

## DAVIDEM HENRICUM THOREAUS



"My life has been the poem I would have writ,  
But I could not both live and utter it."

— Henry Thoreau





## HENRY DAVID THOREAU

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Before [David Henry Thoreau](#) the earth appears to have been in existence for a good period of time. Continents seem to have broken apart and coalesced and again broken apart, although in different configurations. A number of others, such as [Jesus](#) and [Margaret Askew Fell Fox](#), had had their *floruts* on this planet which is the 3d one out from this rather ordinary star in this particular quite large galaxy among what seems to be a quite large number of other galaxies reaching out as far as one can detect in every direction. What we refer to as the “19th Century” had been in existence for all of sixteen years when, on the outskirts of [Concord](#), Massachusetts for the 3d time [John Thoreau, Sr.](#) got [Cynthia Dunbar Thoreau](#) in the family way.

<a href="#">1800</a>	<a href="#">1801</a>	<a href="#">1802</a>	<a href="#">1803</a>	<a href="#">1804</a>	<a href="#">1805</a>	<a href="#">1806</a>	<a href="#">1807</a>	<a href="#">1808</a>
<a href="#">1809</a>	<a href="#">1810</a>	<a href="#">1811</a>	<a href="#">1812</a>	<a href="#">1813</a>	<a href="#">1814</a>	<a href="#">1815</a>	<a href="#">1816</a>	<a href="#">1817</a>

The product of this pregnancy, David Henry or Henry David, eventually would be offering that his life had been the poem he would have writ, “But I could not both live and utter it.” Here we will treat each of the 45 stanzas of this life-poem (or, perhaps, 44½ stanzas), as they occur in chronological succession. Whereas biographer Robert Richardson has raced through the initial half of Thoreau’s life in but 90 pages, and biographer Walter Harding has lingered over the details of the 1st half of Thoreau’s life for all of 113 pages, the treatment you will discover on the screens that follow is **considerably more than one order of magnitude** more detailed:

<a href="#">1st Year</a> 94 Screens	<a href="#">2d Year</a> 49 Screens	<a href="#">3d Year</a> 94 Screens	<a href="#">4th Year</a> 84 Screens	<a href="#">5th Year</a> 89 Screens	<a href="#">6th Year</a> 100 Screens	<a href="#">7th Year</a> 102 Screens	<a href="#">8th Year</a> 110 Screens	<a href="#">9th Year</a> 91 Screens
<a href="#">10th Year</a> 142 Screens	<a href="#">11th Year</a> 116 Screens	<a href="#">12th Year</a> 94 Screens	<a href="#">13th Year</a> 149 Screens	<a href="#">14th Year</a> 109 Screens	<a href="#">15th Year</a> 84 Screens	<a href="#">16th Year</a> 129 Screens	<a href="#">17th Year</a> 217 Screens	<a href="#">18th Year</a> 200 Screens
<a href="#">19th Year</a> 411 Screens	<a href="#">20th Year</a> 309 Screens	<a href="#">21st Year</a> 374 Screens	<a href="#">22d Year</a> 274 Screens	(Not yet online)				

It is of course electronics, and hypertext, that have allowed for this degree of detail. Always before we have been constrained by the limitations of the earlier “printed book” apparatus. You will of course decide for yourself whether this lingering over the details of a single person’s life and times and context amounts to being scholarly, or unscholarly. It must be pointed out, however, how utterly **unprecedented** is this present work on Thoreau. Could you suggest — what do you yourself consider to be the very most scholarly biography ever created about any one individual? Might you consider, for instance, some particular biography of Napoleon to be the very most complete biography ever created of a particular human being? —Or Lincoln, or a pope? According to what parameters would you consider that existing biography as superior to this one we are attempting, in which merely the initial half of Thoreau’s life has so far been placed online? Also, what would you consider to be the very most scholarly treatment ever accomplished, of a particular year in human history? Take the year 1831, for instance: is there somewhere a more comprehensive or more suitable record of that year available, than the one placed on record here? In general the question would be, are there scholarly contributions better than what is being produced here, and according to what parameter or parameters would you be measuring that alleged superiority (would it be accuracy, or would it be completeness, accessibility, relevance — any parameter you might select except of course for brevity)?



DAVID HENRY THOREAU

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## 1ST STANZA: 1817/1818



[David Henry Thoreau](#)'s 1st year of existence, the initial stanza of the poem that was his life, began, nominally, on the day of his birth, July 12th, 1817 (although some cultures might instance that he had already during the previous year begun his mortal trajectory *in utero*: in China he would have been considered to be having this as his 1st birthday — which is approximately nine months more accurate than our “Western” style).

### BACKGROUND EVENTS OF 1817

### BACKGROUND EVENTS OF 1818

David Henry was born “in the Minott House, on the Virginia Road, where [Father](#) occupied Grandmother’s thirds, carrying on the farm.” (On an internet astrology page, I have noticed that the assertion is being made that he had been born at 9PM. I have no idea whether that is accurate. the same page instances the following astrological data pertaining to this birth: “Sun: 20°14' Cancer; AS: 18°37' Aquarius; Moon: 4°09' Cancer; MC: 7°19' Sagittarius; Dominants: Sagittarius, Cancer, Aquarius, Jupiter, Uranus, Venus; Houses 5, 10, 9 / Water, Fire / Mutable; Numerology: Birthpath 9.” I have no clue what any of that means. I have ascribed in the attached illustration, that he was born at 11:36AM — but I freely here acknowledge that I have merely fabricated that out of whole cloth because I can summon no interest about the hour at which Cynthia gave birth.)

Do you wonder what sort of diaper they would have put on our little guy? –Wonder no more:

### Infants Flannel Pilchers or Savers<sup>1</sup>

Infants often wear pilchers or savers, put over their napkins, to prevent their clothes from being wetted. They are made as follows:-

Cut a piece of flannel 11 nails square (a nail is 2-1/4”), fold it in half, and cut it crosswise, A B: it will make two pilchers. It must next be rounded off a little at the two corners, A B, and at the third corner, E, (which, observe, is opposite the cross-way of the flannel,) sew on a piece of calico, in which cut a button-hole. The crossed part, A B, is then neatly plaited into a calico band, 1 nail deep, when doubled, and 8 nails long, and a button and button-hole sewn on at the ends. In putting it on, first button the band round the waist in front, bring the corner between the legs, and button it to the same button.<sup>2</sup>

INSTRUCTIONS FOR CUTTING OUT APPAREL FOR THE POOR, a guide issued in London in 1789, had recommended 24 squares of diaper and 2 squares of flannel for each poor mother, and had given instructions:

Squares of Diaper - Made of figured Diaper, called ell wide, but measures a yard, one nail and a quarter only. Ten shillings the piece, which contains seven yards and a quarter. Two pieces divided each into twelve, make 24 squares of diaper double, half

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1. The OED has a 1674 reference: “Pilch – now used for a flannel cloth to wrap about the lower part of young children.”



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a yard and near a nail wide, but not quite square.<sup>3</sup>

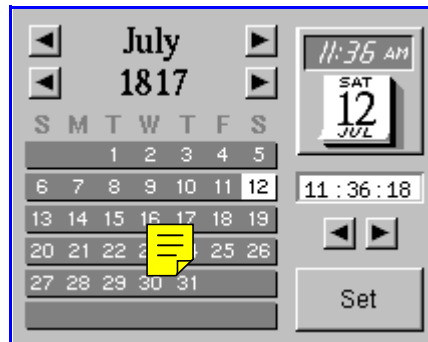
Squares of Flannel - One yard and three quarters of white baize flannel, called yard wide, but measures three quarters and a half only, at 11 and a half pence per yard, which make two squares.<sup>4</sup>

[Thoreau](#) would make a record in 1855 –at his mother [Cynthia Dunbar Thoreau](#)'s suggestion– that David Henry Thoreau had been



Born, July 12, Saturday, 1817, in the Minott House, on the Virginia Road, where Father occupied Grandmother's thirds, carrying on the farm.

VIRGINIA ROAD



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2. THE NURSERY BASKET, published in 1854 by D. Appleton & Co. of New-York, advised, "We give, therefore, three lists — the first adviseable from practical experience, the second possible, and the last indispensable:—
- "5 dozen napkins of three sizes,"
  - "4 dozen napkins,"
  - "3 Dozen napkins."

On page 92 a gift basket is assembled for the infant: "Place in the basket a complete set of the child's first clothes, slip, night petticoat, shirt, flannel band, and two small soft napkins; a fine wash cloth, as some nurses prefer it to a sponge; a pot of cold cream. A roll of old linen is especially to be thought of, worn-out handkerchiefs, or any other fine white fabrics." On page 97 for fastening the napkin pins: "The Victorian shield pin is, in a measure, out of the use for the napkins, as its place is supplied by a clever invention of elastic bands, with metal tips, one forming the head, the other receiving the point of the pin, as in one style of knitting sheaths. A half dozen of these pins, costing six cents a pair, will be an ample provision for as many months. When two napkins are worn, only one should be folded through the limbs, otherwise the thick fold separates them too far to the risk of crockness. Half napkins of bound flannel or oiled silk are often used: the latter require to be renewed frequently. Experienced nurses recommend preparing, at least, a dozen small sized napkins for the first use, from well worn table linen; wash cloths, feeding clothes, and bibs, may be made of the same. Two size of napkins will be required, the common diamond pattern, 12 yards in the piece, comes at \$1.50, and makes eleven or twelve, according to the width, as they must be cut just twice that; or a double square, bird's-eye, or Russia, fine enough for any use, and much wider, comes in longer pieces at 25 cents a yard."

3. An Ell in England equals 45 inches, a nail is a quarter of a quarter of a yard, or two and a quarter inches. Each piece would be 21.75 by 37.8 inches. This would be folded in half, sewn around most of three sides — a small running stitch with occasional backs would be sufficient, perhaps a quarter inch from the edge — then turned through the space not sewn and that carefully closed. Diaper is a particular linen weave with a small diamond pattern, for this use perhaps quarter inch diamonds with long floats — soft on babies skin, very absorbent. Flannel is a soft, spongy woollen cloth, not usually fulled or napped; baize flannel would seem to imply a fulled flannel (especially considering the measurements) perhaps intended for just this purpose — soft, but more absorbent than regular woollen flannel.

4. Each piece will be about 31 inches square. Baize flannel presumably was fulled enough to have stable cut edges so no hemming would be necessary — or perhaps something smooth like a blanket stitch with fine 2-ply wool over the raw edge.



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(It is good that this was recorded at least in this manner, because in fact for an unknown reason, [Concord](#) town records would make no mention of the event.)

Thoreau drew his first breath and yet (as Wendell Berry has pointed out) “not a breath is drawn but for the grace of an inconceivable series of vital connections joining an inconceivable multiplicity of created things in an inconceivable unity.” **In this contexture we will attempt to plot out a modest subset of that inconceivable multiplicity of created things and explore a few of the more obvious of the unities which bind them into one universe. Various persons have from time to time asked “Why do this?” and the only answer I have ever been able to come up with has been “Why not?”**<sup>5</sup>

Thoreau continued in 1855:



The Catherines the other half of the house. Bob Catherines and John threw up the turkeys. Lived there about eight months. Si Merriam next neighbor. Uncle David died when I was six weeks old.

DAVID ORROK



That is, Davidem Henricum Thoreaus was born on the Bedford levels in the Holocene on July 12, 1817 C.E.

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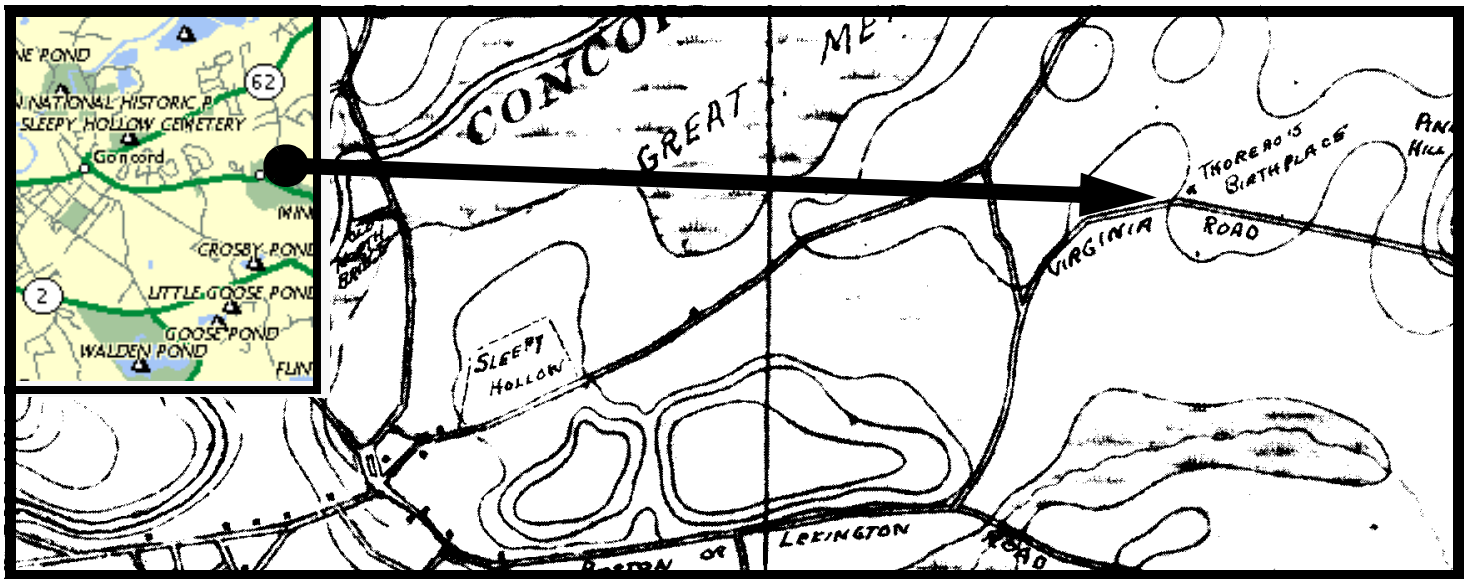
5. Pardon me for hypothecating an 11:36AM birth. It merely happened to be 11:36AM as I pulled this illustration off my orphaned NeXT computer's screen (orphaned, because Steve Jobs had recently abandoned his NeXT hardware to concentrate on software). I have no idea at what hour Thoreau was born on July 12, 1817, nor for that matter do the astrologers at <http://www.bobmarksastrologer.com/famouscharts/Henry%20Thoreau.htm>, who suppose Thoreau to have been some sort of escapist, have any idea at what hour he was born:

“Time of birth questionable. That does not affect the sign positions of the planets. A five planet majority in Mutable signs (communications). Only one in a Fixed sign: Mars in Taurus. Most of his emphasis was on simplifying life and had to do with the trivia of day-to-day living. The one Fixed sign planet drew his attention to longer range matters and he turned ‘Simplify, simplify, simplify’ into a crusade. A five planet majority in Water signs as well. This made his horoscope strong in both Mutable and Water. The Mutable Water sign is Pisces so we would expect traits of that sign to show up strongly in his life (‘Let’s run off to Walden Pond and get away from the world.’). Mars was also Thoreau’s only planet in an Earth sign. Venus was his only Air sign placement. They have one thing in common. They both rule the small matters of day-to-day living.”

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David Henry was born on his grandmother’s farm, on the Bedford levels of Virginia Road 2 1/2 miles northeast of Concord, in sight of Walden Woods and not too far from the Concord River. This house was unpainted and gray, and the child was born in the easternmost of the upstairs chambers. The dooryard was unfenced and grassy, and led down to a brook. This was the home in which Cynthia Dunbar Thoreau, little David Henry’s mother, had spent her own childhood, and another family, the Catherines, was renting one end of the house, and Thoreau remembered that Bob Catherines and his brother John Thoreau, Jr. had had some fun tossing their turkey hens up into the air to make them fly and flap and gobble — if you’ve never done this, you’ve really missed something.



Hey, show some respect, we’re talking infant memories here! The flapping and gobbling of those thrown up turkeys was the first memory trace planted indelibly in the new brain of David Henry. –The start of Thoreau’s inner journal.

THOREAU RESIDENCES

The Thoreaus would leave this gray house in March 1818, when David Henry had reached eight months old.






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## 2D STANZA: 1818/1819


 [David Henry Thoreau](#)'s 2d stanza began on his birthday, July 12th, Sunday, 1818.

- Little David learned to walk while, for the time being, he still had ten toes.
- Brother John was playing with an inflated bladder when it “burst on the hearth.”
- “The cow came into the entry after pumpkins.”
- The gray house on Virginia Road, where Henry had been born, was sold at public auction. The family relocated from Josiah Davis’s rental house in Concord to the Red House where the grandmother lived, next to the Chelmsford meetinghouse “where they kept the powder in the garret.”
- Father John Thoreau had borrowed from his stepmother and the family home on Prince Street in Boston had been mortgaged for \$1,000.<sup>00</sup> but his business (keeping Spaulding’s grocery store, and painting signs while Mother Cynthia waited counter) had not done well. At this point he needed to sign his remaining share in the family home and the deed over to his sisters. The father took a tumble while painting Hale’s factory. Eventually he would need to move the family into Boston, and teach school for awhile.
- At the age of 33, Mother Cynthia gave birth to Sophia Elizabeth Thoreau in Chelmsford.
- “I cut my toe and was knocked over by a hen with chickens, etc., etc.”

**BACKGROUND EVENTS OF 1818**

**BACKGROUND EVENTS OF 1819**

## 3D STANZA: 1819/1820

 [David Henry Thoreau](#)'s 3d stanza began on his birthday, July 12th, Monday, 1819.

- Ralph Waldo Emerson, in his junior year of college, became Waldo Emerson and began his journal.
- In the yard at Chelmsford, David Henry chopped the big toe of his right foot. [On the initial ten pages is my infamous cartoonist son Guy Duramen Meredith’s depiction of David Henry Thoreau, learning to deal with life’s little losses, out in the back yard with the kindling hatchet that was used by the family to chop turkey heads. The cartoon is copyright by Guy Duramen Meredith © 1991. To look at it, click on this paragraph. To look at a single frame of it, magnified, click on that frame.]

**BACKGROUND EVENTS OF 1819**


**BACKGROUND EVENTS OF 1820**



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## 4TH STANZA: 1820/1821


 [David Henry Thoreau](#)'s 4th stanza began on his birthday, July 12th, Wednesday, 1820.

- Waldo Emerson was bewildered by a period of intense infatuation with another Harvard lad, named Martin Gay.
- Henry visited Walden Pond: "One of the most ancient scenes stamped on the tablets of my memory, the oriental Asiatic valley of my world...."
- An unmarried couple living at the Thoreau boardinghouse experienced an unexpected pregnancy, which was papered over in the usual manner by prompt marriage plus a falsified official record (the infant would be baptized as Ellen Devereux Sewall).
- Uncle Charles Dunbar discovered a lode of superior graphite ore in New Hampshire.
- Father John abandoned the grocery in Chelmsford as marginal and the Thoreaus moved briefly into Concord, and then to the South End of Boston to reside in "a ten-footer," and then to Whitwell's House on Pinckney Street.

**BACKGROUND EVENTS OF 1820**

**BACKGROUND EVENTS OF 1821**

## 5TH STANZA: 1821/1822

 [David Henry Thoreau](#)'s 5th stanza began on his birthday, July 12th, Thursday, 1821. At about this birthday, little David Henry would have graduated, according to the conventions for children of the time, from a tunic of merino opening down the front and reaching below his knees, over white trousers reaching to his ankles and fashioned either of similar material or of white linen, to knee breeches or trousers and a shirt with a ruffled collar covered with a close-fitting jacket, and a cloth cap with a full soft crown and visor, or a straw hat. (However, there would not yet have been the "leg-of-mutton" sleeve at this point, as this style would not become popular either in male or female attire until the 1830s.)

- Waldo Emerson graduated from Harvard College and went to work for his brother William as an assistant in a girls' school in Boston.
- There was great drought in Massachusetts and Walden Pond must have been many feet below normal levels.

**BACKGROUND EVENTS OF 1821**

**BACKGROUND EVENTS OF 1822**






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## 6TH STANZA: 1822/1823


 [David Henry Thoreau](#)'s 6th stanza began on his birthday, July 12th, Friday, 1822.

- Waldo Emerson was teaching/tutoring in Chelmsford, but the Thoreau family was no longer there. He joined his father's church in Boston and commenced his studies at the Harvard Divinity School. He read "Hindu Mythology and Mathematics", *apud* Edinburgh Review." He mused about the rights of man, such as the right to kill animals and consume their flesh.
- According to brother John, Jr., at Christmas little David Henry got more of the nice things in his stocking, such as the candy.
- Dr. Thaddeus William Harris, who would teach Thoreau at Harvard, published his 1st economic/entomological paper, "Upon the Natural History of the Salt Marsh Caterpillar."
- Uncle Charles Dunbar invited father John Thoreau, Sr. to join Dunbar and Stow Pencil Makers in Concord. Mr. Thoreau left off teaching school in Boston. David Henry was transferred from the Boston "infants" school to Miss Phœbe Wheeler's dame school in Concord (he would go on from there to public school). The family spent a memorable spring pic nic day on the exposed sandbar of Walden Pond, below where he eventually would position his cabin. He helped boil a kettle of chowder.
- To cure him of "diffidence," Captain Jones Very of Salem took his oldest son Jones Very, Jr. as "cabin boy" on the *Aurelia* to North Sea ports such as St. Petersburg.
- David Henry drove cattle down the lane past Walden Pond. He was tossed by a Concord cow. "Mother reminds me that when we lived at the Parkman house she lost a ruff a yard and a half long and with an edging three yards long to it, which she had laid on the grass to whiten, and, looking for it, she saw a robin tugging at the tape string of a stay on the line. He would repeatedly get it in his mouth, fly off and be brought up when he got to the end of his tether. Miss Ward thereupon tore a fine linen handkerchief into strips and threw them out, and the robin carried them all off. She had no doubt that he took the ruff."

BACKGROUND EVENTS OF 1822

BACKGROUND EVENTS OF 1823

## 7TH STANZA: 1823/1824

 [David Henry Thoreau](#)'s 7th stanza began on his birthday, July 12th, Saturday, 1823.

- After attending a private preschool and then public school, Thoreau was enrolled in the newly founded Concord Academy to be prepared for college.
- Waldo Emerson was deeply impressed by a "Discourse upon Revelation" that the Reverend William Ellery Channing offered in the Reverend Hedge's Church in Boston. He wrote on the virtue of having an aristocracy: "Envy is the tax which all distinction must pay."
- The Thoreau pencil business developed its own little sawmill to prepare cedar strips, at a small wooded pond in the Esterbrook Country of Concord.
- The Thoreaus were renting a brick house at the corner of Main Street and Walden Street.



HENRY DAVID THOREAU


DAVID HENRY THOREAU

- The beginning of the Concord Social Library.
- Concord's barber and town drunk, John C. Breed, was found dead on the road.

**BACKGROUND EVENTS OF 1823**

**BACKGROUND EVENTS OF 1824**

### **8TH STANZA: 1824/1825**

 [David Henry Thoreau](#)'s 8th stanza began on his birthday, July 12th, Monday, 1824.

- In Boston, Margaret Fuller met the marquis de Lafayette. David Henry was present during Lafayette's passage through Concord. He began to receive instruction from Edward Jarvis at the Concord public Town School. Sister Sophia began at Miss Wheeler's dame school "infants class." At some point brother John would draw her a sketch of a rabbit munching on a twig. Mother Cynthia joined the Concord Female Charitable Society.
- Walt Whitman would in a later timeframe allege that he had been kissed by Lafayette in Brooklyn.
- Waldo Emerson was admitted to the middle class at the Harvard Divinity School. The Directors asked for funds for the construction of a separate building. Emerson visited ex-President John Adams.
- Concord prepared the foundation for an eventual Concord Battle Monument.

**BACKGROUND EVENTS OF 1824**

**BACKGROUND EVENTS OF 1825**

### **9TH STANZA: 1825/1826**

 [David Henry Thoreau](#)'s 9th stanza began on his birthday, July 12th, Tuesday, 1825.

- David Henry returned for a 2d year of instruction at the Concord public Town School. "I remember how glad I was when I was kept from school a half a day to pick huckleberries on a neighboring hill all by myself to make a pudding for the family dinner."
- David Henry began to attend the Concord Academy and study under Preceptor Phineas Allen.
- Nathaniel Hawthorne (Hathorne) graduated from Bowdoin College 18th in a class of 35.
- Waldo Emerson taught in a Classical School at Chelmsford in order to pay his way while attending Harvard Divinity School, but enrollment dropped so he began in addition to tutor privately. He preached his first sermon.
- Concord's orthodox meetinghouse was constructed. Dissident members of Concord's 1st Parish Church society, a group that had been by imperceptible degrees becoming Unitarian, acquired a building lot on Walden Street, and a cornerstone was laid. Under the leadership of Deacon John



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- White, the constitution of a Trinitarian Congregationalist Society of Concord was signed by 69 persons (but by the time the church formed, it had only 16 members).
- Bronson Alcott published an article “On the Education of Children.”
  - The Thoreaus moved from the brick house Jonas Hastings had erected in about 1790 at the corner of Main Street and Walden Street in Concord into the Davis house next door to the substantial residence of the attorney Samuel Hoar and across the street from the “Shattuck House (now William Monroe’s).”
  - The Middlesex Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Concord sold its first policy.

### BACKGROUND EVENTS OF 1825

### BACKGROUND EVENTS OF 1826

### 10TH STANZA: 1826/1827

 [David Henry Thoreau](#)’s 10th stanza began on his birthday, July 12th, Wednesday, 1826.

- Waldo Emerson heard, at Faneuil Hall, Daniel Webster’s oration for the deceased Thomas Jefferson and John Adams. Later in the year, Faneuil Hall Market opened for business. A building for the Harvard Divinity School was dedicated. Waldo Emerson graduated, was approbated by the Middlesex Association of Unitarian Ministers, and preached “Pray without ceasing” at a relative’s church in Waltham. He sailed down the coast to visit Charleston and St. Augustine, returning to Cambridge via Baltimore, Alexandria, and New-York.
- Concord’s 16 Trinitarian Congregationalists dedicated their new church building on Walden Street and selected the Reverend Daniel Starr Southmayd as their pastor. The reverend would reside at the Thoreau boardinghouse in Concord.
- David Henry returned for a 3d year of instruction at Concord’s Town School under Master Edward Jarvis. Jarvis began to study medicine under Dr. Josiah Bartlett.
- The Thoreau family moved from the Davis house across Main Street to the Shattuck house (this was their 3d Concord residence in four years). Mother Cynthia would operate this home as a boardinghouse.
- A “Sabbath School” began in Concord.

### BACKGROUND EVENTS OF 1826

### BACKGROUND EVENTS OF 1827

### 11TH STANZA: 1827/1828

 [David Henry Thoreau](#)’s 11th stanza began on his birthday, July 12th, Thursday, 1827.



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- David Henry returned for a 4th year of instruction at Concord's Town School under Edward Jarvis.
- David Henry needed to take his pet chickens to be sold. Before his eyes the innkeeper one by one drew them from the basket and wrung their necks.
- The Reverend Waldo Emerson met two people who would figure in his life, Miss Ellen Louisa Tucker and the Reverend Frederic Henry Hedge. He went on the prison tour in Concord, New Hampshire. He went to McLean's Asylum to visit his brother Edward Bliss but was turned away by the person in charge. He began to preach at the 2d Unitarian Church in Boston.
- Bronson Alcott, who had been working in the South as a peddler, arrived in Boston.
- Bascom & Cole's English and West Indian Shop on Concord's Milldam burned down.
- The Reverend Ezra Ripley made a notation in the records of his 1st Parish Church in Concord, that "Our sister Cynthia Thoreau changed her mind, and did not offer herself for communion with the Trinitarian Church, and is still a member of this church."

### BACKGROUND EVENTS OF 1827

### BACKGROUND EVENTS OF 1828

### 12TH STANZA: 1828/1829



[David Henry Thoreau](#)'s 12th stanza began on his birthday, July 12th, Saturday, 1828.

- At some point during 1827 or 1828 –and I will insert it here– Thoreau wrote his earliest known essay, "The Seasons." He signed it with the first known use of his adult signature, as Henry D. Thoreau rather than as David Henry Thoreau, a signature form which does not again appear in our record prior to the period at Harvard College.
- The Hathorne family of Salem decided to spell its name as it had been spelled in the 16th Century, "Hawthorne."
- Nathaniel Hawthorne self-published the "romance" FANSHAWE, A TALE (an act he would regret).
- When the Reverend Waldo Emerson of the 2d Unitarian Church of Boston attempted to visit his brother Edward Bliss Emerson at McLean's Asylum, he was turned away. The Reverend Emerson courted and won a tubercular 17-year-old heiress to a fortune, Miss Ellen Louisa Tucker.
- One of the Reverend Ezra Ripley's sermons was printed, "The importance of just ideas of God." Cynthia Dunbar Thoreau changed her mind and did not resign from his congregation in favor of the new Trinitarian Church sponsored by Deacon White of Concord — her brother Charles Jones Dunbar did, however, begin to worship with these Trinitarians.
- Abigail May made an appointment to see Amos Bronson Alcott alone, and told him of her feelings for him. He reciprocated, and they began to take long walks together to appreciate the "romantic moral character" of local scenery. Abby became perhaps as happy as she could bear to be.
- David Henry Thoreau completed his period of general instruction at Concord's Town School under schoolmaster Edward Jarvis and was transferred to the Concord Academy to study the Greek and Latin classics under preceptor Phineas Allen. It was perhaps during this period that our guy delivered an oration "The Death of Leonidas" which was found by the preceptor to be "good."
- Concord's own John Augustus Stone became a distinguished prize-winning playwright. Concord began its Lyceum on the 2d floor of its Academy building. The town placed stones at each of the many angles of its surveyed boundaries.



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- The journalist David Child was sentenced to prison for having libeled State Senator John Keyes of Concord (by printing an accusation that he illegally awarded a state contract for printing services). His wife Maria Child would be bringing, to the Boston prison, his meals in a dinner pail.

### BACKGROUND EVENTS OF 1828

### BACKGROUND EVENTS OF 1829

### 13TH STANZA: 1829/1830


 [David Henry Thoreau](#)'s 13th stanza began on his birthday, July 12th, Sunday, 1829.

- There is a story that as he turned 12 he joined the Concord Lyceum that had newly formed at the very end of 1828.
- Young David Henry formally debated Ebenezer Rockwood Hoar, and then Edward Wright. Our scholar did not come off well in either encounter.
- The Reverend Hersey B. Goodwin came to Concord, to assist the Reverend Ezra Ripley during his years of dotage
- The seamstress Sarah Thoreau died in Concord.
- Preceptor Phineas Allen came to board at the boardinghouse of the Thoreaus in Concord, and it was arranged for the Thoreau brothers to study under him at the Concord Academy.
- Concord's playwright, John Augustus Stone, achieved his first big "hit." The reverend suitor Waldo Emerson took his *fiancée* Ellen Louisa Tucker on an excursion into the White Mountains and made a financial suggestion which her guardian would regard as an "ugly subject." During this year Ellen's portrait would be painted, the reverend would have his 27th birthday, the necessary financial arrangements would be certified by all parties, and the couple would be wed. They would go to reside at Mrs. Keating's boardinghouse on Chardon Street in Boston.
- In an Episcopal ceremony at King's Chapel in Boston, Abigail May and Amos Bronson Alcott were united in marriage.

### BACKGROUND EVENTS OF 1829

### BACKGROUND EVENTS OF 1830

### 14TH STANZA: 1830/1831

 [David Henry Thoreau](#)'s 14th stanza began on his birthday, July 12th, Monday, 1830.

- [the desperate leap of Amim, the Mameluke bey](#)
- At the Concord Academy, David Henry Thoreau delivered a declamation based upon an oration that Edward Everett had delivered at Plymouth, Massachusetts.



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- John Thoreau, Senior began to manufacture pencils.
- David Henry Thoreau's aunt, Miss Louisa Dunbar, moved in with the Thoreau family in the Shattuck house on Main Street.
- David Henry Thoreau's grandmother Mary Jones Dunbar Minot died.
- The Alcott family departed for Pennsylvania, where Bronson would teach school and Abba would do charity work for good causes, and produce female children.
- At the age of 19 Mrs. Ellen Louisa Tucker Emerson died of tuberculosis under opiates, leaving a bereaved 27-year-old widower the Reverend Ralph Waldo Emerson as prearranged, in sole control of her estate of \$24,000.<sup>00</sup> in cash plus other assets. The bereaved Waldo became concerned that his family of origin not presume he was going to spring to their assistance financially now that his estate had become so considerably enlarged as to render him (in today's currency) a "multimillionaire."

**BACKGROUND EVENTS OF 1830**

**BACKGROUND EVENTS OF 1831**

**15TH STANZA: 1831/1832**



[David Henry Thoreau](#)'s 15th stanza began on his birthday, July 12th, Tuesday, 1831.

During this period:

- Thomas Carlyle prepared SARTOR RESARTUS.
- William Miller predicted the 2d advent of Jesus Christ and the end of the world as we now know it.
- Nat Turner led a servile insurrection and was hanged.
- Alexis de Tocqueville interviewed the president of Harvard College.
- In Boston, abolitionists formed an anti-slavery society.
- Concord's playwright John Augustus Stone had several more triumphs.
- Frederick Douglass figured out that the word "abolition" must mean no longer having slavery.
- Charles Darwin sailed aboard the *Beagle*.
- Joseph Smith was tarred and feathered.
- Waldo Emerson visited Ellen's tomb and opened the coffin.



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- The ordinary costume for boys over ten years of age, from 1830 when David Henry was 12, to 1835 when he was 17, was:



a suit of long, rather loose-fitting pantaloons, a waistcoat cut rather low and showing a white shirt underneath, and a short jacket reaching to the waist line. The hats for boys of the early part of the nineteenth century were extremely ugly. The jockey cap with a round crown and a visor ... from 1801 to 1810 ... [had been succeeded by] the stove-pipe hat, made of straw in summer and of beaver in winter, which was actually worn for several years even by little boys in frocks ... [which in turn had been succeeded by hats] with rather high crowns and strait brims. In 1830 high hats were worn by very fashionable boys in trousers ... which looked like inverted flower pots. Beauty and fitness seem not to have been considered.

**BACKGROUND EVENTS OF 1831**

**BACKGROUND EVENTS OF 1832**

### 16TH STANZA: 1832/1833



[David Henry Thoreau](#)'s 16th stanza began on his birthday, July 12th, Thursday, 1832.

- Bronson Alcott presented "On the Nature and Means of Early Intellectual Education, as Deduced from Experience" before the American Institute of Instruction
- Cynthia Dunbar Thoreau abandoned the Concord Trinitarians and rejoined the established Unitarian church, signing its covenant that she believed in "One God, the Father of all, and in Jesus Christ his Son, our Savior, the One Mediator between God & man."
- The Reverend Waldo Emerson resigned from the ministry when he received his inheritance from his deceased wife, and went on extended vacation in Europe.
- Nathaniel Hawthorne toured the White Mountains of New Hampshire and went on to Niagara Falls.
- The founder of phrenology died in Boston.
- Louisa May Alcott was born in Philadelphia.
- Sam Staples came to Concord with a dollar in his pocket.
- Captain John Thoreau was stationed on the island of Jamaica.
- Concord's playwright John Augustus Stone continued his successful career in the theatre.

**BACKGROUND EVENTS OF 1832**


**BACKGROUND EVENTS OF 1833**



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## 17TH STANZA: 1833/1834


 [David Henry Thoreau](#)'s 17th stanza began on his birthday, July 12th, Friday, 1833.

- Bronson Alcott became a Platonic Idealist. Abba had a miscarriage. Bronson started a school in Boston.
- Dr. George Parkman of Boston helped John James Audubon suffocate a golden eagle.
- Lemuel Shattuck published a history of the town of Concord, Massachusetts.
- The Reverend Ezra Ripley allowed land for the construction of an "April 19th" battle monument, in his cow pasture near the Old Manse.
- Eligible lady Lidian Jackson of Plymouth met and conversed with the Reverend Waldo Emerson. Her older sister, with two children, was abandoned by her husband. Waldo received half the cash from the estate of his deceased wife.
- Davy Crockett visited Boston.
- Concord's famous young playwright John Augustus Stone drowned himself.
- Experimentation with locomotives began near Boston. An anti-Catholic mob burned down a convent.
- Thomas Carlisle's major new work SARTOR RESARTUS was being serialized in a British magazine.
- There was an insurrection at Harvard College, smashed furniture, broken windows, groaning in Chapel, student activities in which young charity scholar Thoreau took no part. Despite "barely getting in," Thoreau would maintain above-average grades in Classical Literature, French, Italian, German, Mathematics, Geology, Zoology, Botany, and Natural and Intellectual Philosophy.

BACKGROUND EVENTS OF 1833

BACKGROUND EVENTS OF 1834

## 18TH STANZA: 1834/1835

 [David Henry Thoreau](#)'s 18th stanza began on his birthday, July 12th, Saturday, 1834.

- Samuel Taylor Coleridge died.
- Richard Henry Dana, Jr. got permission from his dad to drop out of Harvard for the time being, and sign onto a ship sailing to California, for a couple of years of adventuring as an ordinary seahand.
- The long process of emancipating Britain's colonial slaves began.
- When a plank on a Concord bridge gave way, two girls drowned.
- Louisa May Alcott almost drowned in the Boston frogpond.
- Bronson Alcott opened a school in Boston's Masonic Hall. He was comparing himself to Jesus.
- Jones Very became Harvard's poet of the year.
- In an incident that Thoreau would later report in Walden, Josiah Haynes of Sudbury removed an inverted tree from White Pond near his home.
- Captain John Thoreau completed his tour of duty in the Caribbean and headed back to England.
- Miss Elizabeth Peabody published her diary of Bronson Alcott's School of Human Culture.





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- To the people who were engaging in the antislavery struggle, the year 1835 would come to be known as “the mob year.”
- Waldo Emerson was courting Miss. Lydia Jackson of Plymouth.

### BACKGROUND EVENTS OF 1834

### BACKGROUND EVENTS OF 1835

### 19TH STANZA: 1835/1836



[David Henry Thoreau](#)'s 19th stanza began on his birthday, July 12th, Sunday, 1835.

- To the people who were engaging in the antislavery struggle, the year 1835 would come to be known as “the mob year.”
- Our scholar returned to 31 Hollis Hall at Harvard College for the 2d term of his Junior year of studies, then withdrew for three months, among other things in order to teach school briefly in Canton, Massachusetts while studying German with the Reverend Orestes Augustus Brownson, before beginning the 3d term of his Junior year by enrolling in courses in Greek, Latin, English, Italian, mathematics, and possibly chemistry. Unfortunately, due to illness, presumably tubercular, he would be forced to again withdraw, perhaps to be cared for at the family home in Concord.
- Harvard student Richard Henry Dana, Jr. was on the California coast aboard the *Alert*, a hide ship out of Boston, keeping his eyes wide open as he completed his “two years before the mast.” Meanwhile Charles Darwin was keeping his eyes wide open as he sailed from island to island in the Pacific as the “Captain’s Companion” aboard the British surveying vessel HMS *Beagle*.
- Thomas Carlyle was putting out episode after episode of a most peculiar writing entitled SARTOR RESARTUS.
- Halley’s Comet returned to the night skies, on schedule.
- Boston was no longer using its Common for the grazing of herds of cows.
- Samuel Langhorne Clemens was born (he would change his name).
- Edgar Allan Poe was a prominent American editor.
- Frederick Douglass became fearful that his owner might sell him south.
- Ellery Channing went for a hike in the White Mountains of New Hampshire.
- Joseph Smith, founder of the Mormon Church, went treasure hunting in Massachusetts (but failed to discover any treasure in the vicinity of Salem).
- In Florida the US swamp race war continued apace, with village after village being exterminated.
- Bronson Alcott and Elizabeth Palmer Peabody were conducting a School of Human Culture, in Boston’s Masonic Hall.
- In Boston, P.T. Barnum placed on exhibit one of his slaves, Joyce Heth, falsely alleging that she was incredibly ancient, and falsely alleging that she had been the wet-nurse of founder of the nation George Washington (when this paralyzed, blind woman died he sold 50¢ admission tickets and engaged a surgeon to autopsy her corpse, in a barroom).
- The Texians of northern Mejico (folks such as congressman Davy Crockett and knife fighter James Bowie) were staving off Mexican nationals who had attempted to deny them their God-given right to own black human beings — this included some nasty struggling to achieve liberty and justice for all that you will remember at a place they called “The Alamo.”



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- Harvard's undergraduates continued to put out their monthly subscription literary magazine, the *HARVARDIANA*, without participation by Thoreau.
- Lemuel Shattuck published a new one-volume history of the town of Concord.
- Waldo Emerson remarried with Lydia Jackson and purchased the 7-year-old "Coolidge Castle" house in Concord beside the Cambridge Turnpike. He lectured in the lyceums of Boston, Concord, Salem, and Cambridge and, after the famous orators Daniel Webster and Edward Everett had declined, was asked if he would please present the keynote address at Concord's Bicentennial Celebration. He then read a lecture based almost entirely on Lemuel Shattuck's newly published history of the town, and sent it off to a publisher. His brother Charles Chauncy Emerson died of tuberculosis, which foiled a plan for him to get married with Concord's Elizabeth Hoar. Bronson Alcott visited the Emersons several times at their new home in Concord. Margaret Fuller also visited, but failed to make a favorable first impression. Waldo wrote the poem "The Snow Storm" and completed the draft of his book *NATURE* (which he was intending to follow up with something titled *SPIRIT*).

### BACKGROUND EVENTS OF 1835

### BACKGROUND EVENTS OF 1836

### 20TH STANZA: 1836/1837



[David Henry Thoreau](#)'s 20th stanza began on his birthday, July 12th, Tuesday, 1836.

- The *Alert* rounded Cape Horn and passed the Falkland Islands as Richard Henry Dana, Jr. concluded his "two years before the mast" excellent adventure — returning to Harvard College as a senior "BMOC" (alongside classmate David Henry Thoreau). In this year in which David Henry was changing his name to Henry David, he was studying Italian under instructor Pietro Bachi, German, English, natural philosophy, intellectual philosophy, rhetoric, and criticism. Graduating senior Thoreau attended Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's initial lectures upon his being appointed to the Harvard College faculty. The institution was holding its bicentennial celebration (Emerson attended).
- In a continuation of the previous year's anti-Catholic and anti-Masonic political furor, Concord postmaster John Keyes was thrown out of office because he was a Mason (and therefore —per one of the Know-Nothing controlling fantasies of the time— a man whose loyalties were to a secret cabal rather than to the American nation). Charles B. Davis became the postmaster, and would serve intermittently as postmaster for Concord from that point forward, whenever the Democrats were in power.
- While Thoreau was at the family home on the Concord Square for the summer he went on a voyage in his boat *Red Jacket*, embarking from the bridge on the Lowell Road (he would spend the following summer with Charles Stearns Wheeler in a hut on the shore of Flint's Pond). Meanwhile, Margaret Fuller, "a very accomplished & very intelligent person," was a house guest of the Emersons (Bronson Alcott would also be a house guest this year). Emerson's *NATURE* was printed and Jones Very, who was graduating with distinction from Harvard College and preparing to enter



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the Harvard Divinity School, purchased a copy at the Boston bookshop and proceeded to make heavy markup. referred to his dead father and his very lively mother as “blighted flowers” and mused upon the display in their lives of “some covenant broken with the Lord” — as the heritage of this union, he would need to atone in order to get out of the clutches of “some secret undefined power” which was tempting him toward “2 Vices.” Margaret Fuller reported hearing “conversation” about Emerson’s book “that amuses me.” The Reverend Orestes Brownson reviewed it for a Boston gazette. Carlyle’s *SARTOR RESARTUS* was simultaneously for sale at the Boston bookshop.

- The Thoreaus of Concord relocated from the Concord Square to the site of the present Concord Free Public Library building, residing there in the Parkman house.
- The Concord school board had as its chair the Reverend Barzillai Frost, as its secretary Nehemiah Ball (who in this year won election as Town Clerk), and as its third member Sherman Barrett. Money for the school was being raised by a town tax, supplemented by small donations and by some state aid. The head of the prudential committee of the Centre District was the owner of the local grocery store, Charles B. Davis (who in this year would become Concord’s postmaster), and it would be he who would hire as the new teacher replacing Eliezer J. Marsh a recent local college graduate, Henry David Thoreau. Hiring a recent local Harvard College grad has been pretty much the tradition since 1700. Davis would agree to pay Thoreau \$500 a year, which, although it would render him by far the highest paid of the more than sixteen teachers employed in the system, was \$100 less than had been paid in the previous year to Marsh.
- Charles Darwin was keeping his eyes wide open as the British surveying vessel *HMS Beagle* arrived at St. Helena and Ascension Island, and then headed toward home port.
- In Texas, John James Audubon shot a number of Ivory-billed Woodpeckers. On his final full day in office, United States President Andrew Jackson recognized the independence of the Republic of Texas.
- In Boston, in the 2d year of Alcott’s Temple School, an experiment was made in what was, actually, the first sex education ever offered in America. Fuller moved from there to a new job, teaching at the Greene Street School in Providence, Rhode Island (Waldo Emerson gave the dedication address there). Classroom conversations were being recorded by Elizabeth Peabody and would be disastrously published. The Crawford House on Scollay Square installed the first passenger elevator in the USA, and the foundation of the US Hotel was laid.
- Nathaniel Hawthorne visited the Peabody sisters Elizabeth, Mary, and Sophia in Salem, meeting his future wife. He edited Peter Parley’s *UNIVERSAL HISTORY*.
- The formation of “Hedge’s Club.”
- William Miller was forecasting the imminent end of the world.
- More than 5,000 Irish disembarked in Boston. In the United States, an economic depression began that would last several years. As a result, thousands of Americans would go bankrupt, and thousands more would be reduced to starvation. The depression would force the closing of nearly all textile mills in New England, and more than 500 banks before the end of the year. This was due to the failure of an insurance scheme that was being used during the process known as the “clearing” of temporary financial chits (these are now known as “checks”), a chit-clearing process which had been begun by the Suffolk Bank in Boston in 1819 and which had spread from there so that by this point it constituted a banking-industry convention. Herman Melville’s brother’s business, which was Herman’s source of employment, went bankrupt.
- “Wallie” Emerson was born — “Last night at 11 o’clock, a son was born to me.”
- John Greenleaf Whittier began his extensive Massachusetts political career.



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- The Southmayd family, former residents in the Thoreau boardinghouse in Concord, was enduring much suffering and tribulation in the region that would become Texas.

BACKGROUND EVENTS OF 1836

BACKGROUND EVENTS OF 1837

## 21ST STANZA: 1837/1838

 [Henry David Thoreau](#)'s 21st stanza began on his birthday, July 12th, Wednesday, 1837. He graduated 19th in a class of 44. As of his Bachelor's sheepskin from Harvard College he began putting his middle name "Henry" –which anyway had been what everyone was calling him– first in his signature.

- Accepting a teaching position at Concord's [Town School](#), after a couple of weeks he resigned.
- His mother and sisters helped found the Concord Female Anti-Slavery Society.
- [Concord](#) postmaster [John Keyes](#) lost that office because he was a Mason.
- [Concord](#) erected a [Battle Monument](#) at the [Old North Bridge](#) commemorating the outbreak of Revolution and marking the graves of fallen British soldiers.
- [Nathaniel Hawthorne](#) edited PETER PARLEY'S UNIVERSAL HISTORY. Visiting the Peabody sisters [Elizabeth Palmer Peabody](#), [Mary Tyler Peabody](#) (Mann), and [Sophia Amelia Peabody \(Hawthorne\)](#) in Salem, he met his future wife.
- [Waldo Emerson](#) recorded his aunt [Mary Moody Emerson](#)'s name in his journal as the 1st on his list of his 7 most vital "benefactors." He delivered his Phi Beta Kappa Society oration "The American Scholar" to the seniors at Harvard College.
- [Friend John Greenleaf Whittier](#) was elected to the Massachusetts legislature.
- More than 5,000 Irish disembarked in [Boston](#). Massachusetts Representative [Horace Mann, Sr.](#) became Secretary of a newly formed State Board of Education.
- Crawford House on Scollay Square in [Boston](#) installed the 1st passenger elevator in the USA. An economic depression began that would last several years. [Herman Melville](#)'s brother's business, which was Herman's source of employment, went bankrupt.
- In Texas and then in Florida, [John James Audubon](#) shot any number of **Ivory-billed Woodpeckers**  [Campephilus principalis](#), now extinct.

BACKGROUND EVENTS OF 1837


BACKGROUND EVENTS OF 1838



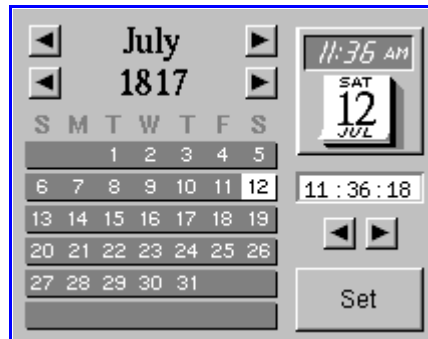
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## 22D STANZA: 1838/1839

 [Henry Thoreau](#)'s 22d stanza began on his birthday, July 12th, Thursday, 1838.

The Thoreau family apparently did not make much of holidays or birthdays — but this was a birthday we now consider symbolic, the 21st — the day after which in our culture every male is entitled to profess himself a grown man.



The question would be, however, whether by the year 1838 such a 21st birthday was being regarded as the gateway to full adulthood, or whether that able-to-drink-alcohol cultural artifact is of a more recent provenance. And if it were already the convention, why is there not something reported as going on, similar to the “chiving” that goes on now as a young man approaches that transition-to-full-adulthood milestone? In the JOURNAL, and in various other historical records I have been consulting, one detects **none** of this sort of chiving.

- [Henry Thoreau](#) lost a tooth.
- He carted his old boat Red Jacket over to Walden Pond.
- He wrote, in honor of Edmund Quincy Sewall, Jr., age 11, the poem “Sympathy.”
- His brother [John Thoreau, Jr.](#) reopened the defunct [Concord Academy](#) and he became a teacher there. The family was living in the Parkman House on the site of the present [Concord Free Public Library](#) building. It was in this home that they would hold this school.
- An exhibition of hot-air balloon ascension toured Massachusetts.
- The enslaved [Joseph Cinqué](#), being transported, found a nail and concealed it in his armpit.
- The rather humorlessly self-righteous [James Russell Lowell](#) was rusticated in Concord during this year, having been temporarily expelled from [Harvard College](#) for some infraction of college regulations. He was being tutored by the utterly humorlessly self-righteous Reverend Barzillai Frost. They must have made quite a pair!
- At Harvard College, [Gore Hall](#) was constructed.
- Little [Louisa May Alcott](#), about age 5, who had already while a toddler almost drowned in the Boston frogpond, wandered away from home and was found late in the evening by a town crier, huddled on a doorstep in Bedford Street.
- The 1st Universalist Society of Concord was gathered.
- A Nonresistance Society was formed in [Boston](#), all the members of which were abolitionists because they understood [slavery](#) to be a form of violence.
- The United States House of Representatives resolved not to accept any more [antislavery](#) petitions.
- Start of the “[Underground Railroad](#).”
- The Reverend [Orestes Augustus Brownson](#) began his [Boston Quarterly Review](#).



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- The Reverend [William Ellery Channing](#) suggested that the primary focus of our energies should be toward our own rectification, rather than the rectification of society. The Reverend [Brownson](#) retorted that systemic societal problems can never be rectified through self-culture.
- Some 200 trees were being planted along the road to the [Battle Monument](#). A burial site for the fallen redcoats in [Concord](#) or Lexington was disturbed by a [phrenologist](#) who would use the skulls he obtained as exhibits.

**BACKGROUND EVENTS OF 1838**

**BACKGROUND EVENTS OF 1839**

**TO BE CONTINUED**

**23D STANZA: 1839/1840**

(in preparation, not yet ready to be uploaded onto the internet)

**24TH STANZA: 1840/1841**

(in preparation, not yet ready to be uploaded onto the internet)

**25TH STANZA: 1841/1842**

(in preparation, not yet ready to be uploaded onto the internet)

**26TH STANZA: 1842/1843**

(in preparation, not yet ready to be uploaded onto the internet)

**27TH STANZA: 1843/1844**

(in preparation, not yet ready to be uploaded onto the internet)



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**28TH STANZA: 1844/1845**

(in preparation, not yet ready to be uploaded onto the internet)

**29TH STANZA: 1845/1846**

(in preparation, not yet ready to be uploaded onto the internet)

**30TH STANZA: 1846/1847**

(in preparation, not yet ready to be uploaded onto the internet)

**31ST STANZA: 1847/1848**

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**32D STANZA: 1848/1849**

(in preparation, not yet ready to be uploaded onto the internet)

**33D STANZA: 1849/1850**

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**34TH STANZA: 1850/1851**

(in preparation, not yet ready to be uploaded onto the internet)

**35TH STANZA: 1851/1852**

(in preparation, not yet ready to be uploaded onto the internet)



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**36TH STANZA: 1852/1853**

(in preparation, not yet ready to be uploaded onto the internet)

**37TH STANZA: 1853/1854**

(in preparation, not yet ready to be uploaded onto the internet)

**38TH STANZA: 1854/1855**

(in preparation, not yet ready to be uploaded onto the internet)

**39TH STANZA: 1855/1856**

(in preparation, not yet ready to be uploaded onto the internet)

**40TH STANZA: 1856/1857**

(in preparation, not yet ready to be uploaded onto the internet)

**41ST STANZA: 1857/1858**

(in preparation, not yet ready to be uploaded onto the internet)

**42D STANZA: 1858/1859**

(in preparation, not yet ready to be uploaded onto the internet)

**43D STANZA: 1859/1860**

(in preparation, not yet ready to be uploaded onto the internet)





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## 44TH STANZA: 1860/1861

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## 45TH STANZA: 1861/1862

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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: August 13, 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.



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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.