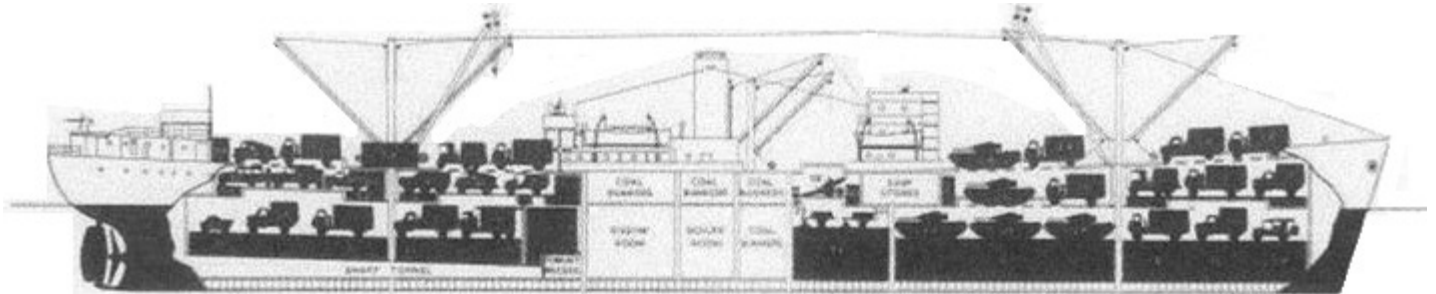




JOHN WEDDERBURN HALKET



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



JOHN WEDDERBURN HALKET

JOHN WEDDERBURN HALKET

1720

[John Wedderburn](#) was born.

NOBODY COULD GUESS WHAT WOULD HAPPEN NEXT





JOHN WEDDERBURN HALKET

JOHN WEDDERBURN HALKET

1764

Sir John Wedderburn remarried with Mary Hamilton, daughter of Hon. John Hamilton and Margaret Home. The couple would produce [John Wedderburn Halkett](#) (February 27, 1768-November 12, 1852, director of the Hudson's Bay Company).

**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.**



JOHN WEDDERBURN HALKET

JOHN WEDDERBURN HALKET

1768

February 27, Saturday: [John Wedderburn](#) was born at Pitfirrane, Dunfermline, Fife, [Scotland](#), the 3d son of Sir John Wedderburn with Mary Hamilton Wedderburn. He would be educated at St. Andrews University and become director of the Hudson's Bay Company.

DO I HAVE YOUR ATTENTION? GOOD.



JOHN WEDDERBURN HALKET

JOHN WEDDERBURN HALKET

1779

Sir John Wedderburn assumed the name of Halkett when, upon the death of his cousin Sir Peter Halkett, he succeeded to the baronetcy of Pitfirrane, [Scotland](#), gaining the title of 4th Baronet Halkett. His son [John Wedderburn](#) became [John Wedderburn Halkett](#).

Mary [Balfour] Brunton was born in Orkney.

[Alexander Wilson](#)'s schooling was over at the age of 12 or 13 when he was apprenticed to a brother-in-law to learn the trade of weaving. His main interest at this time was not in weaving cloth but in writing poetry, and his poems –which tended for some reason to contain not exactly veiled attitudes about unfair treatment of the weavers by their employers– would be brought to the attention of the authorities. (Of course, it might have been easier for him to get away with this if his poems had been really good poems.)

THE FUTURE IS MOST READILY PREDICTED IN RETROSPECT





JOHN WEDDERBURN HALKET

JOHN WEDDERBURN HALKET

1786

[John Wedderburn](#) matriculated at the university of St. Andrews, [Scotland](#).

THE FUTURE CAN BE EASILY PREDICTED IN RETROSPECT





JOHN WEDDERBURN HALKET

JOHN WEDDERBURN HALKET

1789

August: [John Wedderburn Halkett](#) was admitted to the [Scottish](#) bar at Edinburgh.

On [St. Helena](#), the will of Mrs. Clarissa Leech revealed that she had authored her own epitaph:

**HERE LAY THE BODY OF CLARISSA LEECH
WHO LIVED IN PAIN BUT DIED WITH PLEASURE**

CHANGE IS ETERNITY, STASIS A FIGMENT



JOHN WEDDERBURN HALKET

JOHN WEDDERBURN HALKET

1794

[John Wedderburn Halkett](#) got married with Ann Todd.

John Gibson Lockhart was born in Cambusnethan, [Scotland](#).



JOHN WEDDERBURN HALKET

JOHN WEDDERBURN HALKET

1797

[John Wedderburn Halkett](#) became secretary of presentations to his cousin Alexander Wedderburn, 1st Baron Loughborough, who was at the time the Lord Chancellor of England.

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



JOHN WEDDERBURN HALKET

JOHN WEDDERBURN HALKET

1801



[John Wedderburn Halkett](#), secretary of presentations to the Lord Chancellor of England, was made Governor-in-Chief of the Bahamas.



JOHN WEDDERBURN HALKET

JOHN WEDDERBURN HALKET

1803



Mary Hamilton Halkett died. [John Wedderburn Halkett](#), Governor-in-Chief of the Bahamas, was appointed Captain-General of Tobago. Documents from the period would be published at New Providence in the Bahamas as TEN HOLOGRAPH LETTERS AND TWO ENCLOSURES FROM JOHN HALKETT, GOVERNOR OF THE BAHAMAS, TO ADMIRAL, SIR J.T. DUCKWORTH, COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF AT JAMAICA.



JOHN WEDDERBURN HALKET

JOHN WEDDERBURN HALKET

1804



[John Wedderburn Halkett](#), Captain-General of Tobago, was appointed Governor-in-Chief of Tobago.



JOHN WEDDERBURN HALKET

JOHN WEDDERBURN HALKET

1805



Ann Todd Halkett died.



JOHN WEDDERBURN HALKET

JOHN WEDDERBURN HALKET

1807




[John Wedderburn Halkett](#), Governor-in-Chief of Tobago, returned to London and was appointed 1st Chief Commissioner of West Indian Accounts.



JOHN WEDDERBURN HALKET

JOHN WEDDERBURN HALKET

1808

 [Hugh Gray](#) left [Canada](#) for England.

Thomas Douglas, 5th Earl of Selkirk began buying shares in the Hudson's Bay Company.

JOHN WEDDERBURN HALKET

JOHN WEDDERBURN HALKET

1809

➡ John Wedderburn Halkett began buying shares in the Hudson's Bay Company.





JOHN WEDDERBURN HALKET

JOHN WEDDERBURN HALKET

Alexander Henry's TRAVELS AND ADVENTURES IN [CANADA](#) AND THE INDIAN TERRITORIES BETWEEN THE YEARS 1760 AND 1776 (New-York: Printed and Published by I. Riley), which [Henry Thoreau](#) would utilize in [A WEEK ON THE CONCORD AND MERRIMACK RIVERS](#).

TRAVELS AND ADVENTURES



[A WEEK](#): We naturally remembered Alexander Henry's Adventures here, as a sort of classic among books of American travel. It contains scenery and rough sketching of men and incidents enough to inspire poets for many years, and to my fancy is as full of sounding names as any page of history, – Lake Winnipeg, Hudson Bay, Ottaway, and portages innumerable; Chipeways, Gens de Terres, Les Pilleurs, The Weepers; with reminiscences of Hearne's journey, and the like; an immense and shaggy but sincere country, summer and winter, adorned with chains of lakes and rivers, covered with snows, with hemlocks, and fir-trees. There is a naturalness, an unpretending and cold life in this traveller, as in a Canadian winter, what life was preserved through low temperatures and frontier dangers by furs within a stout heart. He has truth and moderation worthy of the father of history, which belong only to an intimate experience, and he does not defer too much to literature. The unlearned traveller may quote his single line from the poets with as good right as the scholar. He too may speak of the stars, for he sees them shoot perhaps when the astronomer does not. The good sense of this author is very conspicuous. He is a traveller who does not exaggerate, but writes for the information of his readers, for science, and for history. His story is told with as much good faith and directness as if it were a report to his brother traders, or the Directors of the Hudson Bay Company, and is fitly dedicated to Sir Joseph Banks. It reads like the argument to a great poem on the primitive state of the country and its inhabitants, and the reader imagines what in each case, with the invocation of the Muse, might be sung, and leaves off with suspended interest, as if the full account were to follow. In what school was this fur-trader educated? He seems to travel the immense snowy country with such purpose only as the reader who accompanies him, and to the latter's imagination, it is, as it were, momentarily created to be the scene of his adventures. What is most interesting and valuable in it, however, is not the materials for the history of Pontiac, or Braddock, or the Northwest, which it furnishes; not the **annals** of the country, but the natural facts, or **perennials**, which are ever without date. When out of history the truth shall be extracted, it will have shed its dates like withered leaves.

ALEXANDER HENRY



JOHN WEDDERBURN HALKET

JOHN WEDDERBURN HALKET

[Hugh Gray](#)'s [LETTERS FROM CANADA](#), WRITTEN DURING A RESIDENCE THERE IN THE YEARS 1806, 1807 AND 1808; SHEWING THE PRESENT STATE OF CANADA, ITS PRODUCTIONS – TRADE – COMMERCIAL IMPORTANCE AND POLITICAL RELATIONS. ILLUSTRATIVE OF THE LAWS, THE MANNERS OF THE PEOPLE, AND THE PECULIARITIES OF THE COUNTRY AND CLIMATE. EXHIBITING ALSO THE COMMERCIAL IMPORTANCE OF NOVA-SCOTIA, NEW BRUNSWICK, & CAPE-BRETON; AND THEIR INCREASING ABILITY, IN CONJUNCTION WITH CANADA, TO FURNISH THE NECESSARY SUPPLIES OF LUMBER AND PROVISIONS TO OUR WEST-INDIA ISLANDS (London: Printed for Longman, Hurst, Rees, and Orme, Paternoster-Row), which [Thoreau](#) would utilize in [A YANKEE IN CANADA](#).

LETTERS FROM CANADA

["A YANKEE IN CANADA"](#): The geographer Guyot observes that the Maranon is three thousand miles long, and gathers its waters from a surface of a million and a half square miles; that the Mississippi is also three thousand miles long, but its basin covers only from eight to nine hundred thousand square miles; that the St. Lawrence is eighteen hundred miles long, and its basin covers more than a million square miles (Darby says five hundred thousand); and speaking of the lakes, he adds, "These vast fresh-water seas, together with the St. Lawrence, cover a surface of nearly one hundred thousand square miles, and it has been calculated that they contain about one half of all the fresh water on the surface of our planet." But all these calculations are necessarily very rude and inaccurate. Its tributaries, the Ottawa, St. Maurice, and Saguenay, are great rivers themselves. The latter is said to be more than one thousand (?) feet deep at its mouth, while its cliffs rise perpendicularly an equal distance above its surface. Pilots say there are no soundings till one hundred and fifty miles up the St. Lawrence. The greatest sounding in the river, given on Bayfield's chart of the gulf and river, is two hundred and twenty-eight fathoms. McTaggart, an engineer, observes that "the Ottawa is larger than all the rivers in Great Britain, were they running in one." The traveller Gray writes: "A dozen Danubes, Rhines, Taguses, and Thameses would be nothing to twenty miles of fresh water in breadth (as where he happened to be), from ten to forty fathoms in depth." And again: "There is not perhaps in the whole extent of this immense continent so fine an approach to it as by the river St. Lawrence. In the Southern States you have, in general, a level country for many miles inland; here you are introduced at once into a majestic scenery, where everything is on a grand scale, – mountains, woods, lakes, rivers, precipices, waterfalls."

HUGH GRAY



JOHN WEDDERBURN HALKET

JOHN WEDDERBURN HALKET

We can dispense with Gray's unpleasant racism, which Thoreau bypassed, with a passing quote: "Conceive to yourself a parcel of men, women, and children, huddled together under a *wigwam*.... They are *half* naked, *wholly* covered with dirt, and oily paints, and swarming with vermin; diminutive, and weakly in their persons and appearance; and having a physiognomy, in which you look in vain for a trace of intelligence. I do not mean to say that they are without the reasoning faculty, but they certainly appear excessively stupid. I understand that their numbers decline each year, — if they were wholly extinct, I do not think the human nation would be a great sufferer by it.... Whether *nature* has put the American Indian on the same footing, *in every respect*, with the European, as to mental powers, is not to be ascertained in the present day: we want facts from which to judge.—Among all other animals, we see *certain classes* or *species* of the same *genus* superior one to the other. The Author of Nature has willed it so. It is possible that the Author of Nature may also have made varieties in the human race, differing from each other in their powers both of body and mind; and that the American Indian, the African, and the European, are illustrations of the fact."

THE SCIENCE OF 1809

On a following screen is, however, something it may amuse you to peruse. It is one hilarious example of Gray's credulity as to the natural world (which Thoreau also bypassed).

JOHN WEDDERBURN HALKET

JOHN WEDDERBURN HALKET

When the attack is to commence, the sword-fish gets under the whale, and darts up at him with immense force*. The whale, feeling the stroke and attack of the sword-fish, flies to the top of the water, where the thresher attacks him. I saw the whale come up, raising his huge back high out of the water. The tail of the thresher was immediately seen brandished in the air, and most part of his body out of the water; flap after flap he struck the whale on the back as fast as I could with a stick, who, feeling the blows, darts down head foremost, raising his immense forked tail in the air, and striking with it on every side, apparently with a view of hitting the thresher, and if it did, instant death most probably would follow. The sword-fish again attacks him; the whale rises again, and is again attacked by the thresher; he again descends, but attempts in vain to elude the attack of his enemies. I saw him several times raise his head out of the water, at the moment the thresher's tail was brandishing in the air, and striking him. He seemed to attempt to catch it in his mouth.

The conflict continued in view about an hour. Sometimes they remained under water for a few minutes, but the whale must come to the surface of the water to breathe, or blow, as it is called; and besides, the attacks from the sword-fish, it is to be presumed, were incessant, and would naturally make him rise to the surface. It is probable they did not leave the whale till they had killed him. I understand, from the Canadians, that whales have been found killed by the sword-fish, who at the same time has fallen a sacrifice to his own furious attack, not having been able to draw the sword from its *whale-belly scabbard*.

This latter circumstance, if true (for I have not myself seen it), is sufficient evidence to prove that the sword-fish assists the *thresher* in his attack on the whale, and I find that the Canadians all agree that the sword-fish has a share in the battle.

It is impossible to conceive any thing more desperate than the conflict appeared to be. To see the tremendous animals in contact, part of both raised high out of the water at the same time; the black back and immense head of the whale, contrasted with the long white and black tail of the thresher, in constant action, literally *threshing* the whale most unmercifully; *every blow resounding like the noise of a cannon*: feeling the blows, and galled on all sides by creatures he might well despise, he flounces about, blowing and making a tremendous noise; dashing the water to a prodigious height, and occasioning a sort of local storm.

HDT

WHAT?

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JOHN WEDDERBURN HALKET

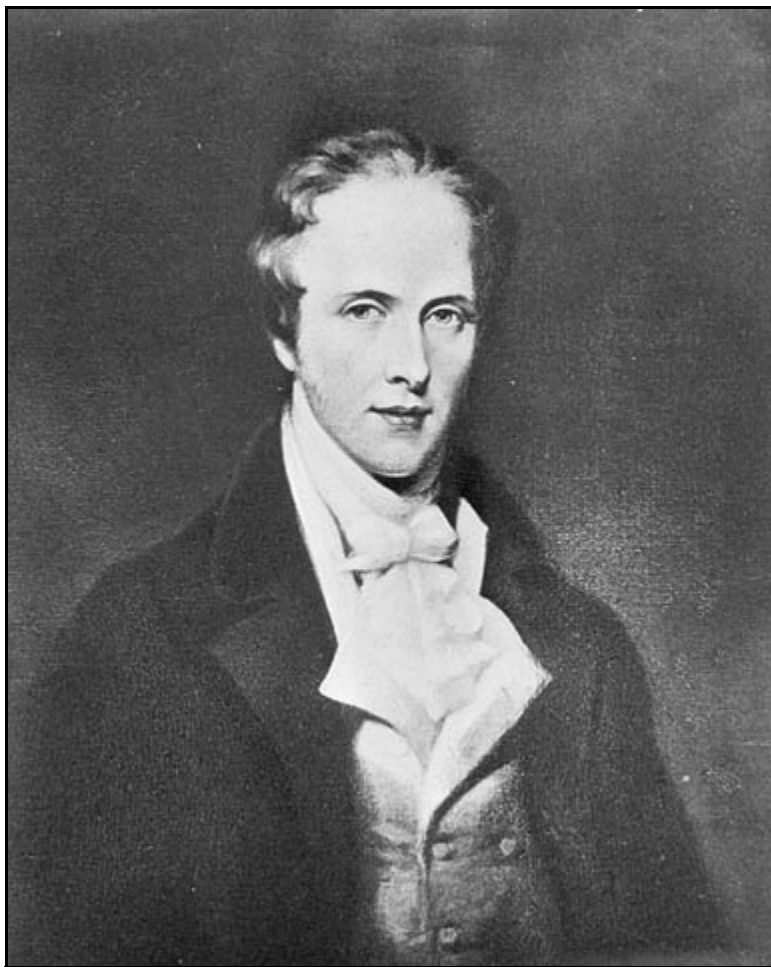
JOHN WEDDERBURN HALKET

1811



The Hudson's Bay Company ceded land along the Red and Assiniboine Rivers to Thomas Douglas, 5th Earl of Selkirk.

CANADA
CARTOGRAPHY



JOHN WEDDERBURN HALKET

JOHN WEDDERBURN HALKET

➡ November 7, Thursday: At Tippecanoe (Keth-tip-pe-can-nunk) Creek near Prophetstown, Indiana, a town in which Indian people of all tribes were attempting to live a traditional lifestyle, the Shawnee headman Tecumseh, brother of the prophet *Tenskwatawa*, led in a defensive battle against a group of white settlers under William Henry Harrison, giving to Harrison a reputation and a presidential slogan. Defeated, Tecumseh would flee into [Canada](#).



(Meanwhile, during this month, shortly after the Hudson’s Bay Company had ceded a large tract around the Red River in [Canada](#) to Thomas Douglas, 5th Earl of Selkirk for the establishment of a colony, [John Wedderburn Halkett](#) was appointed a member of that Company’s London Committee.)

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

5th day 7 of 11 Mo// The Meeting small & silent tho’ a respectable number considering how many are absent at the Qurly Meeting

1815

→ Joseph Bouchette published A TOPOGRAPHICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE PROVINCE OF LOWER CANADA: WITH REMARKS UPON UPPER CANADA, AND ON THE RELATIVE CONNEXION OF BOTH PROVINCES WITH THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA (London: Printed for the author and published by W. Faden in English and in French, 1815).

CARTOGRAPHY



Drawn by G. Bouchette

J. B. Walker del.

Long's Farm on Lake Temiscouate, at the extremity of the Portage.

BOUCHETTE'S CANADA



JOHN WEDDERBURN HALKET

JOHN WEDDERBURN HALKET

"A YANKEE IN CANADA": It is but a few years since Bouchette declared that the country ten leagues north of the British capital of North America was as little known as the middle of Africa.... Humboldt, speaking of the Orinoco, says that this name is unknown in the interior of the country; so likewise the tribes that dwell about the sources of the St. Lawrence have never heard the name which it bears in the lower part of its course. It rises near another father of waters, -the Mississippi,- issuing from a remarkable spring far up in the woods, called Lake Superior, fifteen hundred miles in circumference; and several other springs there are thereabouts which feed it. It makes such a noise in its tumbling down at one place as is heard all round the world. Bouchette, the Surveyor-General of the Canadas, calls it "the most splendid river on the globe"; says that it is two thousand statute miles long (more recent geographers make it four or five hundred miles longer); that at the Rivière du Sud it is eleven miles wide; at the Traverse thirteen; at the Paps of Matane, twenty-five; at the Seven Islands, seventy-three; and at its mouth, from Cape Rosier to the Mingan Settlements in Labrador, near one hundred and five miles wide.... Humboldt says that the river Plate, which has the broadest estuary of the South American rivers, is ninety-two geographical miles wide at its mouth; also he found the Orinoco to be more than three miles wide at five hundred and sixty miles from its mouth, but he does not tell us that ships of six hundred tons can sail up it so far, as they can up the St. Lawrence to Montreal, - an equal distance. If he had described a fleet of such ships at anchor in a city's port so far inland, we should have got a very different idea of the Orinoco.... We have not yet the data for a minute comparison of the St. Lawrence with the South American rivers; but it is obvious that, taking it in connection with its lakes, its estuary, and its falls, it easily bears off the palm from all the rivers on the globe; for though, as Bouchette observes, it may not carry to the ocean a greater volume of water than the Amazon and Mississippi, its surface and cubic mass are far greater than theirs.

ALEXANDER VON HUMBOLDT



JOHN WEDDERBURN HALKET

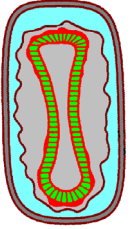
JOHN WEDDERBURN HALKET

A police court was established at Halifax, [Nova Scotia](#).

The [small pox](#) prevailed at Halifax.

Coals were first exported from the mines at Pictou.

[John Wedderburn Halkett](#) would for some five years be attempting to lobby the British government on behalf of the Hudson's Bay Company, in regard to a state of ongoing hostility between that company and the North West Company. The take of the colonial secretary, Lord Bathurst, on the violence that occurred during 1815/1816 at Red River, violence that destroyed the colony, was that this was merely an expectable quarrel between competing groups engaged in the fur trade. He would never display anything warmer than indifference while the curtness of his under-secretary, Henry Goulburn, could easily be considered to have been arrogant.



July 6, Thursday: The [Duke of Wellington](#) and Marshall Gebhard Leberecht von Blücher, Fürst von Wahlstatt entered Paris at the head of their allied army. Blücher made a demand of the city leaders, for 100,000,000 francs plus new uniforms for all of his 110,000 troops. British Foreign Secretary Viscount Castlereagh reached Paris to negotiate a 2d Peace of Paris.

[John Wedderburn Halkett](#) remarried, with Lady Katherine Douglas.

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


*5th day 6th of 7th 1815 / Found ourselves this mornng under Block Island & not far from Point Judith in a flat Calm & came to Anchor where we lay till near 11 OC when the Wind & tide favoring we made some headway - Amused ourselves with the Spy Glass in looking at Block Island & scenes around in Charleston - which with a little conversation with the Passengers & the prospect of being home tonight made the time not very tedious - In the course of this day made some acquaintance with Saml Dana of Cambridge & Echabod Goodwin of Berwick - At 2 OC Dined & at 1 / 4 before 3 OC turned Point Judith - At 3 OC by the Assistance of the Glass Saw the Steeples of [Newport](#) which soon became in full view - at the sight of which my heart **LEAPS** - At 1 / 2 Past 4 OC Turned Beaver tail light at 6 OC Arrived Banisters Wharf & in a few minutes to my home where I found my beloved H & our little John both well & very glad to see me. - This with my safe return to them is cause of gratitude - In taking a retrospect of my visit this evening, it all looks pleasant & I feel thankful, that I have been - it may prove beneficial to me many ways - I have had but few advantages in seeing the World, this little jant may tend & I think has already tended to enlarge my view of men & things - There is an increasing body of Friends in NYork, & some considerable number of well concerned Members -but alass for the spirit of the World - which appears to me, must be very prevalent among them -*



JOHN WEDDERBURN HALKET

JOHN WEDDERBURN HALKET

1817

 £9,750 was granted toward the establishment of Dalhousie College at Halifax, [Nova Scotia](#).

[John Wedderburn Halkett](#)'s privately circulated and unsigned STATEMENT RESPECTING THE EARL OF SELKIRK'S SETTLEMENT OF KILDONAN, UPON THE RED RIVER, IN NORTH AMERICA; ITS DESTRUCTION IN THE YEARS 1815 AND 1816; AND THE MASSACRE OF GOVERNOR SEMPLE AND HIS PARTY (London), in which he placed the blame for the destruction of Selkirk's colony on the North West Company and its agents. There would soon be an expanded version of this, STATEMENT RESPECTING THE EARL OF SELKIRK'S SETTLEMENT UPON THE RED RIVER ... WITH OBSERVATIONS UPON A RECENT PUBLICATION, ENTITLED "A NARRATIVE OF OCCURRENCES IN THE INDIAN COUNTRIES, &C." (London, 1817; New York, 1818).¹

CANADA

1. The North West Company would quickly generate an unsigned rebuttal entitled A NARRATIVE OF OCCURRENCES IN THE INDIAN COUNTRIES OF NORTH AMERICA (the author of this is suspected to have been their employee Samuel Hull Wilcocke).



JOHN WEDDERBURN HALKET

JOHN WEDDERBURN HALKET

STATEMENT

RESPECTING

THE EARL OF SELKIRK'S

Settlement of Kildonan,

UPON

THE RED RIVER; IN NORTH AMERICA;

ITS DESTRUCTION

IN THE YEARS 1815 AND 1816;

AND

THE MASSACRE

OF

GOVERNOR SEMPLE AND HIS PARTY.


LONDON:



JOHN WEDDERBURN HALKET

JOHN WEDDERBURN HALKET

1818

 [John Wedderburn Halkett](#)'s publication of the previous year was translated into French as *PRÉCIS TOUCHANT LA COLONIE DU LORD SELKIRK, SUR LA RIVIÈRE ROUGE, SA DESTRUCTION EN 1815 ET 1816, ET LE MASSACRE DU GOUVERNEUR SEMPLE ET DE SON PARTI...* (Montréal, 1818). He also prepared POSTSCRIPT TO THE STATEMENT RESPECTING THE EARL OF SELKIRK'S SETTLEMENT UPON THE RED RIVER, IN NORTH AMERICA (Montréal, 1818).

A son of Benedict Arnold, Colonel Arnold, laid out initial plans for a "Citadel Fort" at Halifax.² The Central Agricultural Society was established at Halifax. The township of St. Mary in Sydney County was laid out. The census of [Nova Scotia](#) listed 78,345 residents with Halifax alone containing 11,156.

2. He would achieve his military reputation in Egypt, against Napoleon.

JOHN WEDDERBURN HALKET

JOHN WEDDERBURN HALKET

An Anglo-American Convention fixed the 49th parallel as the US border with [Canada](#).





JOHN WEDDERBURN HALKET

JOHN WEDDERBURN HALKET

1819



Presumably in this year, a series of the letters of [John Wedderburn Halkett](#) appeared in London as CORRESPONDENCE IN THE YEARS 1817, 1818, AND 1819, BETWEEN EARL BATHURST, AND J. HALKETT, ESQ. ON THE SUBJECT OF LORD SELKIRK'S SETTLEMENT AT THE RED RIVER, IN NORTH AMERICA.

Moravian missionary [John Gottlieb Ernestus Heckewelder](#)'s AN ACCOUNT OF THE HISTORY, MANNERS, AND CUSTOMS, OF THE INDIAN NATIONS, WHO ONCE INHABITED PENNSYLVANIA AND THE NEIGHBOURING STATES. Philadelphia: A. Small; Volume I of the [American Philosophical Society Transactions](#), of 1819. Thoreau would copy the following materials into his INDIAN NOTEBOOKS:³

Between the Mississippi & the ocean eastward & the Hudson's Bay Company's possessions on the north – "There appears to be but 4 principal languages," some of their dialects "extend even beyond the Mississippi."

- 1st The Karabit – of the Greenlanders & Esquimaux...
- 2d The Iroquois "This language in various dialects is spoken by the ... Six Nations ... Hurons ... and others."
- 3d The Lenape "This is the most widely extended of any of those that are spoken on this side of the Mississippi."
- [4th] The Indians further N.W. Blackfeet &c. of whose language we cannot judge "from the scanty vocabularies which have been given by Mackenzie ... and other travellers."



REVEREND HECKEWELDER

In Volume #8 of these notebooks, [Henry David Thoreau](#) would also copy from this source that after some



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hostilities the white intrusives into Virginia were given the new name *Mechanschicau* meaning “Long Knives” to distinguish them from other intrusives who had not killed natives with swords. ““They never apply it [murderer] to the Quakers’ — They call them *Quakels*, not having in their language the sound to express your letter R.”

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

Thoreau would also copy from this source the information that the original name for the place where Philadelphia stands had been *Ku/egriena/ku* meaning “the grove of the long pine trees,” and that this placename had been pronounced *koo-ek-wen-aw-koo*.⁴

3. The original notebooks are held by the Pierpont Morgan Library in New York, as manuscripts #596 through #606. There are photocopies, made by Robert F. Sayre in the 1930s, in four boxes at the University of Iowa Libraries, accession number MsC 795. More recently, Bradley P. Dean, PhD and Paul Maher, Jr. have attempted to work over these materials.
4. [Henry David Thoreau](#)'s INDIAN NOTEBOOKS are now at the Pierpont Morgan Library. These notebooks together comprise in total 2,800 handwritten pages. There are 11 of them, the 1st probably being completed during Thoreau's sojourn at Walden Pond: for instance, on the 1st sheet of his 1st volume Thoreau jotted “Bug ate out of a table in Williamstown 73 years after the egg was laid.” He noted that he had gotten this material which would find its way into the final chapter of [WALDEN; OR, LIFE IN THE WOODS](#) from J.W. Barber's MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COLLECTIONS. See:


Fleck, Richard F. (ed). THE INDIANS OF THOREAU: SELECTIONS FROM THE INDIAN NOTEBOOKS. Albuquerque NM: Hummingbird Press, 1974



JOHN WEDDERBURN HALKET

JOHN WEDDERBURN HALKET

1820

 April 8, Saturday: Day Eight of [Scotland's "Radical War"](#): while some arrests were made and some people being carted off to jail. The Port Glasgow Militia, escorting prisoners from Paisley to Greenock jail, were attacked by local people and fighting in the streets was augmented by stones from windows and doorways. After the prisoners were confined in their new lodgings at 5PM, the militiamen found they needed to fight their way out again. Opening fire, they killed eight (including an 8-year-old child) and wounding ten. After they were gone the local people stormed the jail, freeing their prisoners.

Death of Thomas Douglas, 5th Earl of Selkirk.

The Imperial Royal Court of Appeal of Lower Austria overturned the lower court's decision and ruled that Karl van Beethoven be taken from the care of his mother and placed under the joint guardianship of his uncle [Ludwig van Beethoven](#) and Karl Peters.


A statue of Aphrodite (now known as Venus de Milo) was discovered on the Aegean island of Milos.



JOHN WEDDERBURN HALKET

JOHN WEDDERBURN HALKET

1821

 October 18, Thursday: [John Wedderburn Halkett](#) was in Montréal as an executor of the estate of Thomas Douglas, 5th Earl of Selkirk, when he was confronted in front of his hotel by a couple of former North West Company employees. Angry at what he had written about their activities in [Canada](#), they threatened him with a horsewhip, whereupon he had them arrested. As a precaution he then armed himself with a brace of pistols. That evening he was attacked with a whip by Jasper Vandersluys and struck twice, whereupon he shot Vandersluys. Wounded, Vandersluys would get him charged with “assault with the intent to kill” — but that charge would then be dropped.

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

5th day 18th of 10 M 1821 / Our meeting was a season of no small suffering as we sat in the Middle part & The weather was very cold & raw A few words were spoken by Father Rodman, after which the opportunity soon closed


RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS




JOHN WEDDERBURN HALKET

JOHN WEDDERBURN HALKET

1822

 May 15, Wednesday: [John Wedderburn Halkett](#), John McLoughlin, and the new governor of the Red River colony, Andrew H. Bulger, set off by canoe from Montréal on a visit to the settlement.


CANADA

 Late June: [John Wedderburn Halkett](#), John McLoughlin, and the new governor of the Red River colony, Andrew H. Bulger, arrived when the settlers were in a demoralized state. Their crop had been consumed by grasshoppers and bison were hardly to be found. Dakota warriors had murdered ten settlers near Pembina in North Dakota to their south. Halkett assured the settlers that they were going to receive a supply of farm animals and would be paid fixed prices for their production. He arranged a reduction in the interest rate they were being charged on their loan and made concessions in rent. To reduce costs he closed the Red River administrative buildings and terminated the Hudson Bay Company post at Pembina. He asked Bishop Joseph-Norbert Provencher to recall Father Severe Dumoulin (the [Roman Catholic](#) mission at Pembina would close in the following year).

CANADA

JOHN WEDDERBURN HALKET

JOHN WEDDERBURN HALKET

 August 20, Tuesday: At York Factory in Manitoba, [John Wedderburn Halkett](#) presided over a meeting of the Hudson Bay Company Northern Department council.



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

3rd day 20 of 8 M / Rode this Afternoon with Hannah Dennis to [Portsmouth](#) on a committee to visit a young man who had departed from the rules & principles of Society - It proved a hard labouring time, all the consolation we had was a consciousness of having discharged our duty faithfully towards him

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS



JOHN WEDDERBURN HALKET

JOHN WEDDERBURN HALKET

1825

 [Professor William Jackson Hooker](#)'s CATALOGUE OF PLANTS IN THE GLASGOW [BOTANIC](#) GARDEN.

[John Halkett, Esq.](#)'s HISTORICAL NOTES RESPECTING THE INDIANS OF NORTH AMERICA: WITH REMARKS ON THE ATTEMPTS MADE TO CONVERT AND CIVILIZE THEM (London: Printed for Archibald Constable and Co. Edinburgh; and Hurst, Robinson, and Co. 90, Cheapside, and 8, Pall Mall).



RESPECTING THE INDIANS

In this year, or in the following one, [Charles Darwin](#) would be reading his grandfather [Erasmus Darwin](#)'s ZONOMIA:

Charles Darwin read ZONOMIA when he was sixteen or seventeen, and also listened to a panegyric in praise of evolution from his friend Dr Robert Grant at Edinburgh University. "At this time I greatly admired the ZONOMIA," he says. But neither Grant nor ZONOMIA had "any effect on my mind." This is true: otherwise he would have become an evolutionist before going on the voyage of the *Beagle*, rather than after.

The biographer Desmond King-Hele, who wrote the above, seems to me not to comprehend why it is that we assign authorship of the theory of evolution to the grandson, Charles, rather than to the grandfather, Erasmus. Therefore, perhaps, I should here explicate why it was that the early reading of ZONOMIA, with its recognition of evolution, did nothing to help Charles: it is one thing to regard evolution as a fact, and another thing entirely to create a theory which accounts for it by hypothesizing a plausible mechanism and demonstrating the inevitability of this mechanism. Lots of people regarded evolution as a fact, before Charles created his theory. Almost as many people had been perfectly well aware of evolution as a fact in 1770, as had been perfectly well aware in 1491 that the earth was a globe — before Columbus obtained funding to sail west from Spain!

The first steam-locomotive railway was opened, between Stockton and Darlington in England, and George Stephenson's *Locomotion*, the world's first practically moveable steam engine for use on rails, managed to get a train of 29 little 4-wheeled carts up to a sustained speed of 8 mph.

David Douglas set out to explore the Columbia River area in British Columbia, with the cooperation of the

JOHN WEDDERBURN HALKET

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Hudson Bay Company.



By mid-February he was off the coast of Oregon, setting ashore at Fort Vancouver. When he had gone 90 miles up that river, he began to have eye trouble due to the blown sand as well as due to the brilliance of the snow under the bright sun. He found *Pinus lambertiana*, which is almost as large as the giant redwoods, and fired his gun to knock some cones off the top of one. This turned out to be a serious mistake, as eight hostile Indians were alerted by the sound of gunfire. Douglas managed to elude them and would still be alive to return to England in 1827. (In 1829 he would return to the Pacific Northwest, collecting all the way from California to Alaska. He would die in Hawaii, while collecting, by falling into a pit trap in which a wild bull had already become ensnared. Douglas would introduce over 200 species to cultivation in Great Britain, including not only the Douglas fir but also the sugar pine, the noble fir, and the giant fir.

BOTANIZING



JOHN WEDDERBURN HALKET

JOHN WEDDERBURN HALKET

1848

[Henry Youle Hind](#) joined the staff of the Ontario Normal School in Toronto, [Canada](#) as lecturer in chemistry and mathematics.

[Robert Michael Ballantyne](#)'s HUDSON'S BAY: OR, LIFE IN THE WILDS OF NORTH AMERICA. Here is an illustration from that book, representing a [Christmas](#) ball the author had attended in Bachelors' Hall, at the Hudson Bay Company outpost of York Factory during the 1840s.



His own family's publishing house being defunct, he went into the employ of the publishing house Messrs Constable.

Our visitor had travelled in a dog cariole. This machine is very narrow, just broad enough to admit one person. It is a wooden frame covered with deer-skin parchment, painted gaudily, and is generally drawn by four Esquimaux dogs.

Dogs are invaluable in the Arctic regions, where horses are utterly useless, owing to the depth of snow which covers the earth for so large a portion of the year.

The comparatively light weight of the dogs enables them to walk without sinking much; and even when the snow is so soft as to

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be incapable of supporting them, they are still able to sprawl along more easily than any other species of quadruped could do. Four are usually attached to a sledge, which they haul with great vigour; being followed by a driver on snow-shoes, whose severe lash is brought to bear so powerfully on the backs of the poor animals, should any of them be observed to slacken their pace, that they are continually regarding him with deprecatory glances as they run along.

Should the lash give a flourish, there is generally a short yelp from the pack; and should it descend amongst them with a vigorous crack, the vociferous yelling that results is perfectly terrific.

These drivers are sometimes very cruel; and when a pack of dogs have had a fight, and got their traces hopelessly ravelled (as is often the case), they have been known to fall on their knees in their passion, seize one of the poor dogs by the nose with their teeth, and almost bite it off.

Dogs are used for dragging carioles, which vehicles are used by gentlemen in the Company's service who are either too old or too lazy to walk on snow-shoes.

The cariole is in form not unlike a slipper bath, both in shape and size. It is lined with buffalo robes, in the midst of a bundle of which the occupant reclines luxuriously, while the dogs drag him slowly through the soft snow, and among the trees and bushes of the forest; or scamper with him over the hard-beaten surface of a lake or river; while the machine is prevented from capsizing by a voyageur who walks behind on snow-shoes, holding on to a line attached to the back part of the cariole. The weather during winter is so cold that it is often a matter of the greatest difficulty for the traveller to keep his toes from freezing, despite the buffalo robes; and sometimes, when the dogs start fresh in the morning, with a good breakfast, a bright, clear, frosty day, and a long expanse of comparatively open country before them, where the snow from exposure has become quite hard, away they go with a loud yelp, upsetting the driver in the bolt, who rises to heap undeserved and very improper epithets upon the poor brutes, who, careering over the ground at the rate of eleven miles an hour, swing the miserable cariole over the snow, tear it through the bushes, bang it first on one side, then on the other, against stumps and trees, yelling all the while, partly with frantic glee at the thought of having bolted, and partly with fearful anticipation of the tremendous welting that is to come; until at last the cariole gets jammed hard and fast among the trees of the forest, or plunges down a steep bank of a river head over heels till they reach the foot - a horrible and struggling compound of dogs, traveller, traces, parchment, buffalo robes, blankets, and snow!



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Spring: [John Wedderburn Halkett](#) retired from the Hudson's Bay Company's London committee (when four years later he would die, leaving four sons by his 2d marriage, there would be signs that the Red River settlement which he had done so very much to nurture was beginning to suppose itself the metropolis of western British North America).

CANADA



JOHN WEDDERBURN HALKET

JOHN WEDDERBURN HALKET

1852

November 12, Friday: Arthur Hugh Clough, [James Russell Lowell](#), and William Makepeace Thackeray arrived in Boston on the steamship *Canada*.

[John Wedderburn Halkett](#) died in London at the age of 84. The body would be interred at Petersham.



JOHN WEDDERBURN HALKET

JOHN WEDDERBURN HALKET

1859

February 28, Monday: [George William Curtis](#) wrote from the north shore of Staten Island to Charles Wesley Slack agreeing to read on December 11th a lecture that he had prepared for Philadelphia and elsewhere on "The Recent Aspect of the Slavery Question." In a postscript he made reference to the Reverend [Theodore Parker](#).

Sallie Holley wrote to Mrs. Porter about having attended [Henry Thoreau](#)'s Worcester lectures in H.G.O. Blake's parlor on "AUTUMNAL TINTS":

The last two evenings we had in Worcester, we were at two parlour lectures given by Mr. Henry D. Thoreau, the author of that odd book, Walden, or Life in the Woods. The first lecture was upon "Autumnal Tints," and was a beautiful and, I doubt not, a faithful report of the colours of leaves in October. Some of you may have read his "Chesuncook," in The Atlantic Monthly; if so you can fancy how quaint and observing, and humorous withal, he is as traveller – or excursionist-companion in wild solitudes. Several gentlemen, friends of his, tell us much of their tour with him to the White Mountains last summer, of his grand talk with their guide in "Tuckerman's Ravine," where they had their camp. He paid us the compliment of a nice long morning call after we heard him read his "Autumnal Tints," and remembered our being once at his mother's to tea, and Miss Putnam's looking over his herbarium with his sister.

SOPHIA E. THOREAU

"AUTUMNAL TINTS": Europeans coming to America are surprised by the brilliancy of our autumnal foliage. There is no account of such a phenomenon in English poetry, because the trees acquire but few bright colors there. The most that Thomson says on this subject in his "Autumn" is contained in the lines –

"But see the fading many-colored woods,
Shade deepening over shade, the country round
Imbrown; a crowded umbrage, dusk and dun,
Of every hue, from wan declining green
To sooty dark."

And the line in which he speaks

"Of Autumn beaming o'er the yellow woods."

The autumnal change of our woods has not made a deep impression on our own literature yet. October has hardly tinged our poetry.

JAMES THOMSON

[HDT](#)[WHAT?](#)[INDEX](#)**JOHN WEDDERBURN HALKET****JOHN WEDDERBURN HALKET**

[Thoreau](#) checked out, from [Harvard Library](#), the two volumes of Sir [Alexander Mackenzie](#)'s VOYAGES FROM MONTREAL, ON THE RIVER ST. LAURENCE, THROUGH THE CONTINENT OF NORTH AMERICA TO THE FROZEN AND PACIFIC OCEANS IN THE YEARS 1789 AND 1793. WITH A PRELIMINARY ACCOUNT OF THE RISE, PROGRESS, AND PRESENT STATE OF THE FUR TRADE OF THAT COUNTRY. WITH ORIGINAL NOTES BY BOUGAINVILLE, AND VOLNEY. ILLUSTRATED WITH MAPS. (London: Printed for T. Cadell; Jun. and W. Davies; and W. Creech by R. Noble; Edinburgh, W. Creech, 1802).



VOYAGES FROM MONTREAL

["A YANKEE IN CANADA"](#): I got home this Thursday evening, having spent just one week in Canada and travelled eleven hundred miles. The whole expense of this journey, including two guidebooks and a map, which cost one dollar twelve and a half cents, was twelve dollars seventy five cents. I do not suppose that I have seen all British America; that could not be done by a cheap excursion, unless it were a cheap excursion to the Icy Sea, as seen by Hearne or McKenzie, and then, no doubt, some interesting features would be omitted. I wished to go a little way behind that word *Canadense*, of which naturalists make such frequent use; and I should like still right well to make a longer excursion on foot through the wilder parts of Canada, which perhaps might be called *Iter Canadense*.

[SAMUEL HEARNE](#)[ALEXANDER MACKENZIE](#)



JOHN WEDDERBURN HALKET

JOHN WEDDERBURN HALKET

Thoreau also checked out John Halkett, Esq.'s HISTORICAL NOTES RESPECTING THE INDIANS OF NORTH AMERICA: WITH REMARKS ON THE ATTEMPTS MADE TO CONVERT AND CIVILIZE THEM (London: Printed for Archibald Constable and Co. Edinburgh; and Hurst, Robinson, and Co. 90, Cheapside, and 8, Pall Mall, 1825).⁵



RESPECTING THE INDIANS

Thoreau also checked out Lionel Wafer (1640-1705)'s A NEW VOYAGE AND DESCRIPTION OF THE ISTHMUS OF AMERICA, GIVING AN ACCOUNT OF THE AUTHOR'S ABODE THERE, THE FORM AND MAKE OF THE COUNTRY, THE COASTS, HILLS, RIVERS, &C. WOODS, SOIL, WEATHER, &C. TREES, FRUIT, BEASTS, BIRDS, FISH, &C. (London: Printed for J. Knapton, 1699).

<http://web.princeton.edu/sites/english/eng321/WAFER.HTM>



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

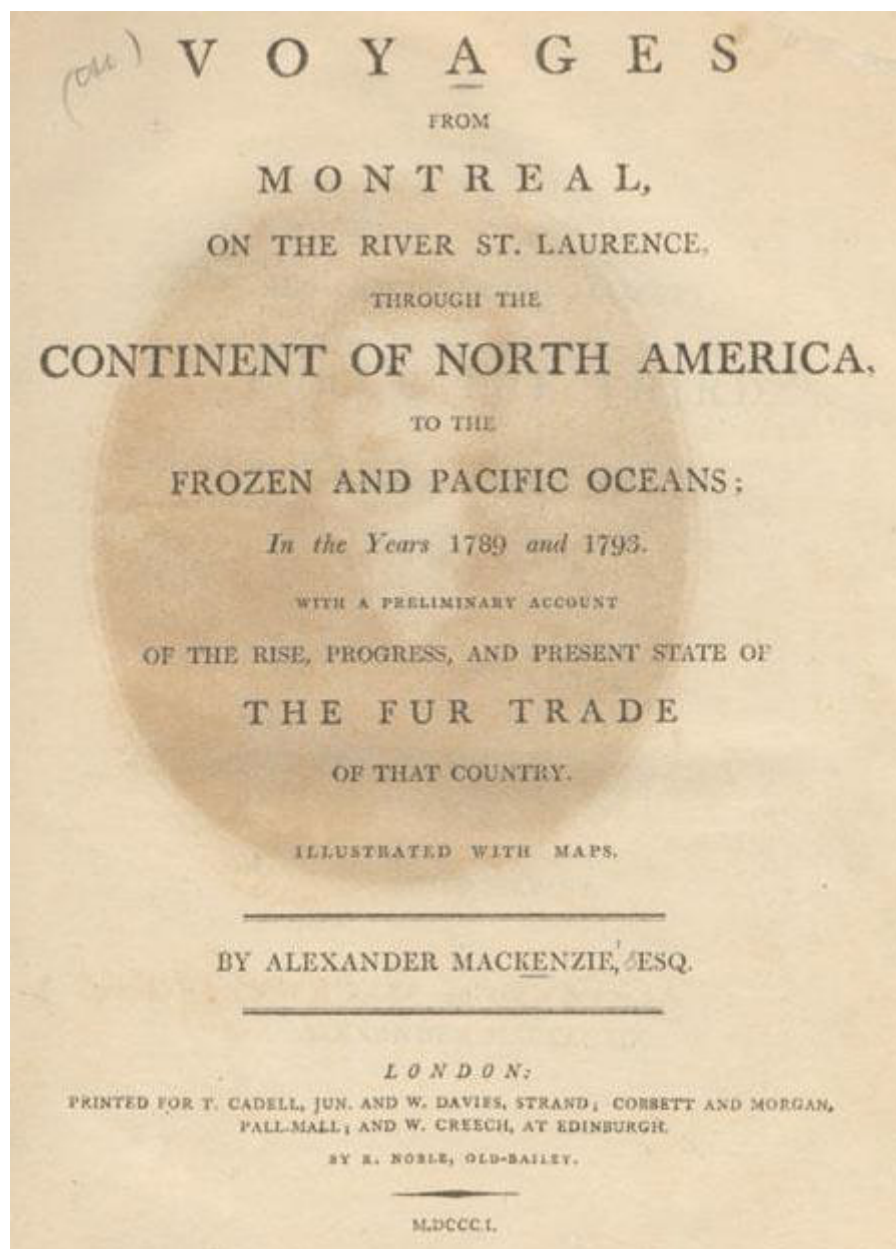
— Emily Dickinson

5. He would put his notes on this reading into his Indian Notebook #12. He would also, in about 1861, read a review of this book by Lewis Cass and put his notes on this reading of this review into that same Indian Notebook.



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February 28. To Cambridge and Boston.

Saw a mackerel in the market. The upper half of its sides is mottled blue and white like the mackerel sky, as stated January 19th, 1858.



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1869

March 9, Tuesday: [Alfred Russel Wallace](#)'s THE MALAY ARCHIPELAGO, a study that would come to be regarded as one of the greatest 19th-Century scientific travel books, and would be one of the most important resources relied upon by the novelist Joseph Conrad.

Great Britain purchased the territories of the Hudson's Bay Company.

CANADA



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1942

November 19, Thursday: Sonata for two pianos by Paul Hindemith was performed for the initial time, in Town Hall, New York.

In a ceremony at Kluane Lake, Yukon Territory, the 2,689 kilometers Alcan Highway from Dawson Creek, Alberta to Fairbanks, Alaska was opened.

[Anne Frank](#) to her diary: “I feel wicked sleeping in a warm bed, while my dearest friends have been knocked down or have fallen into a gutter somewhere out in the cold night. I get frightened when I think of close friends who have now been delivered into the hands of the cruelest brutes that walk the earth. And all because they are Jews!”



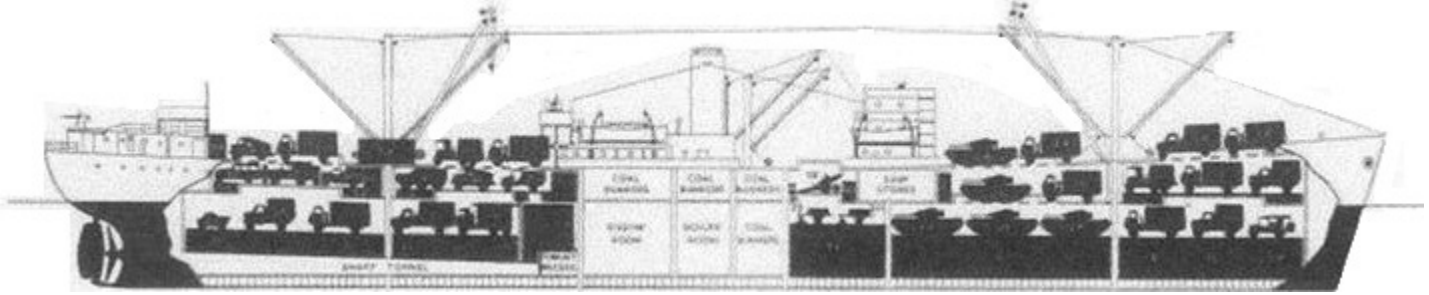
A Canadian “Liberty Ship” (90% riveted, coal fired) built at Burrard’s Vancouver South Yard was delivered to its owners/managers, J&J Denholm Ltd. of Glasgow. The vessel would be named *Fort Halkett* in honor of

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[John Wedderburn Halkett.](#)



3,500 artillery pieces and mortars begin one of the largest and most intense bombardments of the war along a 25-kilometers front as Soviet forces begin a counter-offensive against the Romanian and [Italian](#) defenders guarding the [German](#) salient into Stalingrad. They blew through the Romanians at Kletskiy, capturing 65,000 of them in the first 24 hours.

Soviets defeated the [Germans](#) at Ordzhonikidze in the Caucasus.

Marshal Henri Pétain broadcast an appeal to French officers in North Africa to resist “Anglo-Saxon aggression.” He further added an updated version of “L’etat, cest moi,” as “you have but one country, France, which I incarnate.”

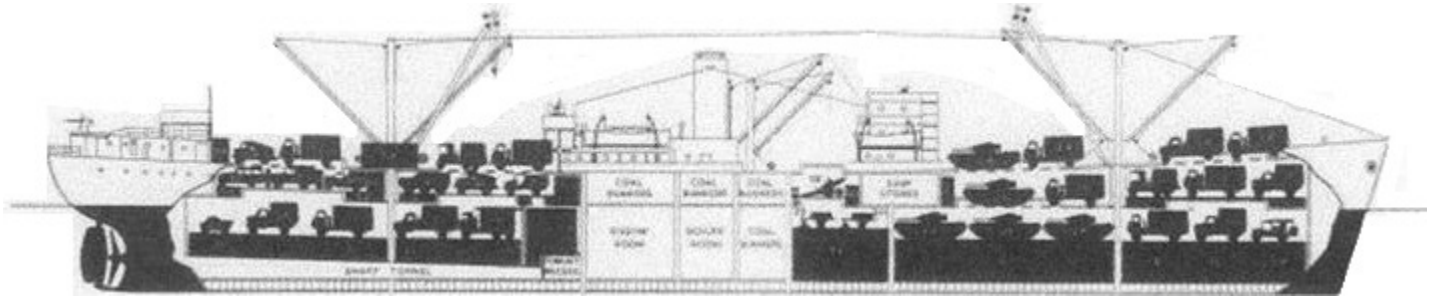
[WORLD WAR II](#)

JOHN WEDDERBURN HALKET

JOHN WEDDERBURN HALKET

1943

February: At Swansea on the coast of Wales, the Canadian “Liberty Ship” *Fort Halkett* (named in honor of [John Wedderburn Halkett](#)) was loaded with military cargo intended for Bône, Algeria.



The USS [Indianapolis](#) (CA-35) sank a [Japanese](#) transport in Alaskan waters.



WORLD WAR II



JOHN WEDDERBURN HALKET

JOHN WEDDERBURN HALKET

The poem “Is Now,” by Mark Van Doren, expressed an exceedingly Thoreauvian attitude:

Eternity is not to be pursued.
Run, and it shortens; arrive, and it is shut:
Forward or backward, nothing but the folds
Of time, that you will tighten, fumbling them.
Eternity is only to be entered
Standing. It is everywhere and still.
Slow, and it opens; stop, and it is whole
As love about your head, that rests and sees.
Eternity is now or not at all:
Waited for, a wisp; remembered, shadows.
Eternity is solid as the sun:
As present, as familiar, as immense.



TIME AND ETERNITY

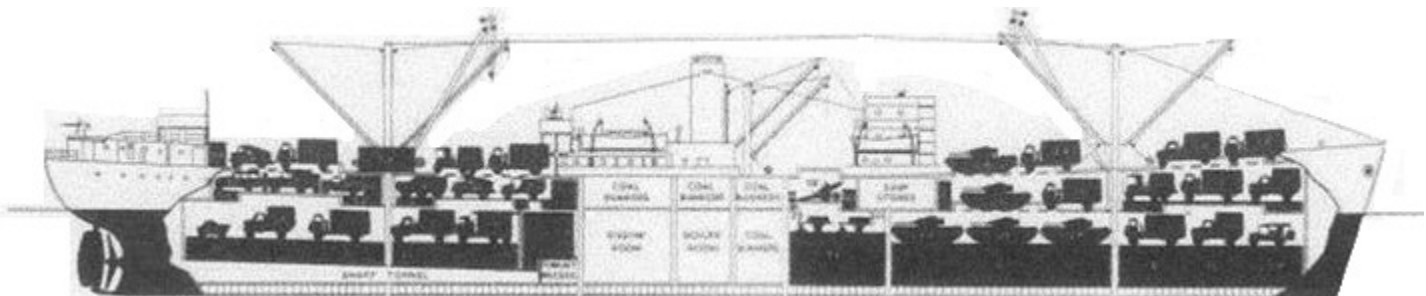
August 6, Friday: Battle of Vella Gulf, off Kolombangara, Solomon Islands, 7 degrees 50 minutes South, 156 degrees 47 minutes East, was joined shortly before midnight. Four [Japanese](#) destroyers attempting to bring troops and supplies to Kolombangara Island of the Solomon Islands, were attacked by six destroyers (Commander F. Moosbrugger). Three destroyers were sunk (the *Kawakaze*, and then in the early minutes of August 7th, the *Hagikaze* and *Arashi*) and one damaged, while the US force remained intact. 1,500 people were killed.

Soviet troops took Zolochiv, northwest of Kharkov.

American forces captured Troina, Sicily. United States Landing Ship – Tank LST3 was damaged by a horizontal bomber in the vicinity of Sicily, at 38 degrees 1 minutes North, 14 degrees 20 minutes East

[German](#) Submarine U-615 was sunk by naval land-based aircraft (VB-130, VP-204, VP-205) and Army aircraft in the Caribbean, at 12 degrees 38 minutes North, 64 degrees 15 minutes West.

The Liberty Ship *Fort Halkett* (named in honor of Canada’s [John Wedderburn Halkett](#)), with a load of military cargo delivered to the coast of Algeria, that had sailed toward Rio de Janeiro, in the South Atlantic east of Recife and southeast of Pernambuco, was intercepted by German Submarine U-185 and torpedoed with the loss of its crew of 29.



WORLD WAR II



JOHN WEDDERBURN HALKET

JOHN WEDDERBURN HALKET

“MAGISTERIAL HISTORY” IS FANTASIZING: HISTORY IS CHRONOLOGY



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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 22, 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.



JOHN WEDDERBURN HALKET

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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.