

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN A WEEK

PEOPLE OF A WEEK AND WALDEN:

CAPTAIN EDWARD JOHNSON



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



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WALDEN: Old Johnson, in his "Wonder-Working Providence," speaking of the first settlers of this town, with whom he was contemporary, tells us that "they burrow themselves in the earth for their first shelter under some hillside, and, casting the soil aloft upon timber, they make a smoky fire against the earth, at the highest side." They did not "provide them houses," says he, "till the earth, by the Lord's blessing, brought forth bread to feed them," and the first year's crop was so light that "they were forced to cut their bread very thin for a long season." The secretary of the Province of New Netherland, writing in Dutch, in 1650, for the information of those who wished to take up land there, states more particularly, that "those in New Netherland, and especially in New England, who have no means to build farm houses at first according to their wishes, dig a square pit in the ground, cellar fashion, six or seven feet deep, as long and as broad as they think proper, case the earth inside with wood all round the wall, and line the wood with the bark of trees or something else to prevent the caving in of the earth; floor this cellar with plank, and wainscot it overhead for a ceiling, raise a roof of spars clear up, and cover the spars with bark or green sods, so that they can live dry and warm in these houses with their entire families for two, three, and four years, it being understood that partitions are run through those cellars which are adapted to the size of the family. The wealthy and principal men in New England, in the beginning of the colonies, commenced their first dwelling houses in this fashion for two reasons; firstly, in order not to waste time in building, and not to want food the next season; secondly, in order not to discourage poor laboring people whom they brought over in numbers from Fatherland. In the course of three or four years, when the country became adapted to agriculture, they built themselves handsome houses, spending on them several thousands."

PEOPLE OF
WALDEN

EDWARD JOHNSON



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A WEEK: Concord River is remarkable for the gentleness of its current, which is scarcely perceptible, and some have referred to its influence the proverbial moderation of the inhabitants of Concord, as exhibited in the Revolution, and on later occasions. It has been proposed, that the town should adopt for its coat of arms a field verdant, with the Concord circling nine times round. I have read that a descent of an eighth of an inch in a mile is sufficient to produce a flow. Our river has, probably, very near the smallest allowance. The story is current, at any rate, though I believe that strict history will not bear it out, that the only bridge ever carried away on the main branch, within the limits of the town, was driven up stream by the wind. But wherever it makes a sudden bend it is shallower and swifter, and asserts its title to be called a river. Compared with the other tributaries of the Merrimack, it appears to have been properly named Musketaquid, or Meadow River, by the Indians. For the most part, it creeps through broad meadows, adorned with scattered oaks, where the cranberry is found in abundance, covering the ground like a moss-bed. A row of sunken dwarf willows borders the stream on one or both sides, while at a greater distance the meadow is skirted with maples, alders, and other fluviatile trees, overrun with the grape-vine, which bears fruit in its season, purple, red, white, and other grapes. Still farther from the stream, on the edge of the firm land, are seen the gray and white dwellings of the inhabitants. According to the valuation of 1831, there were in Concord two thousand one hundred and eleven acres, or about one seventh of the whole territory in meadow; this standing next in the list after pasturage and unimproved lands, and, judging from the returns of previous years, the meadow is not reclaimed so fast as the woods are cleared. Let us here read what old Johnson says of these meadows in his "Wonder-working Providence," which gives the account of New England from 1628 to 1652, and see how matters looked to him. He says of the Twelfth Church of Christ gathered at Concord: "This town is seated upon a fair fresh river, whose rivulets are filled with fresh marsh, and her streams with fish, it being a branch of that large river of Merrimack. Allwives [??] and shad in their season come up to this town, but salmon and dace cannot come up, by reason of the rocky falls, which causeth their meadows to lie much covered with water, the which these people, together with their neighbor town, have several times essayed to cut through but cannot, yet it may be turned another way with an hundred pound charge as it appeared." As to their farming he says: "Having laid out their estate upon cattle at 5 to 20 pound a cow, when they came to winter them with inland hay, and feed upon such wild fother [??] as was never cut before, they could not hold out the winter, but, ordinarily the first or second year after their coming up to a new plantation, many of their cattle died." And this from the same author "Of the Planting of the 19th Church in the Mattachusetts' Government, called Sudbury": "This year [does he mean 1654] the town and church of Christ at Sudbury began to have the first foundation stones laid, taking up her station in the inland country, as her elder sister Concord had formerly done, lying further up the same river, being furnished with great plenty of fresh marsh, but, it lying very low is much in damaged with land floods, insomuch that when the summer proves wet they lose part of their hay; yet are they so sufficiently provided that they take in cattle of other towns to winter." The sluggish artery of the Concord meadows steals thus unobserved through the town, without a murmur or a pulse-beat, its general course from southwest to northeast, and its length about fifty miles; a huge volume of matter, ceaselessly rolling through the plains and valleys of the substantial earth with the moccasoned tread of an Indian warrior, making haste from the high places of the earth to its ancient reservoir. The murmurs of many a famous river on the other side of the globe reach even to us here, as to more distant dwellers on its banks; many a poet's stream floating the helms and shields of heroes on its bosom.

PEOPLE OF
A WEEK



PEOPLE OF A WEEK AND WALDEN: CAPTAIN EDWARD JOHNSON

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1597

October 5, Wednesday (Old Style): [Susan Muntter](#) (who would marry with Edward Johnson) was christened in Dover, St Mary's, County Kent.

NOBODY COULD GUESS WHAT WOULD HAPPEN NEXT





PEOPLE OF A WEEK AND WALDEN: CAPTAIN EDWARD JOHNSON

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN A WEEK

1598

September 10, Sunday, 16, Saturday, or 17, Sunday (Old Style): [Edward Johnson](#) was christened in Saint George, Canterbury, County Kent. His father was William Johnson. He would work as a joiner.

NOBODY COULD GUESS WHAT WOULD HAPPEN NEXT





PEOPLE OF A WEEK AND WALDEN: CAPTAIN EDWARD JOHNSON

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1618

It would have been in about this year that [Edward Johnson](#) got married with [Susan Muntter](#) in Kent, England.

NO-ONE'S LIFE IS EVER NOT DRIVEN PRIMARILY BY HAPPENSTANCE





PEOPLE OF A WEEK AND WALDEN: CAPTAIN EDWARD JOHNSON

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN A WEEK

1620

February 18, Friday (1619, Old Style): [Edward Johnson](#) was christened, 1st son of [Edward Johnson](#) and [Susan Muntter Johnson](#).

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.



PEOPLE OF A WEEK AND WALDEN: CAPTAIN EDWARD JOHNSON

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1622

In this year or early in the following one, William Johnson was born in Canterbury, County Kent, 2d son of [Edward Johnson](#) and [Susan Muntter Johnson](#) (this infant would be buried on January 26, 1622/1623 in St Mary Magdalene, Canterbury).



PEOPLE OF A WEEK AND WALDEN: CAPTAIN EDWARD JOHNSON

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1625

April 3, Sunday (Old Style): George Johnson, the 3d son of [Edward Johnson](#) and [Susan Muntter Johnson](#), was christened.



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PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1627

April 1, Sunday (Old Style): Susanna Johnson, 1st daughter of [Edward Johnson](#) and [Susan Muntter Johnson](#), was christened.



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PEOPLE MENTIONED IN A WEEK

1629

March 22, Sunday (1628, Old Style): William Johnson, the 4th son of [Edward Johnson](#) and [Susan Muntter Johnson](#), was christened.



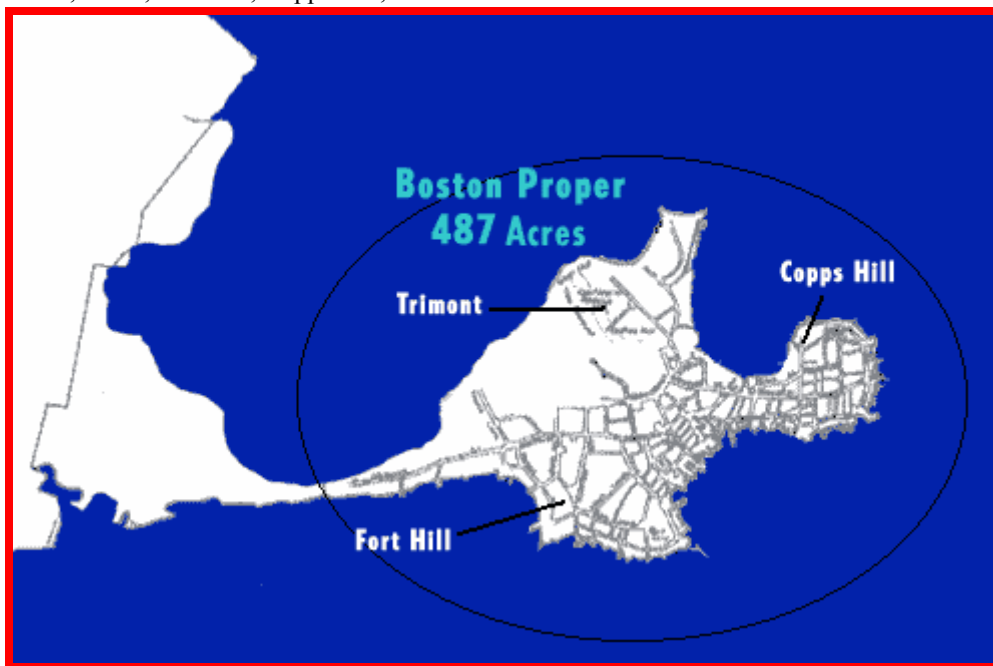
PEOPLE OF A WEEK AND WALDEN:

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PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1630

[Edward Johnson](#) migrated to Charlestown, presumably in the Winthrop Fleet. At this point, as landfill had not yet begun, [Boston](#) consisted of the three hills of a 487-acre almost completely detached and easily defensible peninsula, to wit, Fort Hill, Copps Hill, and Trimont:



He would return to England in 1636 or 1637 and, in a 2d passage, escort his wife, seven children, and three servants.¹

DO I HAVE YOUR ATTENTION? GOOD.

1. Seven children discounting the infant that had died: Edward, 1620; George, 1625; Susanna, 1627; William, 1629; Martha, 1631; Matthew Johnson, 1633; John Johnson, 1635. I don't know how to account for the record, that this father continued apparently to sire children by his wife in England while he was far across the ocean, in America, except that some of these children who bore the name Johnson may actually have been nephews and nieces rather than sons and daughters (I am not the first to comment on the problem presented by the records here).

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SHAWMUT OR TRIMOUNTAIN 1630

Sept. 7, 1630 "It is ordered that Trimountain
shall be called Boston."
Colony Records



HDT

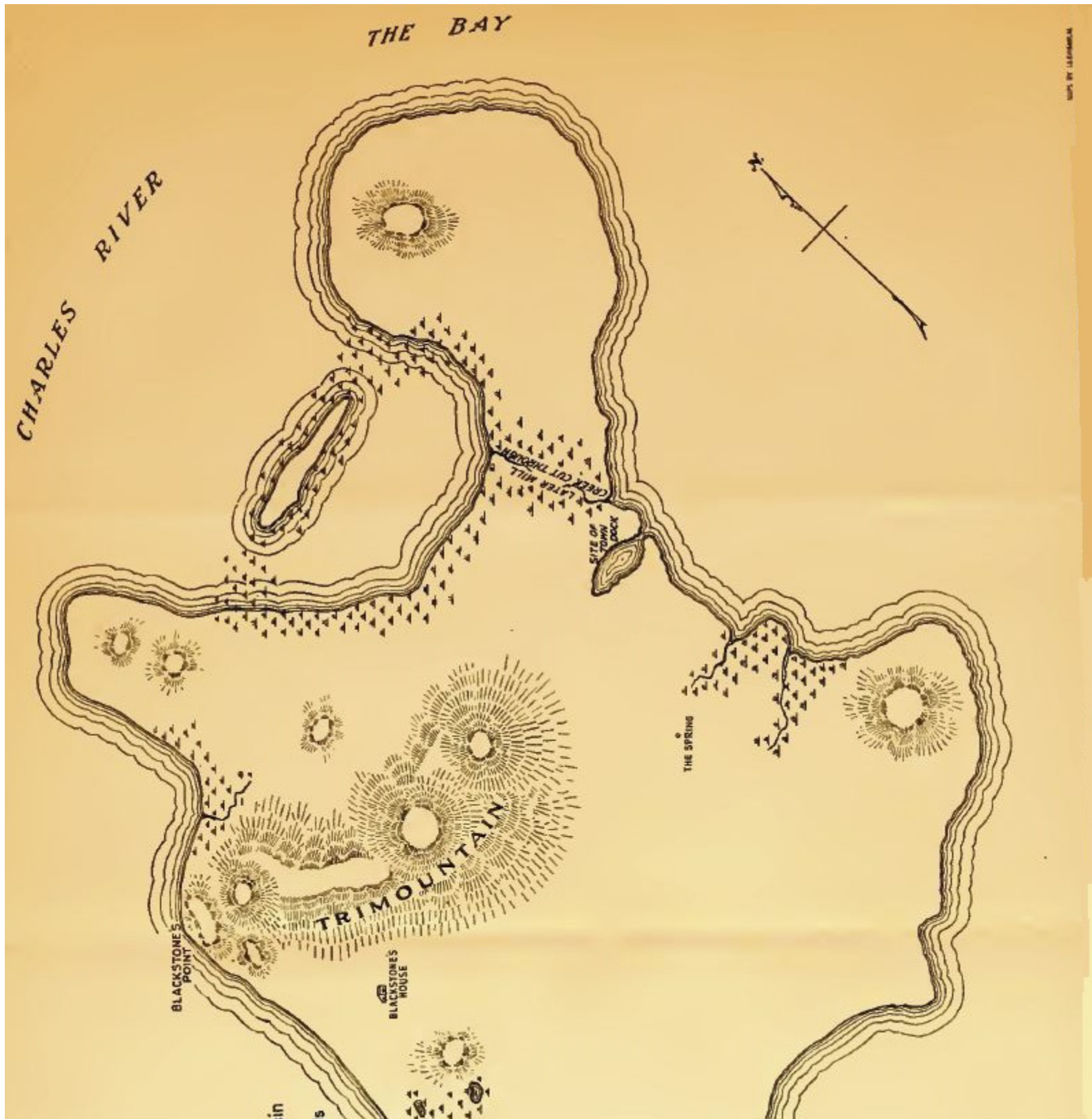
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PEOPLE MENTIONED IN A WEEK

1631

May 1, Sunday (Old Style): Martha Johnson, 2d daughter of [Edward Johnson](#) and [Susan Muntter Johnson](#), was christened.



PEOPLE OF A WEEK AND WALDEN: CAPTAIN EDWARD JOHNSON

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1633

March 30, Saturday (Old Style): Matthew Johnson, the 5th son of [Edward Johnson](#) and [Susan Muntter Johnson](#), was christened.



PEOPLE OF A WEEK AND WALDEN: CAPTAIN EDWARD JOHNSON

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN A WEEK

1635

May 10, Sunday (Old Style): John Johnson, the 6th son of [Edward Johnson](#) and [Susan Muntter Johnson](#), was christened.



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1636

Sweet potatoes began to be imported from Bermuda into [Boston](#), and sold for 2d. a pound.

Turning his face to Sun, he ([Edward Johnson](#)) steered his course toward the next Town, (Cambridge) and after some small travell hee came to a large plaine. No sooner was hee entred thereon, but hearing the sound of a Drum he was directed toward it by a broade beaten way. Following this rode he demands of the next man he met what the signall of the Drum ment, the reply was made they had as yet no Bell to call men to meeting; and therefore made use of a Drum. Who is it, quoth hee, Lectures at this Towne? The other replies, I see you are a stranger, new come over, seeing you know not the man, it is one Mr. Shepheard. Verily quoth the other, you hit the right, I am new come over indeed, and have been told since I came most of your Ministers are legall Preachers, onely if I mistake not they told me this man Preached a finer covenant of workes then the other, but however, I shall make what hast I can to heare him. Fare you well. Then hasting thither hee croudeth through the thickets, where having stayed while the glasse was turned up twice,² the man was metamorphosed, and was faine to hang down the head often, least his watry eyes should blab abroad the secret conjunction of his affections, his heart crying loud to the Lords echoing answer, to his blessed spirit.

— [Edward Johnson](#), WONDER-WORKING PROVIDENCE

THE FUTURE IS MOST READILY PREDICTED IN RETROSPECT



2. The length of the sermon was measured by an hour-glass. Since this glass was turned twice, the sermon was more than two hours long.



PEOPLE OF A WEEK AND WALDEN: CAPTAIN EDWARD JOHNSON

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN A WEEK

1640

At the first meeting of the commissioners for the settlement of Woburn MA, [Edward Johnson](#) presented a plot or plan of the territory to be included within its limits and was chosen the first recorder or town clerk. He was active in founding the first church, and commanded the town's initial military company. He was the author of some unique lines of verse at the beginning of the first volume of the Woburn town records, verse that was not as bad as it might have been.

CHANGE IS ETERNITY, STASIS A FIGMENT

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November 5, Thursday (Old Style): A committee was appointed in Charlestown MA to determine the boundary lines of a new settlement, initially termed "Charlestown Village." The seven men receiving this grant were Captain [Edward Johnson](#), Thomas Richardson, Samuel Richardson, Ezekiel Richardson, Thomas Graves, Edward Converse, and John Mousall. These men were required to build houses for habitation within two years.

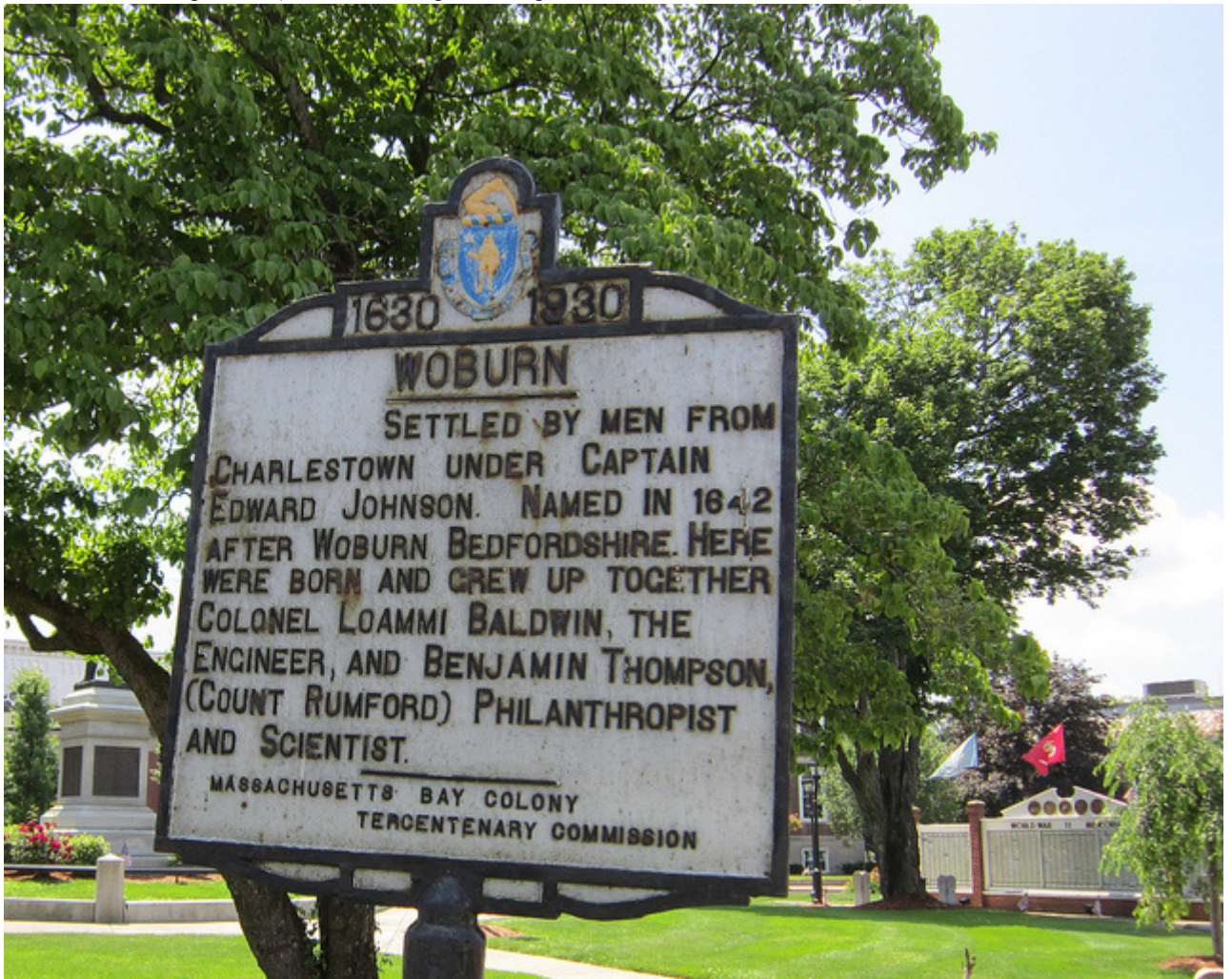


Edward Converse's house

They also were entrusted with the power to grant lands to other persons willing to build and live within their settlement. It is said that it was Edward Converse who built the 1st house and mill, and that he built in the southern part of town at what has since become Winchester Center. John Mousall's house was the 1st dwelling in what has since become Woburn MA, located on what is now Montvale Avenue.

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October 7, Friday (Old Style): The General Court of the Massachusetts Bay Colony met in session and the Town of Woburn was incorporated (the act of incorporation spelled the name as "Wooburne").

[EDWARD JOHNSON](#)[LOAMMI BALDWIN](#)[BENJAMIN THOMPSON](#)



PEOPLE OF A WEEK AND WALDEN: CAPTAIN EDWARD JOHNSON

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

THE FUTURE CAN BE EASILY PREDICTED IN RETROSPECT





PEOPLE OF A WEEK AND WALDEN:

CAPTAIN EDWARD JOHNSON

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN A WEEK

1643

According to Joseph A. Leo Lemay's "NEW ENGLAND'S ANNOYANCES": AMERICA'S FIRST FOLK SONG (Newark NJ: U of Delaware P, 1985), this first folk song sung in America most likely was authored in 1643 by the [Edward Johnson](#) of Woburn MA who in 1648 would prepare the pro-emigration tract GOOD NEWS FROM NEW ENGLAND and who by 1653 in London would have prepared a HISTORY OF NEW ENGLAND. Most likely the lyrics were first printed up at the colonial press in Cambridge MA on a broadside in this year, and most likely this broadside had been necessitated by a tract which was then appearing, NEW ENGLANDS FIRST FRUITS. (That tract was something of a report card of the progress of [Harvard College](#) and/or the progress of the Reverend [John Eliot](#)'s Christian Indians, and had been prepared by the Reverend Henry Dunster, Thomas Weld, and Hugh Peter.) The song, in quatrains made up of anapestic tetrameter lines, was to be sung to the tune known as "Derry down" and thus, between stanzas, there would have been some sort of refrain like "Hey down, down, hey down derry down." Abundant internal textual evidence demonstrates that its intended audience was not as it represents, prospective immigrants from England, but instead, with irony, New Englanders who might be being tempted to try their luck elsewhere. Since the persona projected by the singer is interestingly similar to the what we now term the "hillbilly," what we have here is evidence that this hardscrabble imago constitutes the original American self-characterization.



PEOPLE OF A WEEK AND WALDEN:

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PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

[Henry Thoreau](#) may have had this merely as verbal material, for he was not using the version that [Benjamin Franklin](#)'s nephew Benjamin Mecom had used as filler material in a 1758 chapbook, FATHER ABRAHAM'S SPEECH,³ heading it "An Old Song, wrote by *one of our first New England Planters, on their Management in Those good Old Times. To The Tune of a Cocker* there was, etc." which lacked the stanza from which he quoted

3. That's the early title for [Benjamin Franklin](#)'s THE WAY TO WEALTH, which he was preparing as a preface for his POOR RICHARD IMPROVED: BEING AN [ALMANAC](#) ... FOR ... 1758, and which [Thoreau](#) would satirize in "[Economy.](#)"

WALDEN: I am not sure that I ever heard the sound of cock-crowing from my clearing, and I thought that it might be worth the while to keep a cockerel for his music merely, as a singing bird. The note of this once wild Indian pheasant is certainly the most remarkable of any bird's, and if they could be naturalized without being domesticated, it would soon become the most famous sound in our woods, surpassing the clangor of the goose and the hooting of the owl; and then imagine the cackling of the hens to fill the pauses when their lords' clarions rested! No wonder that man added this bird to his tame stock, -to say nothing of the eggs and drumsticks. To walk in a winter morning in a wood where these birds abounded, their native woods, and hear the wild cockerels crow on the trees, clear and shrill for miles over the resounding earth, drowning the feebler notes of other birds, -think of it! It would put nations on the alert. Who would not be early to rise, and rise earlier and earlier every successive day of his life, till he became unspeakably healthy, wealthy, and wise? This foreign bird's note is celebrated by the poets of all countries along with the notes of their native songsters. All climates agree with brave Chanticleer. He is more indigenous even than the natives. His health is ever good, his lungs are sound, his spirits never flag.

PEOPLE OF
WALDEN

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



PEOPLE OF A WEEK AND WALDEN:

CAPTAIN EDWARD JOHNSON

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN A WEEK

in WALDEN:

- He may have seen a copy that appeared in the Massachusetts Spy newspaper on February 3, 1774.
- He may have seen a copy that appeared on pages 52 and 53 of the Massachusetts Magazine in January 1791.
- He may have seen a copy that was reprinted in a Plymouth newspaper, The Old Colony Memorial, on May 18, 1822, as it had been presented in a private letter that had been discovered, that had been written in Cambridge MA on December 15, 1817.
- He may have seen this on pages 230 and 231 of John Farmer and Jacob Bailey Moore's COLLECTIONS, HISTORICAL AND MISCELLANEOUS: AND MONTHLY LITERARY JOURNAL 3 of 1824.
- He may have seen this on page 35 of Alonzo Lewis's HISTORY OF LYNN published in Boston in 1829.
- He may have seen this on pages 29 and 30 of the Massachusetts Historical Society's COLLECTIONS, 3D SERIES, 7, for the year 1838.
- He may have seen this on pages 71 and 72 of the 2d edition of Alonzo Lewis's HISTORY OF LYNN, INCLUDING NAHANT published in Boston in 1844.



PEOPLE OF A WEEK AND WALDEN:

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PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

I have marked the materials which [Thoreau](#) utilized:

New England's annoyances you that would know them,
Pray ponder these verses which briefly doth show them.
The place where we live is a wilderness wood,
Where grass is much wanting that's fruitful and good.

... Hey down, down, hey down derry down....

From the end of November till three months are gone,
The ground is all frozen as hard as a stone,
Our mountains and hills and vallies below,
Being commonly covered with ice and with snow.

... Hey down, down, hey down derry down....

And when the north-wester with violence blows,
Then every man pulls his cap over his nose;
But if any's so hardy and will it withstand,
He forfeits a finger, a foot, or a hand.

... Hey down, down, hey down derry down....

When the ground opens we then take the hoe,
And make the ground ready to plant and to sow;
Our corn being planted and seed being sown,
The worms destroy much before it is grown.

... Hey down, down, hey down derry down....

While it is growing much spoil there is made,
By birds and by squirrels that pluck up the blade;
Even when it is grown to full corn in the ear,
It's apt to be spoil'd by hog, racoon, and deer.

... Hey down, down, hey down derry down....

Our money's soon counted, for we have just none,
All that we brought with us is wasted and gone.
We buy and sell nothing but upon exchange,
Which makes all our dealings uncertain and strange.

... Hey down, down, hey down derry down....

And now our garments begin to grow thin,
And wool is much wanting to card and to spin;
If we can get a garment to cover without,
Our innermost garment is clout upon clout.

... Hey down, down, hey down derry down....

Our clothes we brought with us are apt to be torn,
They need to be clouted before they are worn,
For clouting our garments does injure us nothing:
Clouts double are warmer than single whole clothing.

... Hey down, down, hey down derry down....

If flesh meat be wanting to fill up our dish,
We have carrots and pumpkins and turnips and fish;
And when we have a mind for a delicate dish,
We repair to the clam banks, and there we catch fish.

... Hey down, down, hey down derry down....

Instead of pottage and puddings and custards and pies,
Our pumpkins and parsnips are common supplies;
We have pumpkin at morning and pumpkin at noon;
If it was not for pumpkins we should be undone.

... Hey down, down, hey down derry down....

**If barley be wanting to make into malt,
We must be contented, and think it no fault;
For we can make liquor to sweeten our lips,
Of pumpkins and parsnips and walnut tree chips.**

... Hey down, down, hey down derry down....

**And of our green corn-stalks we make our best beer,
We put it in barrels to drink all the year:
Yet I am as healthy, I verily think,
Who make the spring-water my commonest drink.**

... Hey down, down, hey down derry down....

And we have a Cov'nant one with another,
Which makes a division 'twixt brother and brother:
For some are rejected, and others made Saints,
Of those that are equal in virtues and wants.

... Hey down, down, hey down derry down....

For such like annoyance we've many mad fellows
Find fault with our apples before they are mellow;
And they are for England, they will not stay here,
But meet with a lion in shunning a bear.

... Hey down, down, hey down derry down....

Now while some are going let others be coming,
For while liquor is boiling it must have a scumming;
But we will not blame them, for birds of a feather,
By seeking their fellows are flocking together.

... Hey down, down, hey down derry down....

But you who the Lord intends hither to bring,
Forsake not the honey for fear of the sting;
But bring both a quiet and contented mind,
And all needful blessings you surely shall find.

... Hey down, down, hey down derry down....



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And here is how the song would appear in Thoreau's literary production (we may note well that neither in the original folk song, nor in Thoreau's version of it, is there to be discovered any evidence of a psychic disturbance at the thought of the production of sweetness from [sugar cane](#), in that it needed typically to be planted, tended, harvested, and processed by the black slave laborers in the plantations of the subtropics):

[WALDEN](#): Every New Englander might easily raise all his own breadstuffs in this land of rye and Indian corn, and not depend on distant and fluctuating markets for them. Yet so far are we from simplicity and independence that, in Concord, fresh and sweet meal is rarely sold in the shops, and hominy and corn in a still coarser form are hardly used by any. For the most part the farmer gives to his cattle and hogs the grain of his own producing, and buys flour, which is at least no more wholesome, at a greater cost, at the store. I saw that I could easily raise my bushel or two of rye and Indian corn, for the former will grow on the poorest land, and the latter does not require the best, and grind them in a hand-mill, and so do without rice and pork; and if I must have some concentrated sweet, I found by experiment that I could make a very good molasses either of pumpkins or beets, and I knew that I needed only to set out a few maples to obtain it more easily still, and while these were growing I could use various substitutes beside those which I have named, "For," as the Forefathers sang,-

"we can make liquor to sweeten our lips
Of pumpkins and parsnips and walnut-tree chips."

Finally, as for salt, that grossest of groceries, to obtain this might be a fit occasion for a visit to the seashore, or, if I did without it altogether, I should probably drink the less water. I do not learn that the Indians ever troubled themselves to go after it.

Thus I could avoid all trade and barter, so far as my food was concerned, and having a shelter already, it would only remain to get clothing and fuel. The pantaloons which I now wear were woven in farmer's family, -thank Heaven there is so much virtue still in man; for I think the fall from the farmer to the operative as great and memorable as that from the man to the farmer;- and in a new country fuel is an encumbrance. As for a habitat, if I were not permitted still to squat, I might purchase one acre at the same price for which the land I cultivated was sold -namely, eight dollars and eight cents. But as it was, I considered that I enhanced the value of the land by squatting on it.



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PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

SWEETS
WITHOUT
SLAVERY

Lemay, Joseph A. Leo, "NEW ENGLAND'S ANNOYANCES": AMERICA'S FIRST FOLK SONG (Newark NJ: U of Delaware P, 1985), pages 43-44, 54, 60 passim:

If barley be wanting to make into malt,
We must be contented, and think it no fault;
For we can make liquor to sweeten our lips,
Of pumpkins and parsnips and walnut tree chips.

... Hey down, down, hey down derry down....

And of our green corn-stalks we make our best beer,
We put it in barrels to drink all the year:
Yet I am as healthy, I verily think,
Who make the spring-water my commonest drink.

... Hey down, down, hey down derry down....

Stanzas 11 and 12 concern New England's drinks – liquor, beer, and water. Since English and European water was often polluted, people did not commonly drink it. The usual English drink was small beer. Water was considered, in general, an unhealthy drink. But American water was different [Dean Albertson, "Puritan Liquor in the Planting of New England," *New England Quarterly* 23 (1950):477-90]. The quantity and quality of New England water became an important topic for almost all New England writers. Bradford says that one objection made against the Puritans' proposed move to America was that "the change of aire, diate, and drinking of water, would infecte their bodies with sore sicknesses, and greevous diseases." So the promotion writers tried to reassure prospective emigrants. Captain John Smith [TRAVELS AND WORKS OF CAPTAIN JOHN SMITH. Edinburgh: John Grant, 1910, pages 954-5], William Bradford [HISTORY OF PLYMOUTH PLANTATION 1620-1647, Boston MA: Houghton Mifflin, 1912, Volume I, pages 57, 164, and 363-4], and William Wood [NEW ENGLAND'S PROSPECT (1634), Amherst MA: U of Massachusetts P, 1977, page 37], among others [Henry Martin Dexter, MOURT'S RELATION OR JOURNAL OF THE PLANTATION AT PLYMOUTH, Boston MA: J.K. Wiggin, 1865, page 18], praise the water. In a long discussion, Wood says that New England's "sweet waters" are better than the Old World's: "It is thought there can be no better water in the world. yet dare I not prefer it before good beer as some have done, but any man will choose it before bad beer, whey, or buttermilk." The early colonists continued to regard beer as more healthful. Martha Lyon (who had emigrated to New England in 1631) wrote John Winthrop in 1648/9 that she was ill, but her husband did "what he can for me ... for he drinks water that I might drink bere" [WINTHROP PAPERS, edited by Allyn Bailey Forbes, et al., Boston MA: Massachusetts Historical Society, 1929-1947, Volume V, page 323]. One anti-Virginia ballad voices the traditional preference: "Instead of drinking Beer, I drink the water clear, / In the Land of Virginny, O; / Which makes me pale and wan" [*The Trappan'd Maiden in Firth*, AMERICAN GARLAND, page 52].



PEOPLE OF A WEEK AND WALDEN:

CAPTAIN EDWARD JOHNSON

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN A WEEK

In [[Edward Johnson](#)’s] “New England’s Annoyances,” the most striking fact about the description of drinks is the emphasis upon the worst makeshift possibilities for making liquor and beer. Liquor from “pumpkins and parsnips and walnut tree chips” is surely an abominable folk recipe (I cannot find it anywhere). [Henry Thoreau](#) was so taken by it that he made it a touchstone for the idea of a New Englander’s making do with the local produce [[WALDEN; OR, LIFE IN THE WOODS](#), leaf 85b of draft C].

And although beer can be made from corn, one authority considers it the least desirable method: “There was not sufficient barley mash produced, however, to slake the thirst of the entire colony, so they learned to derive a passable beer malt from oats, rye, old wheat, and even corn” [Filmer Mood, “John Winthrop, Jr. on Indian Corne,” [New England Quarterly](#) 10 (1937):121-33, on pages 131-3]. Robert Child mentions beer made from corn in his agricultural tract, [DEFECTS AND REMEDIES OF ENGLISH HUSBANDRY](#) [George Lyman Kittredge, “Dr. Robert Child the Remonstrant,” [PUBLICATIONS OF THE COLONIAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA](#) 21 (1919):1-146, at page 110]. When John Winthrop, Jr., wrote a scientific essay on “Indian Corne” for Robert Boyle in 1662, describing, *inter alia*, two ways to make beer from corn – neither method used “green corn stalks” [Raymond P. Stearns, [SCIENCE IN THE BRITISH COLONIES OF AMERICA](#), Urbana IL: U of Illinois P, 1970, pages 128-9]. But Robert Beverly, writing in his [HISTORY AND PRESENT STATE OF VIRGINIA](#) at the opening of the eighteenth century, confirms that “the poorer sort” could brew beer from “the green stalks of Indian corn cut small and bruised” [Chapel Hill NC: U of North Carolina P, 1947, page 293]. And [Peter Kalm](#), in the mideighteenth century also testified that “the malt of maize tastes exactly like that of barley,” although blue corn was considered better than other kinds for malting [Esther Louise Larson, “Peter Kalm’s Description of Maize,” [Agricultural History](#) 9(1935):98-117 on page 113]. (One of the numerous indications that the song dates from the colony’s earliest years is the lack of any mention of apple cider – a standard American drink after apple orchards became common in the midseventeenth century.) [Albertson, “Puritan Liquor,” page 480; Walcott, “Husbandry,” page 250; and the colonial Maryland folk ditty in J.A. Leo Lemay, [MEN OF LETTERS IN COLONIAL MARYLAND](#), Knoxville TN: U of Tennessee P, 1972, page vii]... Stanzas 11 and 12 further develop the portrait of New Englanders as hillbillies. Here the New Englanders anticipate that favorite Southern folk hero, the moonshiner, but instead of using corn, the New Englanders brew an incredible concoction “Of pumpkins and parsnips and walnut tree chips.” this, I submit, is the fictive world of Hairless Joe, Lonesome Pine, and Kickapoo Joy Juice [9]. The beer was almost as outlandish as the liquor. Although most New England beer was brewed in the standard manner, from barley, beer can be made from various vegetables and corn; and although there are two usual ways to make acceptable beer from corn, these hardscrabble New England rustics make their “best beer” in the worst possible way – from “green cornstalks.” In stanza 12’s last couplet, the author uses the first person singular for the first and only time in the song when he reveals that he himself is not among the hard-drinking hillbillies described in the last six lines: “Yet I am as healthy, I verily think, / Who make the spring water my commonest drink.” This sober –even ascetic note– marks the song’s turn away from the portrait of the New Englanders as Snuffy Smiths – backwoods bumpkins dressed in ragged, patched, and repatched old clothes who pull their caps down over their noses in the winter, hoe their corn in the spring, eat their pumpkins at morning and noon, and drink their own strange moonshine throughout the year. That self-caricature was the first identity that New Englanders popularly adopted.... The author’s most brilliant stroke is his portrait of the New Englander as a hardscrabbler. Two major identities for Americans



PEOPLE OF A WEEK AND WALDEN:

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had already been well established, the planter-farmer and the rustic-hick. The earliest name for an American was a *planter*. The Virginia legislature repeatedly calls the actual settlers in America *planters*, i.e., those who go out to found a colony. The first planters were as celebrated, in the different circumstances of their own day, as the earliest astronauts are in this time.



PEOPLE OF A WEEK AND WALDEN: CAPTAIN EDWARD JOHNSON

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN A WEEK

1646

[Edward Johnson](#) was selected as Deputy from Woburn MA to the Massachusetts General Court (the colonial legislature). He would be returned to this body almost every year afterward.

More streets had been laid out in Woburn MA, including the road to Reading and the Highway to Mistick Bridge (Medford).



PEOPLE OF A WEEK AND WALDEN: CAPTAIN EDWARD JOHNSON

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1649

M. Vijn copulated a fowl and was burned at the stake.

In this year in New England there was “an army of caterpillars” so great “that the cart wheels in their passage were painted green with running over the great swarms of them.”

EDWARD JOHNSON

This Year a strange multitude of *Caterpillars* in *New-England*.¹

Thrice seven Years after the Planting of the *English* in *New-England*, the *Indians* of *Massachusetts* being 30000 able Men were brought to 300.

¹ Morton's Memorial, by Davis, p. 244.

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



PEOPLE OF A WEEK AND WALDEN: CAPTAIN EDWARD JOHNSON

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN A WEEK

1653

[Edward Johnson](#)'s THE WONDER-WORKING PROVIDENCE OF SION'S SAVIOR IN NEW ENGLAND was published anonymously in London (imprint, 1654).⁴

(see following screens)

4. Refer to MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COLLECTION, Volume III, pages 156-159.



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PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN



A WEEK: Concord River is remarkable for the gentleness of its current, which is scarcely perceptible, and some have referred to its influence the proverbial moderation of the inhabitants of Concord, as exhibited in the Revolution, and on later occasions. It has been proposed, that the town should adopt for its coat of arms a field verdant, with the Concord circling nine times round. I have read that a descent of an eighth of an inch in a mile is sufficient to produce a flow. Our river has, probably, very near the smallest allowance. The story is current, at any rate, though I believe that strict history will not bear it out, that the only bridge ever carried away on the main branch, within the limits of the town, was driven up stream by the wind. But wherever it makes a sudden bend it is shallower and swifter, and asserts its title to be called a river. Compared with the other tributaries of the Merrimack, it appears to have been properly named Musketaquid, or Meadow River, by the Indians. For the most part, it creeps through broad meadows, adorned with scattered oaks, where the cranberry is found in abundance, covering the ground like a moss-bed. A row of sunken dwarf willows borders the stream on one or both sides, while at a greater distance the meadow is skirted with maples, alders, and other fluviatile trees, overrun with the grape-vine, which bears fruit in its season, purple, red, white, and other grapes. Still farther from the stream, on the edge of the firm land, are seen the gray and white dwellings of the inhabitants. According to the valuation of 1831, there were in Concord two thousand one hundred and eleven acres, or about one seventh of the whole territory in meadow; this standing next in the list after pasturage and unimproved lands, and, judging from the returns of previous years, the meadow is not reclaimed so fast as the woods are cleared. Let us here read what old Johnson says of these meadows in his "Wonder-working Providence," which gives the account of New England from 1628 to 1652, and see how matters looked to him. He says of the Twelfth Church of Christ gathered at Concord: "This town is seated upon a fair fresh river, whose rivulets are filled with fresh marsh, and her streams with fish, it being a branch of that large river of Merrimack. Allwives [??] and shad in their season come up to this town, but salmon and dace cannot come up, by reason of the rocky falls, which causeth their meadows to lie much covered with water, the which these people, together with their neighbor town, have several times essayed to cut through but cannot, yet it may be turned another way with an hundred pound charge as it appeared." As to their farming he says: "Having laid out their estate upon cattle at 5 to 20 pound a cow, when they came to winter them with inland hay, and feed upon such wild fother [??] as was never cut before, they could not hold out the winter, but, ordinarily the first or second year after their coming up to a new plantation, many of their cattle died." And this from the same author "Of the Planting of the 19th Church in the Mattachusetts' Government, called Sudbury": "This year [does he mean 1654] the town and church of Christ at Sudbury began to have the first foundation stones laid, taking up her station in the inland country, as her elder sister Concord had formerly done, lying further up the same river, being furnished with great plenty of fresh marsh, but, it lying very low is much in damaged with land floods, insomuch that when the summer proves wet they lose part of their hay; yet are they so sufficiently provided that they take in cattle of other towns to winter." The sluggish artery of the Concord meadows steals thus unobserved through the town, without a murmur or a pulse-beat, its general course from southwest to northeast, and its length about fifty miles; a huge volume of matter, ceaselessly rolling through the plains and valleys of the substantial earth with the moccasoned tread of an Indian warrior, making haste from the high places of the earth to its ancient reservoir. The murmurs of many a famous river on the other side of the globe reach even to us here, as to more distant dwellers on its banks; many a poet's stream floating the helms and shields of heroes on its bosom.

PEOPLE OF
A WEEK

EDWARD JOHNSON



PEOPLE OF A WEEK AND WALDEN:

CAPTAIN EDWARD JOHNSON

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN A WEEK

Being an inhabitant of Woburn, and often associated with the citizens of [Concord](#) in public business, the author had good opportunity to become familiarly acquainted with its early history. This account may, therefore, be received with more implicit faith, than some of that author's statements of facts; and, for its curiosity and information, is worthy of insertion in this connexion.⁵

"Upon some inquiry of the Indians, who lived to the North West of the Bay, one Captaine Simon Willard, being acquainted with them, by reason of his trade, became a chiefe instrument in erecting this town. The land they purchased of the Indians, and with much difficulties travelling through unknowne woods, and through watery swamps, they discover the fitnessse of the place; sometimes passing through the thickets, where their hands are forced to make way for their bodies passage and their feete clambering over the crossed trees, which when they missed they sunke into an uncertaine bottome in water, and wade up to their knees, tumbling sometimes higher and sometimes lower. Wearied with this toile, they at end of this meete with a scorching plaine, yet not so plaine, but that the ragged bushes scratch their legs fouly, even to wearing their stockings to their bare skin in two or three hours. If they be not otherwise well defended with bootes or buskings, their flesh will be torne. Some of them being forced to passe on without further provision, have had the blood trickle downe at every step. And in time of summer, the sun casts such a reflecting heate from the sweet ferne, whose scent is very strong, that some herewith have beene very nere fainting, although very able bodies to undergoe much travel. And this not to be indured for one day, but for many; and verily did not the Lord incourage their natural parts (with hopes of a new and strange discovery, expecting every houre to see some rare sight never seen before), they were never able to hold out and breake through." * * *

"After some dayes spent in search, toyling in the day time as formerly said, like true Jacob, they rest them on the rocks where the night takes them. Their short repast is some small pittance of bread, if it hold out; but as for drinke they have plenty, the countrey being well watered in all places that are yet found out. Their further hardship is to travell sometimes they know not whither, bewildred indeed without sight of sun, their compasse miscarrying in crowding through the bushes. They sadly search up and down for a known way, the Indian paths being not above one foot broad, so that a

5. [Lemuel Shattuck](#)'s 1835 [A HISTORY OF THE TOWN OF CONCORD;...](#). Boston: Russell, Odiorne, and Company; Concord MA: [John Stacy](#)
(On or about November 11, 1837 [Henry Thoreau](#) would indicate a familiarity with the contents of at least pages 2-3 and 6-9 of this historical study.)



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man may travell many dayes and never find one." * * *

"This intricate worke no whit daunted these resolved servants of Christ to go on with the worke at hand; but lying in the open aire, while the watery clouds poure down all the night season and sometimes the driving snow dissolving on their backs, they keep their wet cloathes warme with a continued fire, till the renewed morning give fresh opportunity of further travell. After they have thus found out a place of abroad, they burrow themselves in the earth for their first shelter under some hillside, casting the earth aloft upon timber, they make a smoaky fire against the earth at the highest side. And thus these poore servants of Christ provide shelter for themselves, their wives and little ones, keeping off the short showers from their lodgings, but the long rains penetrate through to their great disturbance in the night season.

"Yet in these poor wigwams they sing psalmes, pray and praise their God, till they can provide them houses, which ordinarily was not wont to be with many till the earth, by the Lord's blessing, brought forth bread to feed them, their wives and little ones, which with sore labours they attain; every one that can lift a hoe to strike it into the earth, standing stoutly to their labours and tear up the rootes and bushes, which the first yeare bears them a very thin crop, till the soard of the earth be rotten, and therefore they have been forced to cut their bread very thin for a long season. But the Lord is pleased to provide for them great store of fish in the spring time, and especially Alewives about the bignes of a Herring. Many thousands of these they used to put under their Indian corn, which they plant in hills five foote asunder, and assuredly when the Lord created this corn, he had a speciall eye to supply these, his people's wants with it, for ordinarily five or six grains doth produce six hundred. As for flesh they looked not for any in those times (although now they have plenty) unlesse they could barter with the Indians for venison or rockoons, whose flesh is not much inferiour unto lambe. The toil of a new plantation being like the labours of Hercules never at an end, yet are none so barbarously bent (under the Mattacusets especially) but with a new plantation they ordinarily gather into church fellowship, so that pastors and people suffer the inconveniences together, which is a great means to season the sore labours they undergoe. "And verily the edge of their appetite was greater to spiritual duties at their first coming in time of wants, than afterward. Many in new plantations have been forced to go barefoot, and bareleg, till these latter dayes, and some in time of frost and snow; yet were they then very healthy more than now they are.



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"In this wilderness, worke men of estates, speed no better than others, and some much worse for want of being inured to such hard labour, having laid out their estate upon cattell at five and twenty pounds a cow, when they came to winter them with inland hay, and feed upon such wild fother [fodder] as was never cut before, they could not hold out the winter, but ordinarily the first or second yeare after their coming up to a new plantation, many of their cattell died, especially if they wanted salt marshes. And also those, who supposed they should feed upon swines flesh were cut short, the wolves commonly feasting themselves before them, who never leave neither flesh nor bones, if they be not scared away before they have made an end of their meale. "As for those who laid out their estate upon sheepe, they speed (fared) worst of any at the beginning (although some have sped the best of any now) for untill the land be often fed by other cattell, sheepe cannot live, and therefore they never thrived till these latter days. Horse had then no better successe, which made many an honest gentleman travell on foot for a long time, and some have even perished with extreme heate in their travells. As also the want of English graine, wheate, barley and rye, proved a sore affliction to some stomachs, who could not live upon Indian bread and water, yet were they compelled to it till cattle increased, and the plows could but hoe. Instead of apples and pears, they had pumpkins and squashes of divers kinds. Their lonesome condition was very grievous to some, which was much aggravated by continual feare of the Indian's approach, whose cruelties were much spoken of, and more especially during the time of the Pequot wars. Thus this poore people populate this howling desert, marching manfully - the Lord assisting - through the greatest difficulties, and sorest labours that ever any with such weak means have done."

[CAMBRIDGE HISTORY OF ENGLISH AND AMERICAN LITERATURE](#)

READ JOHNSON TEXT



PEOPLE OF A WEEK AND WALDEN: CAPTAIN EDWARD JOHNSON

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1654

[Edward Johnson](#)'s WONDER-WORKING PROVIDENCE OF SIONS SAVIOR had found republication at the end of the previous year, in A HISTORY OF NEW-ENGLAND. FROM THE ENGLISH PLANTING IN THE YEERE 1628. UNTILL THE YEERE 1652: DECLARING THE FORM OF THEIR GOVERNMENT, CIVILL, MILITARY, AND ECCLESIASTIQUE: THEIR WARS WITH THE INDIANS, THEIR TROUBLES WITH THE GORTONISTS, AND OTHER HERETIQUES: THEIR MANNER OF GATHERING OF CHURCHES, THE COMMODITIES OF THE COUNTRY, AND DESCRIPTION OF THE PRINCIPALL TOWNS AND HAVENS... LONDON: PRINTED FOR NATH[aniel] BROOKE AT THE ANGEL IN CORNHILL 1654.



[Henry Thoreau](#) would check this out of the library of [Harvard College](#) on March 13, 1854 and would quote from Chapter 36, page 83, slightly updating the language:



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WALDEN: Old Johnson, in his "Wonder-Working Providence," speaking of the first settlers of this town, with whom he was contemporary, tells us that "they burrow themselves in the earth for their first shelter under some hillside, and, casting the soil aloft upon timber, they make a smoky fire against the earth, at the highest side." They did not "provide them houses," says he, "till the earth, by the Lord's blessing, brought forth bread to feed them," and the first year's crop was so light that "they were forced to cut their bread very thin for a long season." The secretary of the Province of New Netherland, writing in Dutch, in 1650, for the information of those who wished to take up land there, states more particularly, that "those in New Netherland, and especially in New England, who have no means to build farm houses at first according to their wishes, dig a square pit in the ground, cellar fashion, six or seven feet deep, as long and as broad as they think proper, case the earth inside with wood all round the wall, and line the wood with the bark of trees or something else to prevent the caving in of the earth; floor this cellar with plank, and wainscot it overhead for a ceiling, raise a roof of spars clear up, and cover the spars with bark or green sods, so that they can live dry and warm in these houses with their entire families for two, three, and four years, it being understood that partitions are run through those cellars which are adapted to the size of the family. The wealthy and principal men in New England, in the beginning of the colonies, commenced their first dwelling houses in this fashion for two reasons; firstly, in order not to waste time in building, and not to want food the next season; secondly, in order not to discourage poor laboring people whom they brought over in numbers from Fatherland. In the course of three or four years, when the country became adapted to agriculture, they built themselves handsome houses, spending on them several thousands."

PEOPLE OF
WALDEN

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PEOPLE OF A WEEK AND WALDEN: CAPTAIN EDWARD JOHNSON

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1665

[Captain Edward Johnson](#) was appointed, by the General Court, to make a map of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, in conjunction with William Stevens.



PEOPLE OF A WEEK AND WALDEN:

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PEOPLE MENTIONED IN A WEEK

1671

15th of 3d month: The will of [Edward Johnson](#) named wife [Susan Muntter Johnson](#); eldest son Edward Johnson; sons George Johnson, William Johnson, Matthew Johnson, and John Johnson, and sons-in-law James Prentice and John Amee; daughters and daughters-in-law (not mentioned by name); the wife of son Edward (name not given); grandchildren, Edward Johnson, son of his son Edward Johnson, son Matthew Johnson's eldest son (not mentioned by name), George Johnson, son of his son George Johnson, William Johnson and Edward Johnson, sons of his son William Johnson, John Johnson, son of his son John Johnson, William Johnson, son of his son John Johnson, James Prentice, son of James Prentice, and John Amee, son of John Amee, Katherine Johnson, daughter of his son Edward Johnson, Katherine Johnson, daughter of his son George Johnson, Hester (or Esther) Johnson, daughter of his son William Johnson, Rebecca Johnson, daughter of his son Matthew Johnson, Bethiah Johnson, daughter of his son John Johnson, Susan Prentice, daughter of his son-in-law James Prentice, Hannah Prentice, another daughter of James Prentice, and the eldest daughter (not mentioned by name) of his son-in-law John Amee.



PEOPLE OF A WEEK AND WALDEN:

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PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1672

[Edward Johnson](#), Town Clerk and the last survivor of the original founders of Woburn MA, died and was replaced as Town Clerk by his son William Johnson.

The Second Meeting House in Woburn MA was built on the hill east of the Common. Only three pews were allowed to be built.

May 11, Saturday (Old Style): The inventory of the estate of [Edward Johnson](#) gave the total as £706. 05. 06; homestead, £159; debts, £9. 10. 00; rents supposed to be due in England, £132; houses and lands in England, £800.



PEOPLE OF A WEEK AND WALDEN:

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PEOPLE MENTIONED IN A WEEK

1673

April 23, Wednesday (Old Style): [Edward Johnson](#) died in Woburn, Massachusetts Bay Colony. After his death the Massachusetts General Court passed an order regarding a chronicle of the early history of the Colony, which reads substantially as follows: "The Court considering how many ways the providence of God hath mercifully appeared in behalf of his people in these parts, since their coming into this wilderness; and us of this colony in particular, do judge it our duty to endeavor that a register or chronicle be made of tile several passages of God s providence, protecting of and saving from many eminent dangers, as well in transportation, as in our abode here, making provision beyond what could, in reason, have been expected, and preventing our fears many a time; that so our posterity and the generation that shall survive, taking a view of the kindness of God to their fathers, it may remain as an obligation upon them to serve the Lord their God with all their hearts and souls." The Court., therefore, appointed a committee "to make diligent inquiry in the several parts of this jurisdiction concerning anything of moment that has passed, and in particular of what has been collected by Mr. John Winthrop, Sen., Mr. Thomas Dudley, Mr. John Wilson, Sen., Capt. Edward Johnson, or any other; that so, matter being prepared, some meet person may be appointed by this court to put the same into form; that so, after perusal of the same, it may be put to press."



PEOPLE OF A WEEK AND WALDEN: CAPTAIN EDWARD JOHNSON

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1681

George Johnson, the 3d son of [Edward Johnson](#) and [Susan Muntter Johnson](#), died.



PEOPLE OF A WEEK AND WALDEN: CAPTAIN EDWARD JOHNSON

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN A WEEK

1689

December 14, Saturday (Old Style): [Susan Muntter Johnson](#), or Susanna, made her will.



PEOPLE OF A WEEK AND WALDEN: CAPTAIN EDWARD JOHNSON

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1690

March 7, Friday (1689, Old Style): [Susan Muntter Johnson](#) died in Woburn, Massachusetts Bay Colony.



PEOPLE OF A WEEK AND WALDEN:

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PEOPLE MENTIONED IN A WEEK

1691

March 2, Monday (1690, Old Style): The will of [Susan Muntter Johnson](#), or Susanna, was probated. The document mentions her deceased husband [Edward Johnson](#), and states that her son John had taken care of her after her husband's death and, she judged, was entitled to all.



PEOPLE OF A WEEK AND WALDEN:

CAPTAIN EDWARD JOHNSON

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1692

September 15, Thursday (Old Style): [Edward Johnson](#), son of [Edward Johnson](#) and [Susan Muntter Johnson](#), died.

Since a young girl subject to epileptic fits and hysterics, who had been carried into the meetinghouse where the [witch](#) trial was in session, had had one of her fits just after the defendant Mercy Disborough, wife of Thomas Disbro or Disborough of Compo in Fairfield, Connecticut had glanced in her direction, the authorities had ordered that the accused woman be subjected to the dreaded ordeal by water. This is what Abram Adams and Jonathan Squire reported to the court, subsequent to this test:

Mercy Disborough, and another woman on trial at the same time [Elizabeth Clauson or Clawson, who would be found not guilty], were put to the test together, and two eyewitnesses of the sorry exhibition of cruelty and delusion made oath that they saw Mercy and Elizabeth bound hand and foot and put into the water, and that they swam upon the water like a cork, and when one labored to press them into the water they buoyed up like cork.



PEOPLE OF A WEEK AND WALDEN: CAPTAIN EDWARD JOHNSON

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN A WEEK

The jury was, however, unable to agree on a verdict. The court therefore committed Mercy “to the common goale there to be kept in safe custody till a return may be made to the General Court for further direction what shall be don in this matter.” The General Court would order the Special Court to meet again “to put an issue to those former matters.”

Major American Witchcraft Cases

1647	Elizabeth Kendall, Alse Young	1663	Mary Barnes
1648	Margaret Jones, Mary Johnson	1666	Elizabeth Seager
1651	Alice Lake, Mrs. (Lizzy) Kendal, Goody Bassett, Mary Parsons	1669	Katherine (Kateran) Harrison
1652	John Carrington, Joan Carrington	1683	Nicholas Disborough, Margaret Mattson
1653	Elizabeth “Goody” Knapp, Elizabeth Godman	1688	Annie “Goody” Glover
1654	Lydia Gilbert, Kath Grady, Mary Lee	1692	Bridget Bishop, Rebecca Towne Nurse, Sarah Good, Susannah Martin, Elizabeth Howe, Sarah Wildes, Mary Staples, Mercy Disborough, Elizabeth Clawson, Mary Harvey, Hannah Harvey, Goody Miller, Giles Cory, Mary Towne Estey, Reverend George Burrough, George Jacobs, Sr., John Proctor, John Willard, Martha Carrier, Sarah Good, Martha Corey, Margaret Scott, Alice Parker, Ann Pudeator, Wilmott Redd, Samuel Wardwell, Mary Parker, Tituba
1655	Elizabeth Godman, Nicholas Bayley, Goodwife Bayley, Ann Hibbins	1693	Hugh Crotia, Mercy Disborough
1657	William Meaker	1697	Winifred Benham, Senr., Winifred Benham, Junr.
1658	Elizabeth Garlick, Elizabeth Richardson, Katherine Grade	1724	Sarah Spencer
1661	Nicholas Jennings, Margaret Jennings	1768	—— Norton
1662	Nathaniel Greensmith, Rebecca Greensmith, Mary Sanford, Andrew Sanford, Goody Ayres, Katherine Palmer, Judith Varlett, James Walkley	1801	Sagoyewatha “Red Jacket”



PEOPLE OF A WEEK AND WALDEN:

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PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

[John Evelyn](#)'s diary entry:

Happn'd an Earthquake, which though not so greate as to do any harme in England, was yet universal in all these parts of Europe; It shoke the House at Wotton, but was not perceived by any save a servant or two, who were making my bed, & another in a Garret, but I & the rest being at dinner below in the Parlor was not sensible of it. There had ben one in Jamaica this summer, which destroyed a world of people & almost ruin'd the whole Iland: God of his mercy, avert these Judgements, & make them to incite us to Repentance: This, of Jamaica, being prophanelly & Ludicrously represented in a puppet play or some such lewd pass-time in the Faire at Southwarke, caused the Queene to put-downe & abolish that idle & vicious mock-shew.





PEOPLE OF A WEEK AND WALDEN:

CAPTAIN EDWARD JOHNSON

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN A WEEK

1696

July 19, Sunday (Old Style): Matthew Johnson, the 5th son of [Edward Johnson](#) and [Susan Muntter Johnson](#), died.

According to the [Concord](#) Town Record, "Simeon Hayward ye son of George [George Heywood] & Hanah Hayward [Hannah Chadwick Heywood] dyed July ye 19th day 1696."



PEOPLE OF A WEEK AND WALDEN: CAPTAIN EDWARD JOHNSON

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1704

May 22, Monday (Old Style): William Johnson, the 4th son of [Edward Johnson](#) and [Susan Muntter Johnson](#), died.



PEOPLE OF A WEEK AND WALDEN: CAPTAIN EDWARD JOHNSON

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN A WEEK

1720

John Johnson, the 6th son of [Edward Johnson](#) and [Susan Muntter Johnson](#), died.

[HDT](#)[WHAT?](#)[INDEX](#)

PEOPLE OF A WEEK AND WALDEN:

CAPTAIN EDWARD JOHNSON

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1854

March 13, Monday: Documentation of the [international slave trade](#), per W.E. Burghardt Du Bois: "Message from the President ... communicating ... the correspondence between Mr. Schenck, United States Minister to Brazil, and the Secretary of State, in relation to the African slave trade." –SENATE EXECUTIVE DOCUMENT, 33 Cong. 1 sess. VIII. No. 47.



*Thoreau's Flute, Telescope and copy of
Wilson's Ornithology.*

*"I bought me a spy-glass some weeks since. I buy but few things,
and those not till long after I begin to want them, so that when I do get them I
am prepared to make a perfect use of them and extract their whole sweetness."*

Page 3. Early Spring.

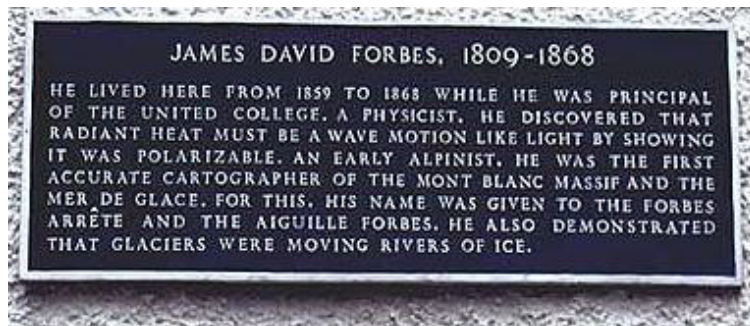


PEOPLE OF A WEEK AND WALDEN: CAPTAIN EDWARD JOHNSON

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN A WEEK

Besides purchasing a [telescope](#) (above) for eight dollars (more than a week's total wages, order of magnitude approximately \$800 in today's greenbacks), [Henry Thoreau](#) stopped by the [Boston Society of Natural History](#) and checked out:

- [James David Forbes](#) (1809-1868)'s TRAVELS THROUGH THE ALPS OF SAVOY AND OTHER PARTS OF THE PENNINE CHAIN, WITH OBSERVATIONS ON THE PHENOMENA OF GLACIERS (1843)



THE ALPS OF SAVOY, ETC.

and stopped by the [Harvard Library](#) and checked out:

- [Louis Agassiz](#)'s *ÉTUDES SUR LES GLACIERS* (Neuchâtel, aux frais de l'auteur, August 20, 1840, with atlas)
- [Edward Johnson](#)'s A HISTORY OF NEW-ENGLAND. FROM THE ENGLISH PLANTING IN THE YEERE 1628. UNTILL THE YEERE 1652: DECLARING THE FORM OF THEIR GOVERNMENT, CIVILL, MILITARY, AND ECCLESIASTIQUE: THEIR WARS WITH THE INDIANS, THEIR TROUBLES WITH THE GORTONISTS, AND OTHER HERETIQUES: THEIR MANNER OF GATHERING OF CHURCHES, THE COMMODITIES OF THE COUNTRY, AND DESCRIPTION OF THE PRINCIPALL TOWNS AND HAVENS... (London: Printed for Nath. Brooke ..., 1654)⁶



- The Reverend Thomas Shepard's THE CLEAR SUNSHINE OF THE GOSPEL BREAKING OUT ON THE INDIANS OF NEW ENGLAND (1648)⁷

6. The popular title of this work is WONDER-WORKING PROVIDENCE OF SION'S SAVIOR IN NEW ENGLAND. Thoreau would place his notes in his Indian Notebook #8.

7. The Reverend Shepard was a founder of Harvard College.



PEOPLE OF A WEEK AND WALDEN:

CAPTAIN EDWARD JOHNSON


PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN



Mar. 13th To Boston— C. says he saw skater insects today. [Harris](#) tells me that those gray insects within the little log forts under the bark of the dead Wht pine — which I found about a week ago — are Rhagium lineatum. Bought a telescope today for 8 dollars — Best military spyglass with 6 slides which shuts up to about same size, 15 dols & very powerful Saw the squares of achromatic glass from Paris which Clark-(e?) uses — 50-odd dols apiece the larger— It takes 2 together — one called the flint— These French glasses all one quality of glass. My glass tried by Clark & approved — only a part of the object glass available. Bring the edge of the diaphragm against middle of the light & your nail on object glass in line with these shows what is cut off— Sometimes may enlarge the hole in diaphragm— But if you do so you may have to enlarge the hole in diaphragm near small end — which must be exactly as large as the pencil of light there. As the diameter of the pencil is to the diameter of the available portion of the object glass so is the power — so many times it magnifies— A good glass because the form of the blurred object is the same on each side of the focus *i.e* shoved in or drawn out. C. was making a glass for Amherst Col.

April 15, Saturday: Henceforward in [New York](#) all [canal](#) engineers would be selected by a Contracting Board made up of the Canal Commission, the State Engineer, and the Auditor of the Canal Department.



April 15: Morning. — Snow and snowing; four inches deep. Yesterday was very cold. Now, I trust, it will come down and out of the air. Many birds must be hard put to it. Some tree sparrows and song sparrows have got close up to the sill of the house on the south side, where there is a line of grass visible, for shelter. When Father came down this morning he found a sparrow squatting in a chair in the kitchen. Does n't know how it came there. I examined it a long time, but could not make it out. It was five or six inches long, with a somewhat finch-like bill (bluish-black above and light below); general aspect above pale brown mottled with buffish and whitish; bay and a *little* black on the wings; the crown a faint bay, divided by an ashy line, with a broad ashy line over eye and a distincter bay or chestnut line from the angle of the mouth backward; legs *pale clear flesh-color, feet black*, claws slender; two *faint* whitish bars on wings (the tips of feathers); the breast ashy-white, with many dart: or black spots edged with bay in chains; *no yellow* about it; a rounded tail, long and of a pretty uniform pale brown or bay, ashy on the inner vanes, but *no white nor black* in it; a rather slender bird. It made me *think* of the bay-wing [**Vesper Sparrow**  *Pooecetes gramineus*] and of the Savannah sparrow.

P.M. — This cold, moist, snowy day it is easier to see the birds and get near them. They are driven to the first bare ground that shows itself in the road, and the weather, etc., makes them more indifferent to your approach. The tree sparrows look much stouter and more chubby than usual, their feathers being puffed up and darker also, perhaps with wet. Also the robins and bluebirds are puffed up. I see the white under sides of many purple finches, busily and silently feeding on the elm blossoms within a few feet of me, and now and then their bloody heads and breasts. They utter a faint, clear chip. Their feathers are much ruffled. The yellow- red-poll hops along the limbs within four or five feet of me.

Martins the 13th first. The arrival of the purple finches [*Carpodacus purpureus*] appears to be coincident with the blossoming of the elm, on whose blossoms it feeds.

[Johnson](#) in his “Wonder-working Providence” speaks of “an army of caterpillars” in New England in 1649, so great “that the cart wheels in their passage were painted green with running over the great swarms of them.”

EDWARD JOHNSON

“MAGISTERIAL HISTORY” IS FANTASIZING: HISTORY IS CHRONOLOGY



PEOPLE OF A WEEK AND WALDEN:

CAPTAIN EDWARD JOHNSON

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN A WEEK



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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 24, 2015



PEOPLE OF A WEEK AND WALDEN:

CAPTAIN EDWARD JOHNSON

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

ARRGH AUTOMATED RESearch REPORT

GENERATION HOTLINE



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



PEOPLE OF A WEEK AND WALDEN:

CAPTAIN EDWARD JOHNSON

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

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.