

MOSES PRICHARD



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



MOSES PRICHARD

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1789

March 18, Wednesday: Christian Murphy became the final British woman to suffer the female version of the penalty for high treason, to wit, burning at the stake (her husband and seven male codefendants were merely [hanged](#) rather than being awarded the full male penalty of drawing and quartering).

[Moses Prichard](#) was born.

NOBODY COULD GUESS WHAT WOULD HAPPEN NEXT






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1806

 At the age of 17 [Moses Prichard](#) relocated to [Concord](#), where he obtained employment as a clerk under Isaac Hurd, Jr. at what was being termed the “Green Store.” He boarded for a time with old Dr. Isaac Hurd. He became engaged with Jane Hallett of Boston, age 16, daughter of Cape-Cod sea master Allen Hallett who for many years captained a packet plying back and forth between Boston and England.

Deacon [John White](#) of [Concord](#) presented a church Bible to the community in [Acton](#).

THE DEACONS OF CONCORD

Daniel Bliss died at the age of 66.

DANIEL BLISS [of [Concord](#)], son of Rev. Daniel Bliss, was born March 18, 1740, and graduated [at Harvard College] in 1760. He read law with Abel Willard, Esq., of Lancaster, and was admitted to the bar in Worcester County in May, 1765, and soon after commenced practice in Rutland. He removed to [Concord](#) in 1772. He married a daughter of Colonel Murray of Rutland, and, in imitation of his father-in-law, embraced principles opposed by the “sons of liberty.” In March, 1775, he left Concord, and was afterwards commissary in the British army at Québec. He subsequently settled in Fredericktown, New Brunswick, where he was a counsellor at law, and afterwards chief justice of the Court of Common Pleas. He died in 1806, aged 66. His was the only estate in Concord confiscated by the government. He was a man of great talents, popular manners, and energy of character.¹

**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.**

1. [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. On July 16, 1859 he would correct a date mistake buried in the body of the text.)



MOSES PRICHARD

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1808

 When Isaac Hurd, Jr. got married with Mary Heald, his clerk [Moses Prichard](#) came to board with them.

The widow Mary Brooks Merriam remarried, in about this year, with William Swan.

Joseph Chandler and Jonas Lee were [Concord](#)'s deputies and representatives to the General Court. James Barrett would be a Selectman, until 1810.

In [Concord](#), Nathan Wood was a Selectman.

Tilly Merrick was [Concord](#)'s deputy and representative to the General Court.

John L. Tuttle of [Concord](#) was a Senator, and also was the Middlesex County Treasurer.

In the [Concord](#) vicinity, from this year into 1810, the John Nelson house was being constructed on a granite foundation, in 2-story "Adam" style with low hipped roof. Possibly, the Daniel Brown house (built in about 1700) was incorporated as part of the structure of the kitchen. Nelson may have used plans from [Asher Benjamin's](#) 1797 handbook, THE COUNTRY BUILDER'S ASSISTANT for many details of the construction including the cornice and the doorway. This is a structure still in existence.²

For a year, Ralph Sanger, hired from elsewhere, would be teaching [Concord](#)'s grammar students.

1785	Nathaniel Bridge	9 months	1812	Isaac Warren	1 year
1786	JOSEPH HUNT	2½ years	1813	JOHN BROWN	1 year
1788	William A. Barron	3 years	1814	Oliver Patten	1 year
1791	Amos Bancroft	1 year	1815	Stevens Everett	9 months
1792	Heber Chase	1 year	1815	Silas Holman	3 months
1793	WILLIAM JONES	1 year	1816	George F. Farley	1 year
1794	Samuel Thatcher	1 year	1817	James Howe	1 year

2. In this year [Benjamin](#) was designing the house at 60 or 61 Beacon Street, and the Fourth Meeting House of the First Church on Chauncy Street, in Boston.



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1795	JAMES TEMPLE	2 years	1818	Samuel Barrett	1 year
1797	Thomas O. Selfridge	1 year	1819	BENJAMIN BARRETT	1 year
1798	THOMAS WHITING	4 years	1820	Abner Forbes	2 years
1802	Levi Frisbie	1 year	1822	Othniel Dinsmore	3 years
1803	Silas Warren	4 years	1825	James Furbish	1 year
1807	Wyman Richardson	1 year	1826	EDWARD JARVIS	1 year
1808	Ralph Sanger	1 year	1827	Horatio Wood	1 year
1809	Benjamin Willard	1 year	1828	David J. Merrill	1 year
1810	Elijah F. Paige	1 year	1829	John Graham	1 year
1811	Simeon Putnam	1 year	1831	John Brown	

Representatives of [Carlisle](#) to the General court of Massachusetts:

Deacon Ephraim Robbins	1807-1808
Reverend Paul Litchfield	1808-1811
Captain Timothy Heald	1812-1813
Captain Thomas Heald	1815
Jonathan Heald, Jr., Esq.	1816
John Heald, Esq.	1818, 1821, 1823
Dr. John Nelson	1824
John Heald, Esq.	1826-1827, 1830

THE FUTURE IS MOST READILY PREDICTED IN RETROSPECT






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1810

 In this year or the following one [Moses Prichard](#) and Samuel Burr purchased the “Green Store” of Isaac Hurd, Jr. and continued it under the name “Burr & Prichard.” Moses boarded with Jonathan Wheelock in the house on Main Street in [Concord](#) which he afterwards bought, and which is now owned and occupied by members of his family (among his fellow boarders were Samuel Hoar, Nathan Brooks, John Keyes, and John Barrett).

Jonas Wheeler of [Concord](#), son of Jotham Wheeler, graduated from [Harvard College](#). He would read law with Erastus Root, Esq., of Camden, Maine, and settle in the profession in that town.

JONAS WHEELER [of [Concord](#)], son of Jotham Wheeler, was born February 9, 1789, and graduated [at [Harvard College](#)] in 1810. He read law with Erastus Root, Esq., of Camden, Maine, and settled in the profession in that town. He was justice of the peace, Colonel in the militia, delegate to form the constitution, a representative and a member of the Senate of Maine, of which he was President the two last years of his life. He died May 1, 1826, aged 37.³

NEW “HARVARD MEN”

John Barrett and Joshua Barrett of [Concord](#), sons of the farmer John Barrett, Jr., graduated respectively from Williams College and [Dartmouth College](#). The brothers would continue their studies in theology, and become reverends.

JOHN BARRETT [of [Concord](#)], son of John Barrett, Jr., was born September 30, 1781, and graduated at Williams College in 1810. After obtaining a theological education he was employed by the Evangelical Society, and went to Ohio. He was ordained at Mesopotamia, Trumbell County, Ohio, February 22, 1827.⁴

JOSHUA BARRETT [of [Concord](#)], brother to the preceding [the Reverend John Barrett], was graduated at [Dartmouth College](#) in 1810. He studied divinity and was employed as a preacher and missionary till he was ordained, January 11, 1826, over the Second church in Plymouth near the Manomet Ponds.⁵

3. [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. On July 16, 1859 he would correct a date mistake buried in the body of the text.)

4. Ibid.

5. Ibid.



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THE FUTURE CAN BE EASILY PREDICTED IN RETROSPECT





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1813



December 18, Saturday: [Moses Prichard](#) and [Jane Tompson Hallet Prichard](#) of Boston filed in the town of [Concord](#) a notice of intention of Marriage.

Most of the New York Militia, since their contracted terms of service had expired, had returned to their homes. British forces from Canada drove away the New York militiamen under General George McClure and recaptured the terrain of their Fort George, with anything still of value on that site being destroyed by the retreating Americans. For good measure General McClure ordered that the adjacent town of Newark (or Niagara-on-the-Lake) also be destroyed. The Canadian civilians of that district were to be left entirely without winter shelter. The militia regrouped on the New York side of the [Niagara River](#), at [Fort Niagara](#) and Buffalo, New York.


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



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1814


 January 20, Thursday: [Moses Prichard](#) finally was able to get married with his fiancée of eight years, [Jane Hallett](#). For the initial three years of their wedded bliss they would reside at [Cynthia Dunbar Thoreau](#)'s boardinghouse in [Concord](#).

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

*5th day 1 M 20th 1814 / Our Meeting was pretty well attended & I thought was favor'd - In the preparative meeting, Several of the Queries were remarked upon especially the one respecting the Poor & friends generally that were in ability & the Overseers of the Poor were encouraged to discharge their duty especially at this season of the Year - A request from Sally Hadwen was received to be admitted to Membership - her case is peculiar - she was born after her father was disowned, but lived alternately with her Grandmother Hadwen & Aunt Dorcas Brown who brought her up in the ways of Society & she has attended Meetings of Discipline without knowing she had no right of Membership but being now inform'd of it has now requested to be confirmed as a member -
My H spent the eveng at Gilbert Chases. -*

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

CHANGE IS ETERNITY, STASIS A FIGMENT

 October 23, Sunday: [William Mackay Prichard](#) was born (presumably, this happened at [Cynthia Dunbar Thoreau](#)'s boardinghouse in [Concord](#) at which his parents [Moses Prichard](#) and [Jane Tompson Hallet Prichard](#) were residing).

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

*1st day 23 of 10 M / A few words were spoken in our forenoon meeting but I consider'd it a dull season - In the Afternoon I thought there was more life circulating among us. -
My H set the eveng at Thos Robinsons I went about 7 OClock & was very agreeably entertained - both by their intersting conversation & Abigail read some of her sister Mortons letters.
-*


RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS



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1816

 August 30, Friday: [Frances Jane Hallett Prichard](#) was born, daughter of [Moses Prichard](#) and [Jane Tompson Hallet Prichard](#) of [Concord](#) (she would be nicknamed Fanny or Fannikin).

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

6th day 30th of 8 M / Had conversation with Silas Gardiner, who seems to be a religious young man & if he keeps to the Faith as Secretly manifested to him bids fair to receive further light - as he related some of his experiences to me I could but exclaim with the Apostle "Ye need not that any man teach you" &c - he appears to have been fully convinced of the impropriety of War without the aid of any book but the Scripture & suffered for his testimony against it in Savannah Georgia & also from the secret impulses of his own mind has reounced some of the forms which are much set by among some professing christians - I felt my mind disposed to tell him that that which discover'd those things to him was the Spirit by which the Scriptures were written & as he took heed to it he would experience greater dicoveries of Light -


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1818

 September 4, Friday: [Moses Barnard Prichard](#) was born, son of [Moses Prichard](#) and [Jane Tompson Hallet Prichard](#) of [Concord](#). He would be nicknamed “Moselle” or “Mozelle.”

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

*6th day 4th of 9th M / Took tea this Afternoon with Aunt A
Carpenter with Br John Rodman & wife –
Called this evening to see Aunt Martha Gould found she had gone
up to uncle Benjamins to see Cousin Thomas's wife who is here
from Albany with a sick child. before I came away she returned
& tho' fatigued was much more than common, pleased with her visit
to her Aged Brother & cousins, being about 12 Months since she
was there before. –*


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1821

 January 7, Sunday: [Henry Gilman Prichard](#) had very recently been born, son of [Moses Prichard](#) and [Jane Tompson Hallet Prichard](#) of [Concord](#) — but on this day this infant died.

In [Newport, Rhode Island](#), Friend [Stephen Wanton Gould](#) wrote in his journal:

1st day 7th of 1 M / It was an uncommonly driving Snow Storm. Meeting in the morning was very small & no woman attended nor was it fit that any should the funeral of Benjamin Sherman which was to have gone to meeting was defered till tomorrow – In the Afternoon only Six Men attended which (I think) is the smallest Meeting I ever attended Yet in both, to my mind a good degree of The Ancient promise to the "Two or Three" was experienced, for which I desire to be thankful.

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
DO I HAVE YOUR ATTENTION? GOOD.



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1822

 January 17, Thursday: [Elizabeth Hallett Prichard](#) was born, daughter of [Moses Prichard](#) and [Jane Tompson Hallet Prichard](#) of [Concord](#). All her long life she would remember being picked up and kissed, before she reached her 3d birthday, by the geriatric general [Lafayette](#).

In [Newport, Rhode Island](#), Friend [Stephen Wanton Gould](#) wrote in his journal:

5th day 17th of 1 M 1822 / Our first meeting was pretty well attended considering it was a very cold Day. Father Rodman was concerned in a short but sound & I thought appropriate testimony

—

In the Select Meeting which followed, My Mind was in rather a dry State, but was glad to find it was not so with all - D Buffum was engaged to make a few seasonable remarks. - My H was prevented attending in consequence of a hevvy cough & sore throat

—

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1824

→ September 2, Thursday: The *Marquis de Lafayette* breakfasted in Newburyport on yet another rainy day, and [William Lloyd Garrison](#) was among the hundreds of townspeople who obtained his handshake at the Tracy mansion on State Street (a building which now houses the town's public library) prior to his departure for [Concord](#).



When the illustrious *citoyen* reached [Concord](#), Squire Samuel Hoar, on behalf of all, rose to deliver the welcome.

Lafayette, nous sommes ici!



—General “Black Jack” Pershing, arriving with US troops in France at the very end of the WWI trench warfare.

Unfortunately, Squire Hoar did this in a manner which would begin a long and bitter controversy with Lexington over which town's militia had been the first to fire upon the colonial army in America, by pointing out in his speech of welcome that it had been at the [Old North Bridge](#) over the [Concord River](#) rather than during the prior slaughter on the green in Lexington town that “the first forcible resistance” had been offered by the militia to the army. Before this visit by the *marquis*, there had in fact been very little note taken either in [Concord](#) or in Lexington of the anniversary of the April 19th dustup between the militia and the army. This invidious discrimination between two outbreaks of smallarms fire would produce a “storm of protest” from indignant Lexingtonians. Major Elias Phinney of Lexington would begin to pull together the depositions of survivors, none of whom had forgotten any details of the “battle” and some of whom were finding that they were able to recall details that hadn't actually happened.

When [Mary Moody Emerson](#) was introduced to the general, she coquettishly told him that since she had been at the time a newborn infant, she also could lay claims to having been “in arms” at the [Concord](#) fight.”⁶

6. I don't know whether this presentation of Mary Moody Emerson to [Lafayette](#) occurred earlier during this day, in Newburyport, or later, in [Concord](#).



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[John Shepard Keyes](#) would later preserve a dim memory of having been pulled by a sister out of the way of the horses that drew [Lafayette](#) through Concord, and of the pageantry of that very special day.

[Elizabeth Hallett Prichard](#), daughter of [Moses Prichard](#) and [Jane Tompson Hallet Prichard](#), would all her long life remember being picked up by this geriatric general and kissed, before she reached her 3d birthday.

[Franklin Benjamin Sanborn](#) would later allege that [Henry Thoreau](#) had been able to summon a childhood memory of this event, which would have occurred subsequent to his 7th birthday, but Thoreau's memory of the event would have been rather more like the trace memory of Keynes ([John Shepard Keyes](#)) and nothing like Walt Whitman's — for Walt's memory much later (a memory produced for the amazement of his friend [John Burroughs](#)), was that somehow he had obtained for himself a manly kiss:

On the visit of General Lafayette to this country, in 1824, he came over to Brooklyn in state, and rode through the city. The children of the schools turn'd out to join in the welcome. An edifice for a free public library for youths was just then commencing, and Lafayette consented to stop on his way and lay the corner-stone. Numerous children arriving on the ground, where a huge irregular excavation for the building was already dug, surrounded with heaps of rough stone, several gentlemen assisted in lifting the children to safe or convenient spots to see the ceremony. Among the rest, Lafayette, also helping the children, took up the five-year-old Walt Whitman, and pressing the child a moment to his breast, and giving him a kiss, handed him down to a safe spot in the excavation.

— John Burroughs. 

Abba Alcott would love to recount, in her old age, how her aunt Dorothy Sewall Quincy met the *marquis* at the ball held in his honor. We may be able to judge the nature of the reception and ball at which Dorothy Sewall Quincy “met her *marquis*” —presumably in [Boston](#) rather than in [Concord](#) where there would not have been an adequate infrastructure of edifices, servants, and the paraphernalia of privilege— by considering that the visit of this distinguished “friend of America,” who had been declared a guest of the nation by President James Monroe and by the federal Congress, was our nation's chief social excitement of this year.

In Philadelphia, for instance, the celebrations had occupied several days, with the good general [Lafayette](#) bowing with grace of manner and greeting each lady and gentleman presented to him with “How do you do?”



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in very careful English, and the following account subsequently appeared in Niles' Weekly Register:

THE NATION'S GUEST

On Monday morning, the 4th inst., about three hundred children of both sexes, from the different schools in Philadelphia, were arranged in the State House yard to receive General La Fayette: the spectacle was most beautiful and highly interesting.

In the evening he attended a grand ball at the theatre: the lobby of which was converted into a magnificent saloon, adorned with beautiful rose, orange and lemon trees, in full bearing, and a profusion of shrubbery, pictures, busts, banners with classical inscriptions, etc., all illuminated with a multitude of lamps. For the dancers there were two compartments, the house and the stage; the upper part of the former was hung with scarlet drapery, studded with golden stars, while the great chandelier, with two additional ones, and a row of wax tapers, arranged over the canopy, shed down a blaze of light. The first and second tiers of boxes were crowded with ladies in the richest apparel, as spectators of the dazzling array. Beyond the proscenium the stage division wore the appearance of an Eastern pavilion in a garden, terminating with a view of an extended sea and landscape, irradiated by the setting sun, and meant to typify the Western world. The company began to assemble soon after seven o'clock, and consisted of two thousand or more persons, of whom 600 or 700 were invited strangers. Twenty-two hundred tickets had been issued. No disorder occurred in the streets, with the arrival and departure of the carriages, which formed a line along the adjoining squares.

General La Fayette appeared at nine o'clock and was received at the door by the managers of the ball. He was conducted the whole length of the apartments through an avenue formed by the ladies to the bottom of the stage, where Mrs. Morris, Governor Shulze, and the Mayer waited to greet him in form: the full band playing an appropriate air during his progress. As soon as he was seated, the dancers were called, and at least four hundred were immediately on the floor. The dancing did not cease until near five o'clock, though the company began to retire about three. At twelve, one of the managers, from an upper box, proclaimed a toast "to the nation's guest," which was hailed with enthusiasm and accompanied by the descent of a banner from the ceiling. Behind this was suddenly displayed a portrait of the general, with allegorical figures.

A short while later, churning this topic, Niles' Weekly Register offered information about the sexual overtones



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of toasts which had been offered at a similar upscale bash in [Baltimore](#), and the manner in which such gallantries had been offered and received:

When the music for the dancing ceased, the military band of the first rifle regiment played the most pleasing and fashionable airs.... Just before the ladies of the first tables retired, General La Fayette requested permission to give the following toast, which was received in a manner that reflected credit on the fair objects of it: "The [Baltimore](#) ladies – the old gratitude of a young soldier mingles with the respectful sense of new obligation conferred on a veteran." The ladies rose and saluted the general, and the sensation and effect is not to be described; when he sat down there was a burst of applause from all the gentlemen present.



Need we explore the overtones of this toast? The old French general is relying upon the national stereotypes according to which Frenchmen in tights are "gallant," and is reminiscing about when he and his fellows were young and horny, traveling around in magnificent uniforms diddling the lovely young colonial maidens. He is saying to these ladies at the banquet "Maybe it was you I swived with when you were much younger, and you will remember but not I, or consider that maybe it was your mama," and he was saying to their husbands as well, "Maybe it was your wife I swived with when we were so much younger, and she will remember but not I and she will most certainly not tell you about it, or maybe it was your mama, or your wife's mama." He remembers youthful delights and is grateful. [Lafayette](#) says all this in the most careful innuendo, "and the sensation and effect is not to be described." What could the American males do but applaud wildly? –They couldn't very well rush the main table and shove this codger's head into his soup, could they?

In [Newport, Rhode Island](#) Friend [Stephen Wanton Gould](#) wrote in his journal:

5th day Morng - called a little while at Jos Anthonys, then came on board the Packet & got home in about five hours - This little jant [jaunt] to [Providence](#) has been attended with depression on account of the inconvenience of leaving home when I have considerable of my own to attend too, & my outward circumstances require my attention - yet I have (I trust) humbly to acknowledge an evidence of divine favour & even an enlargement of my views & exercises which is worth sacrifice & even suffering for & as to my spiritual condition I have returned refreshed & enlivened, with renew'd desires for myself & the society of which I am a member, that I may grow in grace, & there by become increasingly usefull to the latter


RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS



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1824

 November 1, Monday: [Amelia Mackay Prichard](#) was born, daughter of [Moses Prichard](#) and [Jane Tompson Hallet Prichard](#) of [Concord](#) (she would be nicknamed Mela, Mela Mela, or Puss, and would be referred to by her brother [William Mackay Prichard](#) as “ma chère” or “my dear little girl”).⁷


7. [Frances](#) and [Amelia](#), the oldest and the youngest girls respectively of the Prichard family of Concord, would be spinsters, which is to say, neither would get married. After attending Phineas Allen’s Concord Academy Amelia for one would go on to attend the school for girls run by George Barrell Emerson in Boston ([Elizabeth “Lizzie” Hallett Prichard](#) also attended the school for girls run by George Barrell Emerson in Boston, and [Frances “Fanny” Jane Hallett Prichard](#) may have done although we do not know). Following in [Elizabeth](#)’s footsteps, [Amelia](#) would teach school in Baltimore for a time. After the deaths of their parents, [Frances](#) and [Amelia](#) would remain in the family home and take in boarders. Census records show that in 1880 their nieces Fanny (Florida) and Nowelle (sometimes spelled Nowell, also found as Norvelle) firststepdaughters of brother [Moses Barnard Prichard](#)—lived with them, as did boarder James L. Whitney (later librarian at the Boston Public Library).



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1829

 [Moses Prichard](#) and [Jane Tompson Hallet Prichard](#) obtained by purchase the house on Main Street in [Concord](#) that would become their permanent home.

John Graham, hired from elsewhere, was the schoolmaster for [Concord](#)'s grammar students.

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1786	JOSEPH HUNT	2½ years	1813	JOHN BROWN	1 year
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1810	Elijah F. Paige	1 year	1829	John Graham	1 year
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Reuben Bates of [Concord](#), whose father was the sea captain John Bates, Jonathan Thomas Davis, whose father was the [Concord](#) trader Jonathan H. Davis, and Horatio Cook Meriam, whose father was a [Concord](#) farmer, graduated from [Harvard College](#). Reuben Bates would go on to the [Harvard Divinity School](#).

REUBEN BATES, son of Capt. John Bates, was born March 20, 1808; grad. Harvard, 1829, and at the Theological School in 1832.

JONATHAN THOMAS DAVIS, son of Jonathan H. Davis, was graduated [at [Harvard](#)] in 1829.⁸

8. Also graduated in this class was George Thomas Davis (LL.B. 1832; Memb. and Cor. Memb. Mass. Hist. Soc.; M.C. 1851-1853, 1877).

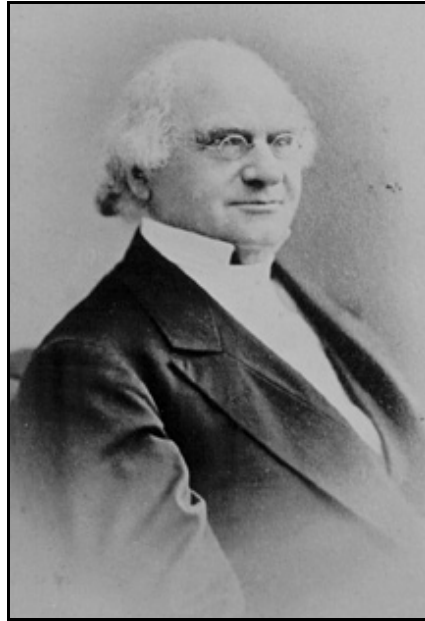


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HORATIO COOK MERIAM [of [Concord](#)], was graduated [at [Harvard](#)] in 1829, and is now [1835] in the practice of law at Lowell.⁹

George Washington Hosmer of [Concord](#) graduated from the [Divinity School](#).



George Washington Hosmer; A.M.; Grad. Div. S. 1830; S.T.D. 1853; Prof. Past. Care, Meadville Theol. S. (Pa.); Prof. Hist. and Ethics, Antioch (O.); President, Antioch 1866-1873

9. [Lemuel Shattuck](#)'s 1835 [A HISTORY OF THE TOWN OF CONCORD:...](#) Boston: Russell, Odiorne, and Company; Concord MA: [John Stacy](#)
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1833



Charles Sumner graduated from the Law School of [Harvard College](#).¹⁰



Leonhard Usteri had in 1830 produced at Bern an edition of Friedrich August Wolf's *VORLESUNGEN ÜBER DIE VIER ERSTEN GESÄNGE VON HOMER'S ILLIAS*. At this point Professor of Greek Literature [Cornelius Conway Felton](#) provided an English-language annotation of Wolf's text of *HOMEROU ILLIAS*. THE ILIAD OF HOMER, FROM THE TEXT OF WOLF. GR. WITH ENGLISH NOTES AND FLAXMAN'S ILLUSTRATIVE DESIGNS. EDITED BY C.C. FELTON (2d edition. Boston: Hilliard, Gray, and Co.), a volume that would be required at Harvard and would be found in the personal library of [Henry Thoreau](#).

After preparing at the Concord Academy, [William Mackay Prichard](#), son of the [Concord](#) trader [Moses Prichard](#), earned school money during the winter by teaching school in Sterling, Massachusetts, and graduated in this year from [Harvard](#) with honors. He would go on to teach at the Walpole Academy in New Hampshire, and in New-York. [William Whiting, Jr.](#), son of the [Concord](#) carriagemaker [Colonel William Whiting](#), graduated in this same class.

WILLIAM MACKAY PRICHARD, son of Moses Prichard, was graduated in 1833.¹¹

[WILLIAM WHITING](#) [of [Concord](#)], son of [Colonel William Whiting](#), was

10. Just in case you didn't know: Harvard Law School had been founded with money from the selling of slaves in the sugarcane fields of Antigua.



MOSES PRICHARD

MOSES PRICHARD

LAW SCHOOL.

FACULTY OF LAW.

Hon. JOSIAH QUINCY, LL. D., *President*.
Hon. JOSEPH STORY, LL. D.
SIMON GREENLEAF, A. M.

LAW STUDENTS.

SENIOR CLASS.

NAMES.	RESIDENCE.	ROOMS.
Campbell, James G., A. M., <i>Wash. Col.</i>	<i>Clarendon, Brunswick Co., N. C.</i>	Gr. 2
Churchill, Asaph, A. B.	<i>Milton,</i>	M. 15
Dutton, Francis Lowell, A. B.	<i>Boston,</i>	Gr. 3
Emerson, B. Frothingham, A. B., <i>Un. Col.</i>	<i>Hollis, N. H.</i>	M. 29
Hayes, John Lord, A. B., <i>Dart.</i>	<i>South Berwick, Me.</i>	D. 11
Howard, Volney E.,	<i>Norridgewock, Me.</i>	
Rand, John, A. B., <i>Bowd. Col.</i>	<i>Portland, Me.</i>	Mr. Newell's
Silsbee, Francis Henry, A. B.	<i>Salem,</i>	M. 25
Snaith, George,	<i>Boston, Eng.</i>	Gr. 4
Sumner, Charles, A. B. (<i>Librarian</i>)	<i>Boston,</i>	Dane L. Coll. 4
Upton, Francis Henry,	<i>Bangor, Me.</i>	M. 13

graduated [at [Harvard](#)] in 1833.¹²

11. [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. On July 16, 1859 he would correct a date mistake buried in the body of the text.)

12. Ibid.

To the Inhabitants of Concord.



THE Concord Gazette & Milliner Youngs, of Sept. 4th, notices the reception of Gen. La Fayette in this town. This notice is understood to have received the sanction of some of the extensive Committee, who planned the arrangements for the day. Some have said that an active committee-man wrote the account to suit himself. But, by some, this is denied. Yet all admit, that the majesty of the Committee adopted the account as true. Still, this account, though it contains no single assertion which is really false, conveys a wrong impression to the reader. It intimates, if it does not say, that the "Ladies who prepared and set out the refreshments of the bower" gave them as a voluntary tribute to the Hero. It also leaves one to suppose, that the whole expense of the occasion were defrayed by a few public-spirited persons of both sexes who had placed themselves in the front ranks, and contrived to show themselves to no small advantage in presence of the illustrious Guest.

To correct these mistakes this sheet is written. It is intended to state the truth; and it is the common wish that the truth, without varnish or coloring should be told; and with the truth the Citizens will rest satisfied. To receive Gen. La Fayette in Concord with appropriate ceremonies and respect, a Committee of fifteen was appointed, by a considerable meeting of their townsmen. This Committee served; and an address to the General by their Chairman, spoke the feelings and gratitude of the people with alacrity, and gave universal satisfaction. Yet in some parts of the committee's doings, there was a strange spirit discovered. In selecting persons to appear in the presence of the Hero, there was a singular display of judgment shall it be called? No, it was not judgment; it was preference and caprice.— This was noticed at the time, but called out no peculiar expression of disapprobation. But, this reception, parade, or entertainment had a tail to it. There was a bill to be paid; or, to speak more emphatically, there were an infinite number of bills to be met. The refreshments voluntarily furnished by the Ladies were to be paid for by the public. As ounces of tea, a slice of bacon, a quarter of sugar, or a shilling's worth of clams, whoever bought or by whoever furnished, had not been furnished without being charged in a bill, and was now to be paid for. The persons who were for excluding their neighbors from joining in making ready the ceremonies, were now not so very anxious to exclude the same neighbors from paying the bill or bills. They who received the General as if they themselves constituted the whole town, and were resolved to appear as the only persons of consequence at his reception, were not so very desirous to exclude others from the privilege of bearing the expense. These remarks it is thought apply not to the whole of the Committee. Some of their number would have preferred a liberal course; and these liberal minds were now averse to inflicting a tax on the town, to bear the expense, incurred, to enable a few persons to display their own personal consequence to advantage.

The warrant for town-meeting on Nov. 1st, contained an article "to see if the town will defray the expense of the reception of Gen. La Fayette." When this was known it produced a strong excitement. There were numbers in town, who had been excluded from aiding in the reception, who were yet so zealous and enthusiastic for the companion of Washington, that they voluntarily contributed enough to defray the whole of these expenses, and would not let it be said, that in Concord it was necessary to lay a town-tax for the reception of the General; they would not suffer it to be said, that this town had not liberal minded citizens enough to pay eighty dollars for the honour of

seeing and welcoming Gen. La Fayette, without the infliction of a tax.

Let it be remembered that most of these men, are the very persons whom a majority of the Committee excluded from the ceremonies, when Gen. La Fayette was here. They find no fault with the reception, except that so few were allowed to share in it. With parts of it they are much pleased. The military parade was an honour to the town and County; they are proud of it. Indeed had the whole business been conducted on a liberal scale; had all the citizens been allowed to aid in conducting it, no dissatisfaction would have been felt. As it is, many are not pleased. Many have had injustice done them by being excluded; while it is conceived that some individuals have had great injustice done them by being allowed to make themselves seen so much. Be this as it may, it concerns every one to have the matter rightly understood in this town; and beyond this town of Concord let not these things be told.

The following is a Statement of the Expenses incurred at the reception of Gen. La Fayette, September, 1824.

E. THORSON'S BILL for Refreshment furnished the troops on duty that day, viz.
 69 Mugs of drink before his arrival, at 1s \$13 33
 *13 Bottles of Spirit after his arrival, at 45¢ 12 00—\$25 33

JOSEPH BERTHAUX, Jr.'s BILL
 To his expense in going to Boston after a Dagle player, 3 75

SAMUEL DEAN'S BILL
 For Powder & Flannel to make cartridges for artillery, 12 17

JUSTIN DAVIS' BILL;
 For Sundries furnished the Bower, viz.
 6 lb. Coffee, at 25 cts. - - - - - 1 50
 3 doz. Eggs, 14 cts. - - - - - 42
 1 lb. Butter, - - - - - 17
 27 lb. Ham, at 12½ cts. - - - - - 3 38
 5 Bottles Wine of Devonport, at 6s. - - - - - 5 00
 Making Bower by G. Proctor, - - - - - 5 00
 Abel Conant's attendance of himself and boy, 1 00
 Bread of Jarvis, - - - - - 1 00
 ½ lb. Leaf Sugar, 1s. - - - - - 1 25—14 50

DANIEL SHATTUCK'S BILL
 7 lb. Currants, at 25 cts. - - - - - 1 75
 7 lb. Sugar, - - - - - 75
 6 lb. White Sugar, at 14 cts. - - - - - 84
 4 lb. Cloves, - - - - - 40
 7 lb. Box Raisins, at 20 cts. - - - - - 1 40
 4 lb. Nutmegs, - - - - - 63
 7 lb. 12 oz. Leaf Sugar, at 1s. - - - - - 1 25
 Cookery lost and broken, - - - - - 95
 Expense in notifying Capt. DAVIS, of Jeter by
 William Whiting, - - - - - 63
 Damage of Lumber, - - - - - 1 20—9 84

MOSES DAVIS' BILL
 4 doz. Eggs, at 1s. - - - - - 67
 4 lb. HYSON Tea, - - - - - 28—95

WILLIAM WHITING'S BILL
 8 lb. Butter at 1s. - - - - - 1 25
 6 doz. Eggs, 12½ cts. - - - - - 75
 Cash paid for attendance at Table, - - - - - 1 25—3 25
 \$19 87

The above items are copied exactly from the bill given in, and which was laid before the town. There was another item of \$2, which made the whole bill \$21 87; This amount was received and receipted for by Col. DANIEL SHATTUCK, in behalf of the Committee of Arrangements.

* Eight dollars of this item were refunded by the commanders of the Concord Independent Companies.

† This charge is now omitted in the bill, because it was made without the consent of the person for whom it was kindly set down by the liberality of friends. This money too was refunded, as having been paid unadvisedly.



MOSES PRICHARD

MOSES PRICHARD

[William Whiting, Jr.](#) would become a lawyer after teaching at Plymouth and [Concord](#), through studying law in Boston and attending the Law School of [Harvard](#).



[Manlius Stimson Clarke](#) matriculated, as his father had in 1786, at [Harvard](#). At the age of 15, [John Foster Williams Lane](#) returned from his study of the French and Italian languages in Europe and entered [Harvard](#)'s freshman class. He would attain a high rank of scholarship in his class and graduate in the same year as [Thoreau](#), with distinction.

NEW "HARVARD MEN"

Since [Francis Bowen](#) had to work his way through Phillips Exeter Academy and then through [Harvard](#), he was not able to graduate until the age of 22 –quite old for those days– but when he did take his degree, it was *summa cum laude* and he got a job teaching math at Phillips Exeter Academy. (Then he would teach math at Harvard.)

[William Henry Channing](#) graduated from the [Harvard Divinity School](#). [Benjamin Peirce](#) wrote the first published history of [Harvard](#), and became a professor there.

At the [Divinity School](#), the following gentlemen completed their studies:


William Ebenezer Abbot (A.B. Bowdoin College)
William Andrews
William Henry Channing
James Freeman Clarke
Samuel Adams Devens
Theophilus Pipon Doggett
Samuel May
Albert Clarke Patterson
Chandler Robbins
Samuel Dowse Robbins
Linus Hall Shaw
Henry Augustus Walker



MOSES PRICHARD

MOSES PRICHARD

1835

 October: Regular as clockwork, the return of the comet which had been observed by the Reverends Increase Mather and [Cotton Mather](#) through [Harvard College](#)'s "3 foote and a halfe with a concave ey-glasse" reflecting [telescope](#) in 1682, the comet which is known as "Halley's" to commoners and as "P/Halley" to others.



Halley has caught the attention of mankind so often because only it has long durations of visibility, **and** great brightness outside twilight and often at large elongations from the sun, **and** only brief interruptions of visibility by the sun's glare, **and** occasional spectacular approaches to the earth For all this to be possible its natural adequate brightness is requisite but not sufficient (some of its comrades may have more of it); the real key is a combination, unique to it, of orbital features.

HARVARD OBSERVATORY

It would be during this appearance of [Halley's Comet](#) that it would first be hypothesized that the outgassing from comets must be shoving them around, perturbing their orbital motion, and also, Newton to the contrary notwithstanding, causing them to lose mass toward their eventual disintegration.¹³

This time, [Maria Mitchell](#) and her father recorded the movements of this periodic comet.

13. All the initial calculations of the magnitude and directionality of this phenomenon, however, would prove to have been way, way off.

This is what Halley's Comet looked like, the last time it passed us. We have records of the appearances of this comet on each and every one of its past 30 orbits, which is to say, we have spotty records of observations before that, in 1,404 BCE, 1,057 BCE, 466 BCE, 391 BCE, and 315 BCE, but then on the 240 BCE return the sightings record begins to be complete. The Babylonians recorded seeing it in 164 BCE and again in 87 BCE, and then it was recorded as being seen in 12 BCE, 66 CE, 141 CE, 218 CE, 295 CE, 374 CE, 451 CE, 530 CE, 607 CE, 684 CE, 760 CE (only by Chinese), 837 CE, 912 CE, 989 CE, 1066, 1145, 1222, 1301, 1378, 1456, 1531, 1607, 1682, 1758, 1835, 1910, and 1986 - and we are confidently awaiting sightings in 2061 and 2134 even though due to a close conjunction with the earth we are presently unable to calculate what orbit it will have by the date of that approach. Each time P/Halley orbits in out of the Kuiper belt beyond the planets Neptune and Pluto and whips around the sun, it has been throwing off about one 10,000ths of its mass into a streaming tail, which means that this comet which we know to have been visiting us for at the very least the past 3,000 years or so is only going to be visiting us for perhaps another half a million years or so!



HALLEY'S COMET



EDMOND HALLEY



MOSES PRICHARD

MOSES PRICHARD

[Elizabeth Hallett Prichard](#) viewed this comet as a child in Concord (she would view it again as an old woman). This magazine illustration would undoubtedly have been somewhat exaggerated:





MOSES PRICHARD

MOSES PRICHARD

1858

October 6, Wednesday: A marine expedition began to chastise natives for the murder of two American citizens at Waya in the Fiji Islands (until the 16th).

US MILITARY INTERVENTIONS

[Elizabeth Hallett Prichard](#) and [Frances Jane Hallett Prichard](#) had been students at Phineas Allen's Concord Academy. [Elizabeth](#), nicknamed Lizzie, Lissie, Liz, and Lis, would be the only one of the five Prichard children to produce a child and would be also the longest-lived of that generation. After the Concord Academy she had attended George Barrell Emerson's school for girls in Boston, and over time she would acquire abilities in Latin, Greek, French, German, and Italian. Like Elizabeth Hoar (and, in Jane Prichard's opinion, incited by her), [Elizabeth Prichard](#) became an ardent abolitionist — seemingly the most radical in her family. she worked as a teacher in Baltimore (where she socialized with the recently married Caroline Healey Dall), New-York, and Brooklyn. Her career and her penchant for travel took her away from Concord for long periods of time — for instance, on this day she sailed for Liverpool on the *Niagara* with Elizabeth Hoar and Edward Sherman Hoar, another Concord Academy schoolmate. The trio were embarking on a “a grand tour of Europe, with a winter and early spring in Italy in the middle of it.”



October 6. P.M.— To Saw Mill Brook and Flint's Pond.

Now, methinks, the autumnal tints are brightest in our streets and in the woods generally. In the streets, the young sugar maples make the most show. The street is never more splendid. As I look up the street from the Mill-Dam, they look like painted screens standing before the houses to celebrate a gala-day.¹⁴ One half of each tree glows with a delicate scarlet. But only one of the large maples on the Common is yet on fire. The butternuts on the street are with, or a little later than, the walnuts. The three-thorned acacias have turned (one half) a peculiarly clear bright and delicate yellow, peculiar also for the smallness of the leaf. Asparagus-beds are a soft mass of yellow and green. Buttonwoods have no bright colors, but are a brownish and yellowish green, somewhat curled and crisp and looking the worse for the wear. Stand where half a dozen large elms droop over a house. It is as if you stood within a ripe pumpkin rind, and you feel as mellow as if you were the pulp.¹⁵

In Saw Mill Brook Path, and in most wood-paths, the *Aster undulatus* is now very fair and interesting. Generally a tall and slender plant with a very long panicle of middle-sized lilac or paler purple flowers, bent over to one side the path. The *Rhus Toxicodendron* leaves are completely changed and of very various colors, pale yellow to deep scarlet and delicate. The leaf-stalks are commonly drooping, being bent short downward near the base in a peculiar manner. Several species of ferns are faded quite white in the swamp, —*dicksonia* and another, and some brakes, — for in moist woods and swamps they are preserved longer than in dry places. *Solidago latifolia* in bloom still, but always sparingly. Cinnamon ferns are generally crisped, but in the swamp I saw some handsomely spotted green and yellowish, and one clump, the handsomest I ever saw, perfect in outline, falling over each way from the centre, of a very neat drab color, quaker-like, fit to adorn an Oriental drawing-room. The evergreens seem positively greener, owing to the browning of other leaves. I should not suspect that the white birches had changed so much and lost so many leaves, if I did not see them against the unchanged pitch pines on the hillside. I notice *Hieracium panium ulatum* and *scabrum* in dark, lowwood-paths, turned a hoary white. The *medeola* leaves are a pale straw-color with a crimson centre; perhaps getting stale now. The *tupelo* at Wharf Rock is completely scarlet, with blue berries amid its leaves.

Leaves now have fairly begun to rustle under foot in wood-paths, especially in chestnut woods, scaring the ducks as you approach the ponds. And what is that common scent there so much like fragrant everlasting?

The smooth sumachs, which are in their prime, or perhaps a little past, are, methinks, the most uniform and intense scarlet of any shrub or tree. They stand perfectly distinct amid the pines, with slender spreading arms, their leaflets drooping and somewhat curled though fresh. Yet, high-colored as they are, from their attitude and drooping, like scarfs, on rather bare and dark stems, they have a funereal effect, as if you were walking in the

14. [Excursions, p. 271; Riv. 332.]

15.



MOSES PRICHARD

MOSES PRICHARD

cemetery of a people who mourned in scarlet.

Most *S. nemoralis*, and most other goldenrods, now look hoary, killed by frost.

The corn stands bleached and faded—quite white in the twilight—in the fields. No greenness there has the frost and sun left. Seen against the dark earth.

My phosphorescent wood still glows a little, though it has lain on my stove all day, and, being wet, it is much improved still.

December 28, Tuesday: At the American consulate in [Florence](#), [Edward Sherman Hoar](#) got married with his childhood neighbor [Elizabeth Hallett Prichard](#) (through that winter and spring the couple would reside at the apartment of [Elizabeth Sherman Hoar](#) in Rome and associate with the Anglo-American community there).



December 28: P.M. —To Walden.

The earth is bare. I walk about the pond looking at the shores, since I have not paddled about it much of late years. What a grand place for a promenade! Methinks it has not been so low for ten years, and many alders, etc., are left dead on its brink. The high blue-berry appears to bear this position, alternate wet and dry, as well as any shrub or tree. I see winterberries still abundant in one place.

That rocky shore under the pitch pines which so reflects the light, is only three feet wide by one foot high; yet there even to-day the ice is melted close to the edge, and just off this shore the pickerel are most abundant. This is the warm and sunny side to which any one—man,—bird, or quadruped—would soonest resort in cool weather. I notice a few chickadees there in the edge of the pines, in the sun, lispings and twittering cheerfully to one another, with a reference to me, I think,—the cunning and innocent little birds. One a little further off utters the phoebe note. There is a foot more or less of clear open water at the edge here, and, seeing this, one of these birds hops down as if glad to find any open water at this season, and, after drinking, it stands in the water on a stone up to its belly and dips its head and flirts the water about vigorously, giving itself a good washing. I had not suspected this at this season. No fear that it will catch cold.

The ice cracks suddenly with a shivering jar like crockery or the brittlest material, such as it is. And I notice, as I sit here at this open edge, that each time the ice cracks, though it may be a good distance off toward the middle, the water here is very much agitated. The ice is about six inches thick.

Aunt Jane says that she was born on [Christmas Day](#), and they called her a Christmas gift, and she remembers hearing that her Aunt Hannah Orrock was so disconcerted by the event that she threw all the spoons outdoors, when she had washed them, or with the dish-water.

AUNT JANE THOREAU

Father says that he and his sisters (except Elizabeth) were born in Richmond Street, Boston, between Salem and Hanover Streets, on the spot where a Bethel now stands, on the left hand going from Hanover Street. They had milk of a neighbor, who used to drive his cows to and from the Common every day.

BOSTON

**THOREAU
LIFESPANS**



MOSES PRICHARD

MOSES PRICHARD

1859

August 27, Saturday: [Edward Sherman Hoar](#), the pregnant [Elizabeth Hallett Prichard Hoar](#), and [Elizabeth Sherman Hoar](#) sailed from Liverpool for Boston aboard the *Europa*.

Since whale oil for lamps had begun to be scarce in the 1850s, Canadians had been converting seeping ground oil into kerosene and using this substance in their lamps. Seeping ground oil had been noticed, by white people such as George Bissell, to be present near the ground surface at a place called “Oil Creek” near Titusville in Venango County, Pennsylvania.¹⁶ On this day Bissell’s employee Edwin Laurentine Drake began drilling what was to become the 1st successful oil well.



Gerrit Smith delivered a printed letter to John Thomas,



chairman of the Jerry Rescue Committee, declining to participate in the 1859 annual celebration of the rescue of Syracuse’s Jerry McHenry. In this writing the millionaire expressed frustration with the abolitionist movement and forecast that because the mere words of the abolitionists had failed to persuade their countrymen, “For insurrections then we may look any year, any month, any day.”



August 27. A little more rain last night.

What were those insects, some winged, with short backs and say half an inch long, others wingless and shorter, like little coils of brass wire (so marked), in dense droves together on trees and fences,—apparently harmless,—especially a week or ten days ago?

I was telling Jonas Potter of my lameness yesterday, whereat he says that he “broke” both his feet when he was young,—I imagined how they looked through his wrinkled cowhides,—and he did not get over it for four years, nay, even now he sometimes felt pains in them before a storm.

All our life, i. e. the living part of it, is a persistent dreaming awake. The boy does not camp in his father’s yard.

16. There were, however, at this point, any number of pre-existing human-dug pits along Oil Creek, lined with decaying wood. Carbon testing of some of the wood from some of these pits indicate that native Americans had been well aware of the oil in this vicinity, and had been systematically collecting it, since at least 510 years ago, which is to say, since at least the Year of Our Lord 1487 before the sailing of Christopher Columbus. It is speculated that native American uses for the oil included use for ointment, use for medication, and use for waterproofing.



MOSES PRICHARD

MOSES PRICHARD

That would not be adventurous enough, there are too many sights and sounds to disturb the illusion; so he marches off twenty or thirty miles and there pitches his tent, where stranger inhabitants are tamely sleeping in their beds just like his father at home, and camps in their yard, perchance. But then he dreams uninterruptedly that he is anywhere but where he is.

I often see yarrow with a delicate pink tint, very distinct from the common pure-white ones.

What is often called poverty, but which is a simpler and truer relation to nature, gives a peculiar relish to life, just as to be kept short gives us an appetite for food.

Vilfa vaginaflora (?) well out.

The first notice I have that grapes are ripening is by the rich scent at evening from my own native vine against the house, when I go to the pump, though I thought there were none on it.

The children have done bringing huckleberries to sell for nearly a week. They are suspected to have berries [SIC] in them.

On the 23d I gathered perfectly fresh and large low blackberries, peculiarly sweet and soft, in the shade of the pines at Thrush Alley, long after they are done in open fields. They seem like a different variety from the common, they are so much sweeter, tenderer, and larger. They do not grow densely but sparingly, now resting on the ground in the shade of their leaves, perfectly ripe. These that have ripened slowly and perfectly in the shade are the sweetest and tenderest, have the least of the bramble berry about them.

Elder-berry clusters swell and become heavy and therefore droop, bending the bushes down, just in proportion as they ripen. Hence you see the green cymes perfectly erect, the half-ripe drooping, and the perfectly ripe hanging straight down on the same bush.

I think that some summer squashes had turned yellow in our yard a fortnight or more ago.

There are various ways in which you can tell if a watermelon is ripe. If you have had your eye on the patch much from the first, and so know which formed first, you may presume that these will ripen soonest; or else you may incline to those which lie nearest the centre of the hill or root, as the oldest. Next the dull dead color and want of bloom are as good signs as any. Some look green and livid and have a very fog or mildew of bloom on them, like a fungus. These are as green as a leek through and through, and you'll find yourself in a pickle if you open one. Others have a dead dark greenness, the circulations being less rapid in their cuticles and their blooming period passed, and these you may safely bet on. If the vine is quite green and lively, the death of the quirl at the root of the stem is almost a sure sign. For fear we should not discover it before, this is placed for a sign that there is redness and ripeness (if not mealiness) within. Of two otherwise similar, take that which yields the lowest tone when struck with your knuckles, i. e., which is hollowest. The old or ripe ones sing base; the young, tenor or falsetto. Some use the violent method of pressing to hear if they crack within, but this is not to be allowed. Above all no tapping on the vine is to be tolerated, suggestive of a greediness which defeats its own purpose. It is very childish. One man told me that he couldn't raise melons because his children would cut them all up. I thought that he convicted himself out of his own mouth, and was not fit to be the ruler of a country according to Confucius' standard, that at any rate he could not raise children in the way they should go. I once saw one of his boys astride of my earliest watermelon, which grew near a broken paling, and brandishing a case-knife over it, but I instantly blew him off with my voice from a neighboring window before serious damage was done, and made such an ado about [IT] as convinced him that he was not in his father's dominions, at any rate. This melon, though it lost some of its bloom then, grew to be a remarkably large and sweet one, though it bore to the last a triangular scar of the tap which the thief had designed on it.

I served my apprenticeship and have since done considerable journey-work in the huckleberry-field, though I never paid for my schooling and clothing in that way. It was itself some of the best schooling I got, and paid for itself. Occasionally in still summer forenoons, when perhaps a mantua-maker was to be dined, and a huckleberry pudding had been decided on, I, a lad of ten, was dispatched to the huckleberry hills, all alone. My scholastic education could be thus far tampered with and an excuse might be found. No matter how few and scarce the berries on the near hills, the exact number necessary for a huckleberry pudding could surely be collected by 11 o'clock. My rule in such cases was never to eat one till my dish was full. At other times when I had companions, some used to bring such curiously shaped dishes that I was often curious to see how the berries disposed of themselves in them. Some brought a coffee-pot to the huckleberry-field, and such a vessel possessed this advantage at least, that if a greedy boy had skimmed off a handful or two on his way home, he had only to close the lid and give his vessel a shake to have it full again. This was done all round when we got as far homeward as the Dutch house. This can probably be done with any vessel that has much side to it.

I once met with a whole family—father and mother and children—ravaging a huckleberry-field in this wise: they cut up the bushes, and, as they went, beat them over the edge of a bushel basket, till they had it full of berries, ripe and green, leaves, sticks, etc., and so they passed along out of my sight like wild men.

See *Veratrum viride* completely withered and brown from top to bottom, probably as early as skunk-cabbage.

MOSES PRICHARD

MOSES PRICHARD

September 9, Friday: [Edward Sherman Hoar](#), [Elizabeth Hallett Prichard Hoar](#), and [Elizabeth Sherman Hoar](#) arrived in Boston Harbor aboard the *Europa*. Elizabeth resumed residence in her family's [Concord](#) home (the address is now 158 Main Street).

The Massachusetts Militia held its Grand Review of Troops at "Camp Massachusetts" near [Concord](#) (which should have kept them out of Thoreau's hair for the entire day). Here is the illustration from the September 24 issue of [Harper's Weekly Gentleman's Magazine](#).¹⁷



Heroic Followers

Heroic Leaders



September 9: I start many pigeons [[American Passenger Pigeon](#), [Ectopistes migratorius](#)] now in a sprout-land.
 I have noticed for a week or more some swarms of light-colored and very small fuzzy gnats in the air, yet not in such concentrated swarms as I shall see by and by.
 Now for hazelnuts,—where the squirrels have not got them.
 Within a week I think I have heard screech owls at evening from over the river once or twice.

MOSES PRICHARD

MOSES PRICHARD

1860

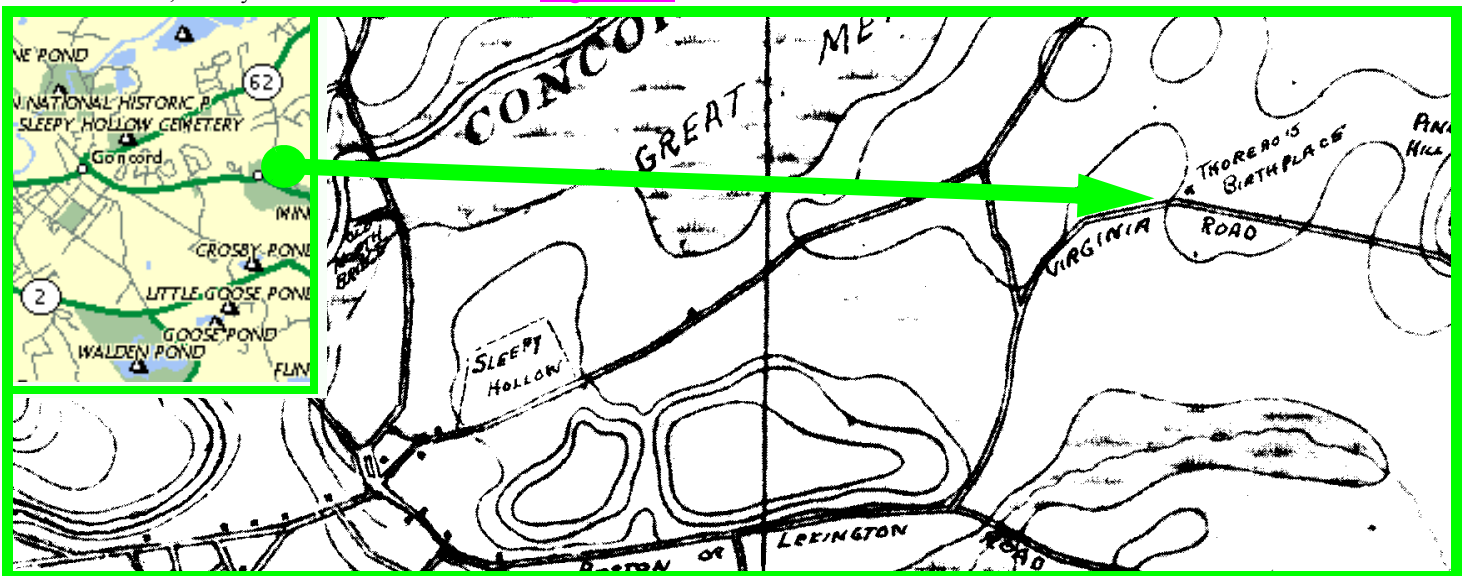
January 23, Monday: Florence Hoar was born to [Edward Sherman Hoar](#) and [Elizabeth Hallett Prichard Hoar](#) in [Concord](#) (this would be an only child, with her name reflected the Italian venue of her parents' wedding). Soon the family would purchase a farm in Lincoln (the Snelling/Hayden Farm on the Old Concord Road).

[Henry Thoreau](#) was being written to on plumbago business, by Chauncey Smith in Boston.

*Boston Jan 23^d 1860
 Mr Henry D Thoreau
 Dear Sir Enclosed
 please find note of my brother L.L.
 Smith for \$100 payable in three months
 with my endorsement and acknowl-
 edge the [receipt] thereof to him
 Yours truly
 Chauncey Smith*

[At right angles to the text of Smith's letter are later pencil additions by Thoreau including a list of clothing and supplies, and a column of figures. On the back of the note is one other column of figures and two columns of clothing, household &

17. But now I want to know, precisely, on a map, where this "Camp Massachusetts" was located! Was it where Hanscom Airfield is now, out beyond Thoreau's birth house on [Virginia Road](#)?





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farming supplies, etc.]




January 23. 8 A.M.— On river.

Walking on the ice by the side of the river this very pleasant morning, I see many minnows (may be dace) from one and a half to four inches long which have come out, through holes or cracks a foot wide more or less, where the current has worn through and shows the dark stream, and the water has flown over the adjacent ice, sinking it down so as to form a shallow water four or five feet wide or more, and often several rods long, and four or five inches deep on the side next the crack, or deepest side. This water has a yellowish color, and a fish or anything else in it is at once seen. I think that they come out into this thin water overlying the ice for the sake of the sun's warmth. Much heat must be reflected from the icy bottom this sunny morning, — a sort of anticipation of spring to them. This shallow surface water is also thinly frozen over, and I can sometimes put my hand close over the minnow. When alarmed they make haste back to the dark water of the crack, and seek the depths again.

Each pleasant morning like this all creatures recommence life with new resolutions, — even these minnows, methinks.

That snow which in the afternoons these days is thawing and dead — in which you slump — is now hard and crisp, supporting your weight, and has a myriad brilliant sparkles in the sunlight.

When a thaw comes, old tracks are enlarged in every direction, so that an ordinary man's track will look like the track of a snow-shoe, and a hound's track will sometimes have spread to a foot in diameter (when there is a thin snow on ice), with all the toes distinct, looking like the track of a behemoth or megalonyx.

Minott says that pigeons [**American Passenger Pigeon**,  *Ectopistes migratorius*] alight in great flocks on the tops of hemlocks in March, and he thinks they eat the seed. (But he also thought for the same reason that they ate the white pine seed at the same season, when it is not there! They might find a little of the last adhering to the pitch.)

Says he used to shoot the gray squirrel thus: he put his hat or coat upon a stick while the squirrel hung behind an upright limb, then, going round to the side, he shot him, for the squirrel avoided exposing himself to the coat as much as to the man.

He has stood on the steep hill southwest side of Moore's Swamp and seen two foxes chase a white rabbit all about it. The rabbit would dodge them in the thicket, and now and then utter a loud cry of distress. The foxes would burst out on the meadow and then dash into the thicket again. This was when the wood had been cut and he could see plainly. He says that the white rabbit loves to sit concealed under the over-arching cinnamon ferns (which he calls "buck-horns") on the sunny side of a swamp, or under a tuft of brakes which are partly fallen over. That a hound in its head-long course will frequently run over the fox, which quickly turns and gets off three or four rods before the former can stop himself.

For Spring and Blossoming vide Pliny, vol. ii, page 163.

DOG

GEORGE MINOTT

HDT

WHAT?

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1861

→ **Cigarettes** having been brought to the US by American tourists from Europe, their use would spread during the Civil War to the point that the 1st federal excise tax, one that would help fund the war, would be one imposed upon their purchase. During our period of civil war, **tobacco** would be given to the soldiers along with their rations in both Northern and Southern armies; many Northerners would in this way be introduced to reliance upon this substance.



Although his mother wrote that in early adulthood he sought to obtain a farm, **Moses Barnard Prichard** had instead become a civil engineer, working on railroad projects in New England, New York, and the southern states. He had been involved in the work on the Welland Canal. His professional associates and correspondents included the prominent Irish-born civil engineer brothers Samuel Power and Edward John Power. He would spend the period of the American Civil War years in the South where his allegiances perhaps lay. In middle age he would get married with Anna "Annie" V. Whaley (the widow Mrs. Thomas Whaley) of Virginia.



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1865

January 15, Sunday: In [Concord](#), [Moses Prichard](#) died at the age of 60.

[Edward Everett](#) died in Boston at the age of 71 (the body would be placed in the Mount Auburn Cemetery of Cambridge).

[Thomas Carlyle](#) took the last *ms* leaves of his THE HISTORY OF FRIEDRICH II OF PRUSSIA, CALLED FREDERICK THE GREAT to the post-office. He would comment that his labors on this history had nearly killed him.¹⁸

Evening still vivid to me. I was not joyful of mood; sad rather, mournfully thankful, but indeed half-killed, and utterly wearing out and sinking into stupefied collapse after my "comatose" efforts to continue the long fight of thirteen years to *finis*. On her [Jane's] face, too, when I went out, there was a silent, faint, and pathetic smile, which I well felt at the moment, and better now!

18. [William Allingham](#) would characterize this work as "the *reductio ad absurdum* of [Carlyleism](#)." Simon Heffer would say:

The book is shot through with Carlyle's fundamental prejudices. It is a pursuit of a hero, one made all the more special by his self-reclamation from a degenerate, effete youth. It is a celebration of Germanism, more particularly Prussianism, and the resolute process of Germanisation. Above all, it is the text adduced, quite fairly, by Carlyle's critics to prove his belief in the "might is right" thesis. Carlyle paints Frederick as a man of peace who, in his desire for peace, had frequently to go to war, because of the provocations of his rivals. "He is a very demon for fighting," says his biographer. He is also "the stoutest King walking the Earth just now, may well be a universal one. A man better not to be meddled with, if he will be at peace, as he professes to wish being." ...The need to fight to maintain peace was an excuse used by [Adolf Hitler](#) for his conquests, with less cause than in the case of Frederick. But the real example for Hitler was in Frederick's power of recovery when all seemed lost, in the penultimate winter of the Seven Years' War. That was why Goebbels read the book to his Führer in the bunker, to cheer him up; and it is the philosophical smell of the book, as much as its style and structure, that alienates modern readers.... Carlyle never quite gives a naked message of "might is right"; but endorses might being right when might is backed by veracity. One then has to argue with Carlyle's judgment of what constitutes veracity, a quality often concomitant with inhumanity.



PROTO-NAZISM



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1870

The Brownells had relocated to Bridgeport, Connecticut. In this 9th National Census, [Kady Southwell Brownell](#) offered that both she and her parents had been born in [Rhode Island](#). (Had the previous story, about Scotland, France, and Africa, simply been a grand zinger of which she had tired? Had it been a story that she herself had ever told or merely something that her husband had dreamed up with which to impress reporters?)

The census indicates that [Moses Barnard Prichard](#) was living with Anna Whaley Prichard in Montgomery, Alabama with Anna's two daughters, Florida ("Fanny") and Nowelle (young ladies who would later reside on Main Street in Concord with their aunts-in-law [Frances "Fanny" Jane Hallett Prichard](#) and [Amelia "Mela" Mackay Prichard](#)).



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1872

Winter: [Elizabeth Sherman Hoar](#) passed this season at Arinella near [Palermo](#), [Sicily](#) with [Edward Sherman Hoar](#) and [Elizabeth Hallett Prichard Hoar](#).



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1873

June: [Edward Sherman Hoar](#) and [Elizabeth Hallett Prichard Hoar](#) returned to [Concord](#), to reside with his sister [Elizabeth Sherman Hoar](#) in their family's house on Main Street.

[John Burroughs](#) placed a comment about [Henry Thoreau](#) in [The Galaxy](#) magazine, in an article titled "Exhilarations of the Road":

When you get into a railway car you want a continent, the man in his carriage requires a township; but a walker like Thoreau finds as much and more along the shores of Walden Pond.



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1885

July 1, Wednesday: [Edward Sherman Hoar](#) and [Elizabeth Hallett Prichard Hoar](#)'s daughter Florence Hoar got married in [Concord](#) with Moses Brown Lockwood Bradford (1858-1928) — a cotton manufacturer who in 1895 would be the assistant treasurer for the Assabet Manufacturing Company in Maynard, Massachusetts.



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1888

October: MEMOIRS OF MEMBERS OF THE [SOCIAL CIRCLE](#) IN [CONCORD](#); SECOND SERIES, FROM 1795 TO 1840 ... PRIVATELY PRINTED, by [John Shepard Keyes](#) and [Dr. Edward Waldo Emerson](#) (Cambridge: Privately Printed, [The Riverside Press](#) [includes a book-length memoir of [Ralph Waldo Emerson](#) by his son, entitled EMERSON IN CONCORD, separately paged but bound in following the other memoirs of this series]).

CONCORD'S SOCIAL CIRCLE

Memoir of [Moses Prichard](#), by Grindall Reynolds

On the southern border of New Hampshire, midway between the ocean and the Connecticut River, you find New Ipswich. It has several cotton mills, and an academy, which has had in times past something more than a local reputation. New Ipswich has especial interest for Concord, because nearly one half of its first settlers came from our town, and because also it was the early home of the Shattucks, the Davis's, and of one so long known and respected as the subject of this memoir.

The Prichards (the name is variously written, Prichard, Prichel, Prichett, and Pritchard) were a Welsh family. They first settled in this country in that part of Rowley in Essex County, Mass., now called Boxford. In 1772 Paul Prichard moved first to Mason and then to New Ipswich. He was a man of great influence in his day, paid the largest town tax, was an active patriot, a member of the Revolutionary Committee of Safety for those parts, after the war was selectman, and died in 1787. Jeremiah Prichard, the second son of Paul, was not a whit behind his father in patriotism. He enlisted in the first company which was sent from the town, was at the battles of Bunker's Hill and Hubbardston, and at the taking of Burgoyne. He was severely wounded at White Plains, and was promoted for courage and good conduct to a lieutenancy. After the war he pursued the business of tanning, and afterwards carried on a farm. He was largely interested in public affairs, and held almost every office of trust in the gift of the town, being six years town clerk, eight years selectman (seven of them as chairman), six years representative to the State legislature, thirteen years trustee of the academy, and for a long period commander of a quite noted company of cavalry. He is remembered as a man of integrity and great natural sagacity, very handsome in his personal appearance, and whose handwriting was so notably fine that the memory thereof is preserved in a grave town history. He took for a wife Elizabeth Smith, of Hollis. She must have been an efficient housewife of the old New England stamp. It is remembered of her that every year she had a piece of woollen cloth spun and woven in her own house, with which to make the yearly suit for her husband and four boys; the male department of creation in these pristine



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days being restricted by all wise better halves to that moderate allowance of wearing apparel. Of this marriage, Moses Prichard was the second son, born March 18, 1789. He was a delicate boy, not indeed sickly, but slender, and unfit for the hard physical toil of a farmer's life. It was the desire of his parents that he should go to college and study for the ministry. The ambition of the young man, however, did not point in this way. He preferred rather to seek his livelihood in trade. At the age of seventeen he left home, and came to Concord in search of his fortune. As boy and clerk he was first in the employ of Isaac Hurd, Jr., who then kept the Green store, as it was familiarly called. He boarded for a time with old Dr. Hurd, and in after life he used to recall how then Mrs. Hurd, whether she was the first, second, or third partner of the worthy doctor, I know not, - who had almost lost her voice, used every morning to say in an almost inaudible whisper, "Moses, you must eat a good breakfast." Whether this reminiscence testifies the more strongly to the capacity of the young man to interest a motherly soul in him, or to an unheard-of generosity in a landlady, cannot now be settled. In 1808 his employer married Mary Heald, and after that event went to housekeeping and took his clerk home to board. The widow, now surviving in a good old age, recalls his appearance and ways, and says, "he was a handsome boy, and very good," and with a strong emphasis on the last two words. He remained with Mr. Hurd until perhaps 1810 or 1811, when he, with Mr. Samuel Burr, bought the business which was continued for many years under the title of Burr & Prichard. In the period between this commencement of business on his own account and his marriage, he boarded with Jonathan Wheelock in the house on Main Street which he afterwards bought, and which is now owned and occupied by members of his family. Among his fellow boarders were Hon. Samuel Hoar, Hon. Nathan Brooks, Hon. John Keyes, and Esquire Jo. Barrett. And it was one of the felicities of his life, and one of the things which he rejoiced to recall, that the friendship thus early formed continued without break or coldness until death separated, in all cases a period of not less than thirty years, and in the case of Mr. Brooks, of more than fifty years. At the age of seventeen Mr. Prichard was engaged to Jane Hallett, then of Boston, who herself had reached the mature age of sixteen. Perhaps it was this rather early betrothal which sent the young man out from home to find his place in the world - for his arrival in Concord and the engagement seem to have been contemporary events. Jane Hallett was the daughter of Allen Hallett, a Cape Cod sea-captain, who for many years commanded a packet plying from Boston to England. He must have been a man of courage and efficiency, for in 1782 he captured the British Letter-of-Marque "Enterprise," a square-sterned ship of two hundred and seventy tons," as she is described in her permit, now in possession of the family, fitted out from Bristol to prey on French commerce, and manned by one hundred and eighteen men and officers, commanded by Conway Heighington. He must have been a man of humanity too, for,



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besides credit for seamanship, he gained honor and thanks for the courage exhibited on at least one occasion in rescuing shipwrecked sailors. Captain Hallett, when he gave up sea life about the close of the last century, lived a short time at New Ipswich, where it is to be presumed the future partners first met. Afterwards he moved to Fitchburg. Upon her mother's death the daughter went back to Boston, and lived with her aunts. January 20, 1814, Moses Prichard and Jane Hallett were married, in the middle of what was called for so many years the last war. Alas I that a later and far bloodier one should have destroyed the appropriateness of the title. It is handed down that the war had so increased the cost of furniture that the bride was dissuaded from purchasing what was considered to be a proper outfit. For the first years of their married life the young couple seem to have led a somewhat migratory existence, induced, probably, by a scarcity of house accommodations similar to that which has afflicted the town ever since. They lived first for some three years in the Thoreau house, now owned by Mr. Surette, and afterwards, successively, in the houses occupied and owned in later times by Hon. Nathan Brooks, Charles B. Davis, and Captain Richard Barrett. Finally, in 1829, they obtained by purchase the house on Main Street, which for the rest of their days was their permanent home. Of this marriage three sons and three daughters were born, of whom two sons and three daughters survive, one of the sons having died in infancy. Nothing could have clouded the domestic happiness had not the wife become the victim of that painful disease, rheumatism. For twenty-five years she bore with unflinching patience and cheerfulness the greatest sufferings, and for nearly, if not quite, that period was deprived of the free use of her hands.

Mr. Prichard was, probably, never thoroughly fitted to succeed in business. His good taste, no doubt, enabled him to select goods with judgment. His pleasant manners and uniform good temper must have made him attractive to customers. But he was not a born trader. In his best days, he could hardly have had that keen shrewdness, that incessant vigilance, that firmness and almost hardness in the collection of dues, requisite for the successful keeping of a country store, especially in times when credits were given far and wide over the country. Certain it is that after about twenty years' business he failed and retired from trade. Afterwards he was appointed deputy sheriff of the county of Middlesex, and in the latter years of his life performed the duties of crier of the court, without holding the office, which indeed had in name ceased to exist, though not in fact. As deputy sheriff, in all civil processes, especially in such as concerned real estate, his prudence and carefulness, his knowledge of the law and customs pertaining to such cases, derived from long experience, made him, it is said, one of the best officers in the county. One would not think that he was fitted by nature for the criminal department of service. His natural refinement and real kindness of heart must have made him dislike contact with coarse scenes and brutal men. Yet,



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singularly enough, he had quite a faculty of dealing with the worst men, often subduing by the entire gentleness and dignity of his manners those whose fierceness was only aggravated by threats and violence. Mr. Prichard remained nominally in office nearly, if not quite, to the time of his death; latterly performing none of its duties, however, except those pertaining to the crier of the courts. His days in later life passed quietly on in a tranquil routine, into which he had insensibly fallen. Whoever dropped into the office of the Middlesex Insurance Company about nine o'clock in the morning would be pretty sure to find Mr. Prichard seated on one side of the fireplace in an arm-chair, in the corner in front of the safe-door. On the other side of the fireplace, his head resting on a certain spot on the wall, would be seated his life-long friend, Nathan Brooks. In front of the fireplace, one elbow on the table, would be Colonel Shattuck. By this time George Brooks had brought the "Daily Advertiser" from the post-office, and it was open, generally before Mr. Prichard, and the items of the day were being read and discussed. At about ten o'clock, the interests of town, state, and nation having been amicably considered, and a few pleasant stories and jokes having been thrown in, the Colonel and Mr. Brooks turned to a consideration of new insurance policies, while Mr. Prichard wended his way quietly homeward. Arrived there, on summer days he would take a stroll into his garden, and perhaps use a certain ancient and weather-beaten hoe, which hung upon the mulberry tree, in disturbing a few weeds. In winter he went directly into the house and took his accustomed seat, and read and talked. Whoever called in would find him glad to see them, hospitable, courteous, and cheerful, not a great talker, but an excellent listener. This gentle routine was disturbed by the death of his wife, May 31, 1860, and the departure of Mr. Brooks in 1863. To my mind he was never quite so cheerful after these events as before. In a little while his own health began to falter. The heart ceased to do perfectly its work. Dropsical tendencies followed, and after many months of gradual but not painful decline his life closed, January 15, 1865. Outwardly, his life may be called almost a failure; for in his early manhood he did not succeed in the business which he undertook, and in his later life he probably only earned a daily support. Yet, making every allowance for the depressing influence of his misfortunes, few men probably get more real satisfaction out of life than he did. He was happy in his home. He was a kind and attentive husband, faithful in an especial manner to the duties of a father, giving to his children all the advantages of culture and education which the times permitted, and more, perhaps, than his limited means would always comfortably admit. In discipline gentle and quiet, but very firm, he was not above mingling in the affairs and pleasures of his children. On the contrary, he took great interest in their pursuits, and was glad to promote not only their permanent welfare, but their enjoyment, and had a great faculty in approaching them, and in winning their confidence. The same gentleness which characterized his dealings with his children went with him into all the relations of life. He liked to make



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the best of everything, and did not enjoy hearing people complain. He was not fond of scandal, and desired to see the pleasant side of people, and generally succeeded in doing so. He must have been, I think, a person of great natural refinement. He was fond of fine fruits and flowers, and first and last devoted a good deal of time to them, having at one time quite a nursery of pear and apple trees. He liked good pictures. He had literary tastes, reading valuable books to the end of his life. Anything fine in literature, anything eloquent in speech or oration, especially of Webster or Everett, touched his quick sympathies, and brought moisture to his eyes. He certainly was a person of the finest manners. He had that sense of the proprieties of all occasions, and of the needs of all companies, which comes by nature or comes not at all. As a consequence, he was at home in all circles – able to get along with anybody, be he gentleman or brute, the most refined or the most ignorant, and to get along and perform the sometimes unpleasant duties of his official life without awakening irritation and ill feeling. Every one liked to stop with him, for his genial ways, his kindness and attentiveness, were so unobtrusive, that they did not disturb one, or rub one's sore spots, or make one feel under too weighty an obligation. In other words, the habits and manners of a thorough gentleman belonged to him, not so much by force of any early advantages as by the necessity of his nature. All accounts say that Mr. Prichard, as a young man, was remarkably handsome, and a person of the finest address and the pleasantest ways. He was a good deal of a gallant, a favorite in the best companies, gay, cheerful, and sometimes jolly. In his old age he grew thin, wrinkled, and somewhat bent in form. His manners, too, became quiet, subdued, and at the last almost sad. But he never lost his innate refinement or his courteous demeanor. To the last he was a thorough gentleman of the old school, with those good manners, kind and deferential, which are fast taking their place among the lost arts. His relations with the Circle demonstrate his attractive address. He was elected a member January 1812, when only 22 years of age, making him the youngest member who ever belonged. He resigned October 18, 1864, after the unprecedentedly long membership of fifty-two years and nine months, contributing, so long as he continued with us, in a quiet and undemonstrative way, his full share to the pleasantness of our meetings. A man, finally, if I mistake not, unfitted for shining success in this practical, bustling, trading world, not at all a born trader, not at all a keen financier. A man whose way, as his son expresses it, was "very much in the cool, sequestered vale of life," and who probably enjoyed walking there. A man of more taste than ambition, of great refinement, but moderate strength either of body or of will. A man, then, whose suavity of manner and real kindness of heart made him a pleasant person to know and to remember, and concerning whom it is natural and easy to speak with respect and affection.



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1897

[William Mackay Prichard](#) died. His surviving sisters [Frances Jane Hallett Prichard](#) and [Amelia Mackay Prichard](#) would provide in his memory a fund in support of the fine arts collections of [Harvard University](#).



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1899

[Frances Jane Hallett Prichard](#) died in New-York.

She and her surviving sister [Amelia Mackay Prichard](#) purchased a lot in their home town, Concord, Massachusetts to be used for a manual training school at which the town might teach industrial arts, domestic science, mechanical drawing, and other practical subjects. They paid to have the former East Center School building moved to the lot and renovated, and provided the town with funding for its maintenance.



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1901

[Amelia Mackay Prichard](#) died in New-York.



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1910

April 20, Wednesday/21, Thursday: Regular as clockwork, the 3d whip around the sun as had been predicted by [Edmond Halley](#) in 1704 of the comet which had been observed by the Reverends Increase Mather and [Cotton Mather](#) through [Harvard College](#)'s "3 foote and a halfe with a concave ey-glasse" reflecting telescope in 1682, the comet which is known as "P/Halley" to the initiated and as "[Halley's Comet](#)" to the unwashed. It would be during this appearance that it would be possible to calculate in advance the date of its perihelion (the point at which it would come closest to the sun, some 55,000,000 miles, which is not really all that much on target) within a margin of error of three days. It was announced in the popular press that this time the million-kilometer tail of the comet would sweep across Earth's orbit, and a "comet pill" was marketed as an antidote for the comet's poisonous gasses.¹⁹



Halley's Comet is sometimes called "the comet of all lifetimes," or "mankind's comet," because the length of its orbit brings it within sight of the earth about every seventy-five years – the approximate length of one human lifetime. Most people who live to adulthood have the opportunity to view it.

ASTRONOMY

HARVARD OBSERVATORY

Samuel Langhorn Clemens, who had been born in Missouri while the comet was departing in 1835, died on this day during this next passage of the comet. The biologist Sewall Wright witnessed this visit of this comet while working on the railroads in South Dakota, and would endure to mark its disappointing performance upon its well-anticipated next visit in 1985-1986.

[Elizabeth Hallett Prichard Hoar](#), as she gazed up at the night sky from her window, would remember that this was an apparition she had previously witnessed, as a girl in Concord.

On its trip back out into the cold dark the comet would come within 0.15 astronomical units of the earth, and in all probability the earth did pass through its 120-degree tail of gas and dust.

19. This pill would prove to be quite effective, so effective in fact that it would work even for those who neglected to procure it.

This is what Halley's Comet looked like, the last time it passed us. We have records of the appearances of this comet on each and every one of its past 30 orbits, which is to say, we have spotty records of observations before that, in 1,404 BCE, 1,057 BCE, 466 BCE, 391 BCE, and 315 BCE, but then on the 240 BCE return the sightings record begins to be complete. The Babylonians recorded seeing it in 164 BCE and again in 87 BCE, and then it was recorded as being seen in 12 BCE, 66 CE, 141 CE, 218 CE, 295 CE, 374 CE, 451 CE, 530 CE, 607 CE, 684 CE, 760 CE (only by Chinese), 837 CE, 912 CE, 989 CE, 1066, 1145, 1222, 1301, 1378, 1456, 1531, 1607, 1682, 1758, 1835, 1910, and 1986 - and we are confidently awaiting sightings in 2061 and 2134 even though due to a close conjunction with the earth we are presently unable to calculate what orbit it will have by the date of that approach. Each time P/Halley orbits in out of the Kuiper belt beyond the planets Neptune and Pluto and whips around the sun, it has been throwing off about one 10,000ths of its mass into a streaming tail, which means that this comet which we know to have been visiting us for at the very least the past 3,000 years or so is only going to be visiting us for perhaps another half a million years or so!



HALLEY'S COMET



EDMOND HALLEY



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1917

October 25, Thursday: [German](#) and Austrian forces took Monte Stol and Italian forces evacuated the Bainsizza Plateau, retreating across the Isonzo River.

WORLD WAR I

[Elizabeth Hallett Prichard Hoar](#) died in her childhood home at 140 Main Street in Concord. The life would be reported to the public in the pages of the Boston [Transcript](#) and the body would be positioned at Sleepy Hollow Cemetery.

Several incidents of more than ordinary interest are identified with Mrs. Hoar's life. As a very young child she saw General Lafayette when he visited Concord and the great Frenchman took her up and kissed her, an incident which was always clearly remembered by her, throughout her life. On the last appearance of Halley's comet, in 1910, Mrs. Hoar looked from her window to view the unusual sight and vividly remembered how, three-quarters of a century or more before that, she had looked from the very same window to have her first sight of this comet.

“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 1, 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.



MOSES PRICHARD

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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.