“NARRATIVE HISTORY” AMOUNTS TO FABULATION,
THE REAL STUFF BEING MERE CHRONOLOGY
Robert Montgomery Smith Jackson was born in Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania.

NOBODY COULD GUESS WHAT WOULD HAPPEN NEXT
Robert Montgomery Smith Jackson received a doctorate in medicine from the Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (he would serve for five years as an Assistant State Geologist).

During this year and the next, Johnson Heed (Martin Johnson Heade) would be working with Edward Hicks, and possibly also with Thomas Hicks who during that period was studying under his older cousin, in Newtown, Pennsylvania. (The portrait of Heade by Thomas Hicks which we have, which would be painted in about 1841, depicts Head as a young man during about this period.)

In 1829, Richard Field had been allowed to make a silhouette of Friend Elias Hicks and, without his knowledge, Harry Ketchum had painted a portrait. It was from these sources, rather than from the New-York gang’s shattered plaster death mask or the Italian’s sculpture made at the time of death by digging up the corpse, that Henry Inman in this year derived the portrait depicted above. (The date “1838” became apparent on this portrait recently when its inheritor, a Hicks descendant, had it cleaned.) It would be from this portrait that William Ordway Partridge would create the bust which now stands in Friends Historical Library in Swarthmore College.
NO-ONE’S LIFE IS EVER NOT DRIVEN PRIMARILY BY HAPPENSTANCE
Elisha Kent Kane graduated from the University of Pennsylvania Medical School.

Dr. Robert Montgomery Smith Jackson began the practice of medicine in Blairsville, Pennsylvania (he would continue this for a decade, before relocating his practice to Allegheny Mountain).

**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.**
October 12, Thursday: Dr. Robert Montgomery Smith Jackson got married with Mary Herron of Fayette County, Pennsylvania.

THE FUTURE IS MOST READILY PREDICTED IN RETROSPECT
October 12, Saturday: Birth of Dr. Robert Montgomery Smith Jackson and Mary Herron Jackson’s daughter Jennie Jackson.

An issue of Chambers’ Edinburgh Journal:

**CHAMBERS’ EDINBURGH JOURNAL**

**ISSUE OF OCTOBER 12**

THE FUTURE CAN BE EASILY PREDICTED IN RETROSPECT

“Stack of the Artist of Kouroo” Project

R.M.S. Jackson, M.D.
Dr. Robert Montgomery Smith Jackson obtained a charter from the Pennsylvania Legislature, and relocated his practice of medicine from Blairsville, Pennsylvania to Allegheny Mountain near Cresson, Pennsylvania, creating there a summer-season sanitarium that would be termed “The Alleghany Mountain Health Institute.” There, among others, eventually, he would care for Massachusetts Senator Charles Sumner.

DO I HAVE YOUR ATTENTION? GOOD.
September 24, Monday: Henry Thoreau wrote to Dr. R.M.S. Jackson, who had sent him a copy of his new book *The Mountain*. We note that he did not comment on the inclusion of an extended quote from *Walden* at the front of this volume.
Concord Sep 24th 1860
Dr R.M.S. Jackson
Dear Sir
I wish to thank
you for your book called
“The Mountain”, which,
owing to many engagements,
I have but lately read
through. I relished especially
the Prolegomenon, which
struck me as the best
specimen of the Carlyle
style, which I have met
with out of Carlyle’s own
books. I was also attracted
and detained wherever the
idea of “The Mountain”
shone through. I think
that I use the expression

“The Wild” with a similar
meaning. It is a fine
theme.
I have been quite a moun-
tain climber myself — indeed
am pretty familiar with
the mts of New England.
Some two months ago,
I took my hatchet, blanket,
and provisions, and squatted
for six days and nights
on the summit of Monad-
nock in N.H., in order that
the mt, with its rocks & its
fauna & flora, might
have time to make their
due impression on me.
I have also read, in this
connexion, an interesting
paper, (which you may
not have seen) in the
Revue des Deux Mondes
for last May. It is by

Alfred Maury, and gives
the last results of Science
as applied to mts. I should
like well to see also ‘Das
Thierleben (vie des animaux)
der Alpenwelt” by Frederick
Tschudi, which is one of
the books he reviews.

Yrs truly
Henry D. Thoreau

September 24, Monday, 1860: P.M.– To Flint’s Pond via Smith’s chestnut grove.
See a dead shrew in road on Turnpike Hill. (Had hard rain the night of the 20th.) Vide back, 18th.
It is remarkable how persistently Nature endeavors to keep the earth clothed with wood of some kind, – how
much vitality there is in the stumps and roots of some trees, though small and young. For example, examined
the little hickories on the bare slope of Smith’s Hill. I have observed them endeavoring to cover that slope for
a dozen years past, and have wondered how the seed came there, planted on a bare pasture hillside, but I now
see that the nuts were probably planted just before the pine wood (the stumps of which remain) was cut down,
and, having sprung up about that time, have since been repeatedly cut down to keep the pasture clear, till now
they are quite feeble or dying, though many are six feet high. When a part of the hill has been plowed and
cultivated I examine the roots which have been turned out, and find that they are two inches thick at the ground
though only one to three feet high above. I judge that it is fifteen years since the pine wood was cut, and if the
hickories had not been cut down and cattle been kept out, there would have been a dense hickory wood there
now fifteen to twenty feet high at least. You see on an otherwise perfectly bare hillside or pasture where pines
were cut, say fifteen years before, remote from any hickories, countless little hickories a foot high or little more
springing up every few feet, and you wonder how they came there, but the fact that they preserve their vitality,
though cut down so often and so long, accounts for them.
This shows how heedlessly wood-lots are managed at present, and suggests that when one is cut (if not before)
a provident husbandman will carefully examine the ground and ascertain what kind of wood is about to take the
place of the old and how abundantly, in order that he may act understandingly and determine if it is best to clear
the land or not. I have seen many a field perfectly barren for fifteen or twenty years, which, if properly managed,
or only let alone, would naturally have yielded a crop of birch trees within that time.
In Wood Thrush Path at Flint’s Pond, a great many of the geiropodium fungus now shed their dust. When closed
it is [A] roundish or conical orange-colored fungus three quarters of an inch in diameter, covered with a
mucilaginous matter. The thick outer skin of many (it is pink-red inside) had already curled back (it splits into
segments and curls parallel to the axis of the plant) and revealed the pinkish fawn-colored puffball capped with
a red dimple or crown. This is a hollow bag, which, when you touch it, spurs forth a yellowish-white powder
three or four inches through its orifice.
See two very handsome butterflies on the Flint’s Pond road in the woods at Gourgas lot, which C. had not seen
before. I find that they are quite like the Vanessa Atalanta, or red admiral, of England.

2 P.M.– The river risen about thirty-three inches above summer level.
WALDEN: Why should we be in such desperate haste to succeed, and in such desperate enterprises? If a man does not keep pace with his companions, perhaps it is because he hears a different drummer. Let him step to the music which he hears, however measured or far away. It is not important that he should mature as soon as an apple-tree or an oak. Shall he turn his spring into summer? If the condition of things which we were made for is not yet, what were any reality which we can substitute? We will not be shipwrecked on a vain reality. Shall we with pains erect a heaven of blue glass over ourselves, though when it is done we shall be sure to gaze still at the true ethereal heaven far above, as if the former were not?
There was an artist in the city of Kouroo who was disposed to strive after perfection. One day it came into his mind to make a staff. Having considered that in an imperfect work time is an ingredient, but into a perfect work time does not enter, he said to himself, It shall be perfect in all respects, though I should do nothing else in my life. He proceeded instantly to the forest for wood, being resolved that it should not be made of unsuitable material; and as he searched for and rejected stick after stick, his friends gradually deserted him, for they grew old in their works and died, but he grew not older by a moment. His singleness of purpose and resolution, and his elevated piety, endowed him, without his knowledge, with perennial youth. As he made no compromise with Time, Time kept out of his way, and only sighed at a distance because he could not overcome him. Before he had found a stock in all respects suitable the city of Kouroo was a hoary ruin, and he sat on one of its mounds to peel the stick. Before he had given it the proper shape the dynasty of the Candahars was at an end, and with the point of the stick he wrote the name of the last of that race in the sand, and then resumed his work. By the time he had smoothed and polished the staff Kalpa was no longer the pole-star; and ere he had put on the ferule and the head adorned with precious stones, Brahma had awoke and slumbered many times. But why do I stay to mention these things? When the finishing stroke was put to his work, it suddenly expanded before the eyes of the astonished artist into the fairest of all the creations of Brahma. He had made a new system in making a staff, a world with full and fair proportions; in which, though the old cities and dynasties had passed away, fairer and more glorious ones had taken their places. And now he saw by the heap of shavings still fresh at his feet, that, for him and his work, the former lapse of time had been an illusion, and that no more time had elapsed than is required for a single scintillation from the brain of Brahma to fall on and inflame the tinder of a mortal brain. The material was pure, and his art was pure; how could the result be other than wonderful?
April 20, Saturday: Dr. Robert Montgomery Smith Jackson was commissioned as a surgeon with the 3rd Pennsylvania Infantry.

From the Madison, Wisconsin Weekly Patriot:

State of Wisconsin
Proclamation To the Loyal Citizens of Wisconsin:
For the first time in the history of this federal government, organized treason has manifested itself with several states of the Union, and armed rebels making war against it. The Proclamation of the President of the United States tells of unlawful combinations too powerful to be suppressed in the ordinary manner, and calls for military forces to suppress such combinations, and to sustain him in executing the laws. The Treasures of the country must no longer be plundered; the public property must be protected from aggressive violence; that already seized, must be retaken and the laws must be executed in every State of the Union alike.
A demand made upon Wisconsin by the President of the United States for aid to sustain the Federal Army, must meet with a prompt response. One Regiment of the Militia of this State will be required for immediate service, and further service will be required as the exigencies of the government may demand. It is a time when, against the civil and religious liberties of the people, and against the integrity of the Government of the United States, parties and politicians and platforms must be as dust in the balance. All good citizens, everywhere, must join in making common cause against a common enemy.
Opportunities will be immediately offered to all existing military companies, under the direction of the proper authorities of the State, for enlistment to fill the demand of the Federal government, and I hereby invite the patriotic citizens of the State to enroll themselves into companies of seventy-eight men each, and to advise the Executive of their readiness to mustered into service immediately.- Detailed instructions will furnished on the acceptance of companies, and the commissioned officers of each regiment will nominate their own field officers.
In times of public danger bad men grow bold and reckless. The property of the citizen becomes unsafe, and both public and private rights liable to be jeopardized. I enjoin upon all administrative and peace officers with the State renewed vigilance in the maintenance and execution of the laws, and in guarding against excesses leading to disorder among the people. Given under my hand and the great Seal of the State of Wisconsin, this 16th day of April, A.D. 1861
By the Governor:
Alex W. Randall
L.P. Harvey, Sec’y of State.
April 20, Saturday. H. Mann brings me the hermit thrush.

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

July 30, Tuesday: Dr. Robert Montgomery Smith Jackson completed his service as a surgeon with the 3rd Pennsylvania Infantry.

August: Dr. Robert Montgomery Smith Jackson was examined by the Pennsylvania Medical Board and granted a new commission as a surgeon with the 11th Pennsylvania Infantry Volunteers.

When its 3-month enlistment expired, the sharpshooter company of Robert S. Brownell returned to Providence, Rhode Island.

September 9, Monday: In his tent in Ireland, the Prince of Wales had a 2d sexual encounter with Nellie Clifden.

Dr. Robert Montgomery Smith Jackson reported for duty as a surgeon with the 11th Pennsylvania Infantry Volunteers.

According to a preserved fragment of a letter from Jason P. Rathbone, a Northern civil war soldier somewhere in the American South, to his friend Benjamin W. Pendleton of Hopkinton, Rhode Island, “the slaves out here what I have seen I think they are better off than [illegible] the white folks they appear to take comfort and there masters talk with them more freer than they do with the white people I don’t know as I can say that I think they would be any better off if they was free that I think the most of the soldiers would say.” (Clearly, this Union soldier would have been eager to leave off the killing and being killed, and just let the Southern whites and the Southern blacks take care of their little problem entirely on their own.)

At the Metropolitan Grounds at Hackney Wick, just outside London, a racetrack owned and sponsored by the

R.M.S. Jackson, M.D.         “Stack of the Artist of Kouroo” Project
White Lion Pub and but 260 yards in circumference, the race was on between “the Indian” and an English pedestrian named Edward Mills, 5 feet 4 inches and 112 pounds. The runners exchanged positions at several points during the 6 miles because Louis “Deerfoot” or “Red Jacket” Bennett was running in his characteristic spurts, but Mills was ahead of the Indian, attired in his brief red skirt, by 20 yards at the finish line in 32 minutes 31 1/2 seconds.

The first wood-burning steam locomotive came to St. Paul, Minnesota. Due to the absence of railroad tracks, it had to come the same way Henry Thoreau had come, by wood-burning steamboat up the Mississippi River. The William Crooks had four drive wheels, and four pilot wheels to hold it on rough Western tracks. The diamond smokestack was to reduce sparks.¹

¹. It still has this — but now “William Crooks” is in retirement, at the Lake Superior Museum of Transportation in Duluth.
February 8, Saturday: Death of Mary Herron Jackson, wife of Dr. Robert Montgomery Smith Jackson.

After escaping at Harpers Ferry, Charles Plummer Tidd had become a 1st Sergeant of the 21st Massachusetts Volunteers under the name “Charles Plummer.” At this point, aboard the transport Northerner during the battle of Roanoke Island –a battle he had particularly wished to take part in because ex-Governor Henry A. Wise of Virginia, the nemesis of the Harpers Ferry raiders, was in command of the Confederates– he died of fever. Tidd’s grave is #40 in the National Cemetery in New Berne NC.
February 19, Thursday: Dr. Robert Montgomery Smith Jackson was appointed as a surgeon of the United States Volunteers.

April 1, Wednesday: Dr. Robert Montgomery Smith Jackson completed his service as a surgeon with the 11th Pennsylvania Infantry Volunteers.

April 2, Thursday: Dr. Robert Montgomery Smith Jackson reported to the Surgeon General for duty as a surgeon of the United States Volunteers.
April 11, Saturday: Dr. Robert Montgomery Smith Jackson was ordered to report to Major General Burnside for duty in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Discretion being the better part of valor, the Reverend Moncure Daniel Conway sailed out of the port of New-York on the City of Washington, not to make any return visit to his native land until long after this Civil War was safely over. We understand, Rev, we really do.

Here is everything the ENCYCLOPÆDIA BRITANNICA needs for us to understand about this shameful conduct:

**During the Civil War he went to England to lecture on behalf of the North.**

(Right, and also during the Vietnam War a lot of draft bait of Conway’s age went to Canada to lecture on behalf of the North but we may notice that the ENCYCLOPÆDIA BRITANNICA does not ever mobilize such one-liners in defense their honor.)

Carleton Mabee’s BLACK FREEDOM

The Tappanite-related American Peace Society itself acquiesced in the war. In doing so, it indulged in the sophistry of considering the war not to be a war in the usual international sense, but merely the attempt of a government to punish its own subjects for breaking the law. Indirectly the peace society … supported the federal conscription law as necessary without indicating concern to secure exemption for conscientious objectors…. Among the Concord transcendentalists, Thoreau, who had once advocated going to prison to shame the state into giving up both war and slavery, in a sharp reversal now believed that suffering in this war was regenerating the nation. Similarly, the once anti-institutional, individualistic Waldo Emerson now argued that government must have dictatorial powers during wartime and that participation in war taught self-reliance — surely not the same kind of nonconformist self-reliance that he had once valued. To the disillusionment of Moncure Daniel Conway, one of Emerson’s individualistic, antiwar, antislavery disciples, Emerson even accepted an appointment as an official visitor at West Point.

On his own hook, in England, this private citizen would presumptuously offered the Confederate representative in Britain, James Murray Mason, in exchange for immediate emancipation of all slaves held in the Confederate states, the full opposition of northern abolitionists to any further prosecution of the war. Mason would then of course seize the opportunity to rebuff him publicly, and of course American abolitionism would immediately disown him. He would prudently offer a personal apology to the United States ambassador, Charles Francis Adams, for any appearance of treason in his remarks, and by the time he returned to the USA some two decades later, his attempted interference would have become old history.

May 31, Sunday: Dr. Robert Montgomery Smith Jackson was reported as being on duty as the Medical Director of the 23rd Army Corps in Lexington, Kentucky (through July 1863).
August: Dr. Robert Montgomery Smith Jackson was reported as being on duty as the Medical Director of the 23rd Army Corps in Knoxville, Tennessee.

Francis Parkman, in a serialized history “The Pioneers of the New World” in The Atlantic Monthly, described the peril of the gold-greedy Huguenots in the desert wasteland of Florida. From August into December the bombardment of Fort Sumter would continue. Federal batteries erected on Morris Island would open fire on August 17th and would persist in their bombardment of the Charleston defenses until August 23. Despite this severe pounding, Fort Sumter’s garrison would hold out. Siege operations would continue against Fort Wagner on Morris Island.
January: Dr. Robert Montgomery Smith Jackson took on the additional duty of serving as the Medical Director of East Tennessee.

February 1: Dr. Robert Montgomery Smith Jackson took on the additional duty of serving as the Acting Medical Inspector for the Department of the Ohio.

Modest Musorgsky was made the head clerk of the barracks section at the Department of Engineering, Russian Ministry of Communications.

Austrian and Prussian troops crossed the River Eider into Schleswig, routing the Danish defenders.

John White Chadwick wrote from Marblehead, Massachusetts to Charles Wesley Slack to make arrangements for the Sunday service.2

June: Dr. Robert Montgomery Smith Jackson was transferred to the Department of the Cumberland and placed in charge of Hospital Number Three on Lookout Mountain near Chattanooga, Tennessee.

2. Chadwick, John White: THEODORE PARKER: PREACHER AND REFORMER
January 18, Wednesday: Dr. Robert Montgomery Smith Jackson died of pneumonia at the age of 51 in Hospital Number Three on Lookout Mountain near Chattanooga, Tennessee. John Gemmill would be appointed as 14-year-old daughter Jennie Jackson’s guardian.

That evening, President Abraham Lincoln was scheduled to attend a performance of “Jack Cade, or The Kentish Revolution” at Ford’s Theatre in Washington DC. John Wilkes Booth and his crew of kidnappers were ready and waiting — but the president unfortunately was detained by business.
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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: February 23, 2015
This stuff presumably looks to you as if it were generated by a human. Such is not the case. Instead, someone has requested that we pull it out of the hat of a pirate who has grown out of the shoulder of our pet parrot "Laura" (as above). What these chronological lists are: they are research reports compiled by ARRGH algorithms out of a database of modules which we term the Kouroo Contexture (this is data mining). To respond to such a request for information we merely push a button.
Commonly, the first output of the algorithm has obvious deficiencies and we need to go back into the modules stored in the contexture and do a minor amount of tweaking, and then we need to punch that button again and recompile the chronology—but there is nothing here that remotely resembles the ordinary “writerly” process you know and love. As the contents of this originating contexture improve, and as the programming improves, and as funding becomes available (to date no funding whatever has been needed in the creation of this facility, the entire operation being run out of pocket change) we expect a diminished need to do such tweaking and recompiling, and we fully expect to achieve a simulation of a generous and untiring robotic research librarian. Onward and upward in this brave new world.

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