar characterized Franklin Benjamin Sanborn of Concord as having been “short” when the man happened to have been the very tallest man not only in Concord but anywhere to be found during this period — taller than for instance Abraham Lincoln, taller even than the remarkably tall Thomas Cholmondeley of England and New Zealand!



ELLEN TUCKER EMERSON

ELLEN LOUISA TUCKER EMERSON

1839

February 24, Sunday: Mrs. [Lidian "Asia" Jackson Emerson](#) gave birth to [Ellen Tucker Emerson](#), named after [Waldo Emerson](#)'s first wife Mrs. [Ellen Louisa Tucker Emerson](#). [Cynthia Dunbar Thoreau](#) acted as midwife.

February 25, Monday: [Waldo Emerson](#) to his journal:

Yesterday morning, 24 Feb. at 8 o'clock a daughter was born to me, a soft, quiet, swarthy little creature, apparently perfect & healthy. My second child. Blessings on thy head, little winter bud! & comest thou to try thy luck in this world & know if the things of God are things for thee? Well assured & very soft & still, the little maiden expresses great contentment with all she finds, & her delicate but fixed determination to stay where she is, & grow. So be it, my fair child! Lidian, who magnanimously makes my gods her gods, calls the babe Ellen. I can hardly ask more for thee, my babe, than that name implies. Be that vision & remain with us, & after us.

LIDIAN "ASIA" JACKSON EMERSON

ELLEN TUCKER EMERSON

ELLEN LOUISA TUCKER EMERSON

"MAGISTERIAL HISTORY" IS FANTASIZING: HISTORY IS CHRONOLOGY



ELLEN LOUISA TUCKER EMERSON

ELLEN TUCKER EMERSON

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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: October 4, 2014



ELLEN TUCKER EMERSON

ELLEN LOUISA TUCKER EMERSON

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.



ELLEN LOUISA TUCKER EMERSON

ELLEN TUCKER EMERSON

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.