

HENRY'S RELATIVES



SWEET-FACED AUNT JANE THOREAU



CHRISTMAS 1786

December 25, Monday: Since we know that [Henry Thoreau](#)'s [Aunt Jane Thoreau](#) was born on [Christmas Day](#), in Richmond Street in [Boston](#) between Salem and Hanover Streets, and since she was 64 as of the national census of September 1850, wouldn't she surely have been the Christmas present of [Jane "Jennie" Burns Thoreau](#), the 42-year-old mother of nine-year-old [John Thoreau](#), to [Jean Thoreau](#), of the year 1786, and before the year was out died — despite the confusing change between year ends in the old and new calendars?¹

HENRY'S RELATIVES

1. In any event, the tradition of giving gifts on [Christmas](#) had not yet begun. At the time, gifts were still being exchanged instead as of the New Year's!

SWEET-FACED

JANE THOREAU

This surmise has not been borne out by review of the Concord town records, which are now on the Internet. According to those records, a Thoreau infant was born in that year, in Concord, and was named not Jane but “Mary.” Unless Thoreau’s [Aunt Maria Thoreau](#) were born very early in the year 1786, and then the mother Jane Burns Thoreau got pregnant immediately and delivered a second baby at Christmas in Boston during the very same year, then it would seem that the likeliest hypothesis is that Thoreau’s Aunt Jane must have been born not on Christmas 1786 but on Christmas 1787:

Births

Name	Sex	Birth Date	Birth Place	Father's Name	Mother's Name
THOREAU, John		1754	Concord		
THOREAU, Mary	F	1786	Concord	John	
THOREAU, Sarah		1791	Concord		
THOREAU, Helen L.	F	1813	Concord	John	Cynthia
THOREAU, John	M	1815	Concord	John	Cynthia
THOREAU, Sophia Elizabeth	F	Sept. 27, 1819	Chelmsford	John	Cynthia

(We note that this “John Thoreau” registered as having been born in Concord in 1754, actually had been born on the Isle of [Jersey](#), in the English Channel, with his given name being “Jean.” Also, [Helen Louisa Thoreau](#) was born not in 1813 a year after her parents got married, but in 1812 — that is, in the same year in which they got married, and very likely not quite nine months later. Also, John, Junior was born not in 1815 but in 1814. Also, Sophia Elizabeth Thoreau was born not on September 27th, 1819 in Chelmsford, but on June 24th. We note in addition that although David Henry Thoreau’s three siblings’s births are present in the town records, and although his baptism can in fact be found recorded in the parish book, his own birth in 1817 to [Cynthia Dunbar Thoreau](#) and John Thoreau is for some reason not present in this town record.)

Per [Thoreau](#)’s JOURNAL:



December 28, 1858: ... 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.



December 28, 1858: ... 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**

[Noah Webster, Jr.](#) relocated from Hartford to Philadelphia. Not noted for his humility, it is remembered that when he arrived in Philadelphia and was greeted by Dr. Rush, the following conversational exchange took place: “How do you do, my dear friend. I congratulate you on your arrival in Philadelphia.” ‘Sir, you may congratulate Philadelphia on the occasion.’” He would teach “English Language” and “Mathematics” at the Protestant Episcopal Academy. George Washington would visit his rooms to return the courtesy of his visit to Mount Vernon. In Philadelphia he would also be encountering Rufus King, Edmund Randolph, and James Madison.

1797

June 6, Tuesday: An elaborate [“parhelion”](#) was observed from the port of St. Malo in Normandy:

Three Suns and an Inverted Rainbow.

The following is taken literally word for word from a rare copy of the Brighton (England) Advertiser of June 6, 1797: “A rare phenomenon is reported from St. Malo. Recently during the afternoon, between the hours of 4 and 5, three perfect suns were seen all in a row above the western horizon. The sky was very clear at the time, and there was no one who saw the unusual sight that believes it to have been a mirage or other atmospheric illusion. The central seemed more brilliant than his two luminous attendants, and between the three there seemed to be a communication in the shape of waves of light composed of all the prismatic colors. At about the same time a rainbow made its appearance at a short distance above the central sun, upside down—that is to say, the two ends pointed toward the zenith and the bow’s neck toward the horizon.”



Three glorious suns, each one a perfect sun;
 Not separated with the racking clouds,
 But sever'd in a pale clear-shining sky.
 See, see! they join, embrace, and seem to kiss,
 As if they vow'd some league inviolable:

SWEET-FACED

JANE THOREAU

Now are they but one lamp, one light, one sun.
In this the heaven figures some event.



After the death of [Jean Thoreau](#)'s first wife [Jane "Jennie" Burns Thoreau](#) in the previous year, Papa Jean had eight children to rear the oldest of whom, at that point, [John Thoreau](#), would have been but 10 years of age. He got married a 2d time, the Reverend Ezra Ripley presiding, to a another parent who had minor children to rear, Rebecca Hurd Kettell the widow of a Mr. Kettell

Marriages

Spouses	Marriage Date	Marriage Place
THOREAU, John & Rebecca Kettell	Jun, 1797	Concord
THOREAU, John & Cynthia Dunbar	May, 1812	Concord

She was a relative of Concord's physician, Dr. Isaac Hurd. Her brother Joseph Hurd, a merchant in Charlestown, would become executor of Jean's will and, eventually, guardian of the children, at a salary of \$200.⁰⁰ per year. (Over and above this, legal fees relating to the Thoreau estate would amount to between \$50.⁰⁰ and \$100.⁰⁰ per annum. This 2d wife, when widowed a 2d time, would receive \$850.⁰⁰ per year to enable her to care for the children in Concord: Henry's father John and siblings [Sarah Thoreau](#), [Elizabeth Orrock Thoreau](#), [Nancy Thoreau](#), [Jane Thoreau](#), and [Maria Thoreau](#).) The Thoreau family, thus constituted, came to the crossroads town of [Concord](#) to live. And, as [Henry Thoreau](#) would later report in his journal about [Cynthia Dunbar](#), "Mother first came to Concord about the same age that father did, but a little before him."

Mr. Thoreau lost his health, moved to Concord, ...

**HENRY'S
RELATIVES**



SWEET-FACED

JANE THOREAU

In the [Concord Antiquarian Museum](#), a donation by Russell H. Kettell under accession number M-332, is a *Memento Mori* or “Posy” consisting of two facing pages with the names “Rebecca” at the bottom of the left sheet and “Kettell.” at the bottom of the right. On the left sheet a male figure is depicted in period formal attire, who is pointing dramatically toward something high and is wearing a hat from which seem to be growing two flowers or vines. On the right sheet is the figure of a band major with sheathed sword and bandstaff. His bandstaff has a decorative tassel hanging from its bulbous top. The text of this composition reads, at top left:

Now Ive Efcap'd the eagles Claws
And am from Danger free
I'll fet my Heart To gather gold
Turn Down this Leaf and See

On the left inside the bottom is found:

an Heart here is opprest with care
What Salve can cure the Same
Under this leaf You'll find, a cure
Lift Up and See how Plain

The composition continues inside the top left:

A purse With gold & silver store
Has Cur'd my Heart I'm sick no more
But I'm from Care & Danger's free
No Worldly Care Shall trouble me

The composition resumes at the top right:

Now I have Gold and Silver store
Bribes from ye Rich pawns from the poor
What Worldly Cares shall trouble me
Turn Down This Leaf & then You'll See

The composition begins to deliver its moral punch at the top right:

Sickness is come & death draws Nigh
Help Gold & Silver, ere I Die
It will not Do, it is But Dross
Turn Up & See Mans End at Last
V.B.


Inside the right bottom we find:

O Man Now See thou art but dust
Thy Gold & Silver is but rust
Thy time is come thy glass is spent
What Worldly care can death prevent

In this composition, I fail to understand the presence of the initials “V.B.” Would this be *verba bene*, or perhaps an attribution to the Venerable Bede?

MRS. REBECCA KETTELL THOREAU


1800

 The quotation below about Mr. Thoreau is per [Mrs. Rebecca Kettell Thoreau](#)'s obituary and appeared in [The Christian Disciple](#) of October 1815, Volume III, No. 10:

Mr. Thoreau lost his health, moved to Concord, and there finished his course like a christian.

After the death of Mr. [Jean Thoreau](#)'s 1st wife [Jane "Jennie" Burns Thoreau](#) in 1797, he had had eight children to rear the oldest of whom, at that point, John, would have been but 10 years of age. He had therefore married a 2d time, to a widow who also had minor children to rear, [Mrs. Rebecca Kettell Thoreau](#) the widow of a Mr. Kettell. She was a relative of Concord's physician, Dr. Hurd. Her brother Joseph Hurd, a merchant in Charlestown, would become executor of Jean's will and, eventually, guardian of children, at a salary of \$200.⁰⁰ per year. In addition to this, legal fees relating to the Thoreau estate would amount to between \$50.⁰⁰ and \$100.⁰⁰ per year. This 2d wife, soon to be widowed a 2d time, would receive \$850.⁰⁰ per year to enable her to care for the children in Concord, Henry's father [John Thoreau](#) and John's sisters [Sarah Thoreau](#), [Elizabeth Orrock Thoreau](#), [Nancy Thoreau](#), [Jane Thoreau](#), and [Maria Thoreau](#). The Thoreau family, thus constituted, came to [Concord](#) to live. And, as [Henry Thoreau](#) would later report in his journal about [Cynthia Dunbar](#), "Mother first came to Concord about the same age that father did, but a little before him."

1801

 March 7, Saturday: In his home in [Concord](#), [Jean Thoreau](#) died "of consumption" at the age of 47, leaving an estate of some \$25,000.⁰⁰ inclusive of the approximate value of his two homes, plus about \$12,000.⁰⁰ in good securities and in cash:

Mr. Thoreau lost his health, moved to Concord, and there finished his course like a christian.²

Thoreau Deaths

Name	Death Date	Age	Buried
John	March 1801	47	Concord
Mary	July 24, 1811	25	Concord
Sarah	August 1829	38	Concord
Miss Betsey	November 1839	60s?	Concord
John	January 1842	27	Concord
Helen L.	June 1849	36	Concord

2. This is per the obituary of [Mrs. Rebecca Kettell Thoreau](#), [Henry Thoreau](#)'s step-grandmother who had reared Henry's father [John Thoreau](#) and his sisters Sarah, [Elizabeth Thoreau](#), Nancy, [Aunt Jane Thoreau](#), and [Aunt Maria Thoreau](#) — who, like his grandfather [Jean Thoreau](#), had already died before Henry was born. It appeared in [The Christian Disciple](#) of October 1815, Volume III, No. 10.

SWEET-FACED

JANE THOREAU

After Jean's death his widow and children, including 14-year-old [John Thoreau](#), would continue residence in this home that eventually would become the east wing of Concord's present-day Colonial Inn, along with John's two sisters: [Sarah Thoreau](#), a town seamstress, and [Elizabeth Orrock Thoreau](#) (Betsey), who had inherited the house. Soon the orphaned boy John would be working as a clerk in the store of Deacon [John White](#).



If [Henry Thoreau's Aunt Maria Thoreau](#) had been born, as we suppose, in 1796, the years of her mother [Jane "Jennie" Burns Thoreau](#)'s death, this would put her at roughly 5 years of age at the date of her father's death.

THOREAU LIFESPANS

The house at Number 57 in [Prince Street](#) in [Boston](#) passed to the surviving children, [John Thoreau](#), [David Thoreau](#), [Sarah Thoreau](#), [Elizabeth Orrock Thoreau](#), [Maria Thoreau](#), [Jane Thoreau](#), Nancy Thoreau, and ????????? Thoreau (the name of this child does not seem to be anywhere on record), each receiving a one-eighth share.

1818



March: The Thoreaus left the gray house on Virginia Road, where [Cynthia Dunbar Thoreau](#) had spent a portion of her youth and where her David Henry had been born, while the baby was but eight months old. They moved initially to a house they rented from Josiah Davis, at 47 Lexington Road in Concord.

HENRY THOREAU
THOREAU RESIDENCES



"Is a house but a gall on the face of the earth,
a nidus which some insect has provided for its young?"
-JOURNAL May 1, 1857





SWEET-FACED

JANE THOREAU



October: The Thoreaus relocated from Josiah Davis's rental house at 47 Lexington Road in [Concord](#) to a red house next door to the church in Chelmsford MA (Chelmsford was where [Cynthia Dunbar Thoreau](#) had spent the rest of her childhood) to live with [Mary Jones Dunbar Minot](#). We learn from this that [Henry Thoreau](#) had a sort of a family relationship with the Minots or Minotts who lived in [Concord](#), and we can learn that the name was indifferently spelled with one or two t's.

DUNBAR FAMILY



"Is a house but a gall on the face of the earth,
a nidus which some insect has provided for its young?"

-JOURNAL May 1, 1857



The Red House, where Grandmother lived, we the west side till October, 1818, hiring of Josiah Davis, agent for Woodward. (There were Cousin Charles and Uncle C. more or less.) According to day-book. Father hired of Proctor, October 16, 1818, and shop of Spaulding, November 10, 1818. Day-book first used by Grandfather, dated 1797. His part cut out and used by Father in Concord in 1808-9, and in Chelmsford, 1818-19-20-21.

SWEET-FACED

JANE THOREAU

Father [John Thoreau](#) had borrowed from his stepmother and the family home at Number 57 on [Prince Street](#) in [Boston](#) had been mortgaged for \$1,000.⁰⁰ but his business had not done well. That spring he would need to sign the deed over to his sisters. There is a picture of this rather unimposing house on page 118 of the Reverend Edward Griffin Porter's RAMBLES IN OLD BOSTON, NEW ENGLAND (Boston 1887):



THOREAU RESIDENCES

1825



The sisters of [John Thoreau, Senior](#) ([Elizabeth Thoreau](#), [Maria Thoreau](#), and [Jane Thoreau](#)) again mortgaged their home at Number 57 on [Prince Street](#) in [Boston](#) to Isaac Dupee for \$1,000.⁰⁰.

THOREAU RESIDENCES

SWEET-FACED

JANE THOREAU

1827



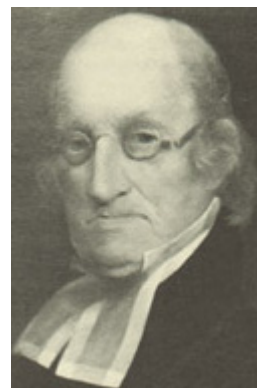
Fall: Among the 1st tenants to arrive at the Thoreau boardinghouse, the Shattuck House at #63 Main Street in Concord, were the Reverend [Daniel Starr Southmayd](#) and his bride Joanna Kent Southmayd, daughter of the Reverend Daniel Kent of Vermont, who had served in the American army during the Revolutionary War. (Professor Robert A. Gross has speculated that since the Reverend Southmayd was the pastor of the Trinitarian Congregationalist Church in [Concord](#) which was being attended by [Elizabeth Orrock Thoreau](#), Jane Thoreau, and [Maria Thoreau](#), the newlywed couple may well have been steered toward the Thoreau boardinghouse by these sisters.)

THOREAU RESIDENCES

1828



The “little band” of nine religious reactionaries of [Concord](#), led by Deacon [John White](#), established a “Trinitarian” society and put its new church across the brook from the old church, on Walden Street. By 1830, the [Reverend Ezra Ripley](#) would no longer have a monopoly on the religious life of Concord and thus it would become possible for people to “sign off” from paying the parish tax to his church.



THE DEACONS OF CONCORD

Even [Cynthia Dunbar Thoreau](#) was for a time involved in this defection. Professor Robert A. Gross describes it in his “Faith in the Boardinghouse: New Views of Thoreau Family Religion”.³




SWEET-FACED

JANE THOREAU

True to their stepmother [Mrs. Rebecca Kettell Thoreau](#)'s example, [Elizabeth Orrock Thoreau](#), [Jane Thoreau](#), and [Maria Thoreau](#) made public professions of faith over the years from 1801 to 1818. So did [Cynthia Dunbar](#) in 1811. All single women in their late teens and early twenties, they entered a pious sisterhood. In a pattern common in New England Congregationalism, seven out of ten members of the Concord church were women. But in 1826 the "Misses Thoreau," as they were often called in the town records, bolted from the Reverend [Ezra Ripley](#) fold. No longer willing to suppress misgivings over the parson's "liberal" preaching, they enlisted in the orthodox fight to restore "the primitive faith of the new England pilgrims." Elizabeth, Jane, and Maria Thoreau were among the "little band" of nine doughty dissenters who deserted Ripley's flock in May 1826 and founded a Trinitarian church. Soon they were recruiting their kin. In April 1827, sister-in-law [Cynthia Dunbar Thoreau](#) sought and won approval to leave the First Church in anticipation of joining its rival. But, as it turned out, she never did. Fourteen months later, she returned to the family pew in the First Church, having "changed her mind," as the Reverend Ripley happily noted in the church records. According to Walter Harding, who drew on the oral memories collected by Edward Emerson, the stumbling-block was the official creed that all members of the Trinitarian church were obliged to embrace. Cynthia Thoreau refused to accept it "verbatim," and the church would not allow her "staunch independence." By contrast, the creed proved no problem for her siblings: brother [Charles Jones Dunbar](#) began worshiping with the Trinitarians in 1829, sister [Louisa Dunbar](#) joined them six years later. In a Calvinist family circle, Cynthia and her husband [John Thoreau, Senior](#) stood alone.

3. Robert A. Gross. "Faith in the Boardinghouse: New Views of Thoreau Family Religion," [Thoreau Society Bulletin](#), Winter 2005

1832

 The house at Number 57 in [Prince Street](#) in [Boston](#) was mortgaged for \$1,000.⁰⁰ by [Elizabeth Thoreau](#), [Maria Thoreau](#), and [Jane Thoreau](#) to the Fireman's Insurance Company (Thomas C. Amory, President, Chief Engineer of the Boston Fire Department from 1829 to 1835).

12 *Boston Annual Advertiser.*

NOTICE.

THE FIREMEN'S INSURANCE COMPANY, IN
BOSTON, with a Capital of

\$300,000,

hereby give notice, that they continue to insure against
FIRE, upon all descriptions of property in Boston and
the immediate vicinity, not exceeding \$30,000 on any
one Risk.


Section 8th of the Charter of this Company provides
that the Directors " Shall annually set aside one tenth
part of the net income, over and above six per centum,
to be appropriated to the use and benefit of the Boston
Fire Department."

THOMAS C. AMORY, *President.*
S. G. ROGERS, jr. *Secretary.*

SWEET-FACED

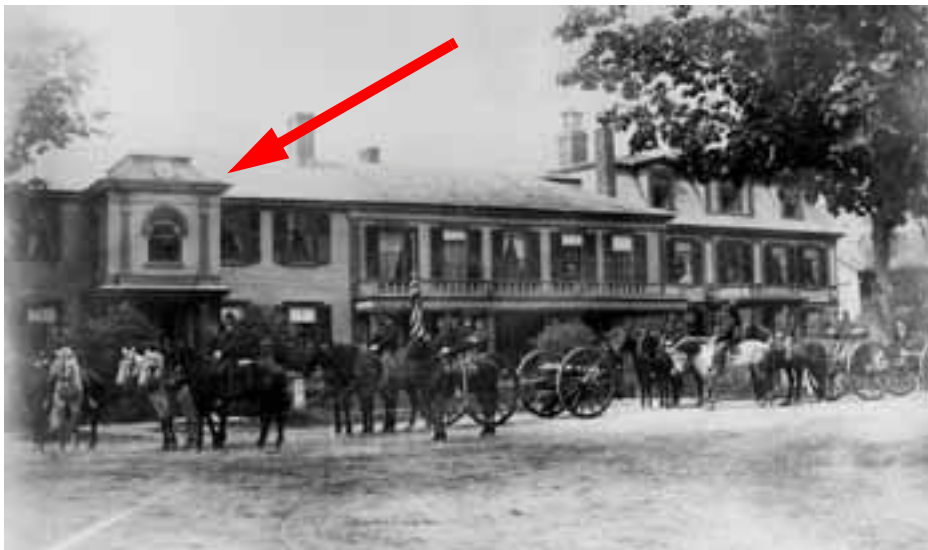
JANE THOREAU

1835

 The Thoreau family in [Concord](#) would live in “Aunt’s House, to spring of 1837,” the house which is now the west part of Concord’s Colonial Inn, with [Aunt Elizabeth Orrock Thoreau](#) (Aunt [Sarah Thoreau](#) having died in 1829): David Henry was away most of the time, as a student at Harvard College.

CYNTHIA DUNBAR THOREAU

JOHN THOREAU, SR.



On the Isle of Jersey, a savings bank was opened. According to Marcel R. Garnier’s *L’ANCÊTRE* (THE ANCESTOR), it was in about this year that John Guillet,⁴ originally from the Isle of [Jersey](#), moved from Québec to Ontario.

4. In the Huguenot diaspora, the Guillet family was closely entangled with the Thoreau family.



1837



This was the year in which [Waldo Emerson](#) would deliver his Phi Beta Kappa Society oration “The American Scholar” to the seniors at Harvard College (one of whom was in the process of changing his name from David Henry Thoreau to Henry David Thoreau, and was beginning a journal of sorts).

Read  [Henry Thoreau's Journal for 1837 \(æf. 20\)](#)

Read  [Henry Thoreau's Journal for 1838 \(æf. 20-21\)](#)

Read  [Henry Thoreau's Journal for 1839 \(æf. 21-22\)](#)

Read  [Henry Thoreau's Journal for 1840 \(æf. 22-23\)](#)

Read  [Henry Thoreau's Journal for 1841 \(æf. 23-24\)](#)

Read  [Henry Thoreau's Journal for 1842\(æf. 24-25\)](#)

Read  [Henry Thoreau's Journal Volume for 1845-1846 \(æf. 27-29\)](#)

Can you parse this? According to Anita Haya Patterson's FROM EMERSON TO KING: DEMOCRACY, RACE, AND THE POLITICS OF PROTEST (NY: Oxford UP, 1997, page 120), during this year in which the Concord Female Anti-Slavery Society was constituting itself, the husband of Mrs. [Lidian Emerson](#), one of the women⁵ involved in that formation, in the writing of a lecture on “SOCIETY”, would alter his concept of the obligations that obtain among friends. He would come to place primary reliance upon a concept “kindness” that savored of proto-racialism:

[H]e argues that political obligations associated with kindness can bind together not simply an intimate circle of friends, but also casual acquaintances and neighborhoods, whole towns, countries, and even continents. The obligations that arise out of such kindness, in this account, are in every case involuntarily assumed.

5. Also involved in this new society were Abba Alcott and seven women residing at the Thoreau boardinghouse:

[Cynthia Dunbar Thoreau](#)

[Sophia Elizabeth Thoreau](#)

[Helen Louisa Thoreau](#)

[Aunt Maria Thoreau](#)

[Aunt Jane Thoreau](#)

Miss Prudence Ward

Miss Prudence's mother.

1841

October 12, Tuesday: The combined British detachment that had ventured out from the relative safety of the metropolis, Cabul, [Afghanistan](#), by this morning had become large enough to transit the pass of Khoord-Cabul, and this was effected with some loss due to long range sniper fire down from the rocks at the sides of the defile. The force then set up a defensive camp perimeter on the far side of the defile at Khoord-Cabul and the 13th light infantry again subjected itself to losses due to its exposure to this unrelenting rifle fire, by returning through the pass to its defensive camp perimeter at Bootkhak. For some nights the camps would repel attacks, “that on the 35th native infantry being peculiarly disastrous, from the treachery of the Affghan horse, who admitted the enemy within their lines, by which our troops were exposed to a fire from the least suspected quarter. Many of our gallant sepoy, and Lieutenant Jenkins, thus met their death.”⁶

[Frederick Douglass](#) addressed the Middlesex County Anti-Slavery Society at the Universalist meetinghouse in [Concord](#).



We very much need to know who was in town at the time, and who did and who did not attend this meeting:

- Bronson Alcott ?

6. Lieut. V. Eyre (Sir Vincent Eyre, 1811-1881). THE MILITARY OPERATIONS AT CABUL: WHICH ENDED IN THE RETREAT AND DESTRUCTION OF THE BRITISH ARMY, JANUARY 1842, WITH A JOURNAL OF IMPRISONMENT IN [AFFGHANISTAN](#). Philadelphia PA: Carey and Hart, 1843; London: J. Murray, 1843 (three editions); Lieut. V. Eyre (Sir Vincent Eyre, 1811-1881). PRISON SKETCHES: COMPRISING PORTRAITS OF THE CABUL PRISONERS AND OTHER SUBJECTS; ADAPTED FOR BINDING UP WITH THE JOURNALS OF LIEUT. V. EYRE, AND LADY SALE; LITHOGRAPHED BY LOWES DICKINSON. London: Dickinson and Son, [1843?]



SWEET-FACED

JANE THOREAU

- Abba Alcott ?
- Anna Bronson Alcott ?
- [Louisa May Alcott](#) (8 years old)?
- [Phineas Allen](#) ?
- Perez Blood ?
- Mrs. Mary Merrick Brooks ?
- Squire Nathan Brooks ?
- Caroline Downes Brooks ?
- George Merrick Brooks ?
- Deacon Simon Brown ?
- Mrs. [Lidian Emerson](#) ?
- [Waldo Emerson](#) ?
- Reverend Barzillai Frost ?
- [Margaret Fuller](#) ?
- William Lloyd Garrison ?
- [Nathaniel Hawthorne](#) ?
- Judge Ebenezer Rockwood Hoar ?
- [Edward Sherman Hoar](#) ?
- Senator George Frisbie Hoar ?
- Elizabeth Sherman Hoar ?
- Squire Samuel Hoar ?
- Dr. [Edward Jarvis](#) ?
- Deacon [Francis Jarvis](#) ?
- [John Shepard Keyes](#), [Judge John Shepard Keyes](#) ?
- John M. Keyes ?
- [Reverend George Ripley](#) ?
- [Mrs. Sophia Dana Ripley](#) ?
- Reverend Samuel Ripley ?
- Sarah Alden Bradford Ripley ?
- [Lemuel Shattuck](#) ?
- [Daniel Shattuck](#) ?
- Sheriff Sam Staples ?
- [Henry David Thoreau](#) ?
- [John Thoreau](#), Senior ?
- [Cynthia Dunbar Thoreau](#) ?
- [John Thoreau, Jr.](#) ?
- [Helen Louisa Thoreau](#) ?
- [Sophia Elizabeth Thoreau](#) ?
- [Aunt Maria Thoreau](#) ?
- [Aunt Jane Thoreau](#) ?
- Alek Therien ?
- Miss Prudence Ward ?
- xxxxxx ?



SWEET-FACED

JANE THOREAU

1850

September 17, Tuesday: To put down unrest between himself and the landed classes, Elector Friedrich Wilhelm II of Hesse requested military aid from the [German Confederation](#).

In the national census, the household of [Nehemiah Ball](#) in Concord amounted to Nehemiah, age 59, wife Mary, and children Mary (and husband), Caroline, Maria, Angelina, Ephraim, Elizabeth, and Nehemiah.

Assistant Marshall W.W. Wilde of the 1850 US Census inventoried the Thoreau household as consisting (for government purposes) of:

- [John Thoreau](#), 63-year-old male
- [Cynthia Dunbar Thoreau](#), 63-year-old female
- [Henry David Thoreau](#), 33-year-old male
- [Sophia E. Thoreau](#), 31-year-old female
- [Jane Thoreau](#), 64-year-old female
- [Maria Thoreau](#), 53-year-old female
- Margaret Doland, 18-year-old female
- Catherine Rioden, 13-year-old female

SWEET-FACED

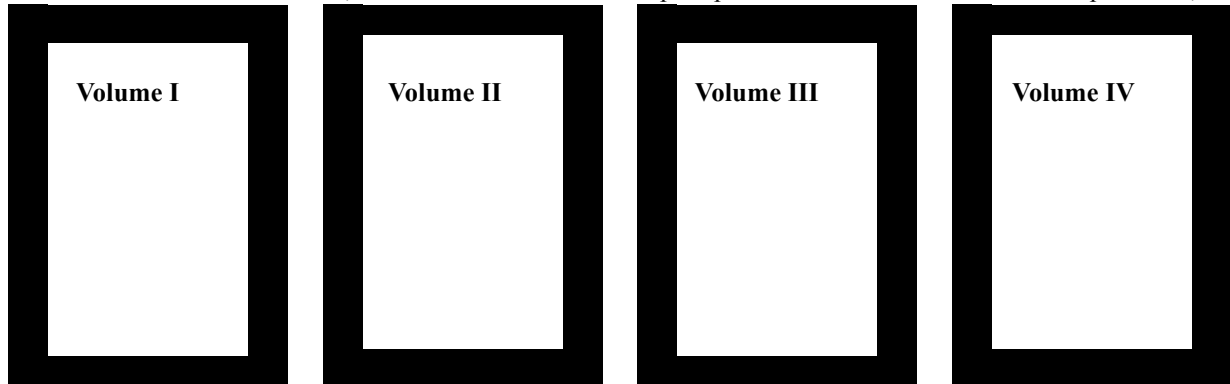
JANE THOREAU

Catherine was listed as born in Ireland, the rest in Massachusetts. Presumably the name should have been listed as Riorden rather than Rioden. The head of the Thoreau family was listed as pencil maker and no occupations were indicated for the others. Presumably the two younger females were helping maintain the boardinghouse.



1853

March 27, Easter Sunday: [Aunt Maria Thoreau](#) had wanted her nephew [Henry Thoreau](#) to read the MEMOIRS of Dr. [Thomas Chalmers](#), a Scottish minister who had put up container after container of these preserves, but



he had not promised that he would do this. Henry recorded that on this date “she was heard through the Partition shouting to my Aunt Jane [[Aunt Jane Thoreau](#)], who is deaf,



‘Think of it! He stood half an hour today to hear the frogs croak, and he wouldn’t read the life of Chalmers.’”

June: [Aunt Maria Thoreau](#) and [Aunt Jane Thoreau](#) sued Eliza Pallies for \$1,000.⁰⁰ over a spite fence she had erected, that had darkened some windows of a house they owned in Boston.⁷



7. [Henry Thoreau](#) would spend four days in court testifying over the next four years. The case would not be closed till October 1862.



Thomas Chalmers, D.D., LL.D.

DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS.

EDITED BY REV. WILLIAM HANNA, LL.D.

Forming Vols. I., II., and III. of "Chalmers's Posthumous Works." 12mo, Muslin, \$3 00; Sheep extra, \$3 75.

All must concede that Dr. Chalmers's works are destined to exert no small influence on the character of the age. For the last quarter of a century and more, he has been regarded in both hemispheres as one of the greatest intellectual and moral lights of the world; and though dead, he yet speaketh, and will speak in his productions to the end of time. The first three volumes of his posthumous works consist of his observations in connection with his daily reading of the Scriptures; and while they bear the impress of a magnificent intellect, they breathe a spirit of ethereal purity and lofty devotion. One scarcely knows, in reading these pages, which to admire most, the great man or the humble Christian.—*Argus*.

Thomas Chalmers, D.D., LL.D.

SABBATH SCRIPTURE READINGS.

EDITED BY REV. WILLIAM HANNA, LL.D.

Forming Volumes IV. and V. of "Chalmers's Posthumous Works." 12mo, Muslin, \$2 00; Sheep extra, \$2 50.

It is a book which few will open without deep interest and deeper reverence. There is no tinge of sectarianism in these pages; they are imbued throughout with a catholic spirit, and glow with that universal kindness which was so distinguishing a characteristic of the man.—*London Atlas*.

In heart and in brain, in mind and in soul, we may say Dr. Chalmers was one in a million of created beings; in these passages he has poured forth a rich stream of intelligence to interest mankind.—*Literary Gazette*.

These pages have the charm of originality—the mature fruits of a whole lifetime's study of the Divine Oracles.—*The Patriot*.

SERMONS BY THE LATE THOMAS CHALMERS, D.D., LL.D.,

Illustrative of different Stages in his Ministry. From 1798 to 1847.

EDITED BY REV. WILLIAM HANNA, LL.D.

Forming Volume VI. of "Chalmers's Posthumous Works." 12mo, Muslin, \$1 00; Sheep extra, \$1 25.

This volume contains sermons, beginning in 1798, and we need not speak of the peculiar eloquence and effect of the preacher. They stand well the examination of the closet, not only in style, but, what is far better, in moral discipline and doctrine. The Divine summary of human duty is a fine example of the enforcement of both religious and moral duties; on the guilt of calumny, a glorious moral discourse. His several farewell discourses are full of rich humanity and touching reflections; but there are thirty-three sermons, and we can not particularize their relative merits. Leaving the more theological subjects, we would say, that those on courteousness, and the duties of masters and servants, are worthy of being framed in letters of gold, as lessons for the right discharge of simple daily duties.—*London Literary Gazette*.



SWEET-FACED

JANE THOREAU

October 5, Wednesday-6, Thursday: [Henry Thoreau](#) spent two days testifying in Boston in the case of [Aunt Maria Thoreau](#) and [Aunt Jane Thoreau](#) vs. the spite fence darkening their windows which had been erected by her next door neighbor Eliza Pallies. He was reimbursed by the court for his time and travel.

HENRY'S RELATIVES

Typically Thoreauvian was the brevity of his notation in his JOURNAL in regard to such a matter:



October 6: A.M.—To Boston.

1860

January 9, Monday: [Henry Thoreau](#) and [Sophia Elizabeth Thoreau](#) went into [Boston](#) to spend the day testifying the case of their aunts [Aunt Maria Thoreau](#) and [Aunt Jane Thoreau](#) vs. the spite fence that had been erected by Eliza Pallies. They were reimbursed by the court for their time and travel.

[Thoreau](#) was being written to by Hobart & Robbins in [Boston](#), paying \$9.⁰⁰ for six pounds of [plumbago](#).

*Boston Jany 9, 1860
Mr. Henry D. Thoreaux Concord, Mass.
Enclosed are Nine Dollars, for which, please send at once 6 lbs
best (ground) plumbago, with bill
Yrs &c
Hobart & Robbins*

[Thoreau](#) was being contacted by Edward Bangs of [Boston](#),
to testify on January 10th in the case of the Thoreau aunts versus Miss Pallies.

*Dear Sir:
Your Aunts case vs. Miss Pallies will be tried tomorrow — will
you please come down by the first train?
Very truly yours
Edward Bangs*

[Thoreau](#) was being written to by the Superintendent of the Franklin Type and Stereotype Foundry of Cincinnati, R. Allison, who was paying a bill for \$10.⁰⁰ worth of supplies.

*From R. ALLISON
Jany 9th 1860
Mr. H.D. Thoreau Concord Mass.
Dear Sir:
Enclosed please find \$10 Amt of your bill of 27th Ult. Please
acknowledge recpt and oblige
From EDWARD BANGS
Yours truly
R. Allison Supt.*



SWEET-FACED

JANE THOREAU

April: Early in this month, [Lydia Maria Child's](#) tract THE PATRIARCHAL INSTITUTION, AS DESCRIBED BY MEMBERS OF ITS OWN FAMILY and THE RIGHT WAY, THE SAFE WAY, PROVED BY EMANCIPATION IN THE BRITISH WEST INDIES was printed and ready for distribution. She mailed off the first 1,000 copies to every Southerner whose name and address she could ascertain, as well as all the members of the US Congress, and to every governor and judge listed in the AMERICAN ALMANAC.

Completing work that began in April 1850, [Henry Thoreau](#) surveyed land on Lexington Road for John B. Moore. This was the site of the home of Dr. Prescott of Revolutionary War fame. Moore was purchasing and draining swampland for farming. The February 1853 survey shows land sold to Ephriam Wales Bull, [Nathaniel Hawthorne](#), Bronson Alcott, and Charles B. Davis. The land stretched over the hill to Bedford Road and as far east as the Merriam land on the Old Bedford Road. (The entire parcel would be sold at auction on May 10th.)

View [Henry Thoreau's](#) personal working drafts of his surveys courtesy of AT&T and the Concord Free Public Library:

http://www.concordlibrary.org/scollect/Thoreau_Surveys/Thoreau_Surveys.htm

(The official copy of this survey of course had become the property of the person or persons who had hired this Concord town surveyor to do their surveying work during the 19th Century. Such materials have yet to be recovered.)

View this particular personal working draft of a survey in fine detail:

http://www.concordlibrary.org/scollect/Thoreau_Surveys/94c.htm

Thoreau testified for one last day in court in Boston, during this month, in the continuing case of his aunts [Aunt Maria Thoreau](#) and [Aunt Jane Thoreau](#) vs. the spite fence that had been erected by Eliza Pallies.⁸

HENRY'S RELATIVES

1863

September 5, Saturday: Calvin H. Greene went out for a ride with [Sophia Elizabeth Thoreau](#), and with "the 2 Misses T. maiden aunts ... 4 of us in all."

MARIA THOREAU
JANE THOREAU

1867

February 1: [Waldo Emerson](#) lectured on "The Man of the World" in St. Paul, Minnesota.

[Sophia Elizabeth Thoreau](#) wrote from [Concord](#) to her cousin Marianne or Mary Anne Mitchell Dunbar of Bridgewater, Massachusetts, telling of the deaths of Aunt [Louisa Dunbar](#) and [Aunt Jane Thoreau](#) and adding:

8. This case had been before the court since June 1858.



SWEET-FACED

JANE THOREAU

"Let me thank you for the hearty expression of your sympathy, at the time dear Henry left us. It was fully appreciated. As you may suppose much of my time has been devoted to the publication of his papers. Five volumes have been printed since his death. – I trust that you have read them, & also the many friendly criticisms which discriminating readers have bestowed. I should like to tell you of numerous touching incidents, proving the respect & affection felt for him by those to whom he was personally a stranger. While the sense of our great loss is strengthened from year, to year, it is a pleasure to realize how many share our grief, & we are continually solaced by the sweetest memories of his whole life.—... I wish you to realize how feeble my dear mother is. Since her fall she has never been able to dress herself, or use her needle – the right arm being nearly helpless, & owing to weak eyes she is much of the time deprived of reading. Notwithstanding her infirmities, she is ever cheerful."

CYNTHIA DUNBAR THOREAU

HENRY THOREAU

**THOREAU
LIFESPANS**

SWEET-FACED

JANE THOREAU

Henry Thoreau's Aunt Louisa would be interred in the Thoreau family plot at Sleepy Hollow Cemetery and, when the famous Thoreau family would later be relocated to Authors' Ridge, her grave would be allowed to remain in its original location.



1885

December 1, Tuesday: [George A. Thatcher](#) died, and would interred in Bangor's Mount Hope Cemetery near the graves of [Jane Thoreau](#) (who had died in 1867) and [Maria Thoreau](#) (who had died in 1881 at the age of 84 as the last American Thoreau).

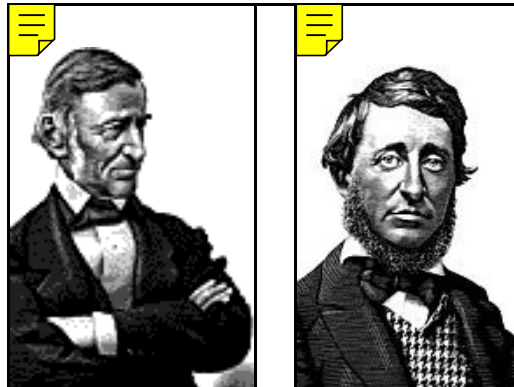


Somewhere in Virginia toward the end of the 19th Century, a doctor named Pepper had owned a drugstore. He had a beautiful daughter and a young man whom he was employing at the drugstore, Charles Alderton, was given to experimentation. When the young employee was caught experimenting with the beautiful daughter, the doctor had fired this ardent and creative employee. The experimenter had then gone off to Waco, [Texas](#), where daughters hopefully might not be so well protected. On this day, having taken work at the Old Corner Drug Store, he served his "The Waco," a pleasing concoction, for the 1st time, his guinea pig being that store's proprietor, Wade Morrison. Morrison changed the name to Dr. Pepper® and put the drink on sale at several local soda fountains. (This introduction thus preceded by about a year the introduction of a cocaine-laced competitor, Coca-Cola® — eventually "Dr." would need to become "Dr" in order to avoid the suggestion of a health benefit. The story has a happy ending the truth of which I very much doubt: ardent employee Charles Alderton would return to Dr. Pepper's store in Virginia and obtain the hand of his daughter.)

1913

December: [Franklin Benjamin Sanborn](#) was quoted on page 435 of C.T. Ramsey's "A Pilgrimage to the Haunts of Thoreau" in the New England Magazine (L), as alleging that:

Thoreau had a number of matrimonial proposals. On one occasion he read one of these missives in a joking manner to Emerson – to which the sage rebukingly said, "Henry, we will have no more regarding the matter."



This is what he had to offer about [Henry Thoreau](#)'s frame of mind during his last illness:

He was of singular good cheer, and a philosopher to the end. When his corpulent full-faced aunt came to his chamber door to inquire about his welfare, he remarked: "Whenever Aunt _____ comes to the door I think it is the rising full moon."



AUNT JANE THOREAU

1939

Henry Seidel Canby, in his THOREAU (Boston MA: Houghton Mifflin), trying to recuperate [Henry Thoreau](#) from having been “known to us [as children] as a man who wrote about birds and animals for children,” discovered that Thoreau had more recently been discovered by certain unnamed critics as perhaps “the greatest critic of values among modern writers in English.” He attempted to explicate the parable of the hound, the bay horse, and the turtle-dove as no search for any lost maid or boy,

WALDEN: In any weather, at any hour of the day or night, I have been anxious to improve the nick of time, and notch it on my stick too; to stand on the meeting of two eternities, the past and future, which is precisely the present moment; to toe that line. You will pardon some obscurities, for there are more secrets in my trade than in most men’s, and yet not voluntarily kept, but inseparable from its very nature. I would gladly tell all that I know about it, and never paint “No Admittance” on my gate.

I long ago lost a hound, a bay horse, and a turtle-dove, and am still on their trail. Many are the travellers I have spoken concerning them, describing their tracks and what calls they answered to. I have met one or two who had heard the hound, and the tramp of the horse, and even seen the dove disappear behind a cloud, and they seemed as anxious to recover them as if they had lost them themselves.

To anticipate, not the sunrise and the dawn merely, but, if possible, Nature herself! How many mornings, summer and winter, before yet any neighbor was stirring about his business, have I been about mine! No doubt many of my townsmen have met me returning from this enterprise, farmers starting for Boston in the twilight, or woodchoppers going to their work. It is true, I never assisted the sun materially in his rising, but, doubt not, it was of the last importance only to be present at it.



but instead a search “for that sense of the spiritual reality behind nature, which again and again in his JOURNAL he deplores as something felt in youth, but never quite regained.”

**The
WALDEN
parable**

**The
other
analyses**

The identification of these fabulous animals with Edmund Sewall, John Thoreau, and Ellen Sewall ... is both naïve and absurd. For no one of these three was Thoreau, by any stretch of the imagination, still searching.

On page xii in this new volume [Ellery Channing](#) was given a final opportunity to explore what wisdom he had accumulated over the decades about the essence of [Henry Thoreau](#), and this blazing amazing comment is what he was able to come up with:

Nothing bothered him so much as the friendships. Those and his moral sensitiveness. I have never been able to understand what he meant by his life.... Why was he so disappointed with everybody else &c. Why was he so much interested in the river and the woods and the sky &c. Something peculiar I judge.



“What a gump!...On the whole, he is but little better than an idiot. He should have been whipt often and soundly in his boyhood; and as he escaped such wholesome discipline then, it might be well to bestow it now.”

– [Nathaniel Hawthorne](#), about [Ellery Channing](#)



On page 234, Jane Hosmer had the following to relate:

SWEET-FACED

JANE THOREAU

When his mother heard of his arrest, she hastened to the Jail, then to the Thoreau house in the Square, at which Misses Jane and Maria Thoreau then lived, and one of the latter, putting a shawl over her head, went to the jailer's door, and paid the tax and fees to Ellen Staples, her father the jailer being absent.



AUNT MARIA THOREAU
AUNT JANE THOREAU

[In this year, at the end of the "Wizard of Oz" movie, Dorothy summed up the lesson that she has learned out of all her questing down the yellow brick road: "If I ever go looking for my heart's desire again, I won't look any further than my own backyard, because if it isn't there, I never really lost it to begin with." She had learned that in order to get back to her Kansas, all she needs to do is repeat her mantra, "There's no place like home." — Would it be legitimate to consider this to be a possible interpretation of Thoreau's parable of the hound, the bay horse, and the turtledove?]

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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



SWEET-FACED

JANE THOREAU

Prepared: October 7, 2013

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, upon someone's request we have pulled it out of the hat of a pirate that has grown out of the shoulder of our pet parrot "Laura" (depicted above). What these chronological lists are: they are research reports compiled by ARRGH algorithms out of a database of data modules which we term the Kouroo Contexture. This is data mining. To respond to such a request for information, we merely push a button.



SWEET-FACED

JANE THOREAU

Commonly, the first output of the program has obvious deficiencies and so we need to go back into the data modules stored in the contexture and do a minor amount of tweaking, and then we need to punch that button again and do a recompile of the chronology – but there is nothing here that remotely resembles the ordinary “writerly” process which 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 your requests with <Kouroo@kouroo.info>.
Arrgh.