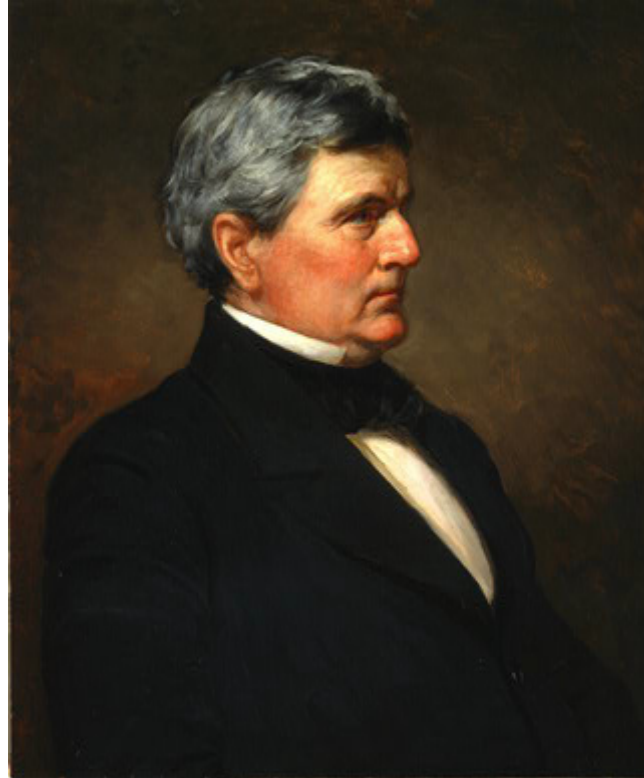


DR. JOHN EDWARDS HOLBROOK



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



DR. JOHN EDWARDS HOLBROOK

DR. JOHN EDWARDS HOLBROOK

1794

December 30, Tuesday: [John Edwards Holbrook](#) was born in Beaufort, South Carolina, the 1st son of Silas Holbrook, a teacher, and Mary Edwards Holbrook. The father was from Wrentham, Massachusetts, down near the border of Rhode Island, whereas Mary Edwards was a Beaufort girl.

NOBODY COULD GUESS WHAT WOULD HAPPEN NEXT





DR. JOHN EDWARDS HOLBROOK

DR. JOHN EDWARDS HOLBROOK

1796

The Holbrook family of Silas Holbrook, Mary Edwards Holbrook, the toddler [John Edwards Holbrook](#), and the infant Silas Pinckney Holbrook journeyed from Beaufort, South Carolina to Wrentham, Massachusetts.


**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.**



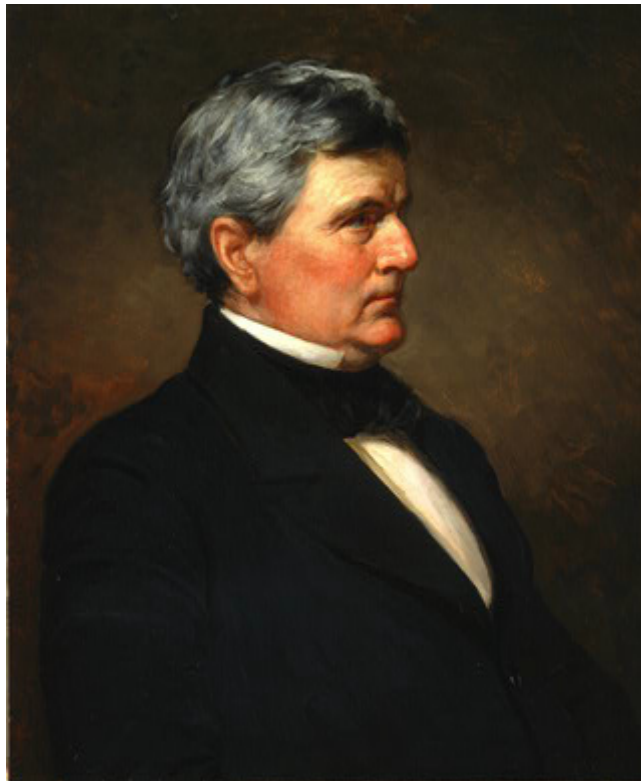
DR. JOHN EDWARDS HOLBROOK

DR. JOHN EDWARDS HOLBROOK

1815

 [Robert Montgomery Smith Jackson](#) was born in Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania.

[John Edwards Holbrook](#) graduated from [Brown University](#) in [Providence, Rhode Island](#). He would study medicine at the University of Pennsylvania.



THE FUTURE IS MOST READILY PREDICTED IN RETROSPECT






DR. JOHN EDWARDS HOLBROOK

DR. JOHN EDWARDS HOLBROOK

1818

 [John Edwards Holbrook](#) graduated from the University of Pennsylvania with the degree of MD. He would briefly practice as a physician in Boston, and then continue his medical education in London and Edinburgh. Edinburgh he would notice to be “inferior only to London.” While at Glasgow he would have “the satisfaction of hearing one of the most eloquent preachers of the age, [Doctor Chalmers](#). His broad scotch dialect disappointed me in the commencement of his discourse ... but when he was fairly begun I was more directly sensible of the power of eloquence that ever was my lot to be before.”



THE FUTURE CAN BE EASILY PREDICTED IN RETROSPECT





DR. JOHN EDWARDS HOLBROOK

DR. JOHN EDWARDS HOLBROOK

1820



At about this point [Dr. John Edwards Holbrook](#) began a tour of France, Germany, and England. While in Paris he would work at the Jardin des Plantes.

DO I HAVE YOUR ATTENTION? GOOD.



DR. JOHN EDWARDS HOLBROOK

DR. JOHN EDWARDS HOLBROOK

1822



Having worked in Paris at the Jardin des Plantes, [Dr. John Edwards Holbrook](#) settled in Charleston, South Caroline and began to practice medicine.


CHANGE IS ETERNITY, STASIS A FIGMENT



DR. JOHN EDWARDS HOLBROOK

DR. JOHN EDWARDS HOLBROOK

1824

 Graduates from [Harvard College](#) in this year with the degree of Bachelor of Arts included the 21-year-old Salem heir [Elias Hasket Derby](#) (his “Calculation and Projection of a Lunar Eclipse” is still on file there <<http://oasis.harvard.edu:10080/oasis/deliver/~hua17004>>):

Graduated with Class of 1824	Died
Francis Amory, A.M.	1881
James Winthrop Andrews, A.M.	1842
David Hatch Barlow, A.M.; Div. S. 1829	1864
William Hazzard Wigg Barnwell	1863
Zephaniah Ames Bates	1842
John Francis Bingaman	1828
Edward Blake, A.M.	1873
Duncan Bradford	1887
George Washington Burnap; A.M.; Div. S. 1827; S.T.D. 1849	1859
Charles Henry Carter	1871
Samuel Adams Cooper, A.M.	1840
Phineas Miller Crane, A.M.; M.D.	1828
Benjamin Cutter; A.M.; M.D. 1827, Univ. Pa. 1857	1864
Elias Hasket Derby , A.M.	1880
George Bucknam Dorr, 1866	1876
Robert Brent Drane, 1825; A.M. 1841; S.T.D. Univ. N. C. 1844	1862
John Thomas Philip Dumont; A.M.	1852
Alexander Clarke Dunbar	1852
Stephen Elliott ; A.M.; P.E. Bishop Ga.; Prof. Sac. Lit. So. Car. Coll.	1866
Edward Bliss Emerson, (I); A.M.	1834
Joseph William Faber; A.M.	1861
Benjamin Franklin Fisk	1832
Richard Fuller; S.T.D. 1853, Columbian (D.C.) 1844	1876



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Lewis Glover; A.M. 1828	1839
John Mark Gourgas; A.M.	1862
John Henry Gray; A.M.	1850
John Grenough	1852
Alfred Greenwood, Andover Theol. Sem. 1827	1868
William Horton, Andover Theol. Sem. 1827; S.T.D. Hobart 1858	1863
Lucius Virgil Hubbard	1849
William Pitkin Huntington; M.D. 1835	1885
Asa Farnsworth Lawrence, Principal Groton (now Lawrence) Acad.	1873
Edmund Lewis LeBreton; A.M.	1849
Thomas Lowndes	1833
George Lunt	1885
William Perkins Matchett; A.M.	1834
Artemas Bowers Muzzey; A.M.; Div. S. 1828; S.T.D. Tufts 1890; Overseer	1892
William Newell; A.M.; Div. S. 1829; S.T.D. 1853; Memb. Mass. Hist. Soc.	1881
Joseph Osgood; M.D. 1827	1876
John Cochran Park; A.M.; LL.B. 1827	1889
Samuel Parker	1882
Samuel Parker Parker; S.T.D., Union 1861	1880
William Edward Payne; A.M.	1838
Henry Coit Perkins; M.D. 1827; Fellow Am. Acad.	1873
Edward Pickering	1876
William Pratt; A.M. 1828	1842
Benjamin James Prescott	1838
Samuel Cordes Prioleau; A.M.	1831
Charles Gideon Putnam; A.M.; M.D. 1827; Fellow Am. Acad.	1873
Daniel Clark Relf; A.M.	1876
David Roberts; A.M.	1879
George Thomas Sanders; A.M.	1856



DR. JOHN EDWARDS HOLBROOK

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Nathaniel Silsbee; A.M. 1862; Treasurer 1862 - 1876	1881
Calvin Stephen Smith	1838
Joseph Lewis Stackpole; A.M.; LL.B. 1828	1847
William Gordon Stearns; A.M.; LL.B. 1827	1872
Jeremiah Chaplin Stickney, 1825	1869
Caleb Morton Stimson; A.M.; LL.B. 1827	1860
Christopher Toppan Thayer; A.M.; Grad. Div. S. 1827	1880
Augustus Torry; M.D. 1827	1880
Charles Church Chandler Tucker	1836
Henry Samuel Tudor	1864
Stephen Palfrey Webb	1879
George Wheatland, A.M.	1893
William Wilson Wheelwright	1832
George Whitney; A.M.; Grad. Div. S. 1829	1842
William Augustus Whitwell; A.M.; Grad. Div. S. 1827	1865
Samuel Williams	1884



DR. JOHN EDWARDS HOLBROOK

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Although a South Carolinian, the [Stephen Elliott](#) above was not the botany professor whose textbook was available to Henry Thoreau, as that botanist had graduated from Yale College. The above Harvard graduate was [Stephen Elliott, Jr.](#), the botanist's son, who would become the Protestant Episcopal Bishop of the Confederate States of America.



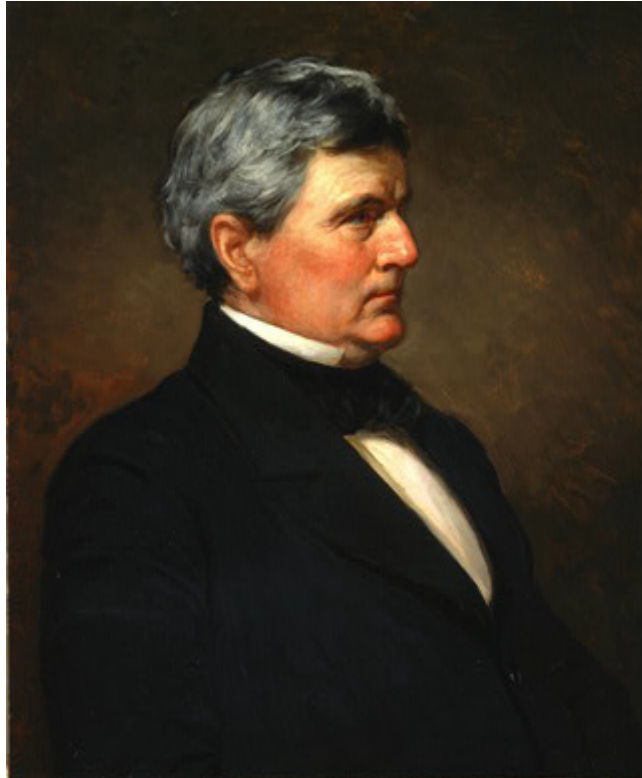
[Dr. John Edwards Holbrook](#) assisted in the organization of The Medical College of South Carolina, and became its Professor of Anatomy (the Professor of Obstetrics and Diseases of Infants was Thomas Grimball Prioleau, Professor of Chemistry was Edmund Ravenel, the Professor of the Institutes and Practice of Physic was Samuel Henry Dickson, the Professor of Botany and Natural History was [Stephen Elliott](#) (the Yale botanist



DR. JOHN EDWARDS HOLBROOK

DR. JOHN EDWARDS HOLBROOK

father, not the Harvard bishop son), and the Professor of Materia Medica was Henry Rutledge Frost).





DR. JOHN EDWARDS HOLBROOK

DR. JOHN EDWARDS HOLBROOK

1826



[Dr. John Edwards Holbrook](#) engaged J. Sera, an immigrant from Italy, to prepare plates of the reptiles which he was studying.



DR. JOHN EDWARDS HOLBROOK

DR. JOHN EDWARDS HOLBROOK

1827



At the age of 33, [Dr. John Edwards Holbrook](#) got married with Harriott Pinckney Rutledge, age 25, owner of 34 slaves.



DR. JOHN EDWARDS HOLBROOK

DR. JOHN EDWARDS HOLBROOK

1835



May 25, Monday: Silas Pinckney Holbrook, the only brother of [Dr. John Edwards Holbrook](#), died in Pineville, South Carolina after a life devoted to the touring of the world and the perusal of literature.

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



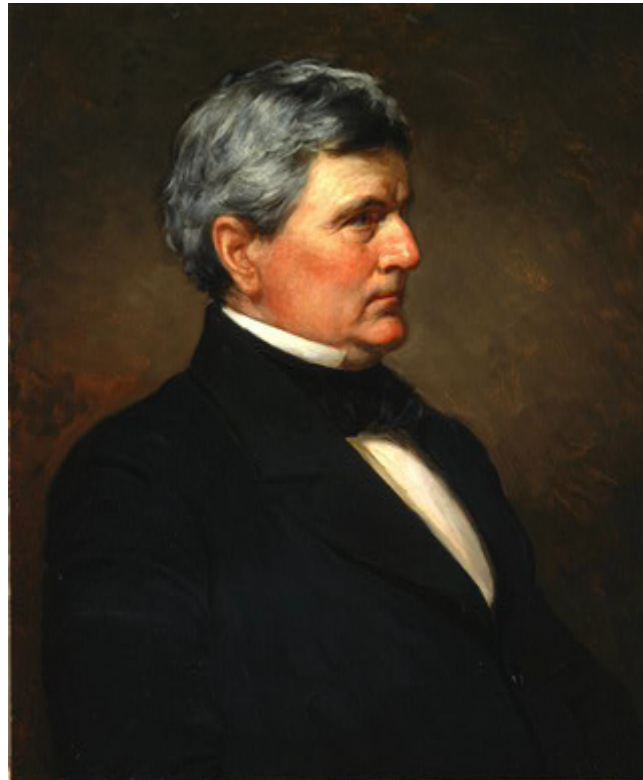
DR. JOHN EDWARDS HOLBROOK

DR. JOHN EDWARDS HOLBROOK

1836



The initial volume of [Dr. John Edwards Holbrook](#)'s NORTH AMERICAN HERPETOLOGY: OR A DESCRIPTION OF THE REPTILES INHABITING THE UNITED STATES was published in Philadelphia by J. Dobson. J. Sera, who was preparing the illustrations of the reptiles, would soon die. Holbrook's reporting of the various species was unsystematic, specimens being prepared more or less in the sequence in which they had become available for study.





DR. JOHN EDWARDS HOLBROOK

DR. JOHN EDWARDS HOLBROOK

1840

The 2d and 3d volumes of [Dr. John Edwards Holbrook](#)'s NORTH AMERICAN HERPETOLOGY: OR A DESCRIPTION OF THE REPTILES INHABITING THE UNITED STATES were published in Philadelphia by J. Dobson



(there would be comments about the quality of the colored plates, and instead of continuing with the 4th and final volume, the author would attempt to destroy the edition in a bonfire in his backyard).

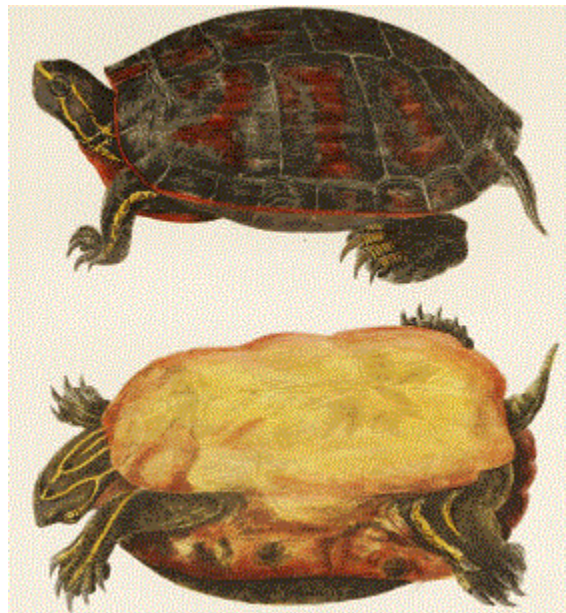


DR. JOHN EDWARDS HOLBROOK

DR. JOHN EDWARDS HOLBROOK

1842

The initial three volumes [Dr. John Edwards Holbrook](#)'s NORTH AMERICAN HERPETOLOGY: OR A DESCRIPTION OF THE REPTILES INHABITING THE UNITED STATES had been published between 1836 and 1840. There had been comments about the quality of the colored plates and rather than continue with the 4th volume the author had attempted to destroy all copies in a bonfire in his backyard. At this point a 2d edition was printed, in five volumes containing considerably more materials. This time the presentation of the materials was more systematic along the lines of the limited taxonomical information that was then available. Many of the illustrations had been re-engraved. Among the new species which he described are the Brown Water Snake (*Nerodia taxispilota*), the Brown Snake (*Storeria dekayi*) and the Ornate Chorus Frog (*Pseudacris ornata*). At the library of the Society of Natural History in Boston, [Henry Thoreau](#) would access the 1st and 4th of these volumes.



N. A. HERPETOLOGY 1

N. A. HERPETOLOGY 4

Upon completion of this work, Dr. and Mrs. Holbrook would pay a triumphant return visit to the Jardin des Plantes in Paris.



DR. JOHN EDWARDS HOLBROOK

DR. JOHN EDWARDS HOLBROOK

1847

[Dr. John Edwards Holbrook](#)'s SOUTHERN ICHTHYOLOGY; OR A DESCRIPTION OF THE FISHES INHABITING THE WATERS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, GEORGIA, AND FLORIDA (New York and London: Wiley & Putnam, 32 pages with 4 plates).





DR. JOHN EDWARDS HOLBROOK

DR. JOHN EDWARDS HOLBROOK

1852

May 24, Monday: [Henry Thoreau](#) checked out, from [Harvard Library](#), OBSERVATIONS ON THE RIVER WYE, AND SEVERAL PARTS OF SOUTH WALES, &C. RELATIVE CHIEFLY TO PICTURESQUE BEAUTY: MADE IN THE SUMMER OF THE YEAR 1770. BY [WILLIAM GILPIN](#), ... (London: printed by A. Strahan, for T. Cadell junior and W. Davies, 1800), which had initially appeared in 1782 although subsequently it had gone through numerous editions.



He would copy from this into his Fact Book. He also checked out [Gilpin](#)'s OBSERVATIONS ON SEVERAL PARTS OF THE COUNTIES OF CAMBRIDGE, NORFOLK, SUFFOLK & ESSEX AND ON SEVERAL PARTS OF NORTH WALES (London, 1809).





DR. JOHN EDWARDS HOLBROOK

DR. JOHN EDWARDS HOLBROOK

He also checked out the 2d of the ten volumes of [Carolus Linnaeus](#) (1707-1778)'s *AMOENITATES ACADEMICAE* (1749-1769).



He also checked out, from the Society of Natural History Library in Boston, Part 1 "Mammalia" of [James Ellsworth De Kay](#)'s ZOOLOGY OF NEW-YORK, OR THE NEW-YORK FAUNA; COMPRISING DETAILED DESCRIPTIONS OF ALL THE ANIMALS HITHERTO OBSERVED WITHIN THE STATE OF NEW-YORK, WITH BRIEF NOTICES OF THOSE OCCASIONALLY FOUND NEAR ITS BORDERS, AND ACCOMPANIED BY APPROPRIATE ILLUSTRATIONS (White & Visscher, 1842).

MAMMALIA, VOLUME I



May 24. The cooing of a dove reminded me of an owl this morning. Counted just fifty violets (*pedata*) in a little bunch, three and a half by five inches, and as many buds, there being six plants close together; on the hill where Billington climbed a tree.

A calabash at Pilgrim Hall nearly two feet high, in the form of a jar, showed what these fruits were made for. Nature's jars and vases.

[Holbrook](#) says the *Bufo Americanus* is the most common in America and is our representative of the *Bufo communis* of Europe; speaks of its trill; deposits its spawn in pools.

N. A. HERPETOLOGY

Found in College Yard *Trifolium procumbens*, or Yellow clover.
Concord. Celandine in blossom, and horse-chestnut.



DR. JOHN EDWARDS HOLBROOK

DR. JOHN EDWARDS HOLBROOK

(While at the Society of Natural History in Boston, [Thoreau](#) had consulted Volume IV of the 2d edition of [Dr. John Edwards Holbrook](#)'s NORTH AMERICAN HERPETOLOGY: OR A DESCRIPTION OF THE REPTILES INHABITING THE UNITED STATES.)



June 13, Sunday: Charles Wesley Slack wrote from Baltimore, [Maryland](#) to Evelina E. Vannevar Slack in Boston, about travel plans, giving an account of relatives.

[Henry Thoreau](#) obtained, from the library of the Society of Natural History in Boston, [Professor Samuel George Morton's](#) CRANIA AMERICANA; OR, A COMPARATIVE VIEW OF THE SKULLS OF VARIOUS ABORIGINAL NATIONS OF NORTH AND SOUTH AMERICA: TO WHICH IS PREFIXED AN ESSAY ON THE VARIETIES OF THE HUMAN SPECIES. ILLUSTRATED BY SEVENTY-EIGHT PLATES AND A COLOURED MAP (Philadelphia: J. Dobson).

CRANIA AMERICANA

He registered a negative impression as to the actual amount of usable information that might be extrapolated from [Jonathan Carver](#)'s extensive writings about his travels:



June 13. Sunday. 3 P.M. —To Conantum.

A warm day. It has been cold, and we have had fires the past week sometimes. Clover begins to show red in the fields, and the wild cherry is not out of blossom. The river has a summer midday look, smooth to a cobweb, with green shores, and shade from the trees on its banks. The *Viburnum nudum*. The oblong leaved sundew, but not its flower. Do the bulbous arethusas last long?

What a sweetness fills the air now in low grounds or meadows, reminding me of times when I went strawberrying years ago! It is as if all meadows were filled with some sweet mint. The *Dracæna borealis* (Bigelow) (*Clintonia borealis* (Gray)) amid the Solomon's-seals in Hubbard's Grove Swamp, a very neat and handsome liliaceous flower with three large, regular, spotless, green convallaria leaves, making a triangle from the root, and sometimes a fourth from the scape, linear, with four drooping, greenish-yellow, bell-shaped (?) flowers. Not in sun. In low shady woods. It is a handsome and perfect flower, though not high-colored. I prefer



DR. JOHN EDWARDS HOLBROOK

DR. JOHN EDWARDS HOLBROOK

it to some more famous. But Gray should not name it from the Governor of New York. [It was named by Rafinesque.] What is he to the lovers of flowers in Massachusetts? If named after a man, it must be a man of flowers. Rhode Island botanists may as well name the flowers after their governors as New York. Name your canals and railroads after Clinton, if you please, but his name is not associated with flowers. Mosquitoes now trouble the walker in low shady woods. No doubt woodchucks in their burrows hear the steps of walkers through the earth and come not forth. Yellow wood sorrel (*Oxalis stricta*), which, according to Gray, closes its leaves and droops at nightfall. The woolly aphides on alders whiten one's clothes now. What is that palmate(?) -leaved water-plant be the Corner causeway, The burl-bean grows in Conant's meadow. Lambkill is out. I remember with what delight I used to discover this flower in dewy mornings. All things in this world must be seen with the morning clew on them, must be seen with youthful, early-opened, hopeful eyes. Saw four cunning little woodchucks nibbling the short grass, about one third grown, that live under Conant's old house. Mistook one for a piece of rusty iron. The *Viburnum Lentago* is about out of bloom; shows young berries. The *Smilax herbacea*, carrion-flower, a rank green vine with long-peduncled umbels, with small greenish or yellowish flowers just opening, and tendrils, at the Miles swamp. It smells exactly like a dead rat in the wall, and apparently attracts flies (I find small gnats on it) like carrion. A very remarkable odor; a single minute flower in an umbel open will scent a whole room. Nature imitates all things in flowers. They are at once the most beautiful and the ugliest objects, the most fragrant and the most offensive to the nostrils, etc., etc. The compound-racemed convallaria, being fully out, is white. I put it down too early, perhaps by a week. The great leaves of the bass attract you now, six inches in diameter. The delicate maidenhair fern forms a cup or dish, very delicate and graceful. Beautiful, too, its glossy black stem and its wave-edged fruited leaflets. I hear the feeble plaintive note of young bluebirds, just trying their wings or getting used to them. Young robins peep.

I think I know four kinds of cornel beside the dogwood and bunchberry: one now in bloom, with *rather* small leaves with a smooth, silky feeling beneath, a greenish- gray spotted stem, in older stocks all gray (*Cornus alternifolia?* or *sericea?*); the broad-leaved cornel in Laurel Glen, yet green in the bud (*C. circinata?*); the small-leaved cornel with a small cyme or corymb, as late to be [*sic*] as the last, in potter's hedge and on high hills (*C. paniculata*); and the red osier by the river (*C. stolonifera*), which I have not seen this year.

Mosquitoes are first troublesome in the house with sultry nights.

Orobanche uniflora, single-flowered broom-rape (Bigelow), [or] *Aphyllon uniflorum*, one-flowered cancer-root (Gray). C. found it June 12 at Clematis Brook. Also the common fumitory (?), methinks; it is a fine-leaved small plant.

[Captain Jonathan Carver](#) commences his Travels with these words: "In June, 1766, I set out from Boston, and proceeded by way of Albany and Niagara, to Michillimackinac; a Fort situated between the Lakes Huron and Michigan, and distant from Boston 1300 miles. This being the uttermost of our factories towards the northwest, I considered it as the most convenient place from whence I could begin my intended progress, and enter at once into the Regions I designed to explore." So he gives us no information respecting the intermediate country, nor much, I fear, about the country beyond.

[Holbrook](#) says the *Emys pitta* is the first to be seen in the spring.

N. A. HERPETOLOGY



DR. JOHN EDWARDS HOLBROOK

DR. JOHN EDWARDS HOLBROOK

(While at that library Thoreau had consulted Volume IV of the 2d edition of [Dr. John Edwards Holbrook's](#) NORTH AMERICAN HERPETOLOGY: OR A DESCRIPTION OF THE REPTILES INHABITING THE UNITED STATES.)





DR. JOHN EDWARDS HOLBROOK

DR. JOHN EDWARDS HOLBROOK

1855

[Dr. John Edwards Holbrook](#)'s ICHTHYOLOGY OF SOUTH CAROLINA (ten parts of this would be published by John Russell of Charleston, South Carolina at Metcalf and Company before in 1857 a fire would destroy the "Artist's Buildings" in Philadelphia where the illustrations were being prepared).



[HDT](#)[WHAT?](#)[INDEX](#)**DR. JOHN EDWARDS HOLBROOK****DR. JOHN EDWARDS HOLBROOK****1857**

July 20, Monday: At the Society of Natural History in Boston, [Henry Thoreau](#) consulted Volume I of the 2d edition of [Dr. John Edwards Holbrook](#)'s NORTH AMERICAN HERPETOLOGY: OR A DESCRIPTION OF THE REPTILES INHABITING THE UNITED STATES.

N. A. HERPETOLOGY



July 20. TO BOSTON ON WAY TO MAINE WOODS.

At Natural History Library. [Holbrook](#) makes the *Emys terrapin* to be found from Rhode Island to Florida and South America. "The only Emys common to North and South America." So did not know it was found at New Bedford. Was not my Freetown turtle (*vide* April 13th) Holbrook's *Kinosternon Pennsylvanicum*? In his plate



the edges of the scales are of more waving lines than those of the *Sternothærus*; it has more brown or reddish yellow both above and below; its tail appears more sharply horny. There is no yellow line on its neck. The sternum is considerably larger (in proportion to carapax) as well as broader behind, and the plates connecting it with the upper shell are much wider. In the generic: account the difference front the *Sternothærus* is that the jaws are hooked (I see no difference in the plates) and the "sternum subdivided into three sections, anterior and posterior movable; "and the "supplemental plates very large." Under this species he says the shell is "ecarinate;" "vertebral plates depressed, sub-imbricate." "Length of shell, 3 1/2 inches; breadth of shell, 2 inches 10 lines; elevation, 1 3/4 inches; length of sternum, 3 inches 2 lines." "The living animal has a slight odour of musk that is not disagreeable." Found in Atlantic States from Florida to latitude 41°. Thinks Hitchcock mistook it for *Sternothærus* in his Geology. Found in the West, and Say says, high up the Missouri.

According to De Kay, it is found sparingly in the southern counties of New York, and he says, "It has a strong musky smell." Of the *Sternothærus* he says, "There appear to be two varieties, of which one is smooth on the shell, while the other is sub-carinate." Length of shell of *Sternothærus*, 2 5/10 inches; height, 1 2/10; of



DR. JOHN EDWARDS HOLBROOK

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Kinosternon, 4 and 1 8/10. (*Vide* April 13th.)



De Kay does not describe the *Cistuda Blandingii* as found in New York.

JAMES ELLSWORTH DE KAY

5 P.M. — Take cars for Portland. Very hot and dusty; as much need of a veil in the cars to exclude cinders as in the woods to keep off mosquitoes. Riding in the cars this weather like sitting in the flue of a chimney. Take steamer at Portland. Delayed by fog in night off coast of Maine.

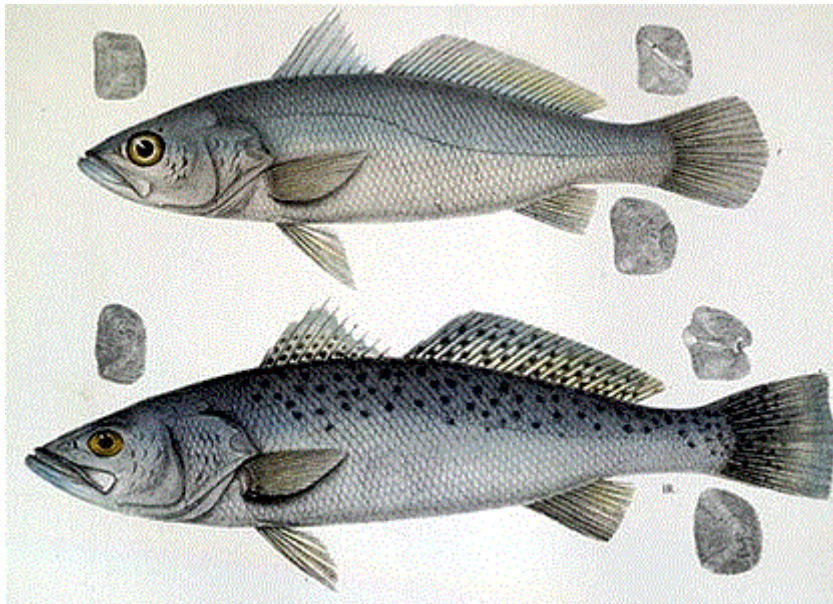


DR. JOHN EDWARDS HOLBROOK

DR. JOHN EDWARDS HOLBROOK

1862

A 2d edition of [Dr. John Edwards Holbrook](#)'s ICHTHYOLOGY OF SOUTH CAROLINA was prepared. The illustrations were provided by Tappan & Bradford in Boston and the printing was done by Welch, Bigelow and Company in Cambridge, Massachusetts. When civil war broke out, Dr. Holbrook became head of the examining board of surgeons in South Carolina.



[Dr. Samuel Kneeland, Jr.](#) joined the Union army as an acting assistant surgeon. Would he murder any of our soldiers in the course of medical experiments? He would be assigned to duty with General Ambrose Burnside, and would, until 1866, be in charge of hospitals in New Orleans, Louisiana and in Mobile, Alabama. On the following screen the surgeon appears in his uniform, quite as cross-eyed as usual:

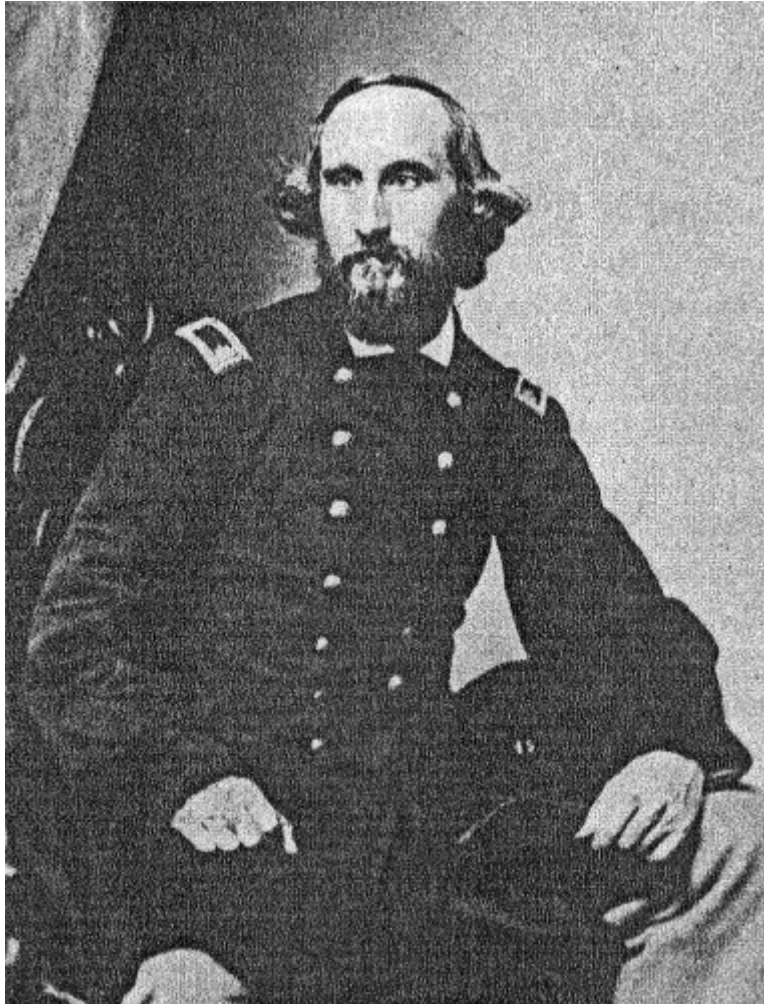
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DR. JOHN EDWARDS HOLBROOK

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DR. JOHN EDWARDS HOLBROOK

DR. JOHN EDWARDS HOLBROOK

1863

October 12, Monday: [Harriott Pinckney Rutledge Holbrook](#) died in Columbia, South Carolina. The Holbrooks had not produced any children.



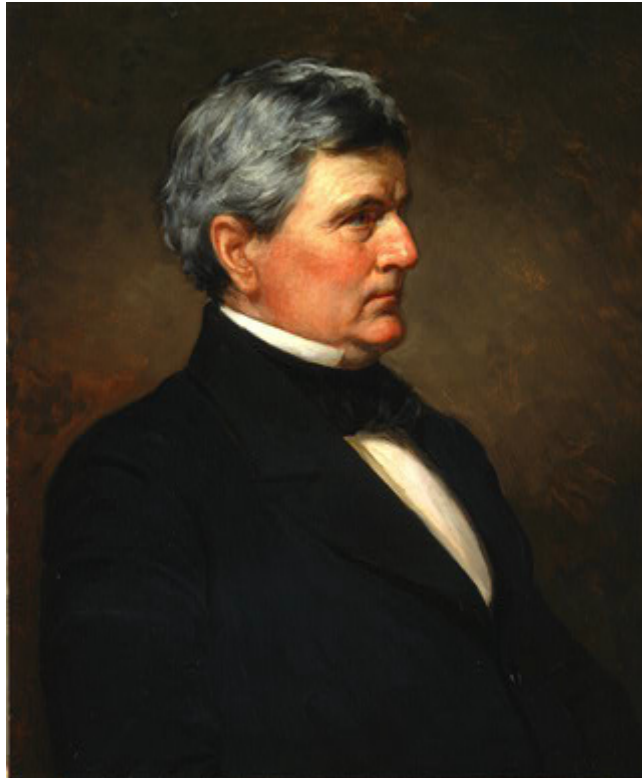


DR. JOHN EDWARDS HOLBROOK

DR. JOHN EDWARDS HOLBROOK

1868

[Dr. John Edwards Holbrook](#) became a member of the National Academy of Sciences.



[HDT](#)[WHAT?](#)[INDEX](#)**DR. JOHN EDWARDS HOLBROOK****DR. JOHN EDWARDS HOLBROOK****1871**

September 8, Friday: [John Edwards Holbrook](#) died of apoplexy at his sister's residence in Norfolk, Massachusetts. The earless lizard genus would be named *Holbrookia* in his honor. Also named in his honor are *Scaphiopus holbrookii* (the Eastern Spadefoot Toad), *Lampropeltis getula holbrooki* (the Speckled Kingsnake) and *Diplodus holbrookii* (the Spottail Pinfish). The body would be shipped to Charleston, South Carolina for internment beside the grave of his spouse [Harriott Pinckney Rutledge Holbrook](#).



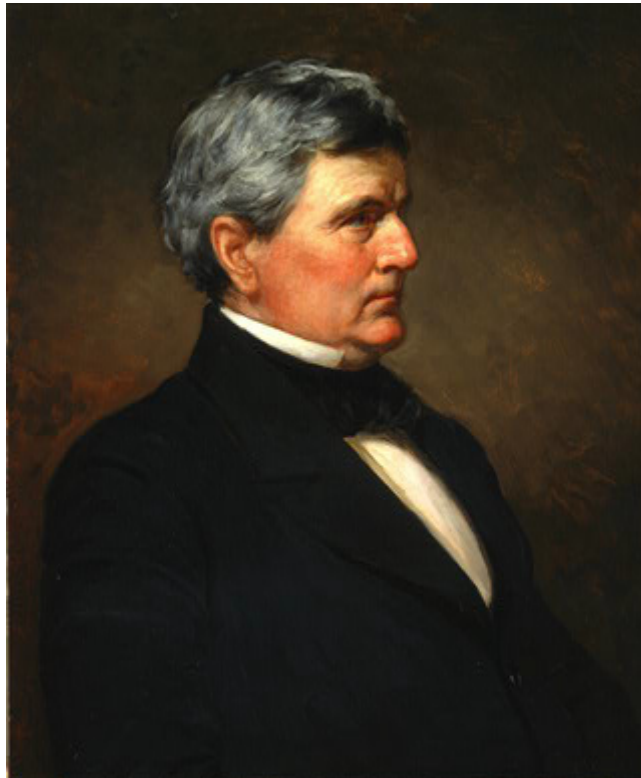


DR. JOHN EDWARDS HOLBROOK

DR. JOHN EDWARDS HOLBROOK

1872

Professor [Louis Agassiz](#) provided a “Eulogy on [John E. Holbrook](#)” in the Proceedings of the Boston Society of Natural History.





DR. JOHN EDWARDS HOLBROOK

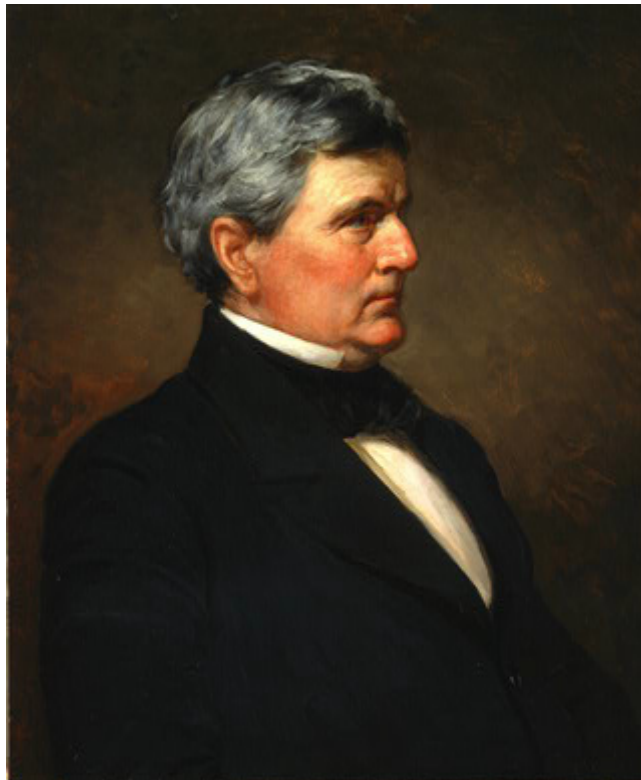
DR. JOHN EDWARDS HOLBROOK

1903

April 22, Wednesday: Jeffries Wyman read a BIOGRAPHICAL MEMOIR OF [AUGUSTUS ADDISON GOULD](#) 1805-1866 before the National Academy of Sciences.

JEFFRIES WYMAN ON GOULD

Theodore Gill read a BIOGRAPHICAL MEMOIR OF [JOHN EDWARDS HOLBROOK](#) 1794-1871 before the National Academy of Sciences.



“MAGISTERIAL HISTORY” IS FANTASIZING: HISTORY IS CHRONOLOGY



DR. JOHN EDWARDS HOLBROOK

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"It's all now you see. Yesterday won't be over until tomorrow and tomorrow began ten thousand years ago."

- Remark by character "Garin Stevens"
in William Faulkner's INTRUDER IN THE DUST



Prepared: January 7, 2015



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ARRGH AUTOMATED RESEARCH REPORT

GENERATION HOTLINE



This stuff presumably looks to you as if it were generated by a human. Such is not the case. Instead, someone has requested that we pull it out of the hat of a pirate who has grown out of the shoulder of our pet parrot "Laura" (as above). What these chronological lists are: they are research reports compiled by ARRGH algorithms out of a database of modules which we term the Kouroo Contexture (this is data mining). To respond to such a request for information we merely push a button.



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Commonly, the first output of the algorithm has obvious deficiencies and we need to go back into the modules stored in the contexture and do a minor amount of tweaking, and then we need to punch that button again and recompile the chronology – but there is nothing here that remotely resembles the ordinary “writerly” process you know and love. As the contents of this originating contexture improve, and as the programming improves, and as funding becomes available (to date no funding whatever has been needed in the creation of this facility, the entire operation being run out of pocket change) we expect a diminished need to do such tweaking and recompiling, and we fully expect to achieve a simulation of a generous and untiring robotic research librarian. Onward and upward in this brave new world.

First come first serve. There is no charge.
Place requests with <Kouroo@kouroo.info>. Arrgh.