THE REVEREND JOHN FOSTER

“NARRATIVE HISTORY” AMOUNTS TO FABULATION,
THE REAL STUFF BEING MERE CHRONOLOGY
September 17, Monday: John Foster was born in a small farmhouse between Wainsgate and Hebden Bridge near Halifax in West Yorkshire, a son of John Foster and Ann Foster, weavers. (the structure now boasts an architectural tablet inscribed with: BIRTHPLACE OF / JOHN FOSTER / THE ESSAYIST / BORN 1770). He would be educated at Brierly Hall, would until his 14th year work at spinning wool to a thread by the hand-wheel, and would then be apprenticed to a weaver.

Timothy Alden got married with Sarah Weld. This couple would produce:
1. Timothy Alden, Jr.
2. Isaiah Alden (born on September 22, 1772, got married with Susanna Hedge who had been born about 1781, died during 1843).
3. Reverend Martin Alden (born on October 7, 1773, got married with Polly Kingman, died during 1838).
4. Oliver Alden (born on March 9, 1775, got married with Lucy Alden, died on August 20, 1849).
5. Sarah Weld Alden (born on December 17, 1776, got married with Captain Isaac Matthews, died during July 1847).

NOBODY COULD GUESS WHAT WOULD HAPPEN NEXT
At the age of 17, John Foster attracted the notice of a Baptist minister at Hebden Bridge, who procured for him the means to become a student at the Baptist College at Bristol.

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.
August 5, Sunday: The Reverend John Foster began to preach in an ancient room at the top of the Tuthill Stairs in Newcastle-on-Tyne, but remained there only about three months.

November: The Reverend John Foster began to preach at Chichester in Sussex, then at Frome in Somersetshire, and finally at Downend near Bristol. Meanwhile he would begin to contribute articles to the Eclectic Review.

THE FUTURE IS MOST READILY PREDICTED IN RETROSPECT
The Reverend John Foster’s Essays in a series of letters, on the following subjects: On a man writing memoirs of himself, On decision of character, On the application of the epithet romantic, On some of the causes by which evangelical religion has been rendered less acceptable to persons of cultivated taste (eventually a subsequent edition of this would be in the personal library of Henry Thoreau).

Do I have your attention? Good.
The Reverend John Foster determined to devote the remainder of his life to literature (over the years from 1806 to 1839 he had been/would be providing a total of 184 articles to the Eclectic Review).

CHANGE IS ETERNITY, STASIS A FIGMENT
During this year and the following, in *Essay on the Evils of Popular Ignorance*, John Foster urged the necessity for a national system of education.
John Foster's Essays in a series of letters, on the following subjects: On a man writing memoirs of himself. On decision of character. On the application of the epithet romantic. On some of the causes by which evangelical religion has been rendered less acceptable to persons of cultivated taste. 5th American from the 8th London edition (Boston: J. Loring). This volume would be in the personal library of Henry Thoreau (unfortunately, an electronic version of this year's American edition does not yet exist, so all I have to show you behind the button below is the 5th London edition, of 1813).

What I'm writing is true but never mind
You can always lie to yourself
October 15, Sunday: John Foster died at the place that had for 22 years been his home, Stapleton near Bristol, England.

Despite determined opposition, a new constitution was adopted by the Stock Company of the Association of Industry and Education outside Northampton, according to which contrary to the previous document all members were to have equal say in the decision-making process regardless of the fact that the members had different amounts of money invested. Despite inequality of investment, any net profits were to be distributed equally to all participants, and any dividends were to be proportional only to the number of hours a person had actually labored. This new constitution was to go into effect at the beginning of the next calendar year. The work week was set at 60 hours, with allowances for disability, but since “all were interested in all,” the enforcement of this work week would be social rather than by the cutting of allowances for failure to work. At the end of each accounting period any surplus would be reallocated without taking into account the differing levels of investment which had been created the community. There would be no more of this business of “votes to Dollars.” In a spirit of true Christianity, stockholders were in effect seeing their investments confiscated by majority rule. The rewards of association should go not to those who already had the most but, in the phrase of the disowned Quaker William Basset, to those “that needed most.” Bassett, who had once been the manager of a shoe factory employing 150 laborers, could not have sounded more like a communist had he been a devotee of Marx and Engels: “I could not reconcile with my ideas of justice the inequality that existed between the employer and the employee.... [I] became convinced that the evils which I saw and deplored were inherent in the system and that no remedy could be provided but in its subversion.”

And in fair days as well as foul we walked up the country — until from Merrimack it became the Pemigewasset that leaped by our side — and when we had passed its fountain-head the wild Amonosuck whose puny channel we crossed at a stride guiding us to its distant source among the mountains until without its guidance we reached the summit of agiocochook.

But why should we take the reader who may have been tenderly nurtured — through that rude country — where the crags are steep and the inns none of the best, and many a rude blast would have to be encountered on the mountain side.
Some of John Foster’s articles from the many years in which he was contributing to the Eclectic Review were republished in two volumes.
REVEREND JOHN FOSTER

Some of John Foster’s articles from the many years in which he was contributing to the Eclectic Review were republished in extract in London as FOSTERIANA, CONSISTING OF THOUGHTS, REFLECTIONS, AND CRITICISMS, OF JOHN FOSTER, AUTHOR OF ESSAYS ON DECISION OF CHARACTER, POPULAR IGNORANCE, ETC. SELECTED FROM PERIODICAL PAPERS NOT HITHERTO PUBLISHED IN A COLLECTIVE FORM, AND EDITED BY HENRY G. BOHN.
Professor Leonard N. Neufeldt’s *The Economist: Henry Thoreau & Enterprise* (NY: Oxford UP) included a section “Walden and the Guidebook for Young Men” based upon his Summer 1987 paper in *American Quarterly*. “Thoreau’s Enterprise of Self-Culture in a Culture of Enterprise” (Volume 39, Number 2, pages 231-251). This dealt with the five distinctly recognizable “conduct books” of advice for young men that had been found in Thoreau’s personal library:

- **Addresses to Young Men** (2d edition, two volumes in one, Manning & Loring, 287 pages), by the 18th-Century Scottish Presbyterian *Reverend James Fordyce, D.D.* (this bears the father John Thoreau’s signature, which presumably indicates that at some point it passed from father to son)

- **Letters Addressed to a Young Man, on His First Entrance Into Life**, by the self-educated, popular, and aggressively anti-modernist turn-of-the-century English author *Mrs. Jane Iliffe “Prudentia Homespun” West* (this book had been presented to *John Thoreau, Jr.*, in all likelihood by the Thoreau family as a birthday present upon his reaching maturity, and presumably had come into the library of *Henry* upon John’s death in 1842)

- **Lectures Addressed to the Young Men of Hartford and New-Haven**, by early 19th-Century Hartford, Connecticut Congregationalist (Trinitarian) minister and pastor *Joel Hawes, D.D.*

- **The Life of Dr. Benjamin Franklin. Written by Himself**, printed in 1796 at Salem for Cushing and Carlton, at the Bible and Heart


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“**MAGISTERIAL HISTORY**” IS FANTASIZING: HISTORY IS CHRONOLOGY

“Stack of the Artist of Kouroo” Project

Reverend John Foster
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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: January 3, 2015
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.