

**CHARLES FRÉDÉRIC GIRARD, M.D.**



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



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1822



March 8, Friday: President James Monroe sent a message to Congress proposing recognition of the new Latin American republics.

On this day or the following one, [Charles Frédéric Girard](#) was born in Mulhouse, in the Alsatian region of France. He would graduate from the College of [Neuchâtel](#) in [Switzerland](#), as a student of [Professor Louis Agassiz](#), his specialties being ichthyology and herpetology.

NOBODY COULD GUESS WHAT WOULD HAPPEN NEXT



HDT

WHAT?

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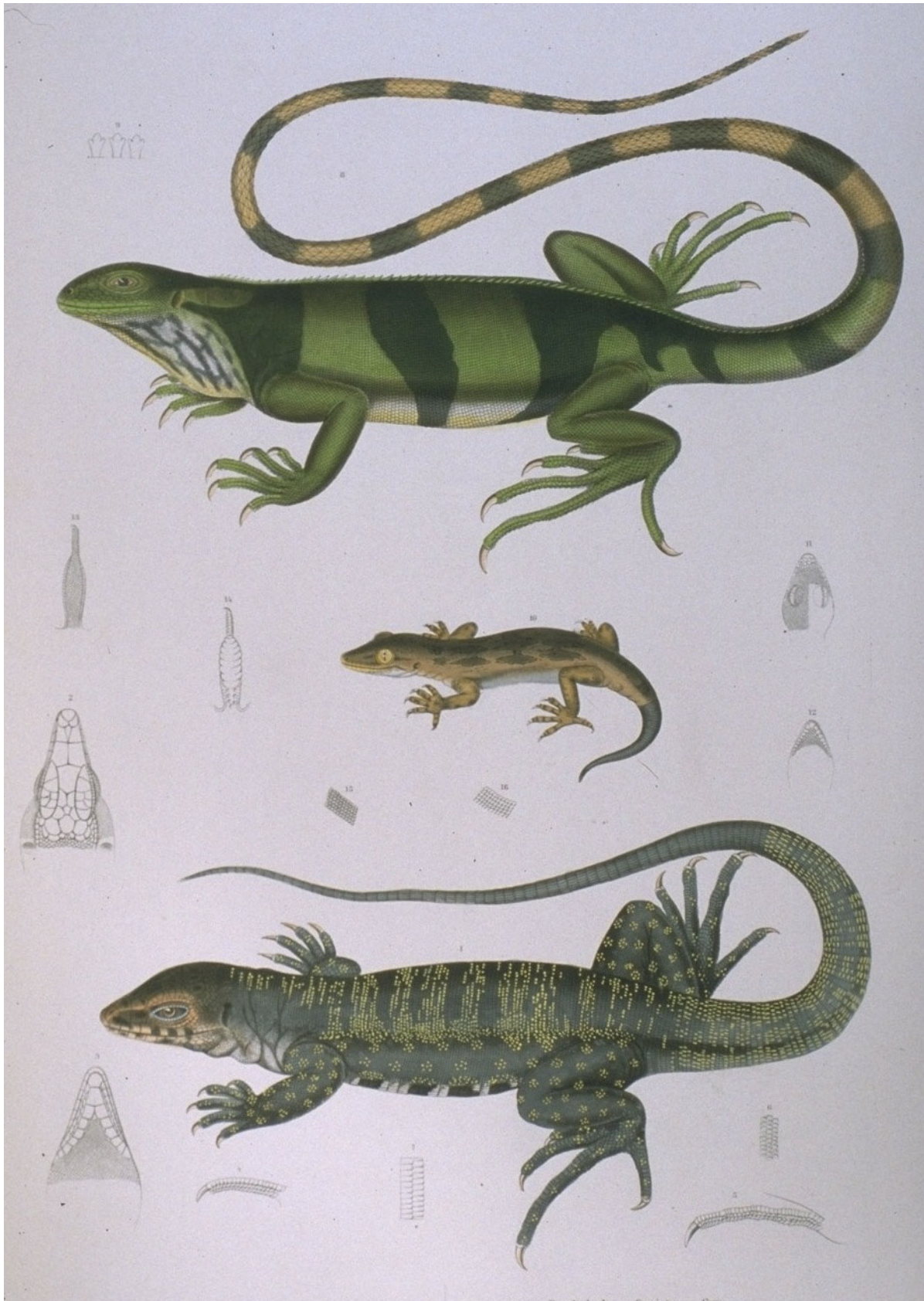


Fig. 849. *Brachylophus fasciatus*. Cuv.



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1847

Lola Montez fled her situation as countess of Landsfeld and mistress to King Ludwig I in the midst of riotous demonstrations against her; the furor she had helped to create by her liberal and anti-Jesuitical influence upon him then forced his own abdication.

Hermann Ludwig von Helmholtz (1821-1894) articulated a doctrine that would later travel under the rubric “Conservation of Energy,” in his *ÜBER DIE ERHALTUNG DER KRAFT* (“ON THE CONSERVATION OF FORCE”). The heat generated by muscles can be accounted for as the result of a complex chemical reaction that is more similar to than dissimilar from any of the very simple heat-producing chemical reactions that might occur when a chemist pours some one non-organic chemical into some other non-organic chemical in a test tube in a lab. There is therefore no need for any inventive or elaborate or special “vitalistic” explanation. In this same year, using a device that continuously measured blood pressure, Karl Friedrich Wilhelm found that the circulation of the blood was a mere fluidic process that could be fully explained in ordinary physical terms.

## THE SCIENCE OF 1847

[Benjamin Disraeli](#), future prime minister, proposed in *TANCRED, OR THE NEW CRUSADE* that

All is race; there is no other truth.

In other words, white is right and (–oh, incidentally, you must know that) Jews are Caucasians rather than



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Semites.



Professor [Louis Agassiz](#) accepted a professorship of zoology at [Harvard College](#). In this year, also, appeared his AN INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF NATURAL HISTORY, IN A SERIES OF LECTURES DELIVERED IN THE HALL OF THE COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS, NEW YORK. BY PROFESSOR AGASSIZ. ILLUSTRATED WITH NUMEROUS ENGRAVINGS. ALSO, A BIOGRAPHICAL NOTICE OF THE AUTHOR (New-York: Greeley & McElrath, Tribune Buildings).

### **AGASSIZ'S INTRODUCTION**

His former student [Charles Frédéric Girard](#) followed Professor Agassiz to Harvard, as an assistant.

In this year, also, the [German](#) traveler Johann J. von Tschudi was offering in his TRAVELS IN PERU, DURING THE YEARS 1838-1842 ON THE COAST, AND IN THE SIERRA, ACROSS THE CORDILLERAS AND THE ANDES, INTO THE PRIMEVAL FORESTS, just then being published in London in English translation, racist remarks which would subsequently be brought forward in such accounts as [Dr. Josiah Clark Nott's](#) and [George Robins Gliddon's](#) foundational textbook of the new racialist American anthropology, to be published in London in 1854, TYPES OF MANKIND: OR, ETHNOLOGICAL RESEARCHES, BASED UPON THE ANCIENT MONUMENTS, PAINTINGS, SCULPTURES, AND CRANIA OF RACES, AND UPON THEIR NATURAL, GEOGRAPHICAL, PHILOLOGICAL, AND BIBLICAL HISTORY: ILLUSTRATED BY SELECTIONS FROM THE UNEDITED PAPERS OF SAMUEL GEORGE MORTON, M.D., AND BY ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS FROM PROF. L. AGASSIZ, LL.D., W. USHER, M.D.; AND PROF. H.S. PATTERSON, M.D., and again subsequently be brought forward in 1876



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by [Herbert Spencer](#) in Volume I of his THE PRINCIPLES OF SOCIOLOGY, and again subsequently to be brought forward by an Austrian politician imprisoned in [Germany](#) in 1925-1926, in his book about his struggles, entitled [MEIN KAMPE](#). Some lies are so choice, they can never die.

## **EVOLUTIONARY ETHICS**

[Professor Samuel George Morton](#)'s "Hybridity in Plants and Animals considered in reference to the Question of the Unity of the Human Species" appeared in [Silliman's Journal](#). The author concluded that from the standpoint of the science of biology, all members of our species needed to be considered to be parts of the same human family — regardless of race.

Jakob Mathias Schleiden and Theodor Schwann announced that cells were the basic units of all living structures.

**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.**

**THE FUTURE IS MOST READILY PREDICTED IN RETROSPECT**



"Stack of the Artist of Kouroo" Project

Charles Frédéric Girard

"Stack of the Artist of Kouroo" Project

Charles Frédéric Girard



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**1849**

[Charles Frédéric Girard](#)'s initial scientific paper, on cottid fishes (sculpins).

**THE FUTURE CAN BE EASILY PREDICTED IN RETROSPECT**





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**1850**

Fall: [Spencer Fullerton Baird](#) of the [Smithsonian Institution](#) called [Charles Frédéric Girard](#) from Cambridge to Washington DC, to work on a growing collection of North American reptiles, amphibians and fishes (over the following decade at the US National Museum he would publish numerous papers, many of them in collaboration with Baird).



**DO I HAVE YOUR ATTENTION? GOOD.**



**CHARLES FRÉDÉRIC GIRARD**

**CHARLES FRÉDÉRIC GIRARD**

**1852**

[Charles Frédéric Girard](#) wrote on Herpetology for the expedition of the US Army Corps of Topographical Engineers to the valley of the Great Salt Lake in Utah. The [Smithsonian Institution](#) published his ZOOLOGICAL, BOTANICAL AND GEOLOGICAL BIBLIOGRAPHY, or BIBLIOGRAPHY OF AMERICAN NATURAL HISTORY FOR THE YEAR 1851, the first of its kind to be produced in the US. A monograph on the cottoids appeared in the [Smithsonian Contributions to Knowledge](#).

**CHANGE IS ETERNITY, STASIS A FIGMENT**



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1853

After [Professor Louis Agassiz](#) savaged his assistant [Charles Frédéric Girard](#), the man had obtained a science job at the [Smithsonian Institution](#), working for [Spencer Fullerton Baird](#). Professor Agassiz, outraged that any part of the scientific establishment would make any use of someone of whom he personally had blacklisted, continued relentlessly to pursue his former assistant:

*If you had been willing to listen to my advise [sic] before, you should have known that Girard, though capable of sustained work and endowed with considerable ability in distinguishing the peculiarities of animals, has no judgement, and is utterly unable to trace original researches without supervision. Moreover he is as obstinate as a mule, if contradicted, which makes it necessary that he should be led with a high hand and kept in an entirely subordinate position. Now this supervision of his work you have not made; you have not tested the value of the characters upon which he has based his generic and specific distinctions. I recognize his hand both in the style of the language used, and in the scientific character of the work. In the hurry of your many engagements you have entrusted to him a task to which he is not equal; and there goes forward from the Smithsonian Instit. a production which in quality is far inferior to what is done elsewhere, though by the quantity of the materials you had the means of surpassing every work of that kind.*

[Girard](#) collected specimens in Maine, Massachusetts, and South Carolina. [Baird](#) created the CATALOG OF NORTH AMERICAN REPTILES with Girard's assistance. Robert Kennicott, Girard, and other young naturalists were urged to form an informal group, known as the "Megatheria."

It was in approximately this time period that [Professor Agassiz](#) of [Harvard College](#) began to organize the scientific pressure group of schemers and administrators he referred to as his "Lazzaroni."<sup>1</sup> The work of this group would continue behind the scenes until the creation, in the wee small hours of the 37th Congress, on March 3, 1863, after a decade of plotting and conspiring, of a new disciplinary "jury" (the professor's term) to be known as the National Academy of Sciences. Here they are depicted attempting to acquire respectability

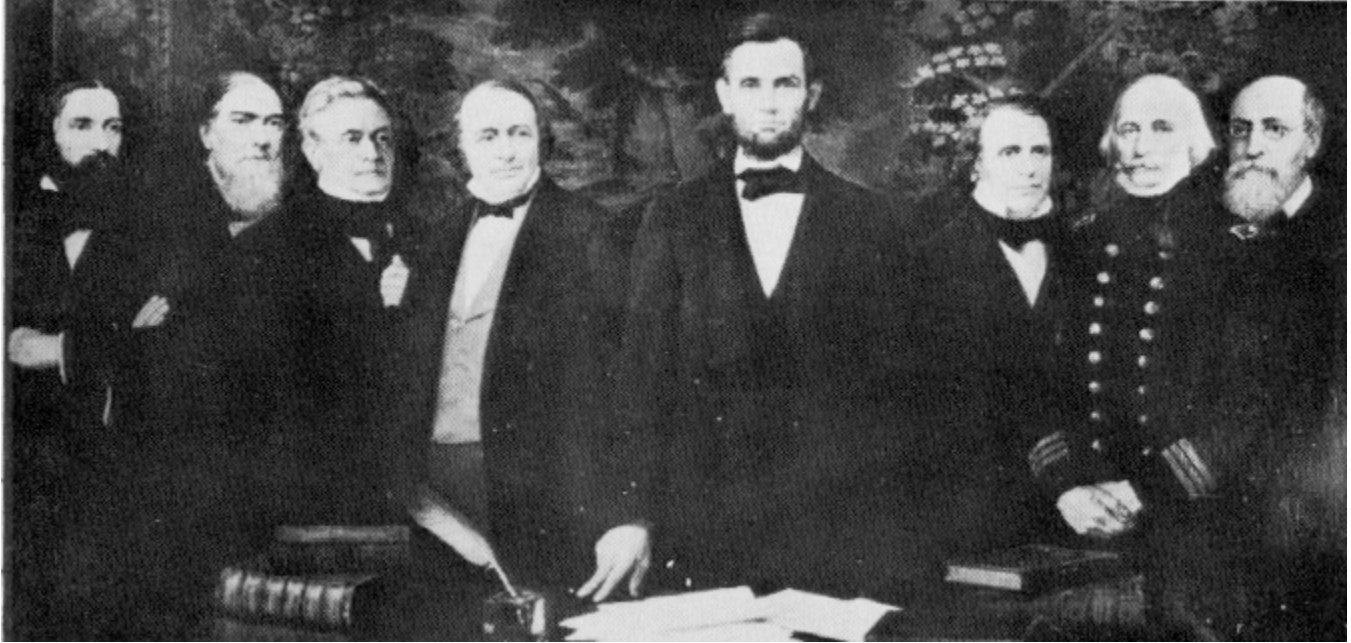
1. The Lazzaroni of [Naples](#) are gangs of pickpockets and con artists who work the street crowds for what they can get. (One of them once tried to sell me a Rolex® for like \$40, while I was waiting for a boat at the docks, but I pointed out to the man that my wristwatch had an Indiglo® dial which his Rolex® lacked, that my wristwatch had a day-of-the-week indicator which was practically all I ever looked at on the dial which his Rolex® lacked, that my wristwatch had also cost me about \$40 on sale at K-Mart when it had been new a number of years before, and besides **the brand name of my wristwatch also ended in "-ex"!** I suggested to this gent "Nevertheless, I will be willing to trade you, even-Steven!" –Meanwhile, I was keeping my arm pressed firmly against my wad of cash in the side pocket of my pants under my comb and handkerchief, just in case he was working as a team.)



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by rubbing against a respectable person (or maybe they're just trying to distract him and pick his pocket):



At some point during this year Professor [Agassiz](#) wrote from Cambridge to [Henry Thoreau](#) among others:

To: HDT  
From: Louis Agassiz  
Date: [1853]

{No MS — printed copy — Thoreau's copy of this form is at Widener Library}

DEAR SIR,—

Having been engaged for several years in the preparation of a Natural History of the Fishes of the United States, I wish, before beginning the printing of my work, to collect as extensive materials as possible, respecting the geographical distribution of these animals. It has occurred to me, that by means of a circular containing directions for collecting fishes I might obtain the information required. I should, indeed, like to secure separate collections of our fishes from every bay and inlet along the coast, and from every stream, river, creek, lake, and pond upon the mainland, throughout the whole country, and am satisfied that such collections would furnish invaluable information respecting the geographical distribution of our aquatic animals. I would thank you for any assistance and contribution you can furnish from your quarter of the country, and duly acknowledge it in my work; and since I extend my investigations to all the branches of Natural History, any specimens besides fishes, which may be obtained, would be equally acceptable, including geological specimens and fossil remains. In return I would propose exchanges of other specimens if desired, or reciprocate the favor in any other way in my power, and pay the expenses incurred in making collections for me. Specimens from foreign countries are also



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solicited, especially when their origin is satisfactorily ascertained. Any person into whose hands this circular may come, feeling inclined to correspond with me upon these subjects, is requested to address me under the following direction:—

L. AGASSIZ,  
Professor of Zoology and Geology in the Lawrence Scientific School, at CAM-  
BRIDGE, MASS.

[We may suppose that, in the above, in the original printing, the second “o” of the word Zoology would have had an umlaut over it.]

[include Directions?]

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



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**1854**

[Charles Frédéric Girard](#) was naturalized as a citizen of the United States of America. His 4-page article announcement about fish appeared in the PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOSTON SOCIETY OF NATURAL HISTORY.

**BSNH 1854, PAGES 39-42**



**CHARLES FRÉDÉRIC GIRARD**

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**1856**

[Charles Frédéric Girard](#) received the degree of M.D. from Georgetown University in Washington DC.



His review of the cyprinoid fishes (minnows and suckers) of the western United States appeared in Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia.

**THE SCIENCE OF 1856**



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1858

[Charles Frédéric Girard](#) wrote the report on Herpetology for the United States Exploring Expedition during the years 1838-1842 under the command of Captain Charles Wilkes (for government reasons, however, the author of this needed to be cited as [Spencer Fullerton Baird](#), who asserted in the introduction that he himself had not touched pen to paper on the project).

November 27, Saturday: [Henry Thoreau](#) mentioned, in his journal, that some small bream *Pomotis obesus* had been caught by [Spencer Fullerton Baird](#) in the Charles River in Holliston, and referred also to Baird's assistant [Charles Frédéric Girard](#) (this had to do with a four-page announcement that had appeared in the PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOSTON SOCIETY OF NATURAL HISTORY for 1854).

BSNH 1854, PAGES 39-42



November 27: Those barren hollows and plains in the neighborhood of Walden are singular places. I see many which were heavily wooded fifteen or thirty years ago now covered only with fine sedge, sweet-fern, or a few birches, willows, poplars, small wild cherries, paniced cornels, etc. They need not amount to hollows at all: many of them are glades merely, and all that region is elevated, but the surrounding higher ground, though it may be only five or ten feet higher, will be covered with a good growth. One should think twice before he cut off such places. Perhaps they had better never be laid bare, but merely thinned out. We do not begin to understand the treatment of woodland yet. On such spots you will see various young trees – and some of them which I have named – dead as if a fire had run through them, killed apparently by frost. I find scarlet oak acorns like this;



in form not essentially different from those of the black oak, except that the scales of the black stand out more loose and bristling about the fruit. So all scarlet oak acorns Scarlet Oak do not regularly taper to a point from a broad base, and [Emerson](#) represents but one form of the fruit.<sup>2</sup>The leaf of this was not very deeply cut, was broad for its length.

I got seventeen more of those little bream of yesterday. As I now count, the dorsal fin-rays are 9-10 ([Girard](#) says 9-11), caudal 17 (with apparently 4 short on each side), anal 3-11, pectoral 11, ventral 1-5.<sup>3</sup> They have about seven transverse dark bars, a vertical dark mark under eye, and a dark spot on edge of operculum. They appear to be the young of the *Pomotis obesus*, described by [Charles Girard](#) to the Natural History Society in April, '54, obtained by [Baird](#) in fresh water about Hingham and in Charles River in Holliston.<sup>4</sup> I got more perfect specimens than the bream drawn above. They are exceedingly pretty seen floating dead on their sides in a bowl of water, with all their fins spread out. From their size and form and position they cannot fail to remind you of coins in the basin. The conspicuous transverse bars distinguish them at once. This is the form of the dorsal fin, which consists of two parts, the foremost of shorter stiff, spiny rays, the other eleven at least half as long again

2. *Vide* Jan. 19th, 1859.

3. *Vide* December 3d. *Vide* also March 26.



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and quite flexible and waving, falling together like a wet rag *out of water*.



So, with the anal fin, the three foremost rays are short and spiny, as I see, and one of each of the ventral (according to [Girard](#), and to me). These foremost rays in each case look like slender raking masts, and their points project beyond the thin web of the fin, whose edge looks like the ropes which stretch from masthead to masthead, loopwise. The stiff and spiny foremost part of the fins evidently serves for a cut-water which bears the brunt of any concussion and perhaps may serve for weapons of offense, while the more ample and gently waving flexible after part more especially guides the motions of the fish. The transverse bars are continued across these parts of the dorsal and anal fins, as the markings of a turtle across its feet or flippers; methinks the fins of the minnows are peculiarly beautiful.

How much more remote the newly discovered species seems to dwell than the old and familiar ones, though both inhabit the same pond! Where the *Pomotis obesus* swims must be a new country, unexplored by science. The seashore may be settled, but aborigines dwell unseen only thus far inland. This country is so new that species of fishes and birds and quadrupeds inhabit it which science has not yet detected. The water which such a fish swims in must still have a primitive forest decaying in it.

4. [A newspaper clipping pasted into the Journal contains the following extract from a report of the proceedings of the Boston Society of Natural History:—

“Specimens of *Pomotis* and *Esox*, and of amphibians, were presented by Mr. H.D. Thoreau, from Concord, Mass. Mr. Putnam was of opinion that one of the *Pomotis* would prove a new species. There are with us two varieties of pickerel commonly known as the long or shovel-nosed, and the short or trout-nosed; these specimens were of the latter. Mr. Putnam was inclined to think these were distinct species, unless the differences should prove to be sexual. Drs. D. H. and H R. Storer considered them varieties of the same species; Messrs. [Baird](#) and [Girard](#) think them (*Esox reticulatus* and *E. ornatus*) distinct.”

Another clipping says:—

“Mr. F.W. Putnam at a previous meeting stated that possibly the young *Pomotis* presented by Mr. Thoreau were the *P. obesus* of [Girard](#). He had since then examined [Girard](#)'s original specimens, and he finds that they are the same. The *P. guttatus* recently described in the Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences at Philadelphia is identical with *P. obesus*. Having teeth on the palatines, and consequently belonging to the genus *Bryttus*, the proper name for the species is *B. obesus* (Putnam). He had also satisfied himself that the *Esox ornatus* of [Girard](#) is the same as the *E. fasciatus* of De Kay.”]



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**1859**

The US citizen [Charles Frédéric Girard](#) returned to France.



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**1861**

The Institute of France awarded [Charles Frédéric Girard](#) its Cuvier Prize, for his work on North American reptiles and fishes.





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**1863**

July/August: [Charles Frédéric Girard](#) managed to slip through the federal naval blockade into the Confederate States of America, and during the years of civil war would work in Virginia, North Carolina, and South Carolina as an agent for surgical and medical supplies for the Confederate Army. By his way of thinking they were fighting the good fight, for a just cause. His heart was with them.

End of the year: [Dr. Charles Frédéric Girard](#) returned to Paris to publish *LES ÉTATS CONFÉDÉRÉS D'AMÉRIQUE*, an account of his activities on behalf of the righteous cause of the Confederacy, and to practice medicine.





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**1864**

August: In setting up the National Academy of Sciences, [Louis Agassiz](#)'s bully-boy "Lazzaroni" had excluded a number of reputable potential members. [Spencer Fullerton Baird](#), who had offended by hiring as an assistant at the [Smithsonian Institution](#) the researcher [Charles Frédéric Girard](#) whom Agassiz had fired, had been pointedly excluded as "only a descriptive scientist." To make sure they carried the day, the Lazzaroni had been less than frank with their colleagues about what they were doing and to whom they were doing it. Then when inquiries began to be raised, there was talk about how they had had "opportunities for inductions upon ... parts of their lives," regarding folks like Baird and [George Phillips Bond](#) of the [Harvard Observatory](#), which had led to "distinct conclusions" that such men were "too mean to bring into our Academy." As more and more of this networking came to the attention of the less well connected members, there was a definite groundswell of resentment, and, in spite of the fact that "Mr. Agassiz lost his temper —and as I found next day —took personal offense," eventually Baird would be enrolled as a member.<sup>5</sup>



**THE SCIENCE OF 1864**

5. Rivinus, E.F. and E.M. Youssef. SPENCER BAIRD OF THE SMITHSONIAN. Washington DC: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1992.



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**1870**

During the Franco-Prussian War [Dr. Charles Frédéric Girard](#) would serve as a military physician.

September 19, Monday: [Dr. Charles Frédéric Girard](#) would serve in Paris as a physician during the Siege of Paris (which would not end until the fall of the city on January 28, 1871).



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**1872**

[Dr. Charles Frédéric Girard](#) published in regard to what he had learned about the [typhoid fever](#) during the Siege of Paris.



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**CHARLES FRÉDÉRIC GIRARD**

**1888**

At about this point [Charles Frédéric Girard](#) ceased to be active as a medical doctor. He would, however, continue to publish in natural history.





**CHARLES FRÉDÉRIC GIRARD**

**CHARLES FRÉDÉRIC GIRARD**

**1891**

[Charles Frédéric Girard](#)'s final paper "Une tortue bicephale" appeared in *Le Naturaliste*. He retired at Neuilly-sur-Seine, near Paris, France. George Brown Goode created a retrospective of his accomplishments for the [Bulletin of the United States National Museum Bulletin #41](#) (it seems he had authored a total of 81 papers, 21 of them in herpetology).



**CHARLES FRÉDÉRIC GIRARD**

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**1895**

January 29, Tuesday: [Charles Frédéric Girard](#) died in Neuilly-sur-Seine. He had never married and left no descendants.

[HDT](#)[WHAT?](#)[INDEX](#)**CHARLES FRÉDÉRIC GIRARD****CHARLES FRÉDÉRIC GIRARD****1917**

*Masticophis taeniatus girardi*, the Central [Texas](#) Whipsnake, was named in honor of [Charles Frédéric Girard](#) (Stejneger and Barbour).



U.S. entry into World War I was precipitated by intelligence that Germany was preparing to begin unrestricted submarine warfare, and that it was seeking an alliance with [Mexico](#), suggesting that by such an alliance it would reclaim the lost territories of California, New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada, Utah, and Colorado (in the German communication, for some reason, [Texas](#) wasn't mentioned).

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

“Stack of the Artist of Kouroo” Project

Charles Frédéric Girard



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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 29, 2014**



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# *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.



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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.