

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN A WEEK

PEOPLE OF A WEEK AND WALDEN:



THOMAS GRAY



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



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1716

December 26, Wednesday (Old Style): [Thomas Gray](#) was born in London. His father Philip Gray was a “money scrivener.” His mother Dorothy and her sister Mary kept a milliner’s shop. Of a dozen children of the union, Thomas would be the only one to survive.

NOBODY COULD GUESS WHAT WOULD HAPPEN NEXT





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1725

At the age of 8, [Thomas Gray](#) was packed off to Eton College where his uncle Robert Antrobus was an assistant master.

**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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1734

July 4, Thursday (Old Style): At the age of 17, [Thomas Gray](#) entered as pensioner at [Peterhouse, Cambridge](#).

October 9, Wednesday (Old Style): [Thomas Gray](#) was fully admitted at [Peterhouse, Cambridge](#).

THE FUTURE IS MOST READILY PREDICTED IN RETROSPECT





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1735

November 22, Saturday (Old Style): [Thomas Gray](#) was admitted at Inner Temple.

CHANGE IS ETERNITY, STASIS A FIGMENT



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1738

September 14, Thursday (Old Style): At the age of 21, [Thomas Gray](#) left [Cambridge](#) for his father's house in London without having taken a degree, intending to read for the Bar at the Inner Temple in London.

The residents of [Concord](#) voted 63 over 12 to award their new minister at the 1st Parish Church, the Reverend Daniel Bliss, a one-time settlement payment of £500, to be paid for by the selling of town lands, and then an annual income of £200.

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



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1739

March 29, Thursday (Old Style): At the age of 22, [Thomas Gray](#) accompanied Horace Walpole to the continent on what would turn out to be a 2-year Grand Tour through France and Italy.

Winter: [Thomas Gray](#) spent the winter in Florence, in the home of Horace Mann.

DO I HAVE YOUR ATTENTION? GOOD.



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1741

September 1, Tuesday (Old Style): [Thomas Gray](#) arrived back in England after his 2-year grand tour of the continent, and went to London.

THE FUTURE CAN BE EASILY PREDICTED IN RETROSPECT



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1742

From this point into 1745, Edward Young would be creating his didactic *THE COMPLAINT: OR, NIGHT THOUGHTS*, a blank-verse monologue of nearly 10,000 lines divided into nine parts labeled “Nights” constituting his literary reaction to a series of deaths: his stepdaughter in 1736, his daughter’s husband in 1740,



and finally his wife in 1741. Thus began the genre of the “graveyard school” of 18th-century British poetry focusing on death and bereavement, which consisted largely of imitations of this poem and of Robert Blair’s 1743 *THE GRAVE*, the culmination of which genre would of course be [Thomas Gray](#)’s 1751 “An Elegy Written in a Country Church Yard.”



June 3, Thursday (Old Style): [Thomas Gray](#) sent “Ode on the Spring” to Richard West.



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1746

Fall: [Thomas Gray](#) showed some of his earlier poetry, including probably the beginning of a poem which he had recently started, "Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard," to Horace Walpole, who had begun living in an apartment within the precincts of Windsor Castle.



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1750

June 12, Tuesday (Old Style): [Thomas Gray](#) completed the “Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard” at Stoke Poges, and sent it to Walpole, who would circulate it in holograph form among friends and acquaintances.



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1751

February 15, Friday (1750, Old Style): [Thomas Gray](#)'s "Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard" was put out anonymously by the publisher Dodsley. (Unauthorized versions would appear almost immediately in a variety of publications.)

From this poem, in [WALDEN](#), [Henry Thoreau](#) would recycle both "the world to darkness and to me" and "waste its sweetness":

The curfew tolls the knell of parting day,
The lowing herd winds slowly o'er the lea,
The ploughman homeward plods his weary way,
And leaves **the world to darkness and to me.**

WALDEN: I have, as it were, my own sun and moon and stars, and a little world all to myself. At night there was never a traveller passed my house, or knocked at my door, more than if I were the first or last man; unless it were in the spring, when at long intervals some came from the village to fish for pouts, -they plainly fished much more in the Walden Pond of their own natures, and baited their hooks with darkness,- but they soon retreated, usually with light baskets, and left "the world to darkness and to me," and the black kernel of night was never profaned by any human neighborhood. I believe that men are generally still a little afraid of the dark, though the witches are all hung, and Christianity and candles have been introduced.

PEOPLE OF
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Now fades the glimmering landscape on the sight,
And all the air a solemn stillness holds,
Save where the beetle wheels his droning flight,
And drowsy tinklings lull the distant folds:

Save that from yonder ivy-mantled tower
The moping owl does to the moon complain
Of such as, wandering near her secret bower,
Molest her ancient solitary reign.

Beneath those rugged elms, that yew-tree's shade,
Where heaves the turf in many a mouldering heap,
Each in his narrow cell for ever laid,
The rude Forefathers of the hamlet sleep.

The breezy call of incense-breathing morn,
The swallow twittering from the straw-built shed,
The cock's shrill clarion, or the echoing horn,
No more shall rouse them from their lowly bed.

For them no more the blazing hearth shall burn,
Or busy housewife ply her evening care:
No children run to lisp their sire's return,



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Or climb his knees the envied kiss to share,

Oft did the harvest to their sickle yield,
Their furrow oft the stubborn glebe has broke;
How jocund did they drive their team afield!
How bow'd the woods beneath their sturdy stroke!

Let not Ambition mock their useful toil,
Their homely joys, and destiny obscure;
Nor Grandeur hear with a disdainful smile
The short and simple annals of the Poor.

The boast of heraldry, the pomp of power,
And all that beauty, all that wealth e'er gave,
Awaits alike th' inevitable hour:—
The paths of glory lead but to the grave.

Nor you, ye Proud, impute to these the fault
If Memory o'er their tomb no trophies raise,
Where through the long-drawn aisle and fretted vault
The pealing anthem swells the note of praise.

Can storied urn or animated bust
Back to its mansion call the fleeting breath?
Can Honour's voice provoke the silent dust,
Or Flattery soothe the dull cold ear of Death?

**Perhaps in this neglected spot is laid
Some heart once pregnant with celestial fire;
Hands, that the rod of empire might have sway'd,**



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Or waked to ecstasy the living lyre:

THE MAINE WOODS: At the end of three miles, we came to the Mattaseunk stream and mill, where there was even a rude wooden railroad running down to the Penobscot, the last railroad we were to see. We crossed one tract, on the bank of the river, of more than a hundred acres of heavy timber, which had just been felled and burnt over, and was still smoking. Our trail lay through the midst of it, and was well nigh blotted out. The trees lay at full length, four or five feet deep, and crossing each other in all directions, all black as charcoal, but perfectly sound within, still good for fuel or for timber; soon they would be cut into lengths and burnt again. Here were thousands of cords, enough to keep the poor of Boston and New York amply warm for a winter, which only cumbered the ground and were in the settler's way. And the whole of that solid and interminable forest is doomed to be gradually devoured thus by fire, like shavings, and no man be warmed by it. At Crocker's log-hut, at the mouth of Salmon River, seven miles from the Point, one of the party commenced distributing a store of small cent picture-books among the children, to teach them to read, and also newspapers, more or less recent, among the parents, than which nothing can be more acceptable to a backwoods people. It was really an important item in our outfit, and, at times, the only currency that would circulate. I walked through Salmon River with my shoes on, it being low water, but not without wetting my feet. A few miles farther we came to "Marm Howard's," at the end of an extensive clearing, where there were two or three log-huts in sight at once, one on the opposite side of the river, and a few graves, even surrounded by a wooden paling, where already the rude forefathers of a hamlet lie, and a thousand years hence, perchance, some poet will write his "Elegy in a Country Churchyard." The "Village Hampdens," the "mute, inglorious Miltons," and Cromwells, "guiltless of" their "country's blood," were yet unborn.

Perchance in this *wild* spot there *will be* laid
Some heart once pregnant with celestial fire;
Hands that the rod of empire might have swayed,
Or waked to ecstasy the living lyre.

THOMAS GRAY

But Knowledge to their eyes her ample page,
Rich with the spoils of time, did ne'er unroll;
Chill Penury repress'd their noble rage,
And froze the genial current of the soul.

Full many a gem of purest ray serene
The dark unfathom'd caves of ocean bear:
Full many a flower is born to blush unseen,



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And **waste its sweetness** on the desert air.

WALDEN: I have said that Walden has no visible inlet nor outlet, but it is on the one hand distantly and indirectly related to Flint's Pond, which is more elevated, by a chain of small ponds coming from that quarter, and on the other directly and manifestly to Concord River, which is lower, by a similar chain of ponds through which in some other geological period it may have flowed, and by a little digging, which God forbid, it can be made to flow thither again. If by living thus reserved and austere, like a hermit in the woods, so long, it has acquired such wonderful purity, who would not regret that the comparatively impure waters of Flint's Pond should be mingled with it, or itself should ever go to waste its sweetness in the ocean wave?

PEOPLE OF
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Some village-Hampden, that with dauntless breast
The little tyrant of his fields withstood,
Some mute inglorious Milton here may rest,
Some Cromwell, guiltless of his country's blood.

Th' applause of list'ning senates to command,
The threats of pain and ruin to despise,
To scatter plenty o'er a smiling land,
And read their history in a nation's eyes,

Their lot forbad: nor circumscribed alone
Their growing virtues, but their crimes confined;
Forbad to wade through slaughter to a throne,
And shut the gates of mercy on mankind,

The struggling pangs of conscious truth to hide,
To quench the blushes of ingenuous shame,
Or heap the shrine of Luxury and Pride
With incense kindled at the Muse's flame.

Far from the madding crowd's ignoble strife,
Their sober wishes never learn'd to stray;
Along the cool sequester'd vale of life
They kept the noiseless tenour of their way.

Yet e'en these bones from insult to protect
Some frail memorial still erected nigh,
With uncouth rhymes and shapeless sculpture deck'd,
Implores the passing tribute of a sigh.

Their name, their years, spelt by th' unletter'd Muse,
The place of fame and elegy supply:
And many a holy text around she strews,
That teach the rustic moralist to die.

For who, to dumb forgetfulness a prey,
This pleasing anxious being e'er resign'd,
Left the warm precincts of the cheerful day,
Nor cast one longing lingering look behind?

On some fond breast the parting soul relies,
Some pious drops the closing eye requires;



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E'en from the tomb the voice of Nature cries,
E'en in our ashes live their wonted fires.

For thee, who, mindful of th' unhonour'd dead,
Dost in these lines their artless tale relate;
If chance, by lonely contemplation led,
Some kindred spirit shall inquire thy fate, —

Haply some hoary-headed swain may say,
Of't have we seen him at the peep of dawn
Brushing with hasty steps the dews away,
To meet the sun upon the upland lawn;

'There at the foot of yonder nodding beech
That wreathes its old fantastic roots so high,
His listless length at noontide would he stretch,
And pore upon the brook that babbles by.

'Hard by yon wood, now smiling as in scorn,
Muttering his wayward fancies he would rove;
Now drooping, woeful wan, like one forlorn,
Or crazed with care, or cross'd in hopeless love.

'One morn I miss'd him on the custom'd hill,
Along the heath, and near his favourite tree;
Another came; nor yet beside the rill,
Nor up the lawn, nor at the wood was he;

'The next with dirges due in sad array
Slow through the church-way path we saw him borne,—
Approach and read (for thou canst read) the lay
Graved on the stone beneath yon aged thorn.'

The Epitaph

Here rests his head upon the lap of Earth
A youth to Fortune and to Fame unknown.
Fair Science frowned not on his humble birth,
And Melancholy marked him for her own.

Large was his bounty, and his soul sincere,
Heaven did a recompense as largely send:
He gave to Misery all he had, a tear,
He gained from Heaven ('twas all he wish'd) a friend.

No farther seek his merits to disclose,
Or draw his frailties from their dread abode
(There they alike in trembling hope repose),
The bosom of his Father and his God.



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In A WEEK, in a passage where Thoreau would describe the daily lives of ordinary farmers, he would echo this poem:

A WEEK: You shall see rude and sturdy, experienced and wise men, keeping their castles, or teaming up their summer's wood, or chopping alone in the woods, men fuller of talk and rare adventure in the sun and wind and rain, than a chestnut is of meat; who were out not only in '75 and 1812, but have been out every day of their lives; greater men than Homer, or Chaucer, or Shakespeare, only they never got time to say so; they never took to the way of writing. Look at their fields, and imagine what they might write, if ever they should put pen to paper. Or what have they not written on the face of the earth already, clearing, and burning, and scratching, and harrowing, and ploughing, and subsoiling, in and in, and out and out, and over and over, again and again, erasing what they had already written for want of parchment.

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1758

December 15, Friday: [Thomas Gray](#) was offered, but declined, the post of Poet Laureate, which had become vacant through the death of Colley Cibber.

POETS LAUREATE



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1760

Fall: [Thomas Gray](#) read and studied the works of James Macpherson.



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1761

May 5, Tuesday: Having completed “The Fatal Sisters,” “The Descent of Odin,” and other imitations of Welsh and Norse poems such as “The Triumphs of Owen,” expressions of his interest in early Welsh and Icelandic poetry, [Thomas Gray](#) made plans to include these poems in the “History of English Poetry” project which he had begun in 1752.



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1771

July 30, Tuesday: [Thomas Gray](#) died of suppressed gout.



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1778

[Thomas Gray](#). POEMS OF MR. GRAY, TO WHICH ARE ADDED MEMOIRS OF HIS LIFE AND WRITINGS, BY WILLIAM MASON. York: A. Ward, 1778.



([Henry Thoreau](#) would check out these four volumes in 1837.)



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1805



[Thomas Gray](#)'s POEMS.





PEOPLE OF A WEEK AND WALDEN:

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PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1810

 [Alexander Chalmers](#)'s THE WORKS OF THE ENGLISH POETS, FROM [CHAUCER](#) TO [COWPER](#); INCLUDING THE SERIES EDITED WITH PREFACES, BIOGRAPHICAL AND CRITICAL, BY DR. SAMUEL JOHNSON; AND THE MOST APPROVED TRANSLATIONS, a revised and expanded version of Dr. Johnson's 1779-1781 LIVES OF THE POETS, began to come across the London presses of C. Wittingham. It would amount to 21 volumes and the printing would require until 1814 to be complete. According to the Preface, this massive thingie was "a work professing to be a Body of the Standard English Poets"¹:

1. When the massive collection would come finally to be reviewed in July 1814, the reviewer would, on the basis of Chalmers's selection of poems and poets, broadly denounce this editor as incompetent.



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- PERUSE VOLUME I
- PERUSE VOLUME III
- PERUSE VOLUME IV
- PERUSE VOLUME V
- PERUSE VOLUME VI
- PERUSE VOLUME VII
- PERUSE VOLUME VIII
- PERUSE VOLUME IX
- PERUSE VOLUME X
- PERUSE VOLUME XI
- PERUSE VOLUME XII
- PERUSE VOLUME XIII
- PERUSE VOLUME XIV
- PERUSE VOLUME XV
- PERUSE VOLUME XVI
- PERUSE VOLUME XVII
- PERUSE VOLUME XVIII
- PERUSE VOLUME XIX
- PERUSE VOLUME XX
- PERUSE VOLUME XXI



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WALDEN: Breed's hut was standing only a dozen years ago, though it had long been unoccupied. It was about the size of mine. It was set on fire by mischievous boys, one Election night, if I do not mistake. I lived on the edge of the village then, and had just lost myself over Davenant's Gondibert, that winter that I labored with a lethargy, -which, by the way, I never knew whether to regard as a family complaint, having an uncle who goes to sleep shaving himself, and is obliged to sprout potatoes in a cellar Sundays, in order to keep awake and keep the Sabbath, or as the consequence of my attempt to read Chalmers' collection of English poetry without skipping. It fairly overcame my Nervii. I had just sunk my head on this when the bells rung fire, and in hot haste the engines rolled that way, led by a straggling troop of men and boys, and I among the foremost, for I had leaped the brook. We thought it was far south over the woods, -we who had run to fires before,- barn, shop, or dwelling-house, or all together. "It's Baker's barn," cried one. "It is the Codman Place," affirmed another. And then fresh sparks went up above the wood, as if the roof fell in, and we all shouted "Concord to the rescue!" Wagons shot past with furious speed and crushing loads, bearing, perchance, among the rest, the agent of the Insurance Company, who was bound to go however far; and ever and anon the engine bell tinkled behind, more slow and sure, and rearmost of all, as it was afterward whispered, came they who set the fire and gave the alarm. Thus we kept on like true idealists, rejecting the evidence of our senses, until at a turn in the road we heard crackling and actually felt the heat of the fire from over the wall, and realized, alas! that we were there. The very nearness of the fire but cooled our ardor. At first we thought to throw a frog-pond on to it; but concluded to let it burn, it was so far gone and so worthless. So we stood round our engine, jostled one another, expressed our sentiments through speaking trumpets, or in lower tone referred to the great conflagrations which the world has witness, including Bascom's shop, and, between ourselves we thought that, were we there in season with our "tub", and a full frog-pond by, we could turn that threatened last and universal one into another flood. We finally retreated without doing any mischief, -returned to sleep and Gondibert. But as for Gondibert, I would except that passage in the preface about wit being the soul's powder, -"but most of mankind are strangers to wit, as Indians are to powder."



FIRE

PEOPLE OF
WALDEN

INSURANCE

NARCOLEPSY

ALEXANDER CHALMERS

BASCOM & COLE



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PEOPLE MENTIONED IN A WEEK

THE ENGLISH POETS:

[Joseph Addison](#), Akenside; Armstrong; Beattie; [Francis Beaumont](#); Sir J. Beaumont; Blacklock; Blackmore; [Robert Blair](#); Boyse; Brome; Brooke; Broome; Sir [Thomas Browne](#); [Charles Butler](#); [George Gordon, Lord Byron](#); Cambridge; [Thomas Carew](#); Cartwright; Cawthorne; Chatterton; [Geoffrey Chaucer](#); Churchill; [William Collins](#); [William Congreve](#); Cooper; Corbett; [Charles Cotton](#); Dr. Cotton; [Abraham Cowley](#); [William Cowper](#); Crashaw; Cunningham; [Daniel](#); [William Davenant](#); Davies; [Sir John Denham](#); Dodsley; [John Donne](#); Dorset; [Michael Drayton](#); Sir [William Drummond](#); [John Dryden](#); Duke; Dyer; Falconer; Fawkes; Fenton; [Giles Fletcher](#); [John Fletcher](#); Garth; [Gascoigne](#); Gay; Glover; Goldsmith; [Gower](#); Grainger; [Thomas Gray](#); Green; [William Habington](#); Halifax; [William Hall](#); Hammond; Harte; Hughes; Jago; Jenyns; Dr. [Samuel Johnson](#); Jones; [Ben Jonson](#); King; Langhorne; Lansdowne; Lloyd; Logan; Lovibond; Lyttelton; Mallett; Mason; William Julias Mickle; [John Milton](#); [Thomas Moore](#); Otway; Parnell; A. Phillips; J. Phillips; Pitt; Pomfret; [Alexander Pope](#); Prior; Rochester; Roscommon; Rowe; Savage; Sir [Walter Scott](#); [William Shakespeare](#); Sheffield; Shenstone; Sherburne; [Skelton](#); Smart; Smith; Somerville; [Edmund Spenser](#); Sprat; Stepney; Stirling; Suckling; Surrey; [Jonathan Swift](#); [James Thomson](#); W. Thomson; Tickell; [Turberville](#); Waller; Walsh; Warner; J. Warton; T. Warton; Watts; West; P. Whitehead; W. Whitehead; Wilkie; Wyatt; Yalden; [Arthur Young](#).

TRANSLATIONS:

[Alexander Pope](#)'s Iliad & Odyssey; [John Dryden](#)'s Virgil & [Juvenal](#); Pitt's Aeneid & Vida; Francis' Horace; Rowe's Lucan; Grainger's [Albius Tibullus](#); Fawkes' Theocritus, Apollonius Rhodius, Coluthus, [Anacreon](#), Sappho, Bion and Moschus, Museus; Garth's Ovid; Lewis' Statius; Cooke's [Hesiod](#); Hoole's Ariosto & Tasso; William Julias Mickle's Lusiad.

COMMENTARY:

William Julias Mickle's "Inquiry into the Religion Tenets and Philosophy of the Bramins," which Thoreau encountered in 1841 in Volume 21 (pages 713-33).



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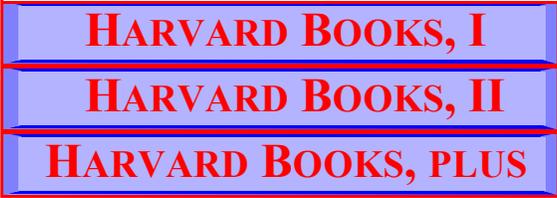
PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1834

THOREAU'S HARVARD LIBRARY READING LIST FOR 1834²

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

- January 8 (8) [Washington Irving](#). HISTORY OF THE LIFE AND VOYAGES OF CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS (NY: G. & C. Carvill, 1828) (The margin reads: "C. S. Wheeler for Thoreau.", In the margin: "A.G. Peabody for Thoreau.", In the margin: "A.G. Peabody.",4)
- January 22 (9) [Washington Irving](#). THE VOYAGES AND DISCOVERIES OF THE COMPANIONS OF COLUMBUS (Philadelphia, 1831)
- January 29 (10) The Reverend Thomas Harwood. GRECIAN 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 (12) [Washington Irving](#). A CHRONICLE OF THE CONQUEST OF GRANADA: FROM THE MSS. OF [the nonexistent] FRAY ANTONIO AGAPIDA (Philadelphia: Lea & Blanchard, 1829) (The margin reads: "C.S. Wheeler for Thoreau.", In the margin: "A.G. Peabody for Thoreau.")
- February 12 (13) Charles Dexter Cleveland. AN EPITOME OF GRECIAN ANTIQUITIES. FOR THE USE OF SCHOOLS (Boston, 1827)
- February 19 (14) [Lydia Maria Child](#). *HOBOMOK*, A TALE OF EARLY TIMES (1824)
[Lydia Maria Child](#). THE REBELS (1825)
- March 6 (16) Mary Barney. A BIOGRAPHICAL MEMOIR OF THE LATE COMMODORE JOSHUA BARNEY (1832)
- March 6 (16) Captain Charles Stuart Cochrane. JOURNAL OF A RESIDENCE AND TRAVELS IN COLOMBIA DURING THE YEARS 1823 AND 1824 (London: Henry Colburn, 1825) (The margin reads: "C. S. Wheeler for Thoreau.")
- March 12 (17) Terrick Hamilton, tr. 'ANTAR, A BEDOUEN ROMANCE. TRANSLATED FROM THE ARABIC (London: John Murray, 1819) (Part I) (The margin reads: "C. S. Wheeler for Thoreau.", In the margin: "A.G. Peabody for Thoreau.", In the margin: "A. G. Peabody.")
- March 19 (18) William Bullock. SIX MONTHS' RESIDENCE AND TRAVELS IN [MEXICO](#); CONTAINING RE-
2. The [Harvard Library](#) had in 1830 and 1831 published its shelflist. In this year it issued a supplemental volume:





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PEOPLE MENTIONED IN A WEEK



MARKS ON THE PRESENT STATE OF NEW SPAIN, ITS NATURAL PRODUCTIONS, STATE OF SOCIETY, MANUFACTURES, TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND ANTIQUITIES, &C WITH PLATES AND MAPS (London: John Murray, 1824) (In the margin: "A.G. Peabody for Thoreau.")

March 26 (19) [Thomas Gray](#). THE VESTAL, OR A TALE OF POMPEII (Boston: Gray and Bowen, 1830)

April 23 (20) The Reverend Vicesimus Knox. ELEGANT EXTRACTS: OR, USEFUL AND ENTERTAINING PIECES OF POETRY, SELECTED FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF YOUNG PERSONS: BEING SIMILAR IN DESIGN TO ELEGANT EXTRACTS IN PROSE (London: C. Robinson; Weybridge: S. Hamilton, 1809) (The margin reads: "C.S. Wheeler for Thoreau.")



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PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

- April 23 (21) “Lewis Pe 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 (22) Walter Wilson. MEMOIRS OF THE LIFE AND TIMES OF [DANIEL DEFOE](#) (1830) (The margin reads: “C.S. Wheeler for Thoreau.”)
- 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.”)

GOLDSMITH’S ENGLISH, I

GOLDSMITH’S ENGLISH, II

GOLDSMITH’S ENGLISH, III

GOLDSMITH’S ENGLISH, IV

- May 7 (24) Lydia Howard Huntley Sigourney. TRAITS OF THE ABORIGINES OF AMERICA A POEM (Cambridge MA: Hilliard and Metcalf, 1822) (?)
- May 28 (26) Charles Mills. HISTORY OF THE CRUSADES FOR THE RECOVERY AND POSSESSION OF THE HOLY LAND (London: Longman, 1820) (The margin reads: “C.S. Wheeler for Thoreau.”)
- 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)
- September 30(29) John Barrow. A VOYAGE TO COCHINCHINA IN THE YEARS 1792 AND 1793: CONTAINING A GENERAL VIEWS OF THE VALUABLE PRODUCTIONS AND THE POLITICAL IMPORTANCE OF THIS FLOURISHING KINGDOM;... (London: T. Cadell, 1806)³
- [George Waddington](#)’s and the Reverend [Barnard Hanbury](#)’s JOURNAL OF A VISIT TO SOME PARTS OF ETHIOPIA (London: John Murray, 1822)

A VISIT TO ETHIOPIA

 March 26, Wednesday: [David Henry Thoreau](#) checked out, from [Harvard Library](#), [Thomas Gray](#)’s THE VESTAL, OR A TALE OF [POMPEII](#), which although it was a historical novel offered more than 35 pages of explanatory notes in the 1830 edition published in Boston by the firm of Gray and Bowen.⁴

THE VESTAL ... OF POMPEII

Friend [Stephen Wanton Gould](#) wrote in his journal:

3. 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.



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4th day 26 of 3 M 1834 / Attended Moy [Monthly] Meeting held in Town -Wm Greene preached - followed by Wm Almy. - In the last there was considerable buisness & a time of exercise & some distress but things ended pretty well.

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

On the north boreal slope of Canada, Commander [George Back](#) received news from York Factory.

(Page 240) ... a person arrived late in the evening with the packet from York Factory, which we had been expecting daily for the last six weeks. The happiness which this announcement instantly created can be appreciated by those only who, like us, have been outside the pale of civilisation, and felt the blessing of communication with their friends but once through a long twelvemonth.

THE FROZEN NORTH

4. Would this have been where Thoreau learned of the ruts of [Pompeii](#), which in 1851 he would mention in his journal?



July 7, Monday, 1851: ...Even the facts of science may dust the mind by their dryness –unless they are in a sense effaced each morning or rather rendered fertile by the dews of fresh & living truth. Every thought that passes through the mind helps to wear & tear it & to deepen the ruts which as in the streets of Pompeii evince how much it has been used. How many things there are concerning which we might well deliberate whether we had better know them. Routine –conventionality manners & c & c –how insensibly and undue attention to these dissipates & impoverishes the mind –robs it of its simplicity & strength emasculates it. Knowledge doe[s] not cone [come] to us by details but by lieferungs from the gods. What else is it to wash & purify ourselves? Conventionalities are as bad as impurities. Only thought which is expressed by the mind in repose as it wer[e] lying on its back & contemplating the heaven's –is adequately & fully expressed– What are side long –transient passing half views? The writer expressing his thought –must be as well seated as the astronomer contemplating the heavens –he must not occupy a constrained position. The facts the experience we are well poised upon –! Which secures our whole attention!



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1837

January: [David Henry Thoreau](#) the [Harvard College](#) senior was assigned by Professor Channing an essay on the topic of *L'ALLEGRO & IL PENSEROSO*, and he kicked off this topic with a comment by [Dr. Samuel Johnson](#), who had well observed in his biographical notice of [John Milton](#) that “No mirth can indeed be found in his melancholy; but I am afraid that I always meet some melancholy in his mirth.” Thoreau turned this snippet into a hook upon which to hang his essay by characterizing it as a “transition from L’Allegro to Il Penseroso.”

THE ACTUAL DOCUMENT

However, this Harvard senior also wrote, in a more serious vein, that:

*[T]ime loiters in his course, were it for but a moment
-past -present -future -mingle as one.*



TIME AND ETERNITY

It is my opinion that Thoreau was in possession of an attitude about perspectival space and of the eternity behind time which was fully formed by the point at which he copied his first journals into the first record we have of these journals, the new blank book he began in 1837 as “Gleanings — Or What Time Has Not Reaped Of My Journal.” Presumably these ideas antedate 1837 to at least some extent, for in an essay written in September 1836, his Junior year at Harvard, speaking of the human imagination, he wrote:

*Its province is unbounded, its flights are not confined
to space, the past and the future, time and eternity,
all come within the sphere of its range.*

However, the manner in which Thoreau held this attitude, and the manner in which he sought to communicate it to others, do seem to have developed over time, as his communication skills were elaborated by his experience as a writer and as a lecturer, and as he observed more and more the consequences in the lives of others of other sorts of attitude toward time and eternity.



{1/3d of the sheet is missing} college {the remainder of the line has been torn away} bright spot in the student’s history, a cloud by day, a pillar of fire by night, shedding a grateful lustre over long years of toil, and cheering him onward to the end of his pilgrimage. Immured within the dank but classic walls of a Stoughton or Hollis his wearied and {a sheet, or perhaps more, is missing here} The precise date of these poems is not known, they were probably, however, together with his *Comus* and *Lycidas*, the fruit of those five years of literary leisure, from 1632 to 1637, which our author is known to have spent at Horton, in Buckinghamshire. Surely {about 5/6ths of the sheet is missing} so faithfully the spirit of its divine Author? They were first published in 1645, but for nearly a century obtained but little notice from the lovers of polite literature, the Addisons and Popes of the day. They are thought, by



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Dr. Warton, to have been originally indebted to Handels' music for whatever notice they at last obtained.

L'Allegro is not an effort of Genius, but rather an out-pouring of poetic feeling. We have here a succession of pleasing and striking images, which are dwelt upon just long enough. {the remainder of the line has been torn away} at {a sheet, or perhaps more, is missing here} never been heard of since the days of Robinhood.

The metre of these verses is admirably adapted to the subject. The reader can hardly believe that he is not one of the party, tripping it over hill and dale "on the light fantastic toe".

A verse of poetry should strike the reader, as it did the poet, as a whole, not so much as the sign of an idea as that idea itself.

*-As Imagination bodies forth
The forms of things unknown, the Poet's pen
Turns them to shapes-*

{the first half of the line has been torn away} to which they are already {about 1/3d of the sheet is missing} in every respect, so as to satisfy its aerial occupant, it is enough, whatever may be the order of architecture. Thus was it with our architect.

But the parts and members of his verses are equally appropriate and striking. With the idea comes the very word, if its sense is not wanted, its sound is.

But lo! the sun is up, the hounds are out, the ploughman has already driven his team afield, and as he gaily treads the fragrant furrow, his merry whistle "is heard the fields around," responsive to the milkmaid's song, who now repairs with pail on head, and quick elastic step, to her humble stool. The mower, too, has commenced his labors in the meadow at hand,

*And every shepherd tells his tale
Under the hawthorne in the dale.*

Such a picture of rural felicity as is presented in these and the following lines, is rarely to be met with even in poetry. Fancy has her hands full, a thousand images are flitting before her, bringing with them a crowd of delightful associations, and she is forced, in spite of herself, to join the revel and thread the mazes of the dance. And then for

*the spicy nut-brown ale,
With stories told of many a feat-*

There are the "delights", the "recreations and jolly pastimes that will fetch the day about from sun to sun, and rock the tedious year as in a delightful dream". The poet leaves not a single chord untouched if the reader will but yield himself up to his influence. This whole poem is to be regarded rather as a "sweet digression" than an elaborate effort, as an effusion rather than a production. Johnson has well observed, in his biographical notice of Milton, "No mirth can indeed be found in his melancholy; but I am afraid



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that I always meet some melancholy in his mirth." His mirth wears a pensive hue, his melancholy is but a pleasing contemplative mood. The transition from L'Allegro to Il Penseroso is by no means abrupt, the vain deluding joys which are referred to in the commencement of the latter, are not those unrepented pleasures which the poet has just recounted, for they are by no means inconsistent with that soft melancholy which he paints, but rather, the fickle pensioners of that Euphrosyne whose sister graces are Meat and Drink, a very different crew from that which waits upon the "daughter fair" of Zephyr and Aurora. The latter are content with daylight and a moderate portion of the night – when tales are done

*– "to bed they creep,
By whispering winds soon lulled asleep."*

but the others proceed to evening amusements, and even to the London theatres, and the "well-trod stage," –but only

*"If Jonson's learned sock be on,
Or sweetest Shakspeare, Fancy's child,
Warble his native wood-notes wild."*

Beginning with the warning to idle joys, that they depart and leave the poet to "divinest Melancholy," we soon come to that picture of her, perhaps, the finest in the whole poem. A sable stole thrown over her decent shoulders, with slow and measured steps, and looks that hold "sweet converse" with the skies, reflecting a portion of their own placidness, she gradually draws near. But lo! the "cherub contemplation" delays her lingering steps, her eyes upraised to heaven, the earth is for a space forgot – time loiters in his course, were it but for a moment – past – present – future – mingle as one {about 2 1/2 sheets are missing} The picture of Morning in "Il Penseroso" differs greatly from that in "L'Allegro," and introduces that mention of the storm-wind in a cloudy day,–

"When rocking winds are piping loud,"–

a very poetic touch. A later poet, [Thomson](#), attributes its sighing to the "sad Genius of the coming storm," [Gray](#) too, seems to have been equally affected by it. "Did you never observe," he writes, "that pause, as the gust is recollecting itself, and rising upon the ear in a shrill and plaintive tone, like the swell of an [Æolian harp](#)? I do assure you there is nothing in the world so like the voice of a spirit."

We are told, that it was while exposed to a violent storm of wind and rain, attended by frequent flashes of lightning, among [sic] the wilds of Glen-Ken, in Galloway, that Burns composed his far-famed song, the "Scots wha hae wi' Wallace bled". Ossian was the child of the storm, its music was ever grateful to his ear. Hence his poetry breathes throughout a tempestuous spirit – when read, as it should be, at the still hour of night, the very rustling of a leaf stirred



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by the impatient reader, seems to his excited imagination the fitful moaning of the wind, or sighings of the breeze.

But if Milton's winds rock they pipe also, even the monotony of a summer shower is relieved by the cheerful pattering of 'minute drops from off the eaves', and if the heavens are for a few moments overcast, the splendor of the succeeding sunshine is heightened by contrast.

It is amusing to know that Milton was a performer on the bass-viol. He is said even to have been a composer, though nothing remains to prove the assertion. It was his practice, say his biographers, when he had dined to play on some musical instrument, and either sing himself or make his wife sing, who, he said, had a good voice but no ear. This partiality for the sister muse is no where more manifest than in these poems; whether in; a mirthful or a pensive mood, the "linked sweetness" of "soft Lydian airs", "the pealing organ", or 'the full-voiced quire', 'dissolve him into ecstasies.'

These poems are to be valued, if for no other reason, on account of the assistance they afford us in forming our estimate of the man Milton. They place him in an entirely new, and extremely pleasing, light to the reader who was previously familiar with him as the author of the Paradise Lost alone. If before he venerated, he may now admire and love him. The immortal Milton seems for a space to have put on mortality, to have snatched a moment from the weightier cares of heaven and hell, to wander for awhile among the sons of men. But we mistake; though his wings, as he tells us, were already sprouted, he was as yet content to linger awhile, with childlike affection, amid the scenes of his native earth.

The tenor of these verses is in keeping with the poets' early life; he was, as he confesses, a reader of romances, an occasional frequenter of the playhouse, and not at all averse to spending a cheerful evening, now and then, with some kindred spirits about town. We see nothing here of the Puritan. the "storied windows" which were afterwards an abomination in his eyes, admit a welcome, though sombre, light. The learning of Johnson [sic], and the wild notes of Shakspeare, are among the last resources of the mirthful L'Allegro.

The student of Milton will ever turn with satisfaction from contemplating the stern and consistent non conformist, and bold defender of civil and religious liberty, engaged, but not involved, in a tedious and virulent controversy,

With darkness and with dangers compassed round,

his dearest hopes disappointed, and himself shut out from the cheering light of day, to these fruits of his earlier and brighter years; though of the earth, yet the flights of one who was contemplating to soar 'Above the Aonian mount', a heavenward and unattempted course.

I have not undertaken to write a critique, I have dwelt upon the poet's beauties and not so much as glanced at his blemishes. This may be the result of pure selfishness; Poetry is but a recreation. A pleasing image, or a fine sentiment, loses none of its charms,



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though Burton, or Beaumont and Fletcher, or Marlowe, or Sir Walter Raleigh, may have written something very similar; or even, in another connexion, have used the identical word whose aptness we so much admire. It always appeared to me that that contemptible kind of criticism which can deliberately, and in cold blood, dissect the sublimest passage, and take pleasure in the detection of slight verbal incongruities, was, when applied to Milton, little better than sacrilege, and that those critics who condescended to practice it, were to be ranked with the parish officers who, prompted by a profane and mercenary spirit, tore from their grave and exposed for sale, what were imagined to be the remains of Milton.



April 24, Tuesday: [David Henry Thoreau](#)'s classmate [Henry Jacob Bigelow](#) was dismissed from [Harvard College](#) for having been in possession of firearms and ammunition in his dormitory room and repeatedly discharging a firearm inside the room (MH-Ar Faculty Records UAIII 5.5.2.IX, 311).

[Thoreau](#) checked out, from [Harvard Library](#), Sir [George Back](#)'s just-published NARRATIVE OF THE ARCTIC LAND EXPEDITION TO THE MOUTH OF THE GREAT FISH RIVER, AND ALONG THE SHORES OF THE ARCTIC OCEAN, IN THE YEARS 1833, 1834, AND 1835.

THE FROZEN NORTH

NARRATIVE OF THE ARCTIC...

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



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Engraved by E. Pinder.

View to Seaward from Montreal Island.

Published by John Murray, London, 1836.

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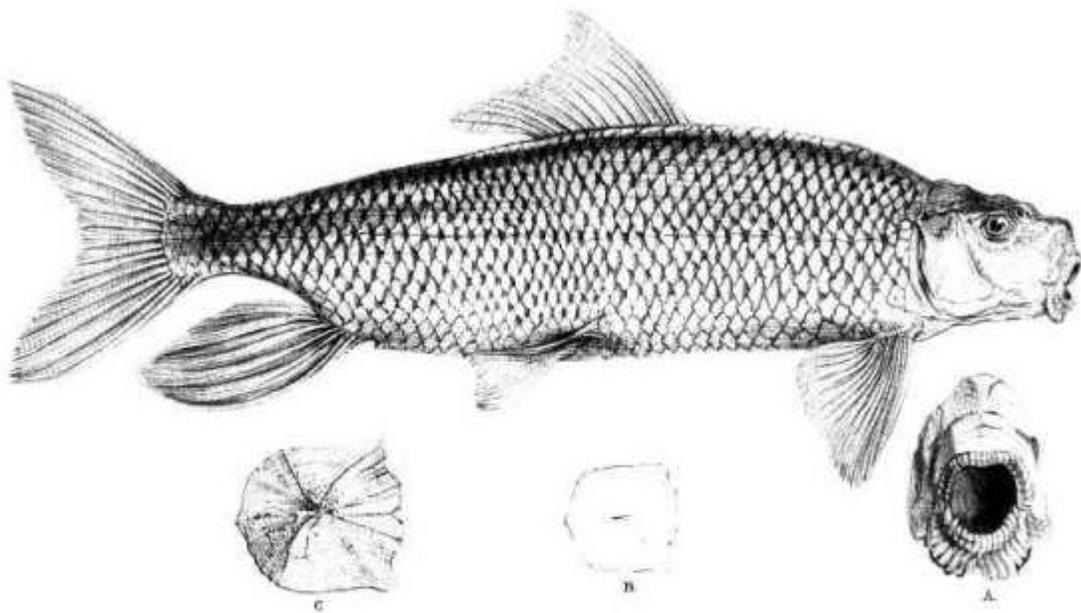
PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN



Esquimaux Woman.
of the Thliensochodiseth.



Esquimaux Man.
of the Thliensochodiseth.



THE FISHBY,
(A Salmon.)
A, B, Nat. Size, C, Scale Magnified.
J. Murray, Edinburgh: Street, 1836.

J. Waterhouse, Engraver, London.

Printed by J. & H. B. Taylor.



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[Thoreau](#) also checked out the four volumes of a William Mason (1724-1797) edition of [Thomas Gray](#) (1716-1771)'s poetry, THE POEMS OF MR. GRAY. TO WHICH ARE PREFIXED MEMOIRS OF HIS LIFE AND WRITINGS BY W. MASON, M.A. (York: printed by A. Ward; and sold by J. Dodsley, London; and J. Todd, York, 1775) (since this is four volumes, it is presumably the 1778 reprint).



THE POEMS OF MR. GRAY



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THE MAINE WOODS: At the end of three miles, we came to the Mattaseunk stream and mill, where there was even a rude wooden railroad running down to the Penobscot, the last railroad we were to see. We crossed one tract, on the bank of the river, of more than a hundred acres of heavy timber, which had just been felled and burnt over, and was still smoking. Our trail lay through the midst of it, and was well nigh blotted out. The trees lay at full length, four or five feet deep, and crossing each other in all directions, all black as charcoal, but perfectly sound within, still good for fuel or for timber; soon they would be cut into lengths and burnt again. Here were thousands of cords, enough to keep the poor of Boston and New York amply warm for a winter, which only cumbered the ground and were in the settler's way. And the whole of that solid and interminable forest is doomed to be gradually devoured thus by fire, like shavings, and no man be warmed by it. At Crocker's log-hut, at the mouth of Salmon River, seven miles from the Point, one of the party commenced distributing a store of small cent picture-books among the children, to teach them to read, and also newspapers, more or less recent, among the parents, than which nothing can be more acceptable to a backwoods people. It was really an important item in our outfit, and, at times, the only currency that would circulate. I walked through Salmon River with my shoes on, it being low water, but not without wetting my feet. A few miles farther we came to "Marm Howard's," at the end of an extensive clearing, where there were two or three log-huts in sight at once, one on the opposite side of the river, and a few graves, even surrounded by a wooden paling, where already the rude forefathers of a hamlet lie, and a thousand years hence, perchance, some poet will write his "Elegy in a Country Churchyard." The "Village Hampdens," the "mute, inglorious Miltons," and Cromwells, "guiltless of" their "country's blood," were yet unborn.

Perchance in this *wild* spot there *will be* laid
Some heart once pregnant with celestial fire;
Hands that the rod of empire might have swayed,
Or waked to ecstasy the living lyre.

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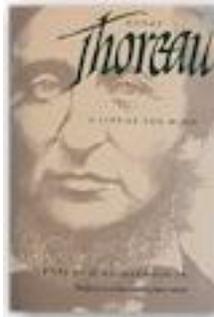
1838

December: “Wrote an essay on Sound and Silence.” In the course of this essay [Henry Thoreau](#) quoted from [Thomas Gray](#).⁵



Robert D. Richardson, Jr., Thoreau’s most recent biographer, has charged that the essay, which eventually became the ending of WEEK, was “dogged by a persistent, mechanical perversity of paradox.”

A good book is the plectrum with which our silent lyres are struck— In all epics, when, after breathless attention, we come to the significant words “he said”— then especially our inmost man is addressed. — We not unfrequently refer the interest which belongs to our own unwritten sequel — to the written and comparatively lifeless page. Of all valuable books this same sequel makes and indispensable part— It is the author’s aim to say, once and emphatically, “he said” This is the most the book maker can attain to. If he make his volume a foil whereon the waves of silence may break, it is well. It is not so much the sighing of the blast, as that pause, as Grey expresses it, “When the gust is recollecting itself,” that thrills us, and is infinitely grander than the importunate howlings of the storm.⁶



5. [Thomas Gray](#). POEMS OF MR. GRAY, TO WHICH ARE ADDED MEMOIRS OF HIS LIFE AND WRITINGS, BY WILLIAM MASON. York: A. Ward, 1778. Volume IV, 60.

6. The poet W.H. Auden has in 1962 brought forward a snippet from this as:

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

Pg	Topic	Aphorism Selected by Auden out of Thoreau
278	Writers and Readers	It is the author’s aim to say once and emphatically, “He said.”

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1842

August 8, Monday: [Pierre Jean Édouard Desor](#) was among those in a guided party, on the 1st-ever ascent of Lauteraarhorn.



On this day and the following one, [Frederick Douglass](#) spoke before the Bristol County Anti-Slavery Society in [New Bedford](#).

On the day that [Joseph Smith, Jr.](#) was arrested as a suspected accomplice in the attempted murder of Lilburn W. Boggs, former governor of Missouri, by Orrin Porter Rockwell, former [Danite](#) and later a member of the [Mormon](#) Council of Fifty, the founder achieved his insight into secret sacred underwear that had had “oil



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poured on them, and then a mark or hole cut in the breasts of their shirts ... to keep the Destroying Angel from them and their families” (when released from that arrest by the Nauvoo Municipal Court, Smith would travel into Iowa and go into hiding).

Secretary of State [Daniel Webster](#) wrote eloquently to Lord Ashburton:

Mr. Webster to Lord Ashburton.

Department of State, Washington, August 8, 1842.

My Lord,—We have had several conversations on the subject of impressment, but I do not understand that your Lordship has instructions from your government to negotiate upon it, nor does the government of the United States see any utility in opening such negotiation, unless the British government is prepared to renounce the practice in all future wars.

No cause has produced to so great an extent, and for so long a period, disturbing and irritating influences on the political relations of the United States and England, as the impressment of seamen by British cruisers from American merchant-vessels. From the commencement of the French Revolution to the breaking out of the war between the two countries in 1812, hardly a year elapsed without loud complaint and earnest remonstrance. A deep feeling of opposition to the right claimed, and to the practice exercised under it, and not unfrequently exercised without the least regard to what justice and humanity would have dictated, even if the right itself had been admitted, took possession of the public mind of America, and this feeling, it is well known, co-operated most powerfully with other causes to produce the state of hostilities which ensued.

At different periods, both before and since the war, negotiations have taken place between the two governments, with the hope of finding some means of quieting these complaints. At some times, the effectual abolition of the practice has been requested and treated of; at other times, its temporary suspension; and at other times, again, the limitation of its exercise, and some security against its enormous abuses.

A common destiny has attended these efforts; they have all failed. The question stands at this moment where it stood fifty years ago. The nearest approach to a settlement was a convention proposed in 1803, and which had come to the point of signature, when it was broken off in consequence of the British government insisting that the **narrow seas** should be expressly excepted out of the sphere over which the contemplated stipulation against impressment should extend. The American Minister, Mr. King, regarded this exception as quite inadmissible, and chose rather to abandon the negotiation than to acquiesce in the doctrine which it proposed to establish.

England asserts the right of impressing British subjects, in time of war, out of neutral merchant-vessels, and of deciding by her visiting officers who, among the crews of such merchant-vessels, are British subjects. She asserts this as a legal exercise of the prerogative of the crown; which prerogative is alleged to be founded on the English law of the perpetual and



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indissoluble allegiance of the subject, and his obligation under all circumstances, and for his whole life, to render military service to the crown whenever required.

This statement, made in the words of eminent British jurists, shows at once that the English claim is far broader than the basis or platform on which it is raised. The law relied on is English law; the obligations insisted on are obligations existing between the crown of England and its subjects. This law and these obligations, it is admitted, may be such as England may choose they shall be. But then they must be confined to the parties. Impressment of seamen out of and beyond English territory, and from on board the ships of other nations, is an interference with the rights of other nations; is further, therefore, than English prerogative can legally extend; and is nothing but an attempt to enforce the peculiar law of England beyond the dominions and jurisdiction of the crown. The claim asserts an extra-territorial authority for the law of British prerogative, and assumes to exercise this extra-territorial authority, to the manifest injury and annoyance of the citizens and subjects of other states, on board their own vessels, on the high seas.

Every merchant-vessel on the seas is rightfully considered as part of the territory of the country to which it belongs. The entry, therefore, into such vessel, being neutral, by a belligerent, is an act of force, and is, **prima facie**, a wrong, a trespass, which can be justified only when done for some purpose allowed to form a sufficient justification by the law of nations. But a British cruiser enters an American merchant-vessel in order to take therefrom supposed British subjects; offering no justification, therefore, under the law of nations, but claiming the right under the law of England respecting the king's prerogative. This cannot be defended. English soil, English territory, English jurisdiction, is the appropriate sphere for the operation of English law. The ocean is the sphere of the law of nations; and any merchant-vessel on the seas is by that law under the protection of the laws of her own nation, and may claim immunity, unless in cases in which that law allows her to be entered or visited.

If this notion of perpetual allegiance, and the consequent power of the prerogative, was the law of the world; if it formed part of the conventional code of nations, and was usually practised, like the right of visiting neutral ships, for the purpose of discovering and seizing enemy's property, then impressment might be defended as a common right, and there would be no remedy for the evil till the national code should be altered. But this is by no means the case. There is no such principle incorporated into the code of nations. The doctrine stands only as English law, not as a national law; and English law cannot be of force beyond English dominion. Whatever duties or relations that law creates between the sovereign and his subjects can be enforced and maintained only within the realm, or proper possessions or territory of the sovereign. There may be quite as just a



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prerogative right to the property of subjects as to their personal services, in an exigency of the state; but no government thinks of controlling by its own laws property of its subjects situated abroad; much less does any government think of entering the territory of another power for the purpose of seizing such property and applying it to its own uses. As laws, the prerogatives of the crown of England have no obligation on persons or property domiciled or situated abroad.

"When, therefore," says an authority not unknown or unregarded on either side of the Atlantic, "we speak of the right of a state to bind its own native subjects everywhere, we speak only of its own claim and exercise of sovereignty over them when they return within its own territorial jurisdiction, and not of its right to compel or require obedience to such laws, on the part of other nations, within their own territorial sovereignty. On the contrary, every nation has an exclusive right to regulate persons and things within its own territory, according to its sovereign will and public polity."

The good sense of these principles, their remarkable pertinency to the subject now under consideration, and the extraordinary consequences resulting from the British doctrine, are signally manifested by that which we see taking place every day. England acknowledges herself overburdened with population of the poorer classes. Every instance of the emigration of persons of those classes is regarded by her as a benefit. England, therefore, encourages emigration; means are notoriously supplied to emigrants, to assist their conveyance, from public funds; and the New World, and most especially these United States, receive the many thousands of her subjects thus ejected from the bosom of their native land by the necessities of their condition. They come away from poverty and distress in over-crowded cities, to seek employment, comfort, and new homes in a country of free institutions, possessed by a kindred race, speaking their own language, and having laws and usages in many respects like those to which they have been accustomed; and a country which, upon the whole, is found to possess more attractions for persons of their character and condition than any other on the face of the globe. It is stated that, in the quarter of the year ending with June last, more than twenty-six thousand emigrants left the single port of Liverpool for the United States, being four or five times as many as left the same port within the same period for the British colonies and all other parts of the world. Of these crowds of emigrants, many arrive in our cities in circumstances of great destitution, and the charities of the country, both public and private, are severely taxed to relieve their immediate wants. In time they mingle with the new community in which they find themselves, and seek means of living. Some find employment in the cities, others go to the frontiers, to cultivate lands reclaimed from the forest; and a greater or less number of the residue, becoming in time naturalized citizens, enter into the merchant service under the flag of their adopted country.



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Now, my Lord, if war should break out between England and a European power, can any thing be more unjust, any thing more irreconcilable to the general sentiments of mankind, than that England should seek out these persons, thus encouraged by her and compelled by their own condition to leave their native homes, tear them away from their new employments, their new political relations, and their domestic connections, and force them to undergo the dangers and hardships of military service for a country which has thus ceased to be their own country? Certainly, certainly, my Lord, there can be but one answer to this question. Is it not far more reasonable that England should either prevent such emigration of her subjects, or that, if she encourage and promote it, she should leave them, not to the embroilment of a double and contradictory allegiance, but to their own voluntary choice, to form such relations, political or social, as they see fit, in the country where they are to find their bread, and to the laws and institutions of which they are to look for defence and protection?

A question of such serious importance ought now to be put at rest. If the United States give shelter and protection to those whom the policy of England annually casts upon their shores,—if, by the benign influences of their government and institutions, and by the happy condition of the country, those emigrants become raised from poverty to comfort, finding it easy even to become landholders, and being allowed to partake in the enjoyment of all civil rights,—if all this may be done, (and all this is done, under the countenance and encouragement of England herself,) is it not high time that, yielding that which had its origin in feudal ideas as inconsistent with the present state of society, and especially with the intercourse and relations subsisting between the Old World and the New, England should at length formally disclaim all right to the services of such persons, and renounce all control over their conduct?

But impressment is subject to objections of a much wider range. If it could be justified in its application to those who are declared to be its only objects, it still remains true that, in its exercise, it touches the political rights of other governments, and endangers the security of their own native subjects and citizens. The sovereignty of the state is concerned in maintaining its exclusive jurisdiction and possession over its merchant-ships on the seas, except so far as the law of nations justifies intrusion upon that possession for special purposes; and all experience has shown, that no member of a crew, wherever born, is safe against impressment when a ship is visited.

The evils and injuries resulting from the actual practice can hardly be overstated, and have ever proved themselves to be such as should lead to its relinquishment, even if it were founded in any defensible principle. The difficulty of discriminating between English subjects and American citizens has always been found to be great, even when an honest purpose of discrimination has existed. But the lieutenant of a man-of-war, having



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necessity for men, is apt to be a summary judge, and his decisions will be quite as significant of his own wants and his own power as of the truth and justice of the case. An extract from a letter of Mr. King, of the 13th of April, 1797, to the American Secretary of State, shows something of the enormous extent of these wrongful seizures.

"Instead of a few, and these in many instances equivocal cases, I have," says he, "since the month of July past, made application for the discharge from British men-of-war of two hundred and seventy-one seamen, who, stating themselves to be Americans, have claimed my interference. Of this number, eighty-six have been ordered by the Admiralty to be discharged, thirty-seven more have been detained as British subjects or as American volunteers, or for want of proof that they are Americans, and to my applications for the discharge of the remaining one hundred and forty-eight I have received no answer; the ships on board of which these seamen were detained having, in many instances, sailed before an examination was made in consequence of my application.

"It is certain that some of those who have applied to me are not American citizens, but the exceptions are, in my opinion, few, and the evidence, exclusive of certificates, has been such as, in most cases, to satisfy me that the applicants were real Americans, who have been forced into the British service, and who, with singular constancy, have generally persevered in refusing pay or bounty, though in some instances they have been in service more than two years."

But the injuries of impressment are by no means confined to its immediate subjects, or the individuals on whom it is practised. Vessels suffer from the weakening of their crews, and voyages are often delayed, and not unfrequently broken up, by subtraction from the number of necessary hands by impressment. And what is of still greater and more general moment, the fear of impressment has been found to create great difficulty in obtaining sailors for the American merchant service in times of European war. Seafaring men, otherwise inclined to enter into that service, are, as experience has shown, deterred by the fear of finding themselves ere long in compulsory military service in British ships of war. Many instances have occurred, fully established by proof, in which raw seamen, natives of the United States, fresh from the fields of agriculture, entering for the first time on shipboard, have been impressed before they made the land, placed on the decks of British men-of-war, and compelled to serve for years before they could obtain their release, or revisit their country and their homes. Such instances become known, and their effect in discouraging young men from engaging in the merchant service of their country can neither be doubted nor wondered at. More than all, my Lord, the practice of impressment, whenever it has existed, has produced, not conciliation and good feeling, but resentment, exasperation, and animosity between the two great commercial countries of the world.



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In the calm and quiet which have succeeded the late war, a condition so favorable for dispassionate consideration, England herself has evidently seen the harshness of impressment, even when exercised on seamen in her own merchant service, and she has adopted measures calculated, if not to renounce the power or to abolish the practice, yet at least to supersede its necessity by other means of manning the royal navy more compatible with justice and the rights of individuals, and far more conformable to the spirit and sentiments of the age.

Under these circumstances, the government of the United States has used the occasion of your Lordship's pacific mission to review this whole subject, and to bring it to your notice and that of your government. It has reflected on the past, pondered the condition of the present, and endeavored to anticipate, so far as might be in its power, the probable future; and I am now to communicate to your Lordship the result of these deliberations.

The American government, then, is prepared to say that the practice of impressing seamen from American vessels cannot hereafter be allowed to take place. That practice is founded on principles which it does not recognize, and is invariably attended by consequences so unjust, so injurious, and of such formidable magnitude, as cannot be submitted to.

In the early disputes between the two governments on this so long contested topic, the distinguished person to whose hands were first intrusted the seals of this department [Mr. Jefferson] declared, that "the simplest rule will be, that the vessel being American shall be evidence that the seamen on board are such."

Fifty years' experience, the utter failure of many negotiations, and a careful reconsideration, now had, of the whole subject, at a moment when the passions are laid, and no present interest or emergency exists to bias the judgment, have fully convinced this government that this is not only the simplest and best, but the only rule, which can be adopted and observed, consistently with the rights and honor of the United States and the security of their citizens. That rule announces, therefore, what will hereafter be the principle maintained by their government. In every regularly documented American merchant-vessel the crew who navigate it will find their protection in the flag which is over them.

This announcement is not made, my Lord, to revive useless recollections of the past, nor to stir the embers from fires which have been, in a great degree, smothered by many years of peace. Far otherwise. Its purpose is to extinguish those fires effectually, before new incidents arise to fan them into flame. The communication is in the spirit of peace, and for the sake of peace, and springs from a deep and conscientious conviction that high interests of both nations require this so long contested and controverted subject now to be finally put to rest. I persuade myself that you will do justice to this frank and sincere avowal of motives, and that you will communicate



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your sentiments in this respect to your government.
This letter closes, my Lord, on my part, our official
correspondence; and I gladly use the occasion to offer you the
assurance of my high and sincere regard.
DANIEL WEBSTER.
LORD ASHBURTON, &c., &c., &c.



Monday Aug. 8th 1842.

[Gray](#) was not a poet only a lover of poetry. He cultivated poetry but the plant did not thrive. He did no doubt possess a natural vein of poetry, but this was not so rich or deep but that it was all expended upon the imagery and ornament. Enough to smooth the sound but not to guild the sense. In the Churchyard the muse was a little more prevalent with him and it will always be popular, though the machinery is bare, because it retains the atmosphere and tone of poetry. How grand are mountains — by their elevation they are placed at an infinite distance. In the morning you see the distinct form of every tree and creep happily along the dank roads like some new creation of her exuberance. The morning hour is as private as the evening— Not such privacy as the day leaves but such as the day has not prophaned.



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1848

April 3, Monday: In San Francisco, Thomas Douglas became the 1st public school teacher.

[Henry Thoreau](#) was written to by [Horace Greeley](#) in New-York.

New-York, April 3, 1848.

My Friend Thoreau:

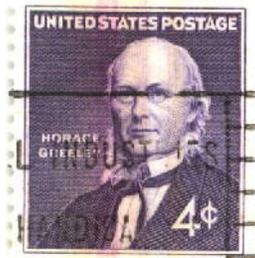
I have but this moment received yours of 31st ult. and was greatly relieved by the breaking of your long silence. Yet it saddens and surprises me to know that your article was not paid for by Graham; and, since my honor is involved in the matter, I will see that you are paid, and that at no distant day. I shall not forget the matter, and hope you will not feel annoyed at my interference in the premises. I choose to speak about it, and don't believe Graham will choose to differ with me. Don't fear for my time; I expect to visit Philadelphia on my own business next week, and will have time to look into the matter.

As to "Katahdin and the Maine Woods," I will take it and send you the money if I cannot dispose of it more to your advantage within the week ensuing. I hope I can.

Yours,

Horace Greeley.

Thoreau mailed "KTAADN" to Greeley, who would soon succeed in placing it with [Sartain's Union Magazine](#).⁷



7. Not only [Sartain's Union Magazine](#) in five installments (July to November 1848), but also eventually extracts in Greeley's New-York [Tribune](#) (November 1848) and in [The Student](#) (January 1849).



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THE MAINE WOODS: At the end of three miles, we came to the Mattaseunk stream and mill, where there was even a rude wooden railroad running down to the Penobscot, the last railroad we were to see. We crossed one tract, on the bank of the river, of more than a hundred acres of heavy timber, which had just been felled and burnt over, and was still smoking. Our trail lay through the midst of it, and was well nigh blotted out. The trees lay at full length, four or five feet deep, and crossing each other in all directions, all black as charcoal, but perfectly sound within, still good for fuel or for timber; soon they would be cut into lengths and burnt again. Here were thousands of cords, enough to keep the poor of Boston and New York amply warm for a winter, which only cumbered the ground and were in the settler's way. And the whole of that solid and interminable forest is doomed to be gradually devoured thus by fire, like shavings, and no man be warmed by it. At Crocker's log-hut, at the mouth of Salmon River, seven miles from the Point, one of the party commenced distributing a store of small cent picture-books among the children, to teach them to read, and also newspapers, more or less recent, among the parents, than which nothing can be more acceptable to a backwoods people. It was really an important item in our outfit, and, at times, the only currency that would circulate. I walked through Salmon River with my shoes on, it being low water, but not without wetting my feet. A few miles farther we came to "Marm Howard's," at the end of an extensive clearing, where there were two or three log-huts in sight at once, one on the opposite side of the river, and a few graves, even surrounded by a wooden paling, where already the rude forefathers of a hamlet lie, and a thousand years hence, perchance, some poet will write his "Elegy in a Country Churchyard." The "Village Hampdens," the "mute, inglorious Miltons," and Cromwells, "guiltless of" their "country's blood," were yet unborn.

Perchance in this *wild* spot there *will be* laid
Some heart once pregnant with celestial fire;
Hands that the rod of empire might have swayed,
Or waked to ecstasy the living lyre.

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1858

December 7, Tuesday: [Henry Thoreau](#) checked out, from [Harvard Library](#), Enrico “Iron Hand” de Tonti’s *RELATION DE LA LOUISIANA OU MISSISSIPPI PAR LE CHEVALIER DE TONTI* (1734).⁸



8. Henry, Chevalier de Tonti was born in Gaeta, Italy in about 1650, a son of Lorenzo Tonti. He entered the French army as a cadet and served in addition in the French navy. In 1678 he accompanied René-Robert Cavelier, Sieur de La Salle (1643-1687) to Canada. In 1680, during an exploration of the Mississippi he was left in command of Fort Crevecoeur on the Illinois River near Peoria, Illinois. After making an unsuccessful attempt to found a settlement in Arkansas, in 1685 he took part in an expedition of the Western Indians against the Senecas. He twice went down the Mississippi to its mouth while in search of La Salle, and then needed to go down the river a third time to meet M. D'Iberville. During September 1704 he died at Fort Saint Louis (now Mobile, Alabama). There is a report by him in Margry's *RELATIONS ET MEMOIRES*, and an English translation of this report, "An Account of Monsieur de la Salle's Last Discoveries in North America. Presented to the French King, and Published by the Chevalier Tonti, Governour of Fort St. Louis, in the Province of the Illinois ...," would be printed in London by J. Tonson, S. Buckley, and R. Knaplock in 1698 and reprinted in New-York in 1814. Refer to Benjamin Franklin French's *HISTORICAL COLLECTIONS OF LOUISIANA AND FLORIDA* (Volume I, 1846).



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Thoreau also checked out Volume IV of the five volumes of Benjamin Franklin French's HISTORICAL COLLECTIONS OF LOUISIANA, EMBRACING MANY RARE AND VALUABLE DOCUMENTS RELATING TO THE NATURAL, CIVIL AND POLITICAL HISTORY OF THAT STATE. COMPILED WITH HISTORICAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES, AND AN INTRODUCTION... (New York: Wiley & Putnam). Part I of this, Historical Documents from 1678-1691, contains La Salle's memoir of the discovery of the Mississippi, Joutel's journal, and Hennepin's account of the Mississippi. Part II contains Marquette and Joliet's voyage to discover the Mississippi, De Soto's expedition, and [Dr. Daniel] Coxe's "[Carolana](#)." Part III contains La Harpe's journal of the establishment of the French in Louisiana, Charlevoix's journal, etc. Part IV, the volume from which Thoreau was extracting into his Indian Notebook #11, printed in 1852, contains narratives of the voyages, missions, and travels among the Indians, by Marquette, Joliet, Dablon, Allouez, Le Clercq, La Salle, Hennepin, Membre, and Douay, with biographical and bibliographical notices of these missionaries and their works, by John Gilmary Shea, and contains the 1673 Thevenot chart of the "R. Mitchisipi ou grand Riviere" indicating the native tribes along its tributaries, "Carte de la decouverte faite l'an 1673. dans l'Amerique Septentrionale."

THE MITCHISIPI RIVER

Part V contains Dumont's memoir of transactions with the Indians of Louisiana, from 1712 to 1740, and Champégnny's memoirs.

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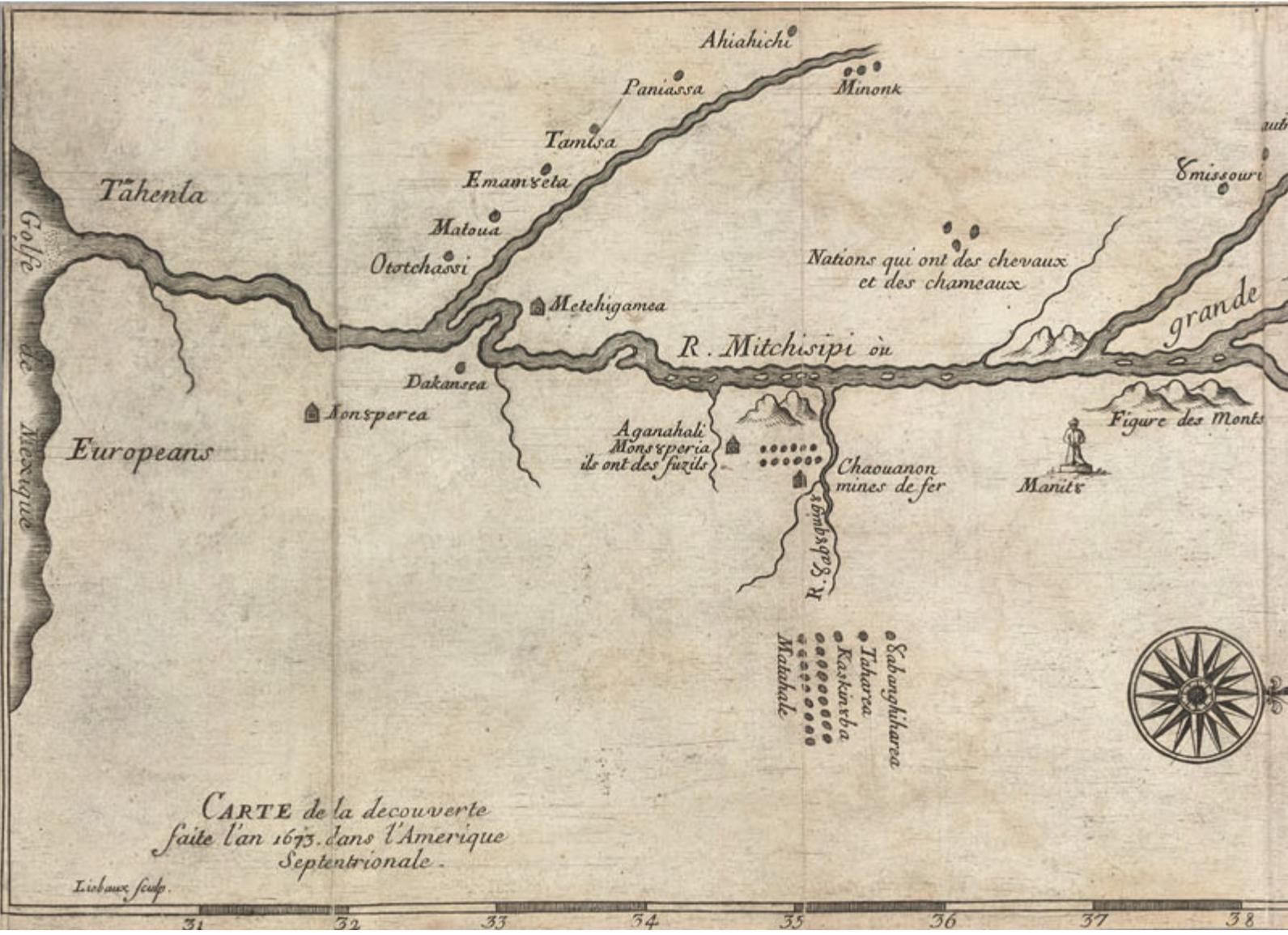
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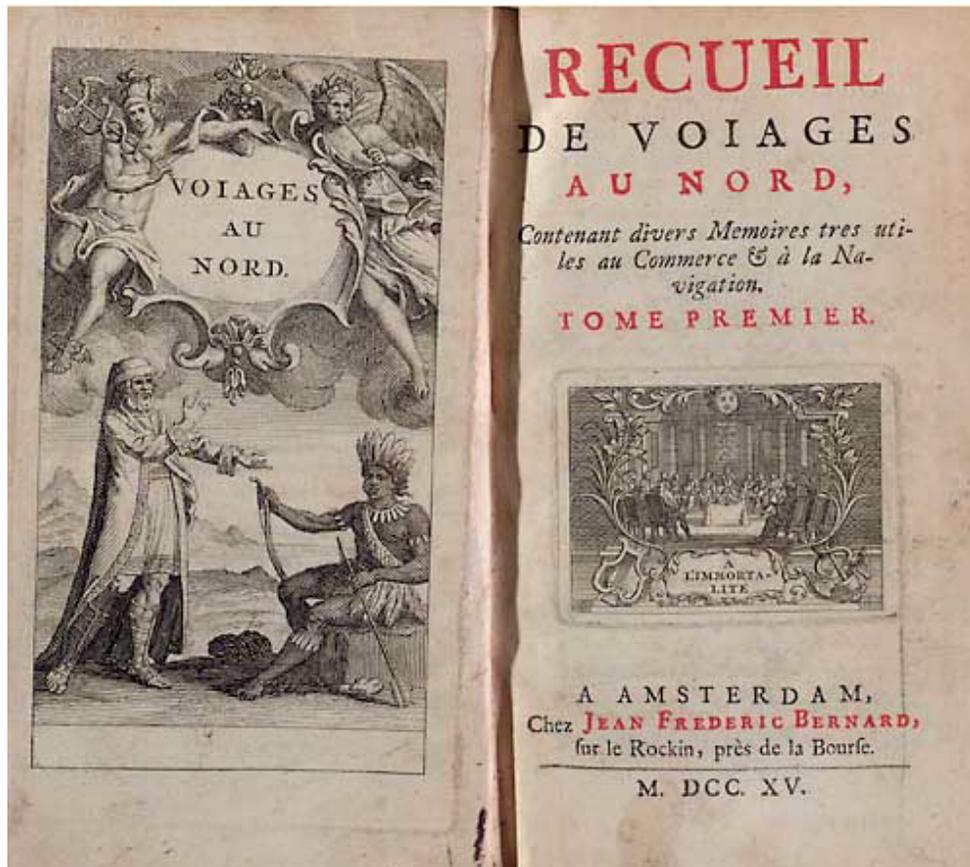
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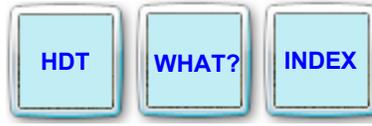
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[Thoreau](#) also checked out [Jean-Frédéric Bernard](#)'s *RECUEIL DE VOYAGES AU NORD, CONTENANT DIVERS MÉMOIRES TRÈS UTILES AU COMMERCE & À LA NAVIGATION, 1715-1738* (A Amsterdam, Chez J.F. Bernard), and would make extracts in his Indian Notebook #11. According to the edition statement contained in the 4th volume, this is the 4th edition of the work and Volume 2 had been printed in 1715, Volumes 1 and 3 in 1716, Volume 6 in 1723, Volume 5 in 1724, Volume 7 in 1725, and Volume 8 in 1727 (of the final two of the 10 volumes, Volumes 9 and 10, this 1732 printing says nothing, of course because they had not yet been put through the press).



Unfortunately, Google Books has scanned so far of these ten volumes only Volume 4 — so that is all I am able to provide for you here:

JEAN-FRÉDÉRIC BERNARD



PEOPLE OF A WEEK AND WALDEN:

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[Thoreau](#) also checked out [Father Louis Hennepin](#)'s *VOYAGES | CURIEUX ET NOUVEAUX | DE MESSIEURS | HENNEPIN & DE LA BORDE, | OU L'ON VOIT UNE DESCRIPTION TRÈS PARTICULIERE, D'UN GRAND PAYS DANS L'AMERIQUE, ENTRE LE | NOUVEAU MEXIQUE, & LA MER GLACIALE, AVEC UNE RELATION CURIEUSE DES | CARAIBES SAUVAGES DES ISLES ANTILLES DE L'AMERIQUE, | LEURS MŒURS, COÛTUMES, RELIGION &C. | LE TOUTE ACCOMPAGNÉ DES CARTES & FIGURES NECESSAIRES. | [Emblem.] | A AMSTERDAM, AUX DEPENS DE LA COMPAGNIE. MDCXI* (this was an exact reprint of the edition of 1704, with merely a slight change to the title page).



[Sieur de la Borde](#) is a mysterious figure, for all we know for sure is that he worked, perhaps as a lay brother, for a short period with Jesuit missionaries, especially with Father Simon at the mission on St. Vincent Island in the Antilles.



I am guessing that he was part of the Langlade family that had come over from Castle Sarrasin in Bassee, Guyenne, France (at first known as the family Mouet de Moras) that had settled at Trois-Rivières, Québec in



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1668, and I am guessing that his full name was [Louis Mouet De Moras, Sieur de la Borde](#) and that he was the 4th of the sons of Pierre Mouet, Landlord of Moras, who was an ensign in the Carignan-Salières regiment, with Marie Toupin, Madame de Moras (born on August 19, 1651 at Québec, died on March 13, 1722/1723 at Trois-Rivières),

I. — MOUET, PIERRE, (1) b 1639, fils de Bertrand et de Marthe de Thosin, de Castel-Sarrasin, en Basse Guyenne; s 24 nov. 1693.
TOUPIN, Marie, [TOUSSAINT I. s 14 mars 1723.
Pierre, b 1^{er} nov. 1669; m 18 avril 1694, à Elizabeth JUTRAS; s 31 oct. 1708. — *Jacques*, b 26 janv. 1672. — *René*, b 1^{er} mars 1674. — *Louis*, (2) b 9 oct. 1676; s 27 mars 1699. — *Michel*, b 20 janv. 1679; m 30 janv. 1725, à Catherine DESJORDIS. — *Marie-Madeleine*, b 2 juillet 1681; s 8 déc. 1703. — *Joseph*, b 21 juillet 1683. — *Thérèse*, b 14 mars 1688; m 27 oct. 1715, à Michel TROTIER.

(1) Sieur de Moras, enseigne dans la compagnie de Loubias, régiment de Carignan.

(2) Sieur de la Borde.

that he had been baptized on October 9, 1676 and would die on March 27, 1699 (but this is guesswork based on family genealogies, and does not at all jibe with an original date of his publication of 1674 at Paris; none of this makes sense if his book was published before he was born, and everything of this makes somewhat more sense if his book actually was published in 1694, when he was perhaps 18 years of age and had perhaps already in his teens as a lay brother assisted Father Simon at his mission in St. Vincent Island, and simply went through the press with a numerical typo on its title page).

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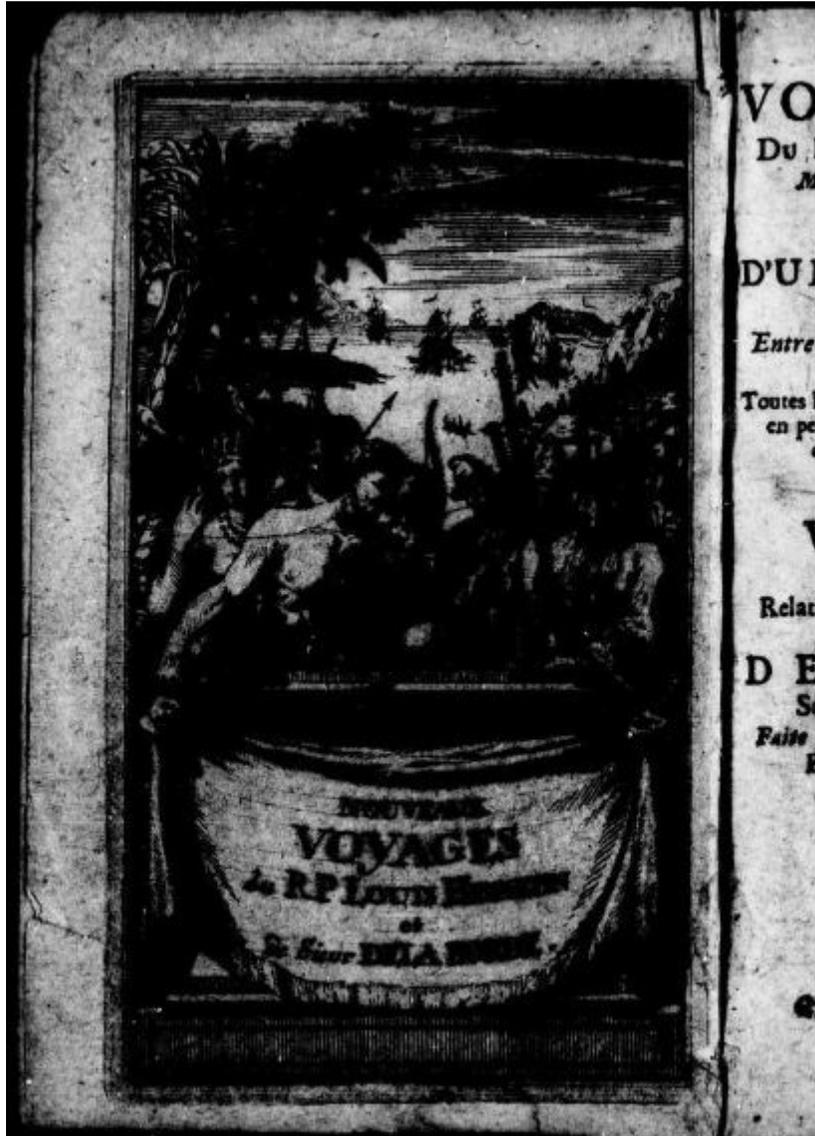
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Thoreau would extract something about heavy surf from this source, for use in Chapter 8 “The Highland Light” of [CAPE COD](#).]



CURIEUX ET NOUVEAU

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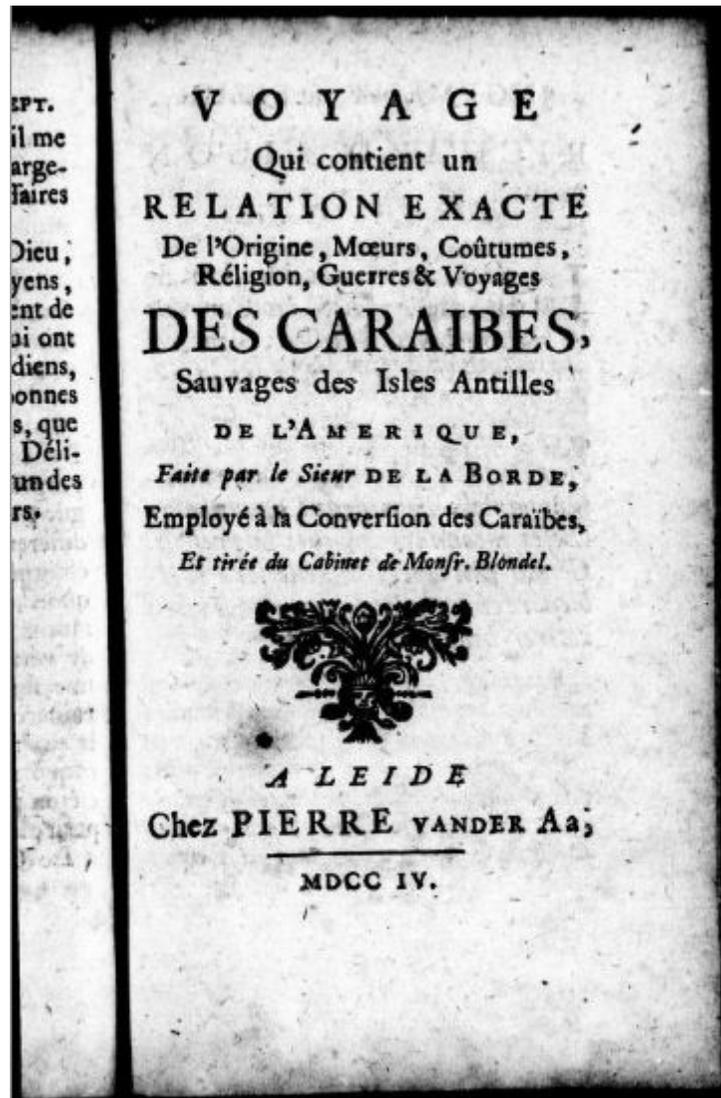
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CAPE COD: Our host said that you would be surprised if you were on the beach when the wind blew a hurricane directly on to it, to see that none of the drift-wood came ashore, but all was carried directly northward and parallel with the shore as fast as a man can walk, by the inshore current, which sets strongly in that direction at flood tide. The strongest swimmers also are carried along with it, and never gain an inch toward the beach. Even a large rock has been moved half a mile northward along the beach. He assured us that the sea was never still on the back side of the Cape, but ran commonly as high as your head, so that a great part of the time you could not launch a boat there, and even in the calmest weather the waves run six or eight feet up the beach, though then you could get off on a plank. Champlain and Poitrincourt could not land here in 1606, on account of the swell (*la houlle*), yet the savages came off to them in a canoe. In the *Sieur de la Borde's* "Relation des Caraibes," my edition of which was published at Amsterdam in 1711, at page 530 he says:-

"Couroumon a Caraibe, also a star [*i.e.* a god], makes the great *lames à la mer*, and overturns canoes. *Lames à la mer* are the long *vagues* which are not broken (*entrecoupees*), and such as one sees come to land all in one piece, from one end of a beach to another, so that, however little wind there may be, a shallop or a canoe could hardly land (*aborder terre*) without turning over, or being filled with water."

But on the Bay side the water even at its edge is often as smooth and still as in a pond. Commonly there are no boats used along this beach. There was a boat belonging to the Highland Light which the next keeper after he had been there a year had not launched, though he said that there was good fishing just off the shore. Generally the Life Boats cannot be used when needed. When the waves run very high it is impossible to get a boat off, however skilfully you steer it, for it will often be completely covered by the curving edge of the approaching breaker as by an arch, and so filled with water, or it will be lifted up by its bows, turned directly over backwards and all the contents spilled out. A spar thirty feet long is served in the same way.

I heard of a party who went off fishing back of Wellfleet some years ago, in two boats, in calm weather, who, when they had laden their boats with fish, and approached the land again, found such a swell breaking on it, though there was no wind, that they were afraid to enter it. At first they thought to pull for Provincetown, but night was coming on, and that was many miles distant. Their case seemed a desperate one. As often as they approached the shore and saw the terrible breakers that intervened, they were deterred. In short, they were thoroughly frightened. Finally, having thrown their fish overboard, those in one boat chose a favorable opportunity, and succeeded, by skill and good luck, in reaching the land, but they were unwilling to take the responsibility of telling the others when to come in, and as the other helmsman was inexperienced, their boat was swamped at once, yet all managed to save themselves.

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PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

The full title of the book to which Thoreau refers in [CAPE COD](#), “the Sieur de la Borde’s ‘Relation des Caraïbes,’ my edition of which was published at Amsterdam in 1711,” is *VOYAGES | CURIEUX ET NOUVEAUX | DE MESSIEURS | HENNEPIN & DE LA BORDE, | OÙ L’ON VOIT UNE DESCRIPTION TRÈS PARTICULIÈRE, D’UN GRAND PAYS DANS L’AMÉRIQUE, ENTRE LE | NOUVEAU MEXIQUE, & LA MER GLACIALE, AVEC UNE RELATION CURIEUSE DES | CARAIBES SAUVAGES DES ISLES ANTILLES DE L’AMÉRIQUE, | LEURS MŒURS, COÛTUMES, RELIGION &C. | LE TOUT ACCOMPAGNÉ DES CARTES & FIGURES NECESSAIRES. | [Emblem.] | A AMSTERDAM, AUX DEPENS DE LA COMPAGNIE. MDCXI* (this is an exceedingly rare volume, but was a mere reprint of the more available edition of 1704, with slight change in the title page). The original date of his publication *RELATION CURIEUSE DES CARAIBES SAUVAGES DES ISLES ANTILLES DE L’AMÉRIQUE* had been 1674, when it had appeared at Paris under the title *RELATION DE L’ORIGINE, MOEURS, COÛTUMES, RELIGION, GUERRES & VOYAGES DES CARAIBES, SAUVAGES DES ISLES ANTILLES DE L’AMÉRIQUE. FAITE PAR LE SIEUR DE LA BORDE EMPLOYÉ A LA CONVERSION DES CARAIBES, ESTANT AVEC LE R.P. SIMON JESUITE; ET TIRÉE DU CABINET DE MONSIEUR BLOUDEL ... DIVIDÉE EN 12 COMPARTIMENTS, EXHIBANT LES UTENSILES, DWELLINGS, AND MANUFACTURES OF THE CARIBS.*

While he was in Cambridge, [Thoreau](#) also checked out [Père Claude Dablon](#)’s *RELATION OF THE VOYAGES OF FATHER JAMES MARQUETTE, 1673-75 (1677)*.



“There is no Frigate like a Book
To take us Lands away”

— Emily Dickinson

After leaving the [Harvard Library](#) with his load of books of the history of French [Catholic](#)⁹ exploration to study, such as *JESUIT RELATIONS* for 1670-1672, from which he would copy into his *Indian Notebook #11*, [Thoreau](#) visited the [Boston Society of Natural History](#) to do some ornithology.

9. It never ceases to amaze me how Thoreau, with his Huguenot family history of persecution by French Catholics, and despite the rampant anti-Catholicism that marred the User attitudes of those times, was able so benignly to consider the positive accomplishments of [French Catholics](#)! Clearly he carried with him no grudge at all in regard to what had been in its day the largest mass religious expulsion and genocide (prior, of course, to the Holocaust).



PEOPLE OF A WEEK AND WALDEN:

THOMAS GRAY

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN A WEEK



December 7. To Boston.

At Natural History Rooms.

The egg of *Turdus solitarius* is light-bluish with pale-brown spots. This is apparently mine which I call hermit thrush, though mine is [sic] redder and distincter brown spots.

The egg of *Turdus brunneus* (called hermit thrush) is a clear blue.

The rail's egg (of Concord, which I have seen) is not the Virginia rail's, which is smaller and nearly pure white, nor the clapper rail's, which is larger. Is it the sora rail's (of which there is no egg in this collection)?

My egg found in R.W.E.'s garden is not the white-throated sparrow's egg.

Dr. Bryant calls my seringo (i.e. the faint-noted bird) Savannah sparrow. He says Cooper's hawk is just like the sharp-shinned, only a little larger commonly. He could not tell them apart. Neither he nor Brewer¹⁰ can identify eggs always. Could match some gulls' eggs out of another basket full of a different species as well as out of the same basket.

On this day his letter arrived in [New Bedford](#), so in the evening [Friend Daniel Ricketson](#) was waiting for the train from Boston at the Tarkiln Hill depot at the head of the river, and picked up Thoreau with his load of books, and Thomas Cholmondeley, and took them to his Shanty — where they talked of the English poets [Thomas Gray](#), Alfred, Lord Tennyson, [William Wordsworth](#), etc. until they retired at 10 PM.

On this day [Thoreau](#) was being written to by [Ticknor & Fields](#) in Boston.

Boston Decr 7/58

Henry D. Thoreau Esq

Concord Mass.

Dear Sir

Referring to our file of letters for 1857 we find a note from you of which the enclosed is a copy. As our letter —to which it is a reply— was missent, we doubt not but our answer to yours of a few months since has been subjected to the same, or a similar irregularity.

Respectfully

Yours &c.

Ticknor & Fields

pr Clark

“MAGISTERIAL HISTORY” IS FANTASIZING: HISTORY IS CHRONOLOGY

10. [Thomas Mayo Brewer](#) had written in the Proceedings of the [Boston Society of Natural History](#) for the years 1851-1854, on page 324 of volume 4, that Thoreau copied into his Commonplace Book #2. [Spencer Fullerton Baird](#), [Thomas Mayo Brewer](#), and Robert Ridgway would create the 3-volume A HISTORY OF NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS. LAND BIRDS (Boston: Little, Brown, 1874-1884). Brewer's specialty in bird study was nesting and eggs.



PEOPLE OF A WEEK AND WALDEN:

THOMAS GRAY

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

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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: November 9, 2014



PEOPLE OF A WEEK AND WALDEN:

THOMAS GRAY

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.



PEOPLE OF A WEEK AND WALDEN:

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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.