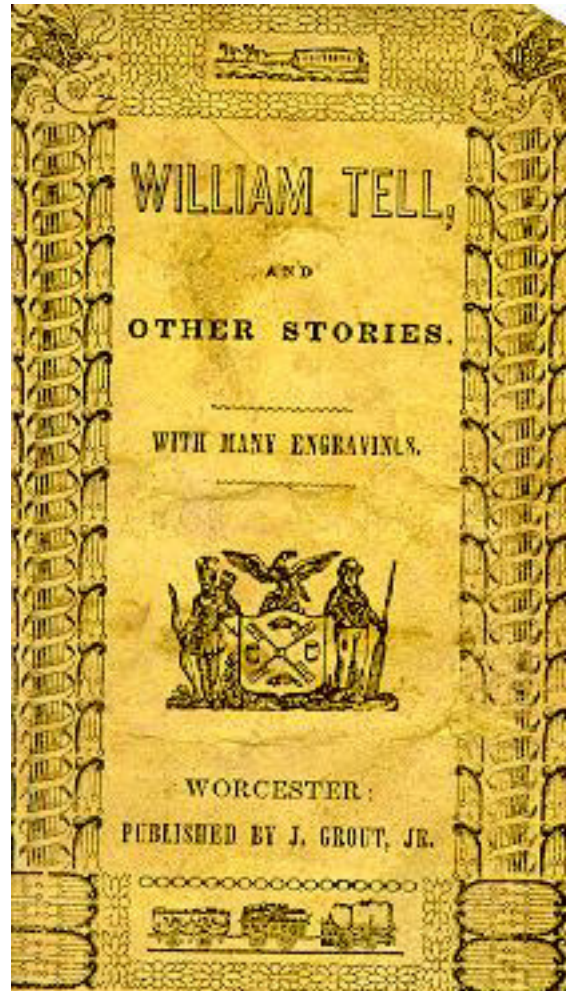


PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

ARE WE ALL SONS OF WILHELM TELL?



In WALDEN, Henry Thoreau described us as "sons of Tell." I wonder what he meant! Wilhelm Tell was a Swiss Catholic, and those tall colorfully attired guards in the Vatican are Swiss Catholic mercenaries, so, are they sons of Tell? During Thoreau's lifetime New Hampshire was being referred to as the American Switzerland, so, are the citizens of New Hampshire somehow honorary sons of Tell? Would the meaning of "sons of Tell" have anything to do with the New Hampshire license plate, which reads LIVE FREE OR DIE? There is a famous issue of the Harvard Lampoon on the cover of which a student is sticking a gun in the ear of a cute mutt, and the moral offered is "Buy this magazine or I kill the dog!" -So, would that pooch with a gun stuck in its ear be an honorary son of the Swiss archer-man William Tell? -What in hell is a "son of Tell," exactly?



THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

WALDEN: While these things go up other things come down. Warned by the whizzing sound, I look up from my book and see some tall pine, hewn on far northern hills, which has winged its way over the Green Mountains and the Connecticut, shot like an arrow through the township within ten minutes, and scarce another eye beholds it; going

“to be the mast
Of some great ammiral.”

WALDEN: Far through unfrequented woods on the confines of towns, where once only the hunter penetrated by day, in the darkest night dart these bright saloons without the knowledge of their inhabitants; this moment stopping at some brilliant station-house in town or city, where a social crowd is gathered, the next in the Dismal Swamp, scaring the owl and fox. The startings and arrivals of the cars are now the epochs in the village day. They go and come with such regularity and precision, and their whistle can be heard so far, that the farmers set their clocks by them, and thus one well conducted institution regulates a whole country. Have not men improved somewhat in punctuality since the railroad was invented? Do they not talk and think faster in the depot than they did in the stage-office? There is something electrifying in the atmosphere of the former place. I have been astonished at the miracles it has wrought; that some of my neighbors, who, I should have prophesied, once for all, would never get to Boston by so prompt a conveyance, were on hand when the bell rang. To do things “railroad fashion” is now the by-word; and it is worth the while to be warned so often and so sincerely by any power to get off its track. There is no stopping to read the riot act, no firing over the heads of the mob, in this case. We have constructed a fate, an Atropos, that never turns aside. (Let that be the name of your engine.) Men are advertised that at a certain hour and minute these bolts will be shot toward particular points of the compass; yet it interferes with no man’s business, and the children go to school on the other track. We live the steadier for it. We are all educated thus to be sons of Tell. The air is full of invisible bolts. Every path but your own is the path of fate. Keep on your own track, then.

PEOPLE OF
WALDEN

WILLIAM TELL

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



THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

563 CE

There was a big rockfall next to the Rhone River where it entered the east end of Lake Geneva and the river's delta mud suddenly slumped toward the bottom center of the lake (this had already happened four times since the formation of the lake at the end of the previous ice age). A tsunami traveled from west to east along the lake and about 70 minutes later a wall of water some 26 feet high struck [Geneva](#), which was then mostly a smallish walled community atop a hill. When this occurs a 6th time Geneva is going to be a terrific place ("Run uphill, Mom!") because nowadays it's more low-lying and considerably more populous.

St. Columba left [Ireland](#) for Iona after being censured by the Irish Synod. At the Battle of Moin-daire-Lothair, a Cruithnic army was defeated by a force led by Clan Connall and Clan Owen. Irish missionaries would be introducing Roman Catholicism into the highlands of [Scotland](#) (until 597 CE).



THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

750 CE

A Benedictine monastery “St. Leodegar” was founded in [Lucerne](#).



THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

800 CE

During the 9th Century CE, the Benedictine monastery “St. Leodegar” in [Lucerne](#) became dependent upon the Abbey of Murbach in Alsace.



THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1168

At this point we have the mention of a bridge over the Reuss River. It is unknown, whether there has previously in [Lucerne](#) been any bridge at all. (At this point of time Lucerne was of local importance only, as a marketplace, and this would continue to be the case until the St. Gotthard trade route would be opened in the 13th Century.)

The Nahuatl society that the Spanish called the Aztecs begins establishing itself in Central Mexico. Their progenitors were Uto-Aztecan mercenaries serving in Toltec armies, and they called themselves the Tenocha, or “the descendants of the northern tribes.”

[Aristotle](#)’s ETHICS was translated.

NOBODY COULD GUESS WHAT WOULD HAPPEN NEXT





THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1178

A priest at St. Peter's Chapel was appointed to take care of the population of [Lucerne](#).

Political turmoil halted the construction of the new bell tower for the cathedral of Pisa in the middle of the preparation of its 4th level. The arches on the 3d level had already been made slightly taller in an effort to cope with the leaning to the north.

LEANING TOWER OF PISA

LIFE IS LIVED FORWARD BUT UNDERSTOOD BACKWARD?
— NO, THAT'S GIVING TOO MUCH TO THE HISTORIAN'S STORIES.
LIFE ISN'T TO BE UNDERSTOOD EITHER FORWARD OR BACKWARD.



THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1230

During the following decade, the 1st city ramparts of [Lucerne](#) would be being erected. A new route was opened over St. Gotthard pass, connecting the Lake of [Lucerne](#) region with Milan, Italy. This route was to become of major importance in commercial as well as military traffic between Germany and Italy. (The German Empire included Italy and Switzerland during these Middle Ages, but the difficult passage over the Alps posed major problems for the emperor in holding control over Italy). Goods were transported with mules over the pass, shipped with relatively big boats on Lake Lucerne. From Lucerne to Basel and Germany, smaller boats on Rivers Reuss and Rhine or wagons were used. [Lucerne](#) being the only city located on Lake Lucerne, became an important marketplace and provided storage capacity for goods.

THE FUTURE IS MOST READILY PREDICTED IN RETROSPECT





THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1240

Franciscan friars founded a monastery on the south side of [Lucerne](#).

THE FUTURE CAN BE EASILY PREDICTED IN RETROSPECT





THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1241

The city of Lucerne received its own seal.

DO I HAVE YOUR ATTENTION? GOOD.



THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1252

The political organization of the city of [Lucerne](#) was described in a document: There was a *Schultheiss* (mayor), an executive council consisting of 36 citizens, and a grand council.

CHANGE IS ETERNITY, STASIS A FIGMENT

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THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1291

The Swiss cantons of [Schwyz](#), [Uri](#), and [Unterwalden](#) entered into a Perpetual Covenant to defend each other from foreign attack, thus laying the foundation of the Swiss Confederation.

August 1, Wednesday (Old Style): During this year, the abbey of Murbach had sold its rights over [Lucerne](#) to Count Rudolf of Habsburg, the German king at that time. The interest of the counts of Habsburg in Lucerne and in what is nowadays central [Switzerland](#) was merely strategic: they needed to be in control of the St. Gotthard pass. On this day the Everlasting League, basis of the Old Swiss Confederacy, was formed when three Swiss cantons, to wit, the rural valleys of Uri, Schwyz, and Unterwalden on the shores of Lake Lucerne, joined together in a struggle for independence from the Habsburgs. King Rudolf was then offed by a nephew, John of Habsburg, who would figure as “Johannes Parricida” in Friedrich Schiller’s WILHELM TELL play of 1804. (While [William Tell](#) himself is legendary, John of Habsburg was a real individual.)





THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

Below is a released publicity still of another real person, Mme Cathy Jamet — who would be shot in the face with a crossbow arrow by her circus performer husband M Alain Jamet in Paris before an audience of some 5,000 on January 16, 2001. (What I'm showing you is the “before” photograph.)





THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1300

The first Town Hall of [Lucerne](#) was built.

The Hanseatic League was coming to be the greatest power in northern [Germany](#).



THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1307

November 18, Saturday (Old Style): The intrepid [Swiss](#) marksman and patriot [William Tell](#) drew arrow and knocked an apple off the head of his son.¹ Supposedly. Supposedly, his son's name was Walter Tell, or, at least, that's how the story would get told.²

1. A 400+ grain “quarrel” or “bolt” discharged from a 700-pound draw military crossbow would reach a velocity of 130-140 feet per second. That's not as fast as a speeding bullet, but plenty fast enough to put a part in your boy's hair. (Modern fiberglass crossbows can achieve 200 feet per second. Neither modern nor ancient crossbows can be dry-snapped without a quarrel as they may very well tear themselves into flying fragments.) Here is an actual quarrel from a 15th-Century German crossbow:



2. According to the story that would get told, this Walter wasn't William Tell's only begotten son, he having another son, William (Junior). —Did this affect the ease with which this father risked this second son's life? — did he figure maybe that since he had two, he had one he could afford to waste in the making of a political point?

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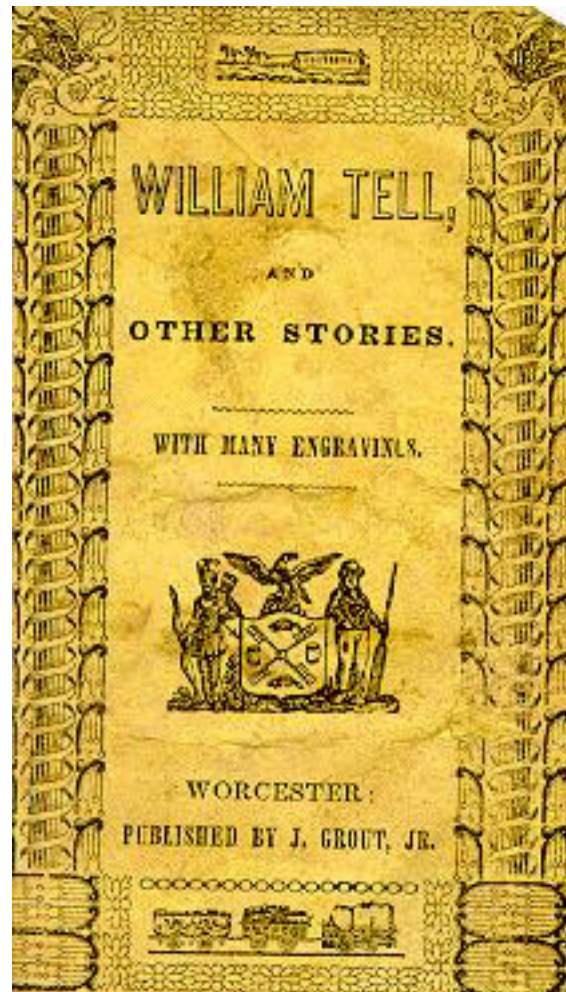
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WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

In the real world, of course, there are very few problems susceptible to being resolved by means of excellent marksmanship. –Very few. –Almost none. –Well, actually, none at all. There are better ways to put a part in your son's hair. However, toying with the possibility of this has sold an enormous number of Currier & Ives prints:



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THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

Stories get made up, but the crossbow was a real weapon, and quite suddenly deadly:



In the 19th Century, Henry Thoreau would make reference to this legend. However, the meaning that Thoreau would assign to it would be quite a bit different from the meaning that is ordinarily assigned to it by the Swiss. For the Swiss their national legend is about freedom, independence, and the sacrifices that are necessary in order to preserve such scarce and valuable thingies as freedom and independence. The Swiss telling of the legend, therefore, focuses upon the father, William Tell, the crossbowman, and they now manufacture a 50-caliber long-range sniper rifle, for use in defending their pacific nation, that is capable of killing a man at a range of one kilometer, even if that man is seated inside an armored personnel carrier. Thoreau's version of the Tell legend would elect to focus instead upon the son, Walter Tell, the mere hold-very-still target:

WALDEN: While these things go up other things come down. Warned by the whizzing sound, I look up from my book and see some tall pine, hewn on far northern hills, which has winged its way over the Green Mountains and the Connecticut, shot like an arrow through the township within ten minutes, and scarce another eye beholds it; going

"to be the mast
Of some great ammiral."



THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

WALDEN: Far through unfrequented woods on the confines of towns, where once only the hunter penetrated by day, in the darkest night dart these bright saloons without the knowledge of their inhabitants; this moment stopping at some brilliant station-house in town or city, where a social crowd is gathered, the next in the Dismal Swamp, scaring the owl and fox. The startings and arrivals of the cars are now the epochs in the village day. They go and come with such regularity and precision, and their whistle can be heard so far, that the farmers set their clocks by them, and thus one well conducted institution regulates a whole country. Have not men improved somewhat in punctuality since the railroad was invented? Do they not talk and think faster in the depot than they did in the stage-office? There is something electrifying in the atmosphere of the former place. I have been astonished at the miracles it has wrought; that some of my neighbors, who, I should have prophesied, once for all, would never get to Boston by so prompt a conveyance, were on hand when the bell rang. To do things "railroad fashion" is now the by-word; and it is worth the while to be warned so often and so sincerely by any power to get off its track. There is no stopping to read the riot act, no firing over the heads of the mob, in this case. We have constructed a fate, an *Atropos*, that never turns aside. (Let that be the name of your engine.) Men are advertised that at a certain hour and minute these bolts will be shot toward particular points of the compass; yet it interferes with no man's business, and the children go to school on the other track. We live the steadier for it. We are all educated thus to be sons of Tell. The air is full of invisible bolts. Every path but your own is the path of fate. Keep on your own track, then.

PEOPLE OF
WALDEN

WILLIAM TELL



THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

The story Thoreau had to tell was not about freedom and independence, but about relentlessness and inevitability. The image he had in his mind was of two sets of railroad tracks, with little children finding the easiest walking path to their village school along one side of this roadway — while one of his era's railroad train-without-brakes went slamming past inches away from them, along the other set of tracks: "the children go to school on the other track." Is this a problem, or an opportunity? — "We live the steadier for it." The railroad train is like Tell's invisible bolt, parting the hair of his son Walter. There is only one thing any of us can do, in regard to our onrushing relentless technology that never turns aside — and that one thing which we can do amounts to "Keep on your own track, then." We are sons of Tell. We will cross our fingers and close our eyes and we will hope that the crossbow bolt does not strike us whonk in the middle of the forehead.

And, meanwhile, people play around with this legend. For instance, on January 16, 2001, at a circus performance in Paris, Mme Cathy Jamet would be shot in the face by a crossbow arrow fired by her husband M Alain Jamet:



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



THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1315

An army of Swiss peasants defeated Duke Leopold of Habsburg and his knights at Morgarten.



THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1332

Despite its dependency on Habsburg, [Lucerne](#) was the first city to join the Old [Swiss](#) Confederacy.



THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1333

Supporters of the counts of Habsburg within [Lucerne](#) planned an armed uprising against the city council of this [Swiss](#) city. According to a popular legend, their plans were overheard by a boy, who was required to take an oath that he won't tell a living soul. (The lad went to the guildhall where the city council was meeting and told his story to the oven.)



THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1356

October 18, Tuesday (Old Style): The region around [Basel](#), [Switzerland](#) was devastated, and dozens of castles crumbled, in a major earthquake. Thousands of people died. The former fault scarp, extending for some five miles just south of Basel, is still visible as a low ridge.



THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1386

In the battle of Sempach (north of [Lucerne](#)), the [Swiss](#) confederates succeeded in defending their autonomy against Habsburg.



THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1411

Papermaking began in Switzerland.



THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1415

Duke Frederic IV of Habsburg supported the anti-pope on the church council held at Constance and was consequently outlawed by the German king, Sigismund. Sigismund encouraged the [Swiss](#) confederacy to conquer Frederic's hereditary properties in what is now Canton Aargau (northern Switzerland) and the northern part of Canton Lucerne. [Lucerne](#) was granted the right of immediacy (direct jurisdiction by the king), which terminated all rights of Habsburg over Lucerne.

- 1352 The Turks first enter Europe.
- 1354 The money in Scotland till now the same as in England.
- 1356 The battle of Poitiers, in which king John of France, and his son, are taken prisoners by Edward the Black Prince.
- 1357 Coals first brought to London.
- 1358 Arms of England and France first quartered by Edward III.
- 1362 The law pleadings in England changed from French to English, as a favour of Edward III. to his people.
John Wickliffe, an Englishman, begins about this time to oppose the errors of the church of Rome with great acuteness and spirit. His followers are called Lollards.
- 1386 A company of Linen-weavers, from the Netherlands, established in London. Windsor Castle built by Edward III.
- 1388 The battle of Otterburn, between Hotspur and the Earl of Douglas.
- 1391 Cards invented in France for the king's amusement.
- 1399 Westminster Abbey built and enlarged; Westminster hall ditto.
Order of the Bath instituted at the coronation of Henry IV.; renewed in 1725, consisting of 38 knights.
- 1410 Guildhall, London, built.
- 1411 The university of St. Andrew's in Scotland founded.
- 1415 The battle of Agincourt gained over the French by Henry V. of England.
- 1428 The siege of Orleans, the first blow to the English power in France.
- 1430 About this time Laurentius of Harleim invented the art of printing, which he practised with separate wooden types. Guttemburgh afterwards invented cut metal types; but the art was carried to perfection by Peter Schoeffer, who invented the mode of casting the types in matrices. Frederick Corsellis began to print at Oxford, in 1468, with wooden types, but it was William Caxton who introduced into England the art of printing with fusile types, in 1474.

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THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1460

Pope Pius II banned Duke Sigismund of Habsburg. The [Swiss](#) confederates seized the opportunity to conquer the Thurgau region in northeastern Switzerland. The dukes of Habsburg, stripped of their hereditary fief, concentrated on their territories in Austria.

- 1446 The Vatican library founded at Rome.
The sea breaks in at Dort in Holland, and drowns 100,000 people.
- 1453 Constantinople taken by the Turks, which ends the eastern empire, 1123 years from its dedication by Constantine the Great, and 2206 years from the foundation of Rome.
- 1454 The university of Glasgow, in Scotland, founded.
- 1460 Engraving and etching in copper invented.
- 1477 The university of Aberdeen, in Scotland, founded.
- 1483 Richard the III. king of England, and last of the Plantagenets, is defeated, and killed at the battle of Bosworth, by Henry (Tudor) VII. which puts an end to the civil wars between the houses of York and Lancaster, after a contest of thirty years, and the loss of 100,000 men.
- 1486 Henry establishes fifty yeomen of the guards, the first standing army.
- 1489 Maps and sea-charts first brought to England by Barth. Columbus.
- 1491 William Grocyn publicly teaches the Greek language at Oxford.
The Moors, hitherto a formidable enemy to the native Spaniards, are entirely subdued by Ferdinand, and become subjects to that prince on certain conditions, which are ill observed by the Spaniards, whose clergy employ the powers of the inquisition, with all its tortures; and in 1609, near one million of the Moors are driven from Spain to the opposite coast of Africa, from whence they originally came.
- 1492 America first discovered by Columbus, a Genoese, in the service of Spain.
- 1494 Algebra first known in Europe.
- 1497 The Portuguese first sail to the East Indies, by the Cape of Good Hope.
South America discovered by Americus Vesputius, from whom it has its name.
- 1499 North America ditto, for Henry VII. by Cabot.



THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1484

Ulrich Zwingli, [Swiss](#) humanist and reformer, was born.



THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1489

Hans Waldeman, Mayor of [Zürich](#), was executed as a dictator.



THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1493

November 11, Monday or December 17, Tuesday (Old Style): Theophrastus Bombastus von Hohenheim ([Philippus Paracelsus](#)), [Swiss](#) physician and alchemist, was born in Einsiedeln. Upon his mother's early death, his father, a German doctor and chemist, would relocate the family at Villach in southern Austria. This is the physician who would coin the New Latin term "[laudanum](#)" for extract of poppy or tincture of [opium](#), as diluted with distilled water or with one form or another of ethanol.



THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1499

War between the Swabian League and the cantons of [Switzerland](#). This conflict would end with the Peace of [Basel](#), and Swiss independence.

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THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN **WALDEN**

1501

[Basel](#) and Schafthausen, [Switzerland](#) were admitted as members of the Swiss Confederation.



THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1505

[Michelangelo](#) began carving a “St. Matthew” on a project for a set of twelve Apostles for the cathedral in Florence, of which only this statue would ever even be begun. Pope Julius II called him to [Rome](#). The [Swiss](#) Guard, which is to say, the papal guard of the Vatican in Rome made up all and only of tall Swiss males, was being formed. The privates would not be allowed to marry, a detail of their life at the Vatican which would prove intriguing to Michelangelo (although some would tell you that the artist designed their colorful uniform, there is no reason to suppose that the artist ever took any interest in the clothes they had on).

[Gonzalo Fernández de Córdoba y Aguilar](#) became Viceroy of [Naples](#).

In about this year Amerigo Vespucci got married with Maria Cerezo.

[Giovanni Battista Ramusio](#) became secretary to [Venice](#)’s ambassador to France, Alvise Mocenigo. He would begin to compile intelligence reports from travelers, and translate them into Italian.



THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1507

At the age of 14, [Philippus Paracelsus](#) began a tour of study at the universities of [Basel](#), Tübingen, Vienna, Wittenberg, Leipzig, Heidelberg, and Cologne.

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THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1509

July 10, Tuesday (Old Style): [John Calvin](#) was born.

- 1500 Maximilian divides the empire of Germany into six circles, and adds four more in 1512.
- 1505 Shillings first coined in England.
- 1509 Gardening introduced into England from the Netherlands, from whence vegetables were imported hitherto.
- 1513 The battle of Flodden, in which James IV. of Scotland is killed, with the flower of his nobility.
- 1517 Martin Luther began the reformation.
Egypt is conquered by the Turks.
- 1518 Magellan, in the service of Spain, first discovers the straits of that name in South America.
- 1520 Henry VIII. for his writings in favour of popery, receives the title of Defender of the Faith from his Holiness.
- 1529 The name of Protestant takes its rise from the reformed protesting against the church of Rome, at the Diet of Spires in Germany.
- 1534 The reformation takes place in England under Henry VIII.
- 1537 Religious houses dissolved by ditto.
- 1539 The first English edition of the Bible authorized; the present translation finished 1611.
About this time cannon began to be used in ships.
- 1543 Silk stockings first worn by the French king; first worn in England by queen Elizabeth, 1561; the steel frame for weaving invented by the Rev. Mr. Lee, of St. John's College, Cambridge, 1589.
Pins first used in England, before which time the ladies used skewers.
- 1544 Good lands let in England at one shilling per acre.
- 1545 The famous council of Trent begins, and continues 18 years.
- 1546 First law in England, establishing the interest of money at ten per cent.
- 1549 Lord Lieutenants of counties instituted in England.
- 1550 Horse guards instituted in England.
- 1555 The Russian Company established in England.
- 1558 Queen Elizabeth begins her reign.
- 1560 The reformation in Scotland completed by John Knox.



THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1513

Appenzell joined the [Swiss](#) Confederation:

MAP OF THE CANTONS



THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1516

The treaty of Freiburg pledged eternal peace between the [Swiss](#) and the French.

March 26, Wednesday (Old Style): [Conrad Gesner](#) was born in [Zürich](#), son of a furrier.



THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1519

The Reverend Huldrych Zwingli, preaching in [Zürich](#), began the [Swiss](#) Reformation.

In his Leipzig Disputation with Johann Eck, [Martin Luther](#) had questioned the infallibility of papal decisions. The papal chamberlain Karl von Miltz advised the professor to write a letter of submission to Pope Leo X. Luther agreed.

Holy Roman Emperor Maximilian I died. His grandson Charles I, archduke of Austria and king of Spain, was elected to become [Holy Roman Emperor Charles V](#), Emperor of [Germany](#) (he would retire in 1556).



THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1523

The city council of [Zürich](#) adopted the Reverend Huldrych Zwingli's reformation of the church. [Berne](#), [Basel](#), and [Geneva](#) followed [Zürich](#).

Johannes Bugenhagen, who throughout the years served as [Martin Luther](#)'s personal spiritual adviser, became Wittenberg's town priest and a theology lecturer at Wittenberg University.

At the age of 39 Herr Professor [Martin Luther](#) essayed THAT JESUS CHRIST WAS BORN A JEW. At least on his mother's side Jesus was a Jew born of the seed of Abraham and, had he not been conceived by a miracle, on his father's side he would have been a descendant of King David of the Jews. There remained some hope that by beginning to treat them right, the Jews might be saved into trust in their most distinguished relative as their Messiah. "They have dealt with the Jews as if they were dogs rather than human beings; they have done little else than deride them and seize their property. When they baptize them they show them nothing of Christian doctrine or life, but subject them to popishness and monkery.... I hope that if one deals in a kindly way with the Jews, and instructs them carefully with Holy Scripture, many of them will become genuine Christians and turn again to the faith of their fathers, the prophets and patriarchs." (Let's give it a royal try: assuming this is possible, we'd be better off to have them as living Christian converts than as dead Jews. Now, if you ask a Lutheran, such an attitude paints Luther as a non-anti-Semite, but what it reminds me of is American white people's historical attitude toward Native Americans: just become little pretend white men and maybe we'll let you be alive.)

Wittenberg set up a community money box to deal with social services.



THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1524

The Reverend Huldrych Zwingli abolished [Catholic](#) Mass in [Zürich](#).

The Protestant princes who were opposed to the [Catholic Holy Roman Emperor Charles V](#) met at Ulm. There was a Peasant's Revolt in southwestern [Germany](#) under the leadership of Thomas "Show No Pity" Münzer, Florian Geyer, and Michael Gaismar. Peasants initiated tax revolts in Swabia and Franconia. The Spanish responded by sending their army into Germany. As the German peasants were Lutheran and the Spanish soldiers were Catholic, the Spanish would be able to justify the resultant genocide as holy war.

Although the 3d Imperial Diet of Nuremberg renewed its banishment of Herr Professor [Martin Luther](#), he was becoming so popular that arrest was unlikely. He urged councilmen in all [German](#) cities to establish and maintain schools: "A town does not thrive in that it accumulates immense treasures, builds sturdy walls, nice houses, many muskets and suits of armor alone. On the contrary, a town's best and most prosperous progress, welfare and strength, comes from having many excellent, educated, decent, honest and well brought-up citizens." With the assistance of Johann Walther a hymn book for church use, *WITTENBERG GESANGBUCH*, came into existence. Luther adapted some of the words and tunes of popular music. He prepared an *ERFURTER ENCHIRIDION* of 26 hymns — between 1524 and 1545 he would compose and compile nine hymnals for homes and schools as well as churches. "I truly desire that all Christians would love and regard as worthy the lovely gift of music, which is a precious, worthy and costly treasure given to mankind by God." He began two years of argument with Desiderius Erasmus that would create bad feelings and a minor split with humanists who to this point had been welcoming the professor's progressive ideas.

[Philippus Paracelsus](#) returned to Villach to find that his fame for many miraculous cures had preceded him. He was appointed town physician and lecturer in medicine at the University of [Basel](#).





THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1525

The [Germans](#) and the Spanish defeated the French and the [Swiss](#) at Pavia. King Francis I was taken prisoner. [Holy Roman Emperor Charles V](#) became master of [Italy](#). The use of muskets, by the Spanish infantry, marked the first use of such devices in battle. (Every year they kill you a new way — and yet there are some who persist on insisting there is no such thing as progress.)

Peasants rose up in southwest [Germany](#), citing Herr Professor [Martin Luther](#)'s teachings as authority and demand more just economic conditions. They were ready to overthrow the authorities if necessary. Among their leaders was Thomas Muntzer, a Wittenberg-trained theologian, who was urging these peasants to show no pity. Albert von Hohenzollern, Grand Master of the Teutonic Knights, converted to Lutheranism. His followers were then given the choice of leaving Prussia or converting. To keep their lands and wealth, many converted. (The twelve Knights who participated in the assassination attempt on Nazi leader Adolf Hitler in 1944, for instance, would be from a [Lutheran](#) offshoot known as the Knights of Saint John of Jerusalem.) Not all did, though. During the 1550s and 1560s, the Russians and Swedes would kill off those Knights who had settled in Estonia. In 1595, however, the few hundred Knights who had gone to Austria would enlist in the Austrian crusade against the Ottoman Turks. In appreciation, Archduke Maximilian would give the survivors control of a small duchy in Tyrol. While Napoleon would confiscate these lands in 1809, the Austrian government would restore them in 1834. Several knights would become generals in the Austrian army during World War I, but, as devout Catholics, they would be ignored by the Nazis. Nevertheless, Teutonic imagery would be popular during both World Wars: the pilots of Richtofen's "Circus" would fly with Teutonic crosses on their wings, while Nazi propaganda posters would display Adolf Hitler in plate armor and the Hitler Youth movement would refer to its gyms that taught combative sports as NS-Ordensburgen, literally "Castles of the National Socialist Order." In the wake of the Peasants' War in Swabia and Franconia, German nobles would suppress Carnival, trade fairs, and the pugilistic entertainments featured in them (the suppressed entertainments included sword-and-buckler fights to 1st blood, wrestling, stone lifting, caber tossing, finger twisting, and violent scuffling).

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PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1527

This was a poor harvest year in Europe.

The first Protestant University was founded in Marburg.

[German](#) mercenary soldiers, troops in the pay of [Holy Roman Emperor Charles V](#), put [Rome](#) to fire and sword, killing 4,000 of its inhabitants and looting its art treasures — well, so much for the Renaissance. The [Swiss](#) guards transferred Pope Clement VII to safe custody at the Castel Sant' Angelo, with in the process 147 of them losing their lives. [Benvenuto Cellini](#), participating in the unsuccessful defense of the city, at one point —if we are to take his word for it— slew the Constable of Bourbon and at another point slew the Prince of Orange, Philibert — he was, it seems, quite the slewer.



King Charles V himself also was slewed during this Roman holiday event. Also, the authentic foreskin of [Jesus Christ](#), which had been passed along to the pope by the emperor [Charlemagne](#) upon the occasion of his coronation on Christmas Day, 800 CE, was taken by a German soldier from the *Sanctum sanctorum* of the Lateran basilica in Rome, in its jeweled reliquary. That soldier would soon be captured in the village of Calcata, just a day or two's travel north of Rome, and taken into confinement, and would hide the precious object in his cell for the following three decades, until it would be discovered there in 1557 and taken to the local church.

[CATHOLICS](#)

With the sack of Rome, Pope Clement was put to ignominious flight — and so Florence revolted against the Medici and restored its traditional republic. The Medici were expelled. The left arm of [Michelangelo](#)'s "[David](#)" was struck with a bench during a riot, and broken into three pieces (it would be reattached but the seams still show).

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[Michelangelo](#) completed the marble interior of the Medici family chapel devoted to the memory of their dear departed youths Giuliano and Lorenzo.

This was a fateful year for Anglican religion — [King Henry VIII](#) began the divorce proceedings against his wife Queen Consort [Catherine of Aragón](#) which would radically divorce London from Rome.



In London, Boccaccio's *THE FALL OF PRINCES, PRINCESSES, AND OTHER NOBLES* was translated by John Lydgate and printed by Richard Pynson who, in addition to William Caxton and Wynkyn de Worde, was among the 1st to bring printing to the British Isles. He had been Printer to the King since 1508 and would continue in that capacity until 1529. He was still using black-letter face, though this had long since been abandoned in Italy and elsewhere on the Continent.

[HISTORY OF
THE PRESS](#)



THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

June 5, Wednesday (Old Style): In pinning a program of his forthcoming lectures to the notice board of the University of [Basel](#), [Philippus Paracelsus](#) included an open invitation to attend. The authorities were scandalized and incensed at the blatancy of such an invitation to learning. Where is this going to end?

June 24, Monday (Old Style): Surrounded by a crowd of cheering students, [Philippus Paracelsus](#) burned the books of Avicenna, the Arab “Prince of Physicians,” and those of the Greek physician Galen, in front of the University of [Basel](#).



THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1528

Spring: [Philippus Paracelsus](#) was so at loggerheads with the doctors, apothecaries, and magistrates of [Basel](#) that he had to flee for his life in the dead of night. Alone and penniless he wandered toward Colmar in Upper Alsace, about 50 miles north of Basel, taking refuge at various places with friends.



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PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1529

Alto, tenor, and bass versions of the “descant,” a [flute](#), were being pioneered.

In the 1st [Swiss](#) *Kappelerkriege*, or civil war of religion, [Lucerne](#) led the [Catholic](#) faction.



CHRIST ON THE CROSSBOW



THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1531

The 2d *Kappelerkriege*, or civil war of religion between Protestant [Zürich](#) and the [Catholic](#) cantons of [Switzerland](#) led by [Lucerne](#). The Reverend Zwingli and the father of [Conrad Gesner](#) were killed at the Battle of Kappel. The Forest Cantons were defeated.

[King Henry VIII](#) was approved by the Parliament as the Supreme Head of the Church of England.

The [Catholic](#) Inquisition began in Portugal.

At the age of 47, Herr Professor [Martin Luther](#) wrote WARNING TO MY BELOVED [GERMANS](#), explaining that whether or not to offer armed resistance to the [Catholic](#) Holy Roman Emperor was a decision to be left to wisdom of their local Protestant lords.



THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1535

[Conrad Gesner](#) was driven by religious unrest from Paris back to his home town, [Zürich](#).



THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1536

[Philippus Paracelsus](#)'s *DER GROSSEN WUNDARTZNEY* (GREAT SURGERY BOOK) restored his reputation and his fortune.



(This was one of the few works by Paracelsus to be published during his lifetime. He was advocating, for patients who had been wounded, minimal interference with the healing process.)

Bolognese fencing master Achille Marozzo publishes his *OPERA NOVA* (NEW WORK). Probably the first Italian text to stress thrust rather than cut, this was perhaps Renaissance Italy's most influential fencing text.

Michelangelo painted "The Last Judgment" on the altar wall of the Sistine Chapel.



THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

[Conrad Gesner](#) studied at [Basel](#).

The Reverend [John Calvin](#) of [Geneva, Switzerland](#) was pretty much an establishment type of guy:

It is impossible to resist the magistrate without,
at the same time, resisting God himself.



In this year he wrote *CHRISTAINAE RELIGIONIS INSTITUTIO*.

Chronological observations of America

The Puritan-Church policy began now in *Geneva*.

BY John Josselyn Gent.

From the year of the World

to the year of Christ 1673.

[Martin Luther](#)'s TABLE TALK was interesting, considering that once upon a time while he happened to be away, three people had happened to be burned to death as witches in the central square of his [German](#) town:

"I should have no compassion on these [witches](#). I would
burn all of them.... Witchcraft is the Devil's own



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proper work."





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PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1538

In [Germany](#), Herr Professor [Martin Luther](#)'s always precarious health was deteriorating. Not only was he suffering from "the stone" (kidneystones), but also his arthritis was acting up, he had heart problems, and there were of course his perennial digestive disorders. The outpouring of his writing was in decline.

In [Switzerland](#), [Geneva](#) repudiated the Reverend [John Calvin](#).

In France, the [Catholic](#) monarch François I ordered renewed pursuit of Protestants.

Pope Paul III signed and sealed the 2d and final excommunication of [King Henry VIII](#) of England.
"What I tell you twice is true."



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1541

The leadership of the Reverend [John Calvin](#) in [Geneva, Switzerland](#) began at this point and would continue until 1564.

In [Germany](#), Herr Professor [Martin Luther](#) wrote the hymn “Lord Keep us Steadfast in Thy Word.” His health was particularly bad, as an ulcer on his leg had reopened and he was suffering from throat and ear infections, as well as experiencing continuing problems with kidneystones, arthritis, heart difficulties — and of course digestive disorders. The Professor’s writing was on occasion becoming even pushily vulgar.

[Conrad Gesner](#) took the degree of doctor of medicine at [Basel](#). Dr. Conradus Gesnerus would establish a medical practice in [Zürich](#), meanwhile lecturing in physics at the Carolinum (precursor of the University of Zürich). This year saw the publication of his *ENCHIRIDION HISTORIAE PLANTARUM*. In the prefix to his *LIBELLUS DE LACTE ET OPERIBUS LACTARIIS*, Gesner described for the benefit of a friend, J. Vogel of Glarus, the wonders to be found among the mountains, below the snow line. The author declared an intention to climb at least one mountain per summer, not only to collect botanical specimens but also for bodily exercise.

[King Henry VIII](#) had himself declared, by the English barons living on their estates in Ireland, as the King of Ireland rather than merely their feudal lord. Anointing himself as the head of the Church of [Ireland](#), in this year he would demand that the Irish renounce their [Catholicism](#).



Let's do it my way.



THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1542

Under [King Henry VIII](#) a statute provided the death penalty for “invoking or conjuring an evil spirit” (King Edward VI, his son and heir, being of sounder mind, would repeal the father’s statute).

WITCHCRAFT

In a related bit of news from this year, the English Parliament banned crossbows because “malicious and evil-minded people carried them ready bent and charged with bolts, to the great annoyance and risk of passengers on the highways.” They also banned “little short handguns” as too many yeomen were loading them with “hail shot” and then slaughtering the King’s game birds. While double and triple guns were made, they would not become popular until Lefauchaux’s breechloading shotguns of 1851, probably because hard-drinking shooters could forget that their other barrel was still loaded and at full cock (oops, there went my right foot).³

In [Switzerland](#), the Reverend [John Calvin](#) established a Protestant theocracy at [Geneva](#) (his attitudes would take some time to catch on, as communal bathing would not be banned in Bern until 1658 and in Zurich until 1688).

The Jesuits introduced Goa to [Roman Catholicism](#) — many, perhaps most, of their converts would be among the Jews there.

The citizens of Hildesheim in Saxony determined to accept the [German](#) teachings of Herr Professor [Martin Luther](#), leaving only their cathedral and a few other buildings, and a few neighboring villages, still in the hands of the local Catholic hierarchy.

3. As recently as the early 19th Century, shooters suffering from fear of recoil were advised to drink “a glass of brandy; after which stand as still as possible for five minutes, and then proceed.” The results of such a procedure can be imagined and, by 1861, British sportsmen would be being urged not to walk “or even to remain in the company with another who is in the least degree the worse for liquor, and yet has a loaded gun in his hands.”



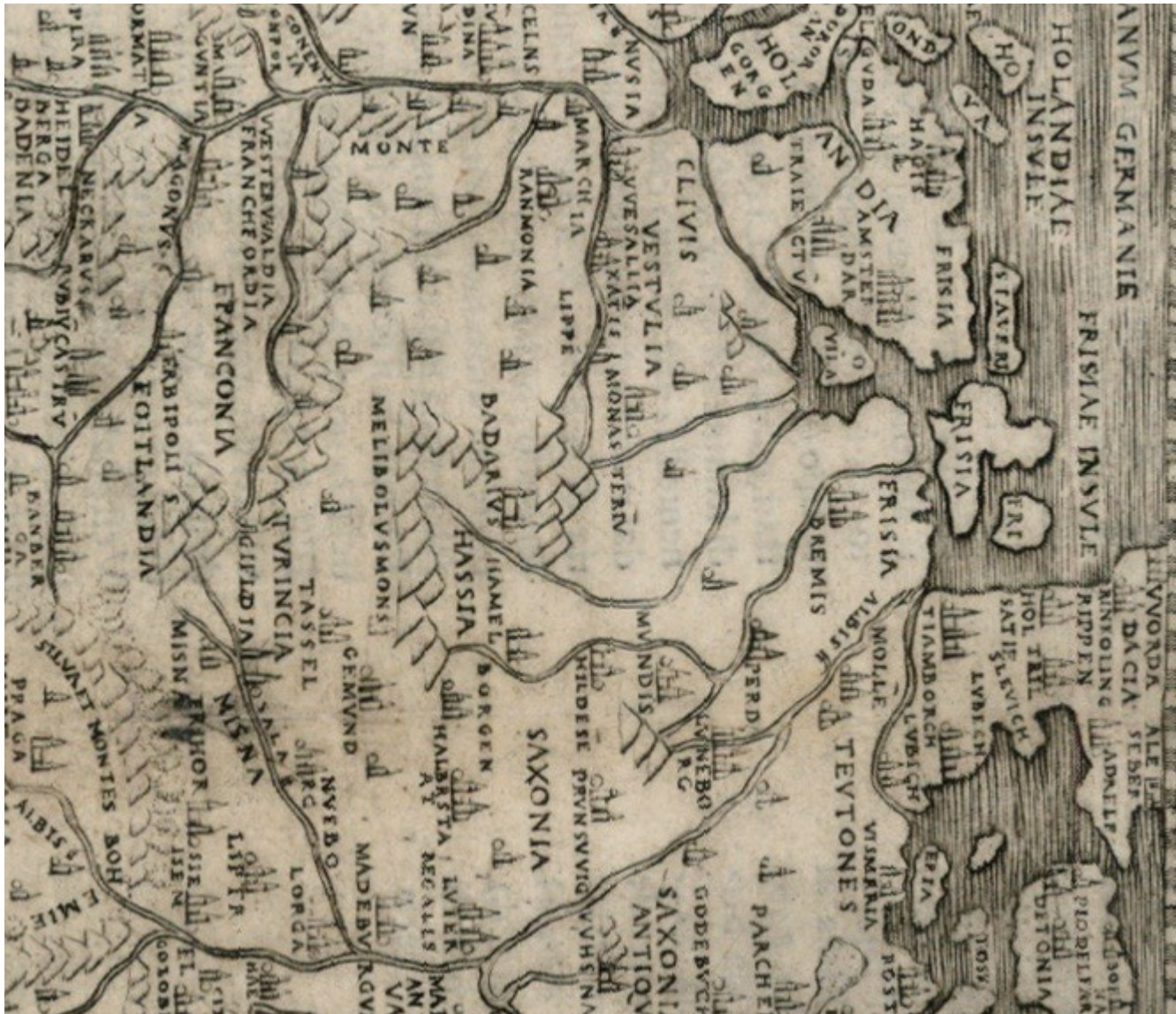
WHAT?

A blue square button with a thin black border and a slight 3D effect, containing the word "INDEX" in bold, blue, sans-serif capital letters.

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1545

The *BIBLE* was published in Low [German](#) — Herr Professor [Martin Luther](#)'s final revision of his *HIGH GERMAN BIBLE* first published in 1534.

From this year until 1563, there would be a Roman Catholic council (reunion of bishops) in session at Trent, Italy, that would be confirming the doctrines which the [Catholic](#) church would be using in order to oppose Protestantism. [Lucerne](#), the only major city of the [Swiss](#) Confederacy to remain Catholic, would play a leading role in this “Counter-Reformation.”

[Conrad Gesner](#)'s *BIBLIOTHECA UNIVERSALIS*, which purported to list by author and title every treatise ever published in Latin, Greek or Hebrew.



THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

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1548

The [Swiss](#) guards of the Vatican City in [Rome](#) adopted the colorful livery they wear to this day. (Contrary to what has been claimed, the costume was not designed by Michelangelo — who preferred his guys without any clothes on.)



THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

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PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1549

[Conrad Gesner](#) published a theological encyclopaedia.

Between this year and 1560, approximately 6,000 of the French [Protestant](#) group contemptuously referred to by the French Catholics as [les Huguenots](#), [worthless ones](#),⁴ would flee to [Geneva](#) to escape religious persecution — but the mass migrations out of France were yet to come.

4. The term *Huguenot* may have originated in the same manner in which the terms “Quaker” and “Sioux” originated, as a gesture of contempt expressed by hostile opponents. We know that for a time, in Poitou, the French Protestants were referred to by the orthodox as *Fribours*, which was the term used for a counterfeit coin then in circulation, of debased metal. One of the possibilities is therefore that in the argot of the time, a [Huguenot](#) may have been a small coin of little worth. The matter is not well documented.



THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

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1551

A landmark in text modularization: the first division of Biblical materials into verses, by Robert Estienne I in [Geneva](#).

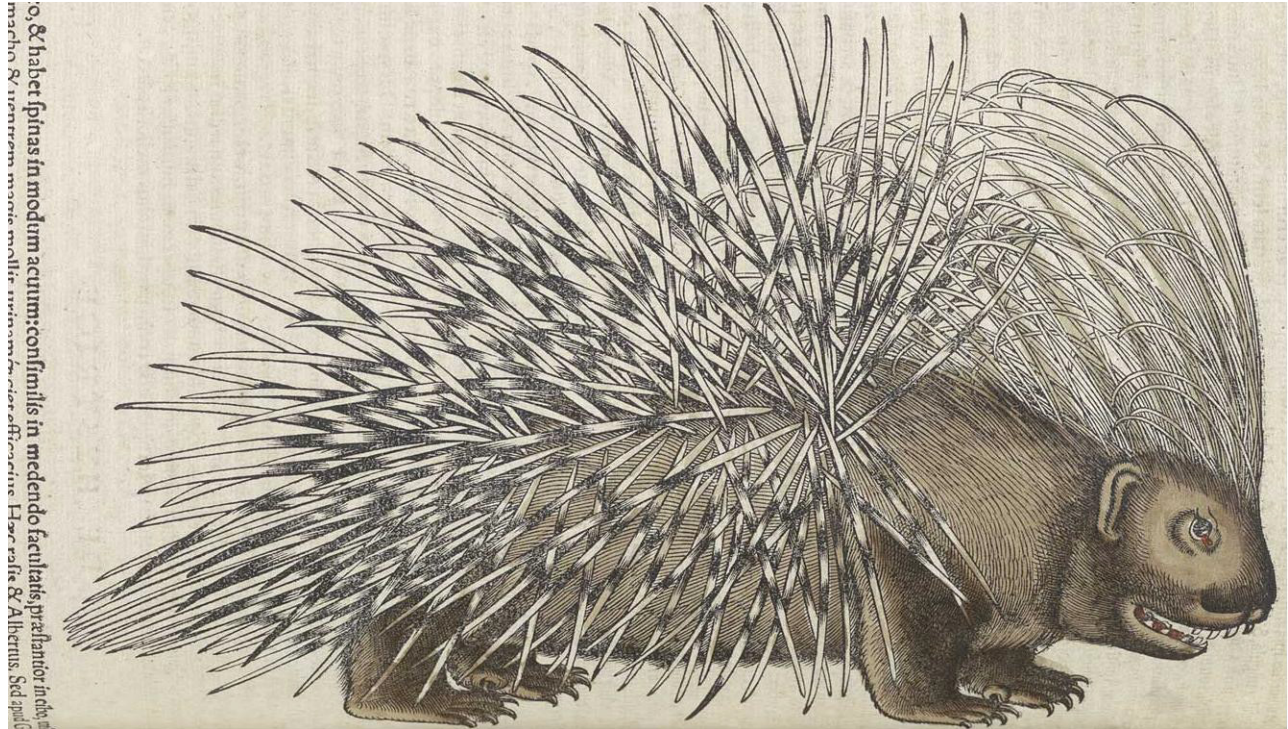
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THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

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PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

In [Zürich](#), [Conrad Gesner](#) began issuing the five volumes of his *HISTORIAE ANIMALIUM* (quadrupeds, birds, fishes), which would not be complete until 1558.



[Dr. Pierre Belon](#)'s *L'HISTOIRE NATURELLE DES ÉTRANGES POISSONS MARINS, AVEC LA VRAIE PEINCTVRE &*



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DESCRIPTION DU DAULPHIN, & DE PLUSIEURS AUTRES DE SON ESPECE (Paris: Chaudiere).

L'histoire naturelle des ESTRANGES POISSONS MARINS.

AVEC LA VRAIE PEINCTVRE
*& description du Daulphin, & de
 plusieurs autres de son espece,*
 Obseruée par Pierre Belon du Mans.



ἐν τῇ ἰσότητι τῶν μέτρων ἡ ἀλλοτρίωσις τῆς ἐκείνου.

AVEC PRIVILEGE.

A P A R I S.

De l'imprimerie de Regnaud Chaudière.

I S S L



THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1558

In [Zürich](#), the 4th volume of [Conrad Gesner](#)'s *HISTORIAE ANIMALIUM* (quadrupeds, birds, fishes; a 5th volume, on snakes, would eventually follow).

November 17, Thursday (Old Style): “Bloody” Mary Tudor was succeeded by the [Princess Elizabeth Tudor](#), daughter of [King Henry VIII](#) with Queen Consort Ann Bolyn, who became the Queen regnant [Elizabeth](#) of England and Ireland. Since Elizabeth was Church of England, the courtier [John Heywood](#), who as a [Roman Catholic](#) and poet and musician had been in great favor during the reign of Queen Mary, would lose favor.

Chronological observations of America

Queen *Mary* dyed.

***Elizabeth* Queen of England began to Raign
November the Seventeenth.**

BY John Josselyn Gent.

From the year of the World

to the year of Christ 1673.

After the accession of the Lady Elizabeth, the gaunt [William Hunnis](#) would suddenly one day toward the end of the month be released from the [Tower of London](#) and provided with clothing against the cold weather. He stepped back into his old office as choirmaster in “the Queene’s Chappell” with an appearance considerably altered by his experiences. The conspiracies that during the regime of Mary had made him seem the traitor, during the ascendancy of Elizabeth would make him seem the patriot.

[Martin Luther](#) had held that [witches](#) should be burnt for making a pact with the Devil even if they harmed no one, and then at Wittenburg in his absence four persons had indeed been executed as witches (I do not know that they were female, or that they were burned). The Reverend [John Calvin](#) was instructing Protestants that “The BIBLE teaches us that there are witches and that they must be slain. This law of God is a universal law.” Bishop John Jewell, who was living in exile in [Geneva](#), would bring witchhunting with him on his return to England in 1559 and would preach before the new Queen that:

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It may please your Grace to understand that witches and sorcerers within these last few years are marvelously increased within your Grace's realm, Your Grace's subjects pine away even unto the death, their colour fadeth, their flesh rotteth, their speech is benumbed, their senses are bereft.

- 1500 Maximilian divides the empire of Germany into six circles, and adds four more in 1512.
- 1505 Shillings first coined in England.
- 1509 Gardening introduced into England from the Netherlands, from whence vegetables were imported hitherto.
- 1513 The battle of Flodden, in which James IV. of Scotland is killed, with the flower of his nobility.
- 1517 Martin Luther began the reformation.
Egypt is conquered by the Turks.
- 1518 Magellan, in the service of Spain, first discovers the straits of that name in South America.
- 1520 Henry VIII. for his writings in favour of popery, receives the title of Defender of the Faith from his Holiness.
- 1529 The name of Protestant takes its rise from the reformed protesting against the church of Rome, at the Diet of Spires in Germany.
- 1534 The reformation takes place in England under Henry VIII.
- 1537 Religious houses dissolved by ditto.
- 1539 The first English edition of the Bible authorized; the present translation finished 1611.
About this time cannon began to be used in ships.
- 1543 Silk stockings first worn by the French king; first worn in England by queen Elizabeth, 1561; the steel frame for weaving invented by the Rev. Mr. Lee, of St. John's College, Cambridge, 1589.
Pins first used in England, before which time the ladies used skewers.
- 1544 Good lands let in England at one shilling per acre.
- 1545 The famous council of Trent begins, and continues 18 years.
- 1546 First law in England, establishing the interest of money at ten per cent.
- 1549 Lord Lieutenants of counties instituted in England.
- 1550 Horse guards instituted in England.
- 1555 The Russian Company established in England.
- 1558 Queen Elizabeth begins her reign.
- 1560 The reformation in Scotland completed by John Knox.



THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1560

With the accession in 1533 of a [Roman Catholic](#) queen, “Bloody” Mary, religious reformers had fled from England to [Geneva](#) and local progress in well-done English translations of the BIBLE had halted. However, in Geneva these religious refugees had continued their work and by this point they had prepared a so-called “GENEVA BIBLE.”



The illustrations surrounding the text block above include fanciful coats of arms for the tribes of ancient Israel. The principal translators were William Whittingham, Anthony Gilbey, and Thomas Sampson. The Geneva BIBLE was produced by Miles Coverdale, William Whittingham, John Knox, and others in Geneva after Mary became queen. This was not only the 1st English BIBLE to be printed in roman type but also the 1st to divide off the chapters into verses. It would be the one studied by [William Shakespeare](#), by [John Bunyan](#), and by many of the participants in the English Civil War. By 1640, 140 editions would have been issued.

HISTORY OF
THE BIBLE

On the 1st page of the Book of Exodus—although it’s not very visible in this tiny illustration—it should be noted that rather than using a large hand-painted initial, printers had at this point begun typesetting the initial letter. Note also that use of printed explanatory marginal glosses had begun:





THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

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PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1564

May 27, Saturday (Old Style): [John Calvin](#) died.



THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

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PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1565

Antwerp doctor Samuel Quicchelberg published a description of the curiosity cabinet of Hans Jacob Fugger, which included items from the animal, vegetable, and mineral world.

THE SCIENCE OF 1565

In *DE OMNI RERUM FOSSILIUM GENERE, GEMMIS, LAPIDIBUS, METALLIS, ET HUIUSMODI...* (TREATISE ON FOSSIL OBJECTS), [Conrad von Gesner](#) of [Zürich](#) provided us with the earliest surviving description of a [pencil](#), accompanied with a woodcut prepared by himself, depicting a wooden tube holding a piece of [graphite](#).



Since the object derived its name from Middle English and Middle French words meaning “brush,” it was presumably of a round cross-section. Some scholars believe [William Shakespeare](#) did considerable play drafting with a “Gesner pencil” — although of course not while he was “Shakespeare in Love” on camera stage center with a considerably more photogenic inky quill.

PALEONTOLOGY

Sweden began its own [papermaking](#), at Norrström.



THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

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PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1577

Members of the new Catholic Jesuit order (founded by Ignatius of Loyola) founded a college in [Lucerne](#).
The city council welcomed them. (The Swiss are **so** tolerant!)



THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1587

In [Zürich](#), the 5th and final volume of [Conrad Gesner](#)'s *HISTORIAE ANIMALIUM*, on snakes.



THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1604

June 30, Saturday (Old Style): King James I was a lover of rule by aphorism (such as “No Bishop, No King”) and his attitude toward those who felt a need for religious freedom was succinctly expressed:

I shall make them conform or I shall harry them out of the land.





THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

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PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

On this date the king approved a list of 54 BIBLE revisers to prepare an Authorized edition of the BIBLE in English, because the various translations that were available, such as the translation of John Wycliffe, the translation of William Tyndale, the translation of Miles Coverdale, the version of Thomas Matthew, the Great BIBLE commanded by Henry VIII, the [Geneva](#) BIBLE, the Bishops' BIBLE, and the Reims/Douai BIBLE, "were corrupt and not answerable to the truth of the original" which had been written by God in the languages that God spoke, Hebrew for the Old Testament and Greek for the New Testament.

**HISTORY OF
THE BIBLE**

This 54-linguist BIBLE-translation committee that had been established by King James I would organize itself into six working groups that would meet at Westminster, Cambridge, and Oxford. Charlton Heston, who has had the experience of portraying various Biblical figures in Hollywood movies and who is in his elder years has become, as the leader of the National Rifle Association ("the NRA"), a prominent defender of the 2d Amendment to the US Constitution in the manner in which he chooses to understand it,⁵ has written in his autobiography about the influence of this "Authorized" or "King James Version," which:

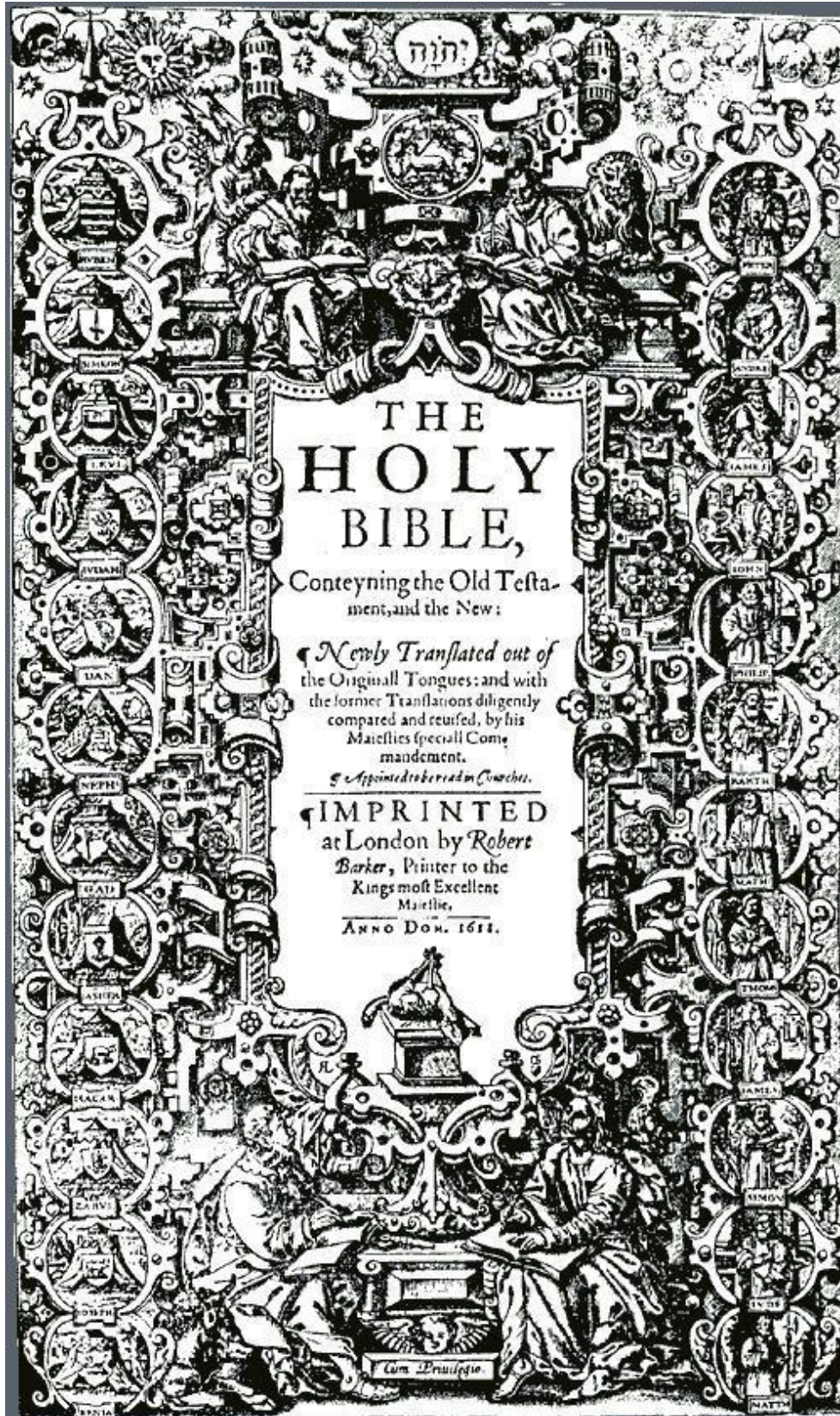
has been described as the only great work of art ever created by a committee.... The authors of several boring translations that have followed over the last fifty years mumble that the KJV is "difficult" filled with long words.... Over the past several centuries it's been the single book in most households, an enormous force in shaping the development of the English language. Carried around the world by missionaries ... Exploring it ... was one of the most rewarding creative experiences of my life.

5. "A well regulated Militia being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms shall not be infringed."

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WILLIAM TELL

... and this is what the King James Bible looks like when loaded onto a GameBoy....



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1607

The legend of [William Tell](#) began at this point to be challenged, because no evidence of his actual existence was being found, and because variant versions of the story abounded, in which Tell's exact exploit had been initiated by the governmental cruelty of some despot other than Gessler, Vogt (local governor) of the Emperor Albert of Hapsburg, and performed by some archer other than William, in some other place than the market-place of Altorf, at some other time than the Year of Our Lord 1307.



[WALDEN](#): While these things go up other things come down. Warned by the whizzing sound, I look up from my book and see some tall pine, hewn on far northern hills, which has winged its way over the Green Mountains and the Connecticut, shot like an arrow through the township within ten minutes, and scarce another eye beholds it; going

"to be the mast
Of some great ammiral."



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WALDEN: Far through unfrequented woods on the confines of towns, where once only the hunter penetrated by day, in the darkest night dart these bright saloons without the knowledge of their inhabitants; this moment stopping at some brilliant station-house in town or city, where a social crowd is gathered, the next in the Dismal Swamp, scaring the owl and fox. The startings and arrivals of the cars are now the epochs in the village day. They go and come with such regularity and precision, and their whistle can be heard so far, that the farmers set their clocks by them, and thus one well conducted institution regulates a whole country. Have not men improved somewhat in punctuality since the railroad was invented? Do they not talk and think faster in the depot than they did in the stage-office? There is something electrifying in the atmosphere of the former place. I have been astonished at the miracles it has wrought; that some of my neighbors, who, I should have prophesied, once for all, would never get to Boston by so prompt a conveyance, were on hand when the bell rang. To do things "railroad fashion" is now the by-word; and it is worth the while to be warned so often and so sincerely by any power to get off its track. There is no stopping to read the riot act, no firing over the heads of the mob, in this case. We have constructed a fate, an *Atropos*, that never turns aside. (Let that be the name of your engine.) Men are advertised that at a certain hour and minute these bolts will be shot toward particular points of the compass; yet it interferes with no man's business, and the children go to school on the other track. We live the steadier for it. We are all educated thus to be sons of Tell. The air is full of invisible bolts. Every path but your own is the path of fate. Keep on your own track, then.

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WALDEN

WILLIAM TELL

(Patriotic [Swiss](#), however, continued to believe in his actual existence as a historical figure. The difference between believing and knowing is, after all, that you get to choose what you **want** to believe.)

Never mind that Saxo Grammaticus, a writer of the 12th Century, had told the "William Tell" story of a hero of his own country, Denmark, an archer named Toki who had for some time been in the service of the wicked King Harald Bluetooth (died 1066 CE fighting the English at the Battle of Stamford Bridge), who had on account of superior virtue caused his comrades to become consumed with jealousy. One day he drank too much, and boasted that with his 1st arrow he could hit a very small apple atop a stick at some distance. His comrades passed his boast on to Harald, who maliciously ordered him to make good on his boast, with his own son in place of the stick — and if he should miss the apple he was to pay with his head. Toki had his son stand facing away from him, took out three arrows, and with his first shot carried away the apple. Harald asked why three arrows rather than one, and he went: "That I might avenge on thee the error of the first, by the points of the others, lest my innocence might happen to be afflicted, and thy injustice go unpunished."

Never mind that this same incident had been told of Egil, brother of the mythical Velundr, in the SAGA OF THIDRIK.



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Never mind that another Norse archer, Hemingr, was challenged by King Harald Bluetooth on a densely wooded island. Harald jabbed a spear vertically into the soil, as his target, and then shot an arrow straight up. The arrow came back down and fixed itself in the butt of the spear. So, Hemingr then shot his own arrow into the air — and when it came down it pierced the nick of Harald's arrow. As his next target, Harald stuck a knife in the trunk of an oak. The king's arrow stuck in the haft of the knife. While Hemingr prepared to shoot, the king noticed that his arrows were inlaid with gold: "You are a capital workman." Hemingr explained: "They are not of my manufacture, but are presents." When he shot, his arrow cleft the haft of the knife, with the point entering the socket of the blade. As his next target Harald pierced a tender twig, but then Hemingr split a hazelnut, and at a greater distance. The king set up a deadly spear contest: "Take a nut and set it on the head of your brother Bjorn, and aim at it from precisely the same distance." He added that if Hemingr would be executed if he missed. Hemingr was going to refuse to endanger his brother, but Bjorn went: "Shoot, brother, rather than die yourself." The king told Oddr Ufeig's son to stand by Bjorn and see that the shot was fair. Hemingr then stood at the distance assigned to him by Harald, and made the sign of the cross, saying: "God be my witness that I had rather die myself than injure my brother Bjorn; let all the blame rest on King Harald." Then he flung the spear. The spear knocked the nut off as it flashed by the crown of his brother's head. (Years later, when at the Battle of Stamford Bridge an English arrow took Harald in the wind-pipe, it would be supposed that this was the arrow of Hemingr, since he had gone into the service of the English monarch.)

Never mind that King Olaf the Saint (died 1030 CE), trying to convert the heathen Eindridi to Christianity, first had a swimming race with him, and then wrestled him, and then engaged him in an archery contest. King Olaf had in this story proposed that their target be a writing-tablet on top of Eindridi's son's head.



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Two attendants bound the eyes of the lad and held the ends of the cloth so as to steady him should he hear the whistle of the arrow. The king's arrow grazed the boy's head, then, with the father preparing to launch his arrow, the mother persuaded King Olaf to relent. Eindridi would have sought revenge had his son been injured.

Never mind that actually, a story very like the Swiss "William Tell" thingie can also be found in any number of versions, in countries as remote as Persia, Iceland, and Finland.

And, meanwhile, people play around with this legend. For instance, on January 16, 2001, at a circus performance in Paris, Mme Cathy Jamet would be shot in the face by a crossbow arrow fired by her husband M Alain Jamet:





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1653

A revolt of Swiss peasants from the region between Lucerne and Berne was put down by military force.



THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

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PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1656

The 1st of two civil wars of Villmergen between [Catholic](#) and Protestant regions of [Switzerland](#).



THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

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PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1660

July 27, Friday (Old Style): At the Restoration of the English monarchy, the 59 signers of King Charles I's death warrant had been excepted from the general pardon granted by the Act of Indemnity. At that time 41 of the 59 remained alive. Nine of those who had signed the death warrant and four others closely connected with the trial would be hanged, while six, deemed less politically dangerous, would be sent to prison with life terms — although some of these six would later be reprieved. Fifteen of them would flee: [Major-General William Goffe](#), his father-in-law [Lieutenant-General Edward Whalley](#), and John Dixwell via Vevay in Switzerland to New England; several to Germany and Holland; and Edmund Ludlow and four others remained in [Switzerland](#). Some of these men who fled abroad would eventually be able to convince King Charles II that they had had little to do with his father's trial and that they were loyal to the monarchy, and would obtain reprieves. It was on this day that Goff arrived at [Boston](#). His wife Frances Whalley Goffe and his three children Elizabeth Goffe, Ann Goffe, and Frances (or Frederic?) Goffe had of course remained in England. He would remain a short time at Cambridge.

[REGICIDE](#)



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1666

During this year and the following one, a Jesuit church was being erected in [Lucerne](#) — the first important sacral building north of the Alps that was in the baroque style.



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1672

The 2d of two civil wars of Villmergen between [Catholic](#) and Protestant regions of [Switzerland](#).



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1675

[Berne](#), [Switzerland](#) established a special court known as *Chambres de Tabac* to deal with smokers, who were to face the same dire penalties in that Calvinist jurisdiction as adulterers.

TOBACCO



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1697

Heinrich Escher, mayor of [Zürich](#), was visiting Brussels when he was offered a drink of [cocoa](#). When he returned to [Switzerland](#) he told his colleagues of this new drink.



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1704

The hermits near Germantown, Pennsylvania, locally known as the “Society of the Woman in the Wilderness,” were joined by more recruits from Europe, among whom was a [Swiss](#) man named Conrad Mathias who eventually would become the last of the Ridge hermits, and Dr. Christopher Witt, a professor of medicine with pretensions to the supernatural. They anticipated that the millennium was close at hand, and Johannes Kelpius once told Alexander Mack, the first of the Germantown Tunkers, that it was going to come during his, Johannes’s, lifetime. The painting on the following screen, of Kelpius, by Dr. Witt, is generally regarded as the first oil painting to have been done in America and is at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania:





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1707

April 15, Tuesday (Old Style): [Leonhard Euler](#) was born in [Basel](#), Switzerland, son of a pastor of the Reformed Church, and of a pastor's daughter. All his life he would be a believer in the divine inspiration, and hence the inerrancy, of the Bible.

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1712

Religious warfare in [Switzerland](#). Scary, scary! –How to keep this sort of thing from again spreading?



A CROSSBOW FOR CHRIST

June 28, Saturday (Old Style): [Jean-Jacques Rousseau](#) was born in [Geneva](#). His mother died in giving birth.



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1719

In about this year, we suppose, in Nimes some say, or in [Switzerland](#), [Antoine Court](#) was born, who would denominate himself “[Antoine Court de Gébelin](#)” (his birth may have been as late as 1728). His father was a notable pastor of the [Huguenots](#).



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PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1728

After his mother died in childbirth [Jean-Jacques Rousseau](#) had been brought up by his father, a watchmaker who had married up, until his dad got himself into a scrape by brandishing the sword to which marriage into the upper classes supposedly had entitled him; after the father had fled to escape punishment the son had existed for six years as a poor relation in his mother's family, patronized and humiliated until he, too, at the age of 16, was able to flee [Geneva](#) and [Calvinism](#). In Turin, [Italy](#), Jean-Jacques would embrace Roman Catholicism.



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1741

The Swiss physician S.A.A.D. Tissot began to spread the news throughout Europe, that masturbation was wicked.



"For 2400 years patients have believed that doctors were doing them good; for 2300 years they were wrong."



— David Wootton, BAD MEDICINE:
DOCTORS DOING HARM SINCE HIPPOCRATES,
Oxford, June 2006



THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

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1746

January 12, Sunday (1745, Old Style): [Johann Heinrich Pestalozzi](#) was born in [Zürich](#).



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PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1754

Upon completion of his seminary studies, [Antoine Court](#) was ordained a Protestant pastor in [Switzerland](#). Even after relocating to France he would remain openly Protestant, and a rational advocate for freedom of conscience in Enlightenment France.

[Jean-Jacques Rousseau](#) entered into a liaison with an illiterate laundry maid, Thérèse Levasseur, and began to re-examine the merits of some of the Calvinist principles he had absorbed as a child. He returned with his mistress to austere [Geneva](#) (presenting her as a nurse), repudiated his Catholicism, and sought readmission to the Protestant communion of his youth and recovery of his citizen's rights in Geneva. They were glad to forgive such a talented and connected person who finally had had the wit to grasp the extremeness of their righteousness.



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1758

A [Swiss](#) medical doctor, Simon-Andre Tissot, spread the theory in his book ONANISM⁶ that [masturbation](#) would raise the blood pressure inside your skull, which would do irreparable damage to your nervous system, resulting in insanity.⁷



"For 2400 years patients have believed that doctors were doing them good; for 2300 years they were wrong."



— David Wootton, BAD MEDICINE:
DOCTORS DOING HARM SINCE HIPPOCRATES,
Oxford, June 2006

6. To refer to [masturbation](#) as "Onanism" is historically and religiously inaccurate, since the sin attributed to the Biblical person Onan was a disinclination to get his brother's widow pregnant as was emphatically required by Jewish law and custom.

7. Well, it makes a certain amount of sense after all, because people in insane asylums have no privacy and no sexual access and thus the attendants, and visitors, can watch them as they masturbate. They masturbate, they are insane: therefore their masturbation caused their insanity! (By the same curious logic of course [masturbation](#) can be seen as a cause of criminal incarceration.)

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Having made himself *persona non grata* in the canton of Bern, [Jean-Jacques Rousseau](#) had been offered the refuge of England. David Hume had taken him in hand and had secured an offer of a pension for him from King George III. Rousseau was made aware, however, that various British intellectuals were poking fun at the Frenchman, and began to suspect Hume to be participating in the mockery. Paranoia began to manifest itself and he returned *incognito* to Paris and the company of his friends the *Philosophes* clustered around the *ENCYCLOPÉDIE* project. However, in such worldly society he was becoming increasingly ill at ease and quarrelsome. An article for the *ENCYCLOPÉDIE* on the subject of [Geneva](#), written by d'Alembert at [Voltaire](#)'s instigation, upset Rousseau in part by proposing a theatre for that city and in part by suggesting that the city's reverends had dropped off into a Unitarian laxity. Rousseau wrote in defense of the Calvinist rigor of the pastors of the flocks and attacked the theatre as an institution that could do but harm in such a community of innocents. By this year with *LETTRE À D'ALEMBERT SUR LES SPECTACLES* (LETTER TO MONSIEUR D'ALEMBERT ON THE THEATRE) appearing in print, Rousseau had again abandoned Paris, this time to attempt a life closer to nature with Mme d'Épinay near Montmorency. When he discovered at her estate much the same social round as in Paris, he accepted the protection of the Maréchal de Luxembourg and retreated to a nearby cottage called Montlouis. These years in the cottage Montlouis would be the most productive of his life.

The little wooden bust on the left, front and back, was supposed to represent Rousseau, the front and back on the right was supposed to represent Voltaire (the carving of these two pieces was done in 1780).





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1759

[Voltaire](#) purchased an estate called “Fernelx” near the French-[Swiss](#) border, where he would live until just before his death. He would rename it “Fernel” and make it the intellectual capitol of Europe.

[Jean-Pierre Claris de Florian](#)’s uncle and guardian, the Marquis of Florian, would marry a niece of Voltaire, and introduce the lad at the château de Fernel.

July 18, Wednesday: [Pierre Étienne Louis Dumont](#) was born at [Geneva](#), [Switzerland](#), of which his family had been citizens of good repute from the days of the Reverend [John Calvin](#). He would be educated for the ministry at the college of Geneva.



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1761

January 29, Thursday: [Albert Gallatin](#) was born at [Geneva](#) in a family that was able to trace itself back to the 13th Century. He would become an orphan, his father dying while he was at the age of four.



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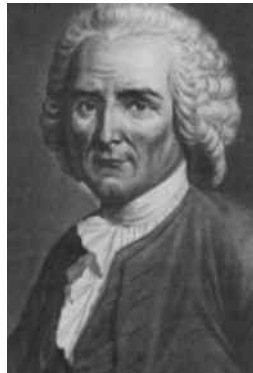
WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1762

[Antoine Court de G belin](#)'s *LES TOULOUSAINES OU LETTRES HISTORIQUES ET APOLOG TIQUES EN FAVEUR DE LA RELIGION R FORM * (THE PEOPLE OF TOULOUSE OR HISTORICAL AND APOLOGETIC LETTERS IN FAVOR OF THE PROTESTANT RELIGION), an account of a [Huguenot](#) merchant, Jean Calas, who had been suspected of the murder of a son who had converted to Catholicism, and executed. [Voltaire](#), despite the fact that he agreed that Calas had been innocent, was critical of the manner in which this book promoted Protestantism. Court de G belin left [Switzerland](#) to visit Protestant communities throughout France.

Having in the two discourses explained how we had lost our liberty, [Jean-Jacques Rousseau](#) went on in *DU CONTRAT SOCIAL* (THE SOCIAL CONTRACT) to suggest how we might recover this liberty. His model was the original [Geneva](#), the Geneva of John Calvin, Geneva as the Reverend Calvin had intended it to be. Beginning with "Man was born free, but he is everywhere in chains," he proceeded to persuade us that we need not be in these chains if only we could begin to base our civil society, or state, upon a genuine social compact as opposed to the sort of fraudulent social compact imagined by DISCOURSE ON THE ORIGIN OF INEQUALITY. We might barter our independence for an improved version of freedom, to wit true political or republican liberty; we would discover such liberty to consist in voluntary obedience to self-imposed limitation and restriction.



To create such an argument, Rousseau needed to pretend as if civil society had the reality of one individual being possessed of a General Will (*volont  g n rale*). The social compact which had brought human society into being amounted to a pledge, and each human society even now constituted such a pledged group. This general will could never conflict with personal interest because no matter how bad a person's lot in life might become, it was always better than the lot in life which he or she would have without such a compact. We made a deal, we exchanged our natural rights for civil rights, and that bargain had been a profitable one because what we had surrendered had been of dubious value, depending as it had solely on one person's personal fortitude, and what we had obtained in return had been enforcement by the collective force of a community. An occasional individual, enslaved by his or her passions to the extent of disobeying the law, might need to be brought back into the fold and into obedience to the general will through the use of dire force; nevertheless, this general will always did exist within him or her. The criminal under coercion was merely being restored to an awareness of his or her own true and complete interest.

During the same year * MILE: OU DE L' DUCATION* (* MILE: OR EDUCATION*) also was making its appearance, as a treatise ambiguously appealing in alternation to the republican ethos of *DU CONTRAT SOCIAL* and to the



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aristocratic ethos of the previous year's *JULIE: OU, LA NOUVELLE HÉLOÏSE*. Characterized by its author as a treatise on “education” for “republican citizenship,” it describes not a classroom but the tutoring of a rich boy by a gentleman possessing unlimited authority. The book is an attempt to make a case that vice and error, since they are alien to our originary nature, can take control of our lives only if they be forced upon us by external agencies. The function of the tutor then must be directed to counteracting such externally impinging forces by creating counter-pressures to assist our nature to resist such artificial influences. The tutor can legitimately employ deceit, even mental cruelty — although corporal punishment is of course to be proscribed. Whereas *DU CONTRAT SOCIAL* had concerned itself with the problem of achieving freedom, *ÉMILE* concerned itself with achieving in addition serenity and wisdom.

Rousseau had the temerity to explain, in *ÉMILE*, that “fables can instruct men, but the naked truth has to be told to children. When one starts covering the truth with a veil, they no longer make the effort to lift it.” His example was [Jean de La Fontaine](#)'s fable of the fox, the crow, and the piece of cheese, in which the fox flatters the crow into singing, so that the cheese will fall from the crow's beak, so that the fox can eat it. The fox then seizes a teaching moment: “My good man, learn that every flatterer lives at the expense of the one who listens to him.” Rousseau observed that teaching by means of such a fable is pernicious because the children who hear it are going to be misled rather than instructed. Since children “always take the advantageous role,” they are going to self-identify with the deceptive fox and mock the credulous crow. By means of such a fable, we are teaching our children to deceive and take advantage of others — instructing them that this is something useful to accomplish, a legitimate device for getting what one wants. What species of moral instruction is that?

FOX, CROW, CHEESE

RENARD, CORBEAU, FROMAGE

Maître Corbeau, sur un arbre perché,
Tenait en son bec un fromage.
Maître Renard, par l'odeur alléché,
Lui tint à peu près ce langage:
“Hé! bonjour, Monsieur du Corbeau.
Que vous êtes joli! que vous me semblez beau!
Sans mentir, si votre ramage
Se rapporte à votre plumage,
Vous êtes le Phénix des hôtes de ces bois.”
A ces mots le Corbeau ne se sent pas de joie;
Et pour montrer sa belle voix,
Il ouvre un large bec, laisse tomber sa proie.
Le Renard s'en saisit, et dit: “Mon bon Monsieur,
Apprenez que tout flatteur
Vit aux dépens de celui qui l'écoute:
Cette leçon vaut bien un fromage, sans doute.”
Le Corbeau, honteux et confus,
Jura, mais un peu tard, qu'on ne l'y prendrait plus.

WALDEN: Why do precisely these objects which we behold make a world? Why has man just these species of animals for his neighbors; as if nothing but a mouse could have filled this crevice? I suspect that Pilpay & Co. have put animals to their best use, for they are all beasts of burden, in a sense, made to carry some portion of our thoughts.

HITOPADESA

ÆSOP

XENOPHANES

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"*Maître corbeau, sur un arbre perché*" (Mr. Crow perched on a tree). – "Mr.!" what does that word really mean? What does it mean before a proper noun? What is its meaning here? What is a crow? What is "*un arbre perché*"? We do not say "on a tree perched," but perched on a tree. So we must speak of poetical inversions, we must distinguish between prose and verse.

"*Tenait dans son bec un fromage*" (Held a cheese in his beak). – What sort of a cheese? Swiss, Brie, or Dutch? If the child has never seen crows, what is the good of talking about them? If he has seen crows will he believe that they can hold a cheese in their beak? Your illustrations should always be taken from nature.

"*Maître renard, par l'odeur alléché*" (Mr. Fox, attracted by the smell). – Another Master! But the title suits the fox, who is master of all the tricks of his trade. You must explain what a fox is, and distinguish between the real fox and the conventional fox of the fables.

"*Alléché.*" The word is obsolete; you will have to explain it. You will say it is only used in verse. Perhaps the child will ask why people talk differently in verse. How will you answer that question?

"*Alléché, par l'odeur d'un fromage.*" The cheese was held in his



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beak by a crow perched on a tree; it must indeed have smelt strong if the fox, in his thicket or his earth, could smell it. This is the way you train your pupil in that spirit of right judgment, which rejects all but reasonable arguments, and is able to distinguish between truth and falsehood in other tales. "*Lui tient à peu près ce langage*" (Spoke to him after this fashion). – "*Ce langage.*" So foxes talk, do they! They talk like crows! Mind what you are about, oh, wise tutor; weigh your answer before you give it, it is more important than you suspect.

"*Eh! Bonjour, Monsieur le Corbeau!*" ("Good-day, Mr. Crow!") – Mr.! The child sees this title laughed to scorn before he knows it is a title of honour. Those who say "*Monsieur du Corbeau*" will find their work cut out for them to explain that "*du.*"

"*Que vous êtes joli! Que vous me semblez beau!*" ("How handsome you are, how beautiful in my eyes!") – Mere padding. The child, finding the same thing repeated twice over in different words, is learning to speak carelessly. If you say this redundancy is a device of the author, a part of the fox's scheme to make his praise seem all the greater by his flow of words, that is a valid excuse for me, but not for my pupil.

"*Sans mentir, si votre ramage*" ("Without lying, if your song"). – "Without lying." So people do tell lies sometimes. What will the child think of you if you tell him the fox only says "*Sans mentir*" because he is lying?

"*Repondait à votre plumage*" ("Answered to your fine feathers"). – "Answered!" What does that mean? Try to make the child compare qualities so different as those of song and plumage; you will see how much he understands.

"*Vous seriez le phénix des hôtes de ces bois!*" ("You would be the phoenix of all the inhabitants of this wood!") – The phoenix! What is a phoenix? All of a sudden we are floundering in the lies of antiquity – we are on the edge of mythology.

"The inhabitants of this wood." What figurative language! The flatterer adopts the grand style to add dignity to his speech, to make it more attractive. Will the child understand this cunning? Does he know, how could he possibly know, what is meant by grand style and simple style?

"*A ces mots le corbeau ne se sent pas de joie*" (At these words, the crow is beside himself with delight). – To realize the full force of this proverbial expression we must have experienced very strong feeling.

"*Et, pour montrer sa belle voix*" (And, to show his fine voice). – Remember that the child, to understand this line and the whole fable, must know what is meant by the crow's fine voice.

"*Il ouvre un large bec, laisse tomber sa proie*" (He opens his wide beak and drops his prey). – This is a splendid line; its very sound suggests a picture. I see the great big ugly gaping beak, I hear the cheese crashing through the branches; but this kind of beauty is thrown away upon children.

"*Le renard s'en saisit, et dit, 'Mon bon monsieur'*" (The fox catches it, and says, "My dear sir"). – So kindness is already folly. You certainly waste no time in teaching your children.



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"Apprenez que tout flatteur" ("You must learn that every flatterer"). – A general maxim. The child can make neither head nor tail of it.

"Vit au depens de celui qui l'écoute" ("Lives at the expense of the person who listens to his flattery"). – No child of ten ever understood that.

"Ce leçon vaut bien un fromage, sans doute" ("No doubt this lesson is well worth a cheese"). – This is intelligible and its meaning is very good. Yet there are few children who could compare a cheese and a lesson, few who would not prefer the cheese. You will therefore have to make them understand that this is said in mockery. What subtlety for a child!

"Le corbeau, honteux et confus" (The crow, ashamed and confused). – Another pleonasm, and there is no excuse for it this time.

"Jura, mais un peu tard, qu'on ne l'y prendrait plus" (Swore, but rather too late, that he would not be caught in that way again). – "Swore." What master will be such a fool as to try to explain to a child the meaning of an oath?

What a host of details! but much more would be needed for the analysis of all the ideas in this fable and their reduction to the simple and elementary ideas of which each is composed. But who thinks this analysis necessary to make himself intelligible to children? Who of us is philosopher enough to be able to put himself in the child's place? Let us now proceed to the moral. Should we teach a six-year-old child that there are people who flatter and lie for the sake of gain? One might perhaps teach them that there are people who make fools of little boys and laugh at their foolish vanity behind their backs. But the whole thing is spoilt by the cheese. You are teaching them how to make another drop his cheese rather than how to keep their own. This is my second paradox, and it is not less weighty than the former one.

Watch children learning their fables and you will see that when they have a chance of applying them they almost always use them exactly contrary to the author's meaning; instead of being on their guard against the fault which you would prevent or cure, they are disposed to like the vice by which one takes advantage of another's defects. In the above fable children laugh at the crow, but they all love the fox. In the next fable you expect them to follow the example of the grasshopper. Not so, they will choose the ant. They do not care to abase themselves, they will always choose the principal part – this is the choice of self-love, a very natural choice. But what a dreadful lesson for children! There could be no monster more detestable than a harsh and avaricious child, who realized what he was asked to give and what he refused. The ant does more; she teaches him not merely to refuse but to revile.

In all the fables where the lion plays a part, usually the chief part, the child pretends to be the lion, and when he has to preside over some distribution of good things, he takes care to



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keep everything for himself; but when the lion is overthrown by the gnat, the child is the gnat. He learns how to sting to death those whom he dare not attack openly.

From the fable of the sleek dog and the starving wolf he learns a lesson of licence rather than the lesson of moderation which you profess to teach him. I shall never forget seeing a little girl weeping bitterly over this tale, which had been told her as a lesson in obedience. The poor child hated to be chained up; she felt the chain chafing her neck; she was crying because she was not a wolf.

So from the first of these fables the child learns the basest flattery; from the second, cruelty; from the third, injustice; from the fourth, satire; from the fifth, insubordination. The last of these lessons is no more suitable for your pupils than for mine, though he has no use for it. What results do you expect to get from your teaching when it contradicts itself? But perhaps the same system of morals which furnishes me with objections against the fables supplies you with as many reasons for keeping to them. Society requires a rule of morality in our words; it also requires a rule of morality in our deeds; and these two rules are quite different. The former is contained in the Catechism and it is left there; the other is contained in La Fontaine's fables for children and his tales for mothers. The same author does for both.

Let us make a bargain, M. de la Fontaine. For my own part, I undertake to make your books my favorite study; I undertake to love you, and to learn from your fables, for I hope I shall not mistake their meaning. As to my pupil, permit me to prevent him studying any one of them till you have convinced me that it is good for him to learn things three-fourths of which are unintelligible to him, and until you can convince me that in those fables he can understand he will never reverse the order and imitate the villain instead of taking warning from his dupe. When I thus get rid of children's lessons, I get rid of the chief cause of their sorrows, namely their books. Reading is the curse of childhood, yet it is almost the only occupation you can find for children. Emile, at twelve years old, will hardly know what a book is. "But," you say, "he must, at least, know how to read." When reading is of use to him, I admit he must learn to read, but till then he will only find it a nuisance.

In a key chapter of *DU CONTRAT SOCIAL* Rousseau dealt with the use of civil religion to enable the state. The reaction of the authorities in Geneva was one of shock but by this point Rousseau had thrown over any fantasy of being welcome there. Even highly placed friends could not save Rousseau when his almost simultaneously published treatise on education, *ÉMILE* began scandalizing the pious Jansenists of the French Parliaments even as this chapter on religion in *DU CONTRAT SOCIAL* was scandalizing the Calvinists in [Geneva](#). In Paris as in Geneva this man's works were being burned and their author being warranted for arrest; the very best the Maréchal de Luxembourg could do for his friend was send around a carriage in which he might make a dash for the border.



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1764

[Jean-Jacques Rousseau](#) reacted to suppression of THE SOCIAL CONTRACT in [Geneva](#) by indicting its regime in the pamphlet *LETTRES ÉCRITES DE LA MONTAGNE* (LETTERS WRITTEN FROM THE MOUNTAIN). No longer, as in the DISCOURSE ON THE ORIGIN OF INEQUALITY, was Geneva to be depicted as a model republic, but as one under the control of “twenty-five despots”; the subjects of the king of England were said to be free men by comparison with these victims of tyranny.



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1765

In [Switzerland](#), Jean Gallatin, the father of [Albert Gallatin](#), died. The 4-year-old would be brought up by Mademoiselle Pictet, a family friend.

In a piece from which he distanced himself a bit by titling it *LA PROFESSION DE FOI DU VICAIRE SAVOYARD* (THE PROFESSION OF FAITH OF A SAVOYARD VICAR) [Jean-Jacques Rousseau](#) at this point was setting out his own religious views. He confessed he never could entertain doubt as to the existence of God or as to the immortality of the human soul. He indicated a strong emotional drive toward the worship of a God whose presence he felt most forcefully in nature untouched by the hand of man, as in remote mountains and forests. He attached great importance to conscience as the “divine voice of the soul in man,” opposing this both to the reliance upon mere reason in ethics and to the reliance upon scriptural authority. Such minimalism set him at odds not only with the orthodox devotees of faith but also with the atheistic *Philosophes* with their religion of reason, so that he found himself after being expelled from France being pursued also in [Switzerland](#), from canton to canton.

Appropriating the terminology of usefulness, [Rousseau](#) pled for the preservation of the forests of Corsica (*PROJET DE CONSTITUTION POUR LA CORSE*). This amounted to *ad hominem* argumentation, based not upon the author’s own attitudes but upon attitudes presumed to be typical of the members of his intended audience, and thus one must read this treatise most carefully in order to perceive in it any irony, or to come to suspect that original nature was to this author something other than a mere source of raw material.



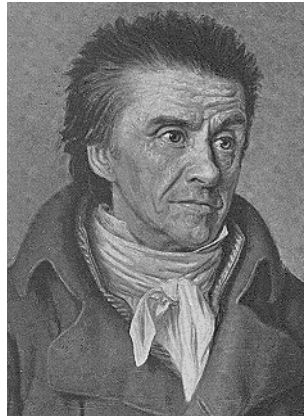
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1769

Influenced by the “back to nature” ideology of fellow-[Switzer Jean-Jacques Rousseau](#), [Johann Heinrich Pestalozzi](#) abandoned the study of theology and began to farm some neglected marginal land, the Neuhof, near the River Aare.





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1773

January: At the age of 12, [Albert Gallatin](#) was sent to boarding school.

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1774

The farming of marginal land having failed him, [Johann Heinrich Pestalozzi](#) began teaching orphans and abandoned children to spin and weave in order to support themselves (this effort also would fail).





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1775

August: [Albert Gallatin](#) matriculated at the academy of [Geneva](#) (instruction there was primarily in Latin, with also some Greek).



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1778

February 4, Sunday: [Augustin Pyramus de Candolle](#) was born in the Republic of Geneva (now [Switzerland](#)).



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1779

[Horace-Bénédict de Saussure](#) hypothesized in *VOYAGES DANS LES ALPES, PRÉCÉDÉS D'UN ESSAI SUR L'HISTOIRE NATURELLE DES ENVIRONS DE GENÈVE* (Neuchatel, Chez Samuel Fauche, Imprimeur et Libraire du Roi. / M. DCC. LXXIX) that the huge boulders of granite which were scattered over the surface of the limestone layers of the Jura Mountains of [Switzerland](#) had originated in granite outcroppings some 60 miles away, and had been swept to their present locations by torrents of water. For such out-of-position boulders he coined the term “erratics.”

VOYAGES DANS LES ALPES

May: [Albert Gallatin](#) graduated from the academy of [Geneva](#).



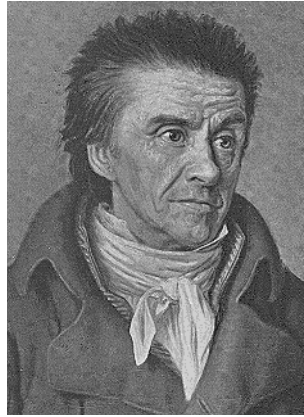
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1780

[Johann Heinrich Pestalozzi](#)'s THE EVENING HOUR OF A [HERMIT](#), containing his philosophical principles.



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1781

The [Swiss](#) teacher [Johann Heinrich Pestalozzi](#)'s four-volume novel LEONARD AND GERTRUDE, OR, A BOOK FOR THE PEOPLE, about the ordinary lives of German "people," with the author's ideas as to moral, social, and political reform developing out of the inspirational example set by the devoted and self-sacrificing mother, would be appearing part by part from this year into 1787.



[Pierre Étienne Louis Dumont](#) was ordained as a minister of the Protestant church of the city of [Geneva](#). This was, however, not to be, for through the interference of the courts of France and Sardinia, the aristocratic party in Geneva was becoming dominant — and the Dumonts were liberals or democrats.



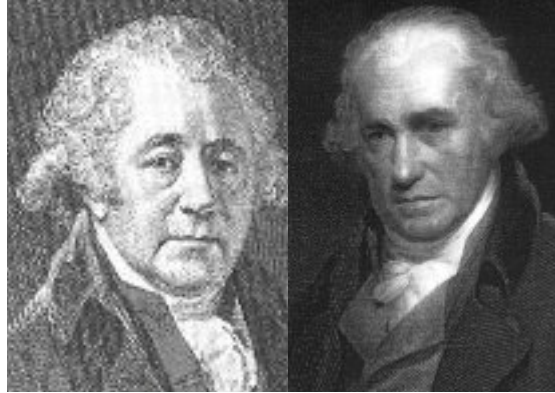
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1783

A [Swiss](#) chemist, Genevois Aimé Argand, presented George III with a lamp. (Shouldn't he have offered the man something he needed, like a last name?) The king introduced him to somebody who introduced him to somebody who introduced him to [Matthew Boulton](#), who happened to be the partner of [James Watt](#), and the lamp was patented and a factory was set up. The key improvement in this lamp design, the Argand lamp, was an even and adequate supply of air to the flame — but sometimes it's little things like that which make all the difference.



Although the Reverend [Pierre Étienne Louis Dumont](#)'s name was not on the list of those proscribed by [Geneva](#)'s aristocratic party, he chose to follow the example of his townsman Pierre Lefort, the first tutor, minister, and general of the tsar. He departed from Geneva, joining his mother and sisters at St Petersburg, Russia, where his father had formerly been court jeweller. There he would become, for a period of 18 months, the pastor of the French Reformed church.



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1784

After some misadventures in Massachusetts and Maine, the 22-year-old from [Switzerland](#), [Albert Gallatin](#), arrived at Richmond, Virginia and noted Southern Hospitality to have “no parallel anywhere within the circle of my travels.”



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1786

Benjamin Constant returned from Scotland to Switzerland.



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1789

Summer: At the request of the Genevan exiles in London, [Pierre Étienne Louis Dumont](#) formed an intent to return to Paris, in the company of M. Duroverai, ex-attorney of the republic of [Geneva](#), and obtain, through their countryman Necker, who had just returned to office, an unrestricted restoration of Genevese liberty, by cancelling the treaty of guarantee between France and [Switzerland](#) which prevented the republic from enacting new laws without the consent of the parties to this treaty, and journeyed again to Paris. There he necessarily came into connection with most of the leading men in the Constituent Assembly, and enjoyed (?) a front-row seat in the events of the French Revolution. He was able to renew his acquaintance with [Mirabeau](#), finding him now occupied both with his duties as a deputy and with writing for his journal, the Courier de Provence. Dumont would begin to actively supply this journal with reports and with original articles, and also would begin to ghost-write speeches for Mirabeau to read in the assembly (we can view this activity in the posthumous edition *SOUVENIRS SUR MIRABEAU*, of 1832).

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1792

August 10, Friday: [Swiss](#) mercenaries in the French army defended the Tuileries Palace in Paris against the revolutionary mob, and after resistance ceased approximately 500-900 of them (accounts vary) were chased down individually in their colorful uniforms:



They did not know it at the time, but they had been defending merely an ugly piece of architecture, King Louis XVI, Queen [Marie Antoinette](#), their daughter [Marie Thérèse Charlotte](#), and their son [Louis-Charles](#) already having vacated the premises. This empty loss would be commemorated in 1821 in a sculpture outside one of the gates of Lucerne, Switzerland, after a model by Bertel Thorvaldsen:

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1794

From this year until 1796, [Augustin Pyramus de Candolle](#) would be studying at the Collège de Calvin in [Geneva](#) while collecting botanical specimens in the surrounding countryside.

BOTANIZING



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1796

[Augustin Pyramus de Candolle](#) relocated from [Geneva](#) to Paris, to study medicine and natural history.



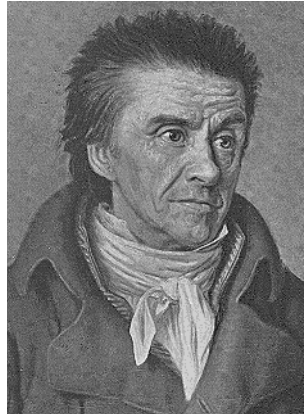
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1797

[Johann Heinrich Pestalozzi](#)'s *MEINE NACHFORSCHUNGEN ÜBER DEN GANG DER NATUR* (MY INQUIRIES INTO THE COURSE OF NATURE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF MANKIND).





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1798

Summer: During this year of revolution in [Switzerland](#), French troops had been called in by revolutionary leaders to liberate western Switzerland from the undemocratic reign by the patrician families of Berne, and then young patricians of [Lucerne](#) had declared a democratic revolution from above — to which the “liberated” rural population of Lucerne’s subject territories reacted with mistrust. During that summer, the old [Swiss](#) confederacy was replaced by the centralistic Helvetic Republic.

August 19, Sunday: An alliance was concluded between France and the Helvetian Republic ([Switzerland](#)).



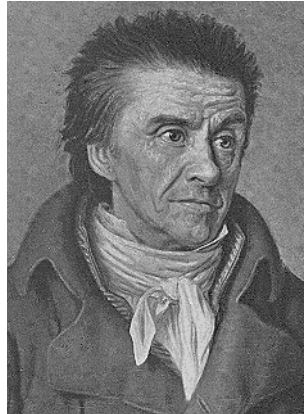
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1799

[Johann Heinrich Pestalozzi](#)'s *MEINE NACHFORSCHUNGEN ÜBER DEN GANG DER NATUR* (MY INQUIRIES INTO THE COURSE OF NATURE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF MANKIND).



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1799

After the French Revolution had established a “Helvetian Republic,” [Johann Heinrich Pestalozzi](#) was invited to organize the higher education of [Switzerland](#) but declined, preferring he said to start at the beginning with children not already ruined by bad education, that is, with destitute young war orphans.



Also during this year:

- Goethe, *DIE PROPYLÄE*
- Herder, UNDERSTANDING AND EXPERIENCE. A METACRITIQUE ON THE CRITIQUE OF PURE REASON
- Hölderlin, *HYPERION II*
- Novalis, *DIE CHRISTENHEIT, ODER EUROPA*
- F. Schlegel, *LUCINDE*





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1800

 [Augustin Pyramus de Candolle](#) was made an honorary professor by the Academy of [Geneva](#).

 The Lyceum in London, and other theatres, seem to have been lit by gas, being generated on-site from oil.

By this point the [Swiss](#) chemist Ami Argand had developed the sort of glass lamp chimney with which we are familiar, which protects the flame from gusts of air without interfering with the draft of the lamp.






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1801

 William Lisle Bowles's SORROWS OF [SWITZERLAND](#).

 *WIE GERTRUD IHRE KINDER LEHRT* (HOW GERTRUDE TEACHES HER CHILDREN, 1894).

PRINCIPLES IN THE EDUCATION OF CHILDREN (paraphrased):

- Always begin with the familiar and proceed toward the novel.
- Always begin with a concrete experience of the student.
- Always begin with the emotion actually encountered by the child.

— [Johann Heinrich Pestalozzi](#)

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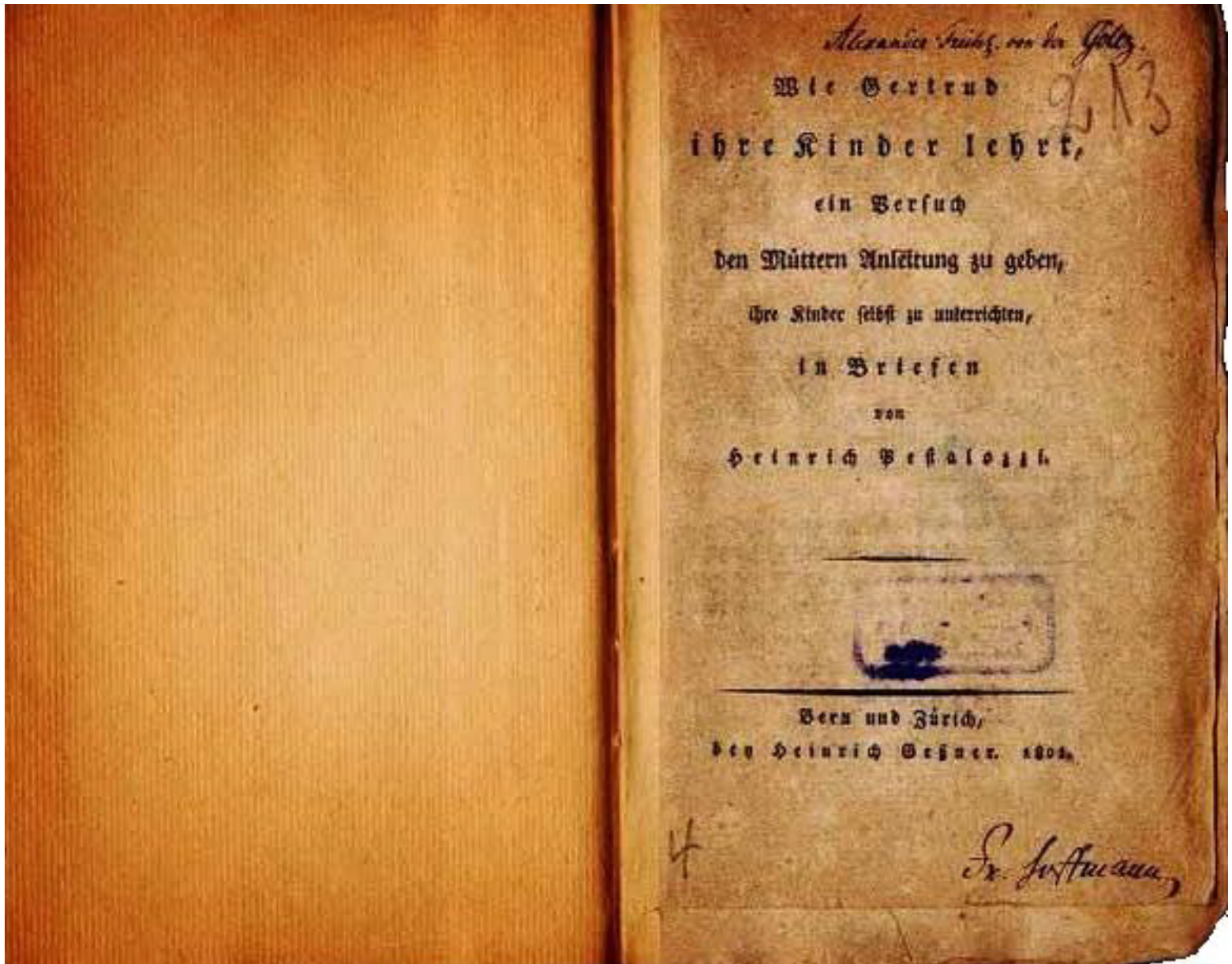
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1802



October: The French reoccupied [Switzerland](#).



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1804

 Friedrich Schiller's play WILLIAM TELL (*WILHELM TELL*) at Weimar, Germany.



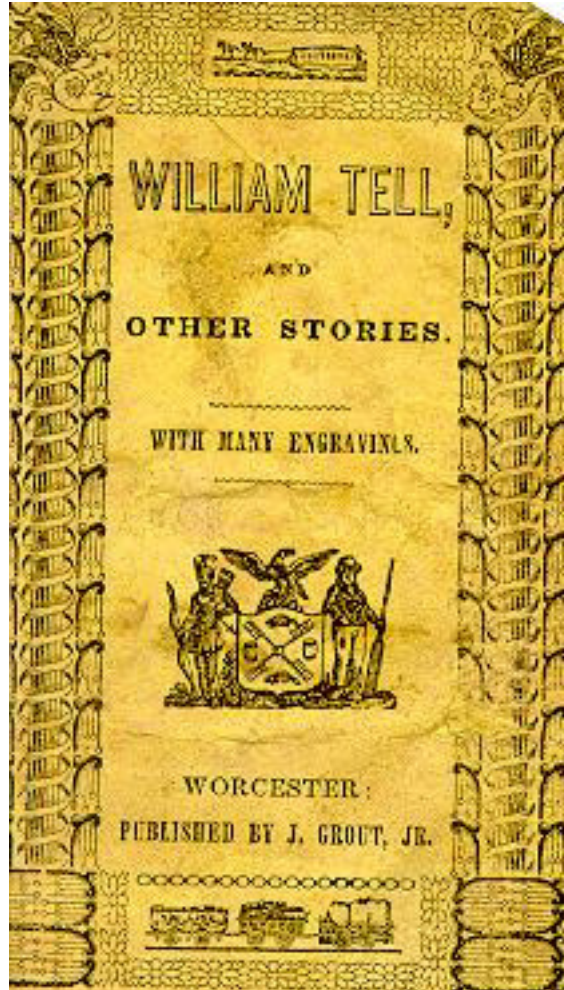
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Today, [Schiller](#)'s dramatic retelling of the legend of the [Swiss](#) daddy who risked the life of his kiddie is staged annually in Interlaken (Tellsplatte) — and in addition in New Glarus, Wisconsin.



(The little illustration of the canal boat being pulled by horses, at the top of this undated “chapbook,” and the little illustration of the choo-choo pulling two carriages, at the bottom, give us some idea of the 1840s timeframe which it must first have been published.)

People still play around with this legend. For instance, on January 16, 2001, at a circus performance in Paris,



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Mme Cathy Jamet has been shot in the face by a crossbow arrow fired by her husband M Alain Jamet:



SCENE III: A meadow near Altdorf. Trees in the foreground. At the back of the stage a cap upon a pole. The prospect is bounded by the Bannberg, which is surmounted by a snow-capped mountain. FRIESSHARDT and LEUTHOLD on guard.

... [TELL enters with his crossbow, leading his son WALTER by the hand. They pass the hat without noticing it, and advance to the front of the stage.]

WALTER (pointing to the Bannberg).

Father, is't true, that on the mountain there,
The trees, if wounded with a hatchet, bleed?

TELL. Who says so, boy?



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WALTER.

The master herdsman, father!
He tells us there's a charm upon the trees,
And if a man shall injure them, the hand
That struck the blow will grow from out the grave.

TELL.

There is a charm about them, that's the truth.
Dost see those glaciers yonder, those white horns,
That seem to melt away into the sky?

WALTER.

They are the peaks that thunder so at night,
And send the avalanches down upon us.

TELL.

They are; and Altdorf long ago had been
Submerged beneath these avalanches' weight,
Did not the forest there above the town
Stand like a bulwark to arrest their fall.

WALTER (after musing a little). And are there countries with no mountains, father?

TELL.

Yes, if we travel downwards from our heights,
And keep descending in the rivers' courses,
We reach a wide and level country, where
Our mountain torrents brawl and foam no more,
And fair, large rivers glide serenely on.
All quarters of the heaven may there be scanned
Without impediment. The corn grows there
In broad and lovely fields, and all the land
Is fair as any garden to the view.

WALTER.

But, father, tell me, wherefore haste we not
Away to this delightful land, instead
Of toiling here, and struggling as we do?

TELL.

The land is fair and bountiful as Heaven;
But they who till it never may enjoy
The fruits of what they sow.

WALTER.

Live they not free,
As you do, on the land their fathers left them?

TELL. The fields are all the bishop's or the king's.

WALTER. But they may freely hunt among the woods?

TELL. The game is all the monarch's--bird and beast.

WALTER. But they, at least, may surely fish the streams?

TELL. Stream, lake, and sea, all to the king belong.



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WALTER. Who is this king, of whom they're so afraid?

TELL. He is the man who fosters and protects them.

WALTER. Have they not courage to protect themselves?

TELL. The neighbor there dare not his neighbor trust.

WALTER.

I should want breathing room in such a land,
I'd rather dwell beneath the avalanches.

TELL.

'Tis better, child, to have these glacier peaks
Behind one's back than evil-minded men!

[They are about to pass on.]

WALTER. See, father, see the cap on yonder pole!

TELL. What is the cap to us? Come, let's be gone.

[As he is going, FRIESSHARDT, presenting his pike, stops him.]

FRIESSHARDT. Stand, I command you, in the emperor's name.

TELL (seizing the pike). What would ye? Wherefore do ye stop my path?

FRIESSHARDT. You've broke the mandate, and must go with us.

LEUTHOLD. You have not done obeisance to the cap.

TELL. Friend, let me go.

FRIESSHARDT. Away, away to prison!

WALTER.

Father to prison! Help!
[Calling to the side scene.]
This way, you men!
Good people, help! They're dragging him to prison!

[ROSSELMANN, the priest, and the SACRISTAN, with three other men, enter.]

SACRISTAN. What's here amiss?

ROSSELMANN. Why do you seize this man?

FRIESSHARDT. He is an enemy of the king--a traitor!

TELL (seizing him with violence). A traitor, I!

ROSSELMANN.

Friend, thou art wrong. 'Tis Tell,
An honest man, and worthy citizen.

WALTER (descries FURST, and runs up to him). Grandfather, help! they want to seize my father!

...



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FRIESSHARDT (loudly). Riot! Insurrection, ho!

[Hunting horns without.

WOMEN. The governor!

FRIESSHARDT (raising his voice). Rebellion! Mutiny!

STAUFFACHER. Roar, till you burst, knave!

ROSSELMANN and MELCHTHAL. Will you hold your tongue?

FRIESSHARDT (calling still louder). Help, help, I say, the servants of the law!

FURST. The viceroy here! Then we shall smart for this!

[Enter GESSLER on horseback, with a falcon on his wrist; RUDOLPH DER HARRAS, BERTHA, and RUDENZ, and a numerous train of armed attendants, who form a circle of lances around the whole stage.]

HARRAS. Room for the viceroy!



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GESSLER.

Drive the clowns apart.
Why throng the people thus? Who calls for help?

[General silence.

Who was it? I will know.

[FRIESSHARDT steps forward.]

And who art thou?
And why hast thou this man in custody?

[Gives his falcon to an attendant.

FRIESSHARDT.

Dread sir, I am a soldier of your guard,
And stationed sentinel beside the cap;
This man I apprehended in the act
Of passing it without obeisance due,
So I arrested him, as you gave order,
Whereon the people tried to rescue him.

GESSLER (after a pause).

And do you, Tell, so lightly hold your king,
And me, who act as his vicegerent here,
That you refuse the greeting to the cap
I hung aloft to test your loyalty?
I read in this a disaffected spirit.

TELL.

Pardon me, good my lord! The action sprung
From inadvertence,--not from disrespect.
Were I discreet, I were not William Tell.
Forgive me now--I'll not offend again.

GESSLER (after a pause).

I hear, Tell, you're a master with the bow,--
And bear the palm away from every rival.

WALTER.

That must be true, sir! At a hundred yards
He'll shoot an apple for you off the tree.

GESSLER. Is that boy thine, Tell?

TELL. Yes, my gracious lord.

GESSLER. Hast any more of them?

TELL. Two boys, my lord.

GESSLER. And, of the two, which dost thou love the most?

TELL. Sir, both the boys are dear to me alike.



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GESSLER.

Then, Tell, since at a hundred yards thou canst
Bring down the apple from the tree, thou shalt
Approve thy skill before me. Take thy bow--
Thou hast it there at hand--and make thee ready
To shoot an apple from the stripling's head!
But take this counsel,--look well to thine aim,
See that thou hittest the apple at the first,
For, shouldst thou miss, thy head shall pay the forfeit.

[All give signs of horror.]

TELL.

What monstrous thing, my lord, is this you ask?
That I, from the head of mine own child!--No, no!
It cannot be, kind sir, you meant not that--
God in His grace forbid! You could not ask
A father seriously to do that thing!

GESSLER.

Thou art to shoot an apple from his head!
I do desire--command it so.

TELL.

What, I!
Level my crossbow at the darling head
Of mine own child? No--rather let me die!

GESSLER. Or thou must shoot, or with thee dies the boy.



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TELL.

Shall I become the murderer of my child!
You have no children, sir--you do not know
The tender throbbings of a father's heart.

GESSLER.

How now, Tell, so discreet upon a sudden
I had been told thou wert a visionary,--
A wanderer from the paths of common men.
Thou lovest the marvellous. So have I now
Culled out for thee a task of special daring.
Another man might pause and hesitate;
Thou dashest at it, heart and soul, at once.

BERTHA.

Oh, do not jest, my lord, with these poor souls!
See, how they tremble, and how pale they look,
So little used are they to hear thee jest.

GESSLER. Who tells thee that I jest?

[Grasping a branch above his head.]

Here is the apple.
Room there, I say! And let him take his distance--
Just eighty paces--as the custom is
Not an inch more or less! It was his boast,
That at a hundred he could bit his man.
Now, archer, to your task, and look you miss not!

HARRAS:

Heavens! this grows serious--down, boy, on your knees,
And beg the governor to spare your life.

FURST (aside to MELCHTHAL, who can scarcely restrain his impatience). Command yourself--be calm, I beg of you!



THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

BERTHA (to the governor).

Let this suffice you, sir! It is inhuman
To trifle with a father's anguish thus.
Although this wretched man had forfeited
Both life and limb for such a slight offence,
Already has he suffered tenfold death.
Send him away uninjured to his home;
He'll know thee well in future; and this hour
He and his children's children will remember.

GESSLER.

Open a way there--quick! Why this delay?
Thy life is forfeited; I might despatch thee,
And see I graciously repose thy fate
Upon the skill of thine own practised hand.
No cause has he to say his doom is harsh,
Who's made the master of his destiny.
Thou boastest of thy steady eye. 'Tis well!
Now is a fitting time to show thy skill.
The mark is worthy, and the prize is great.
To hit the bull's-eye in the target; that
Can many another do as well as thou;
But he, methinks, is master of his craft
Who can at all times on his skill rely,
Nor lets his heart disturb or eye or hand.

FURST.

My lord, we bow to your authority;
But, oh, let justice yield to mercy here.
Take half my property, nay, take it all,
But spare a father this unnatural doom!

WALTER.

Grandfather, do not kneel to that bad man!
Say, where am I to stand? I do not fear;
My father strikes the bird upon the wing,
And will not miss now when 'twould harm his boy!

STAUFFACHER. Does the child's innocence not touch your heart?

ROSSELMANN.

Bethink you, sir, there is a God in heaven,
To whom you must account for all your deeds.

GESSLER (pointing to the boy). Bind him to yonder lime tree straight!

WALTER.

Bind me? No, I will not be bound! I will be still,
Still as a lamb--nor even draw my breath!
But if you bind me I cannot be still.
Then I shall writhe and struggle with my bonds.

HARRAS. But let your eyes at least be bandaged, boy!



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WALTER.

And why my eyes? No! Do you think I fear
An arrow from my father's hand? Not I!
I'll wait it firmly, nor so much as wink!
Quick, father, show them that thou art an archer!
He doubts thy skill--he thinks to ruin us.
Shoot then and hit though but to spite the tyrant!

[He goes to the lime tree, and an apple is placed on his head.]

MELCHTHAL (to the country people).

What! Is this outrage to be perpetrated
Before our very eyes? Where is our oath?

STAUFFACHER.

'Tis all in vain. We have no weapons here;
And see the wood of lances that surrounds us!

MELCHTHAL.

Oh! would to heaven that we had struck at once!
God pardon those who counselled the delay!

GESSLER (to TELL).

Now, to thy task! Men bear not arms for naught.
'Tis dangerous to carry deadly weapons,
And on the archer oft his shaft recoils.
This right these haughty peasant-churls assume
Trenches upon their master's privileges.
None should be armed but those who bear command.
It pleases you wear the bow and bolt;
Well, be it so. I will provide the mark.

TELL (bends the bow and fixes the arrow). A lane there! Room!

STAUFFACHER.

What, Tell? You would--no, no!
You shake--your hand's unsteady--your knees tremble!

TELL (letting the bow sink down). There's something swims before mine eyes!

WOMEN. Great Heaven!



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WILLIAM TELL

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TELL.

Release me from this shot!
Here is my heart!

[Tears open his breast.]

Summon your troopers--let them strike me down!

GESSLER.

I do not want thy life, Tell, but the shot.
Thy talent's universal! Nothing daunts thee!
Thou canst direct the rudder like the bow!
Storms fright not thee when there's a life at stake.
Now, savior, help thyself, thou savest all!

[TELL stands fearfully agitated by contending emotions, his hands moving convulsively, and his eyes turning alternately to the governor and heaven. Suddenly he takes a second arrow from his quiver and sticks it in his belt. The governor watches all these motions.]

WALTER (beneath the lime tree). Come, father, shoot! I'm not afraid!

TELL. It must be!

[Collects himself and levels the bow.

RUDENZ (who all the while has been standing in a state of violent excitement, and has with difficulty restrained himself, advances).

My lord, you will not urge this matter further.
You will not. It was surely but a test.
You've gained your object. Rigor pushed too far
Is sure to miss its aim, however good,
As snaps the bow that's all too straightly bent.

GESSLER. Peace, till your counsel's asked for!

RUDENZ.

I will speak! Ay, and I dare! I reverence my king;
But acts like these must make his name abhorred.
He sanctions not this cruelty. I dare
Avouch the fact. And you outstep your powers
In handling thus an unoffending people.

GESSLER. Ha! thou growest bold methinks!

RUDENZ.

I have been dumb
To all the oppressions I was doomed to see.
I've closed mine eyes that they might not behold them,
Bade my rebellious, swelling heart be still,
And pent its struggles down within my breast.
But to be silent longer were to be
A traitor to my king and country both.

BERTHA (casting herself between him and the governor). Oh, heavens! you but exasperate his rage!

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RUDENZ.

My people I forsook, renounced my kindred--
Broke all the ties of nature that I might
Attach myself to you. I madly thought
That I should best advance the general weal,
By adding sinews to the emperor's power.
The scales have fallen from mine eyes--I see
The fearful precipice on which I stand.
You've led my youthful judgment far astray,--
Deceived my honest heart. With best intent,
I had well nigh achieved my country's ruin.

GESSLER. Audacious boy, this language to thy lord?

RUDENZ.

The emperor is my lord, not you! I'm free
As you by birth, and I can cope with you
In every virtue that beseems a knight.
And if you stood not here in that king's name,
Which I respect e'en where 'tis most abused,
I'd throw my gauntlet down, and you should give
An answer to my gage in knightly fashion.
Ay, beckon to your troopers! Here I stand;
But not like these--
[Pointing to the people.
unarmed. I have a sword,
And he that stirs one step----

STAUFFACHER (exclaims). The apple's down!

[While the attention of the crowd has been directed to the spot where BERTHA had cast herself between
RUDENZ and GESSLER, TELL has shot.]

ROSSELMANN. The boy's alive!

MANY VOICES. The apple has been struck!

[WALTER FURST staggers, and is about to fall. BERTHA supports him.]

GESSLER (astonished). How? Has he shot? The madman!

BERTHA.

Worthy father!
Pray you compose yourself. The boy's alive!

WALTER (runs in with the apple).

Here is the apple, father! Well I knew
You would not harm your boy.

[TELL stands with his body bent forwards, as though he would follow the arrow. His bow drops from his
hand. When he sees the boy advancing, he hastens to meet him with open arms, and embracing him
passionately sinks down with him quite exhausted. All crowd round them deeply affected.]

BERTHA. Oh, ye kind heavens!

FURST (to father and son). My children, my dear children!

STAUFFACHER. God be praised!



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LEUTHOLD.

Almighty powers! That was a shot indeed!
It will be talked of to the end of time.

HARRAS.

This feat of Tell, the archer, will be told
While yonder mountains stand upon their base.

[Hands the apple to GESSLER.]

GESSLER.

By heaven! the apple's cleft right through the core.
It was a master shot I must allow.

ROSSELMANN.

The shot was good. But woe to him who drove
The man to tempt his God by such a feat!

STAUFFACHER.

Cheer up, Tell, rise! You've nobly freed yourself,
And now may go in quiet to your home.

ROSSELMANN. Come, to the mother let us bear her son!

GESSLER. A word, Tell.

[They are about to lead him off.]

TELL. Sir, your pleasure?

GESSLER.

Thou didst place
A second arrow in thy belt--nay, nay!
I saw it well--what was thy purpose with it?

TELL (confused). It is the custom with all archers, sir.



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GESSLER.

No, Tell, I cannot let that answer pass.
There was some other motive, well I know.
Frankly and cheerfully confess the truth;--
Whate'er it be I promise thee thy life,
Wherefore the second arrow?

TELL.

Well, my lord,
Since you have promised not to take my life,
I will, without reserve, declare the truth.

[He draws the arrow from his belt, and fixes his eyes sternly upon the governor.]

If that my hand had struck my darling child,
This second arrow I had aimed at you,
And, be assured, I should not then have missed.

GESSLER.

Well, Tell, I promised thou shouldst have thy life;
I gave my knightly word, and I will keep it.
Yet, as I know the malice of thy thoughts,
I will remove thee hence to sure confinement,
Where neither sun nor moon shall reach thine eyes,
Thus from thy arrows I shall be secure.
Seize on him, guards, and bind him.

[They bind him.]



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1805

➡ [Johann Heinrich Pestalozzi](#) began a boarding school near Neuchâtel, [Switzerland](#), the “Yverdon Institute” (to 1825), to educate the “Sons of Tell” (Swiss children of both sexes).





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1807

➡ [Arnold Henri Guyot](#) was born at Boudevilliers near [Neuchatel, Switzerland](#).

➡ May 28, Thursday: Jean Louis Rodolphe Agassiz ([Louis Agassiz](#)) was born in Motier, a village on the shore of Lake Morat, [Switzerland](#), the son of the Protestant pastor there.⁸

WALDEN: The mice which haunted my house were not the common ones, which are said to have been introduced into the country, but a wild native kind (*Mus leucopus*) not found in the village. I sent one to a distinguished naturalist, and it interested him much. When I was building, one of these had its nest underneath the house, and before I had laid the second floor, and swept out the shavings, would come out regularly at lunch time and pick up the crumbs at my feet. It probably had never seen a man before; and it soon became quite familiar, and would run over my shoes and up my clothes. It could readily ascend the sides of the room by short impulses, like a squirrel, which it resembled in its motions. At length, as I leaned with my elbow on the bench one day, it ran up my clothes, and along my sleeve, and round and round the paper which held my dinner, while kept the latter close, and dodged and played at bo-peep with it; and when at last I held still a piece of cheese between my thumb and finger, it came and nibbled it, sitting in my hand, and afterward cleaned its face and paws, like a fly, and walked away.

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WALDEN

LOUIS AGASSIZ

This is the Vaudois region of Switzerland in which many followers of Pierre Waldo, Waldenses, had holed up during the Middle Ages. The Agassiz family could trace its Protestant roots back into the 13th Century in the canton of Vaud adjacent to Fribourg, and Louis's father was the 6th in an unbroken succession of pastors. –In all likelihood Louis had remote ancestors who had attempted to lead a life like that of Jesus!

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

5 day 28 of 5 M / Attended our Moy [Monthly] Meeting which was held in town, the part for worship to my mind was a time of quiet & I trust a degree of strength was acquired. Holder Almy was concerned to encourage those whose minds were also in a Situation to say "teach me the right way & guide me therein". Also enfor[ced] the necessity of our faithfulness in little things & said they that were faithful in the little should be made ruler over much. & at a Second Standing appeared much engaged to encourage us to the use of the plain language & simplicity in

8. One explanation for the unintelligibility of the popular song "Louie, Louie," in which the only words on which people have been able to agree are "Louie, Louie," is that it was written by little Jean Louis Rodolphe's papa, who spoke only an obscure Swiss dialect, to sing to him in the evenings in his cradle.



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dress

The part for discipline was a season of labor some trying cases were before us, but generally appeared to end pretty well

Matthew Barker & Ruth Anthony had their Answer & were at liberty to marry marry. Such a poor tool as I am was appointed with a better to oversee their Marriage

Obadiah Williams & Ruth Hadwen published their intentions of the same kind. Oh that I may be favord to dwell deep in the Spirit of my mind, Surely the present low State of things require that, the Youth as well as those more advanced should strive to support the tottering fabrick. I desire to be kept humble & low that nothing of the creature may move me to be active in Society. & from my present Standing there is abundant need that I get often to the watch tower, & even to the place of fasting, that every particle of the creaturly will may be Subjected.

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS



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1809



February 6, Monday: [Karl Bodmer](#) was born in Samen, near Zurich, [Switzerland](#).

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

*2nd day 6 of 2 M / Sister Ruth hath been very acceptably with
us since last sixth day Afternoon, & has gone home this morning
My H - N Almy (our border) With myself spent the evening at
Neighbor Vinson's*

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS



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1814

➡ [Geneva](#) recovered her liberties and [Pierre Étienne Louis Dumont](#) was finally able to go home, bringing with him a small fortune. He would marry, become a member of the city's sovereign representative council, become even at some point its leader — and there at his home town would spend most of the remainder of his life.

➡ September 20, Tuesday: [Samuel Taylor Coleridge](#) would publish his essays in The Courier, until December 10th.

Representatives of the four allies agree on a procedural scheme for the Congress of Vienna. The Quadruple Alliance (Austria, Great Britain, Prussia, and Russia) would make all decisions concerning disposition of territories. Their decisions would be transmitted first to France and Spain and then to the entire Congress. Five [German](#) powers were to devise a scheme for [German](#) federation. Other arrangements would be decided by the Quadruple Alliance, France, and Spain.

Tsar Alyeksandr reached the estate of Prince Adam Czartoryski at Pulawy. He informed a large gathering of Polish leaders there that he intended to create an enlarged Polish state, by adding conquered provinces to the Grand Duchy of Warsaw.

22 [Swiss](#) cantons agreed on a new confederation.



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1815

➡ Under the close editorship of [Pierre Étienne Louis Dumont](#), [Jeremy Bentham](#)'s *TACTIQUE DES ASSEMBLÉES LEGISLATIVES* ([Geneva](#)).

[William Smith](#)'s geologic map of England, Wales, and part of Scotland identified the strata of the earth largely on the basis of the fossils they contained (before long Smith would be in debtors' prison).

THE SCIENCE OF 1815

[Jean-Pierre Perraudin](#) explained the erratic boulders of the Val de Bagnes in the [Swiss](#) canton of Valais as due to the glaciers in the area, which had once upon a time been longer.

OUR MOST RECENT GLACIATION

➡ July 13, Thursday: [Napoléon Bonaparte](#) handed his sword to a British officer. Sez he:⁹



I come like Themistocles to throw myself upon the hospitality of the British people.



The British discovered a nude statue of Napoleon in the basement of the Louvre and carried it off: it would grace the home of [Arthur Wellesley, Duke of Wellington](#).¹⁰ From this point forward it would cost the British people over £400,000 per year to guard their "Themistocles," but the man was history. When he died they would mutilate his corpse, and his penis, tagged "Little Piece of Human Flesh," happens to be still in circulation in England, being passed from hand to hand at various classy big-city auctions.

(The wars of the 1800-1815 period had cost France alone about 1/60th of its male population, or about 500,000 young men. But Britain also had lost little pieces of human flesh here and there.)

9. This raises an interesting question. When did [Themistocles](#) throw himself upon the hospitality of the British people?

10. This statue stands all of fifteen feet tall, exclusive of its pedestal. Well, but it must weigh a bit more than the Little General did even at the most corpulent stage of his old age, as well.



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With the defeat of [Napoleon Bonaparte](#), [Mme. Jeanne-Françoise-Julie-Adélaïde “Juliette” Récamier](#) ([Madame Récamier](#)) was able to return to Paris and restart her famous *salon*, at which she received guests frequently while semi-reclining upon a piece of furniture, a backless daybed or couch, which would become known as a *récamier* in her honor:

“And Amy, what is she going to do?” asked Mrs. March, well pleased at Laurie’s decision and the energy with which he spoke.

“After doing the civil all round, and airing our best bonnet, we shall astonish you by the elegant hospitalities of our mansion, the brilliant society we shall draw about us, and the beneficial influence we shall exert over the world at large. That’s about it, isn’t it, ‘Madame Récamier’?” asked Laurie with a quizzical look at Amy.

“Time will show. Come away, Impertinence, and don’t shock my family by calling me names before their faces,” answered Amy, resolving that there should be a home with a good wife in it before she set up a *salon* as a queen of society.



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At her salon, which for a long period of time was held in her separate rented suite in an old Paris convent at the Abbaye-aux-Bois, one of the featured guests was her associate [François-Auguste-René, vicomte de Chateaubriand](#). A painting by Jacques-Louis David hanging in the Louvre depicts Mme. Récamier semi-reclining on her récamier as a younger woman,¹¹ as of 1800 before she had been exiled from Paris by Napoleon

11. I've checked it out, and M. Chateaubriand does **not** appear in his own portrait eating one of the double-thick center cut of beef tenderloin, stuffed and braised, the dish named in his honor. Nor is he reclining on a récamier (the illustrated piece of furniture, named in her honor), or upon Mme. Récamier herself for that matter — he's just relaxing in a comfortable pair of pants with mussy hair:



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for her quasi-Royalist sentiments.



With the defeat of [Bonaparte](#), a portion of the reform in [Switzerland](#) was cancelled, and patricians regained decisive positions in [Lucerne](#)'s politics.

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

5th day 13 of 7 M / Rich Mott this mornng appointed a Meeting for the inhabitants of the Town this Afternoon at 5 OC – He attended our Meeting in the course & delivered a short but Sound pertinent & very lively testimony – at the close his afternoon meeting was mentioned by D Buffum & general informations requested – He with his companion dined with us, their company was pleasant & gratifying – At the hour appointed a large number of people

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collected, several of the most respectable of inhabitants attended - among who were Wm Ellery Snr Wm Ellery Junr, Doct Mann. Christopher G Camplin, Benj Hazard, Doct Hazard Wm Hunter & Nath Hazard -

Richard was much favored in his testimony his opening was "The Kingdom of God consisteth not in Meats or Drinks, but in Righteousness, peace & Joy in the Holy Ghost - this subject he handled well & his communication was attended with a remarkable degree of Life & Power, which drew the attention of people who sat very solidly & it appeared to me that Truth Reigned & the savor thereof spread over most minds present - he concluded in A very solemn & reverend supplication - All this was cause of rejoicing to many minds present. & it appears the Audience were well satisfied. -

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS



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PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1816

➡ [Professor Augustin-Pyramus de Candolle](#) and [Alphonse Louis Pierre Pyramus de Candolle](#) returned to reside again in [Geneva](#).

➡ May 2, Thursday: At Carlton House, [Princess Charlotte Augusta Hanover of Wales](#), daughter of [Prince Regent George](#) of Great Britain and [Caroline Amelia of Brunswick-Wolfenbüttel, Princess of Wales](#), heir presumptive to the throne of Great Britain, got married with Prince Leopold George Christian Frederick of Saxe-Coburg-Saalfeld, afterwards King of the Belgians. They would reside at Claremont, a wedding gift from the nation (their wedded bliss would be temporary).

Persuaded by [Clare Clairmont](#) that [George Gordon, Lord Byron](#) would be delighted to have their company, [Percy Bysshe Shelley](#), [Mary Godwin Wollstonecraft](#), and Claire went toward Dover to leave England to visit Byron in [Geneva](#) (they would arrive in mid-May and would remain near him till August 29th).

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

5th day 2 of 5 M Meeting rather small - A short testimony from C R. - My Mother, Cousins Patty & Mary Ann Gardiner & Josiah Lawton & Wife set the Afternoon with us.

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

➡ May 25, Saturday: [Ralph Waldo Emerson](#)'s 13th birthday. Would the following have occurred in about the year 1816 or 1817 (per his reminiscing to his journal on about September 29th or 30th, 1839)?

When I was thirteen years old, my uncle Samuel Ripley one day asked me, "How is it Ralph, that all the boys dislike you & quarrel with you, whilst the grown people are fond of you?"





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For sure Emerson was nothing like James Holley Garrison, the more obstreperous of the two Garrison boys, who would later brag in his BEHOLD ME ONCE MORE about how he and his buddy teenager had so much blackstrap rum one day, in Lynn in like this year, that his clothing fell off:

Blackstrap sold for 16 cents per quart and Saturday every apprentice an boy laid in his half a gallon for Sunday. One Sunday I with another boy had 2 gallons. This we stowed in a field adjoining the turnpike road. About 12 o'clock in the day both of us being drunk we resolved to have some sport as we called it. When the meeting was let out, we stripped off our clothes and like naked savages in their barbarous state, persued all the girls as they came along from meeting. Colonel Brimblecoms daughters I chased into their house and nothing was said to me about it, only as a joke.

... In L[ynn] tidemen went around every Sunday to keep people from walking about in church time. It so happened that one of these came across a young fellow by the name of James Phineous Winthrop and my self. He asked us why we want in church. I told him I did not make a practice of going there. "If your not in Church this afternoon you must suffer the consequences," said he, and left us. In the afternoon he came into a shoemakers shop were we were drinking and ordered us to Church. We took him neck and heels and put him out door. The next morning I received a note saying he was willing to settle it by my paying 15 dollers. I had not 16 cents in the world to bless myself, my clothes most all gorn and I nothing before me but a prison. We immediately sold our tools, but not all of them keeping one set for our selves. All the money we could raise was two dollers with hardly a shift of clothes to our back. We scarcely had got our tools packed before the High Sherrif and his brother a constable made their appearance. Snatching up what we had got we fled to the hills and traveling through Sagus we crossed the Ma[r]shes and arrived in Boston that night. My partner had been to sea. Taken me to a sailors boarding house we got supper and lodgeing. That night we played cards for Rum and lost all our money but one quarter of a doller. In the morning we got a pint of black strap, some tobacco, a few smoked herring, and brisket – which took all our money and we started for Providence penniless.

WILLIAM LLOYD GARRISON

George Gordon, Lord Byron arrived at Geneva and took lodgings at the Hôtel d'Angleterre, Sécheron.

Caroline Lamb's GLENARVON, the hero of which *roman-à-clef* was meant to be identified as her lover Lord Byron.

Samuel Taylor Coleridge published his incomplete "Christabel" (three editions in May-June 1816), his



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“Kubla Khan” (written in 1797), and his “Pains of Sleep,” and republished his “The Ancient Mariner.”



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

3rd day [sic] 25th of 5 M / This morning early, the news of the decease of Capt John Earl of [Smithfield](#) reached Town. His age was about 72 Years an affective event to his family & all his connections & friends, of the latter but a few men had More

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS



June: [George Gordon, Lord Byron](#) (with his travelling physician John Polidori) and the Shelleys (with Claire Clairmont) rented neighboring houses on the shore of Lake [Geneva](#) at Cologny; they met regularly at Byron's Villa Diodati, telling ghost stories for which [Mary Godwin Wollstonecraft](#) invented FRANKENSTEIN; Byron wrote Canto III of CHILDE HAROLD; after touring the Alps and visiting the Chateau de Chillon with [Percy Bysshe Shelley](#), Byron left for Italy at the end of the year.



June: [Percy Bysshe Shelley](#) toured Lake Lemman near [Geneva](#) with [George Gordon, Lord Byron](#) and wrote a “Hymn to Intellectual Beauty.”



June 16, Sunday: Celebrations took place in Vienna honoring the 50th anniversary of Antonio Salieri's arrival in the city. He received a gold medal from the Lord Chamberlain in the name of the Emperor. During a celebration of the High Mass Salieri conducted his own music. In the evening, a concert by his pupils took place in his Vienna home, wherein Beitrag zur fünfzigjährigen Jubelfeier des Herrn Salieri D.441 for solo voices and piano by Franz Schubert was performed for the initial time.

That night [Percy Bysshe Shelley](#) and his 18-year-old bride [Mary Godwin Wollstonecraft](#) were holed up at the Villa Diodati near [Geneva](#), with Dr. John Polidori and [George Gordon, Lord Byron](#), because during this particularly violent storm of that strangely rainy summer, they simply would not have been able to make their way back comfortably to where they had been staying at Chapuis. Evidently due to the bad weather the group was unable to get a good cable connection for their TV (or something), and so they decided to amuse themselves by reading aloud a collection of German ghost stories, THE FANTASMAGORIANA, in one of which a group of travelers were trying to amuse one another with their respective supernatural experiences. Byron proposed the agenda that they were each to invent a story such as found in this volume, for one another's entertainment. Shelley wrote a piece which was entirely forgettable, Byron dashed off a fragment, and Polidori began what would become the “The Vampyre,” the first modern vampire tale, the main character of which,

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CHRISTABEL,

&c.

BY

S. T. COLERIDGE, ESQ.

THIRD EDITION.

LONDON:

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1816.



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Lord Ruthven, could well have been based upon Byron (for some time it would be presumed that Byron himself had invented the story). Mary herself did not at this point put anything on paper.



In every month during this year there was a severe frost. January and February were comparatively mild, though there were a few cold days. The greater part of March was as might be expected, cold and boisterous. April opened warm, again, as might be expected, but then grew colder, ending in snow and ice and wintry cold. In May ice formed half an inch thick. Opening buds and flowers were killed and the corn froze. Frost, ice, and snow occurred throughout June. On Inauguration Day, in June, there was four inches of snow on the level ground in Warner, New Hampshire, while across the border in Maine there was ten inches. Almost every green thing was killed. There would be no fruit this year. Then there was frost and ice even in July. On July 5th, ice covered the ponds of New England and New York state like window glass. In August this ice thickened to half an inch. The wind was from the north, and cold, nearly all summer. About all that could be done with the corn this year was cut it and dry it for fodder. Farmers would be obliged to pay \$4 and even \$5 a bushel for corn from the 1815 harvest, in order to get seed for the next spring's planting. Then the first two weeks of September



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were mild but the remainder of the month was cold, with frost, and ice again formed, a quarter of an inch thick. October was more than usually cold, with frost and ice. November was cold and blustering, with snow enough for good sleighing, but then December proved to be quite mild and comfortable.

Cold weather was persisting through the summer in much of the world's temperate zones. Crops were being killed by frost and snow would be occurring in June and July in the United States. The weather this summer was so dreadful for farming, that during the following traveling season, the summer of 1817, a number of families would pack up and leave for points west. (This population migration phenomenon caused by the cold summer of 1816 would come to be known as "Ohio fever.")

Why was this summer of 1816 in the Northern Hemisphere exhibiting such strange weather? Well, it wasn't just the sunspots, which were extraordinarily prominent and which people were observing through smoked glass during that May and June, and also, it wasn't just the "ice king" [Frederic Tudor](#) of Boston who was cooling off the hot spots of this planet! For in fact dust, circling the earth from the explosion of Mount Tambora in Indonesia in 1815, in this season was reaching the northern latitudes.¹² Crop-damaging summer frosts caused some of the hard-won farmlands of New England to be abandoned — fields upon which cultivation has not since been attempted. Indiana experienced an unprecedented surge of some 42,000 settlers in this year, many of them fleeing the cold weather back in New England. The drop in mean temperature was amounting to some 7 degrees in New England¹³ and the price of hay was rocketing from like \$30.⁰⁰ per ton to like \$180.⁰⁰ per ton. People were praying "God, please do not inflict on us another year without a summer." Of course, in [Switzerland](#) that summer, Mary was huddling indoors to stay out of the cold and damp, and her story FRANKENSTEIN; OR, THE MODERN PROMETHEUS, if you go back and look into it, or the last half of it, is a story with what would have appeared to be a wholly gratuitous amount of guess what, **snow and ice and coldness**.

SUNSPOTS

12. Soufrière on St. Vincent had blown in 1812, Mayon in the Philippines had blown in 1814, but these became almost as pop-tarts popping up in a toaster when Tambora in Indonesia blew, as this was by far the most powerful volcanic blast of the past 10,000 years. All but 26 of the 12,000 Sumbawa islanders had lost their lives. We would have a mild taste of this volcano weather, in our own lives, in the series of cool summers after 1991 when Mount Pinatubo in the Philippines blew its top.

13. What happened in New England, what happened for instance to the denizens of Thoreau's "Easterbrooks Country," of course doesn't compare at all with what was happening on the islands immediately around this Indonesian volcano, for some 80,000 people were starving to death in huts staring out at the barren, buried fields that had been their entire livelihood. (That's them and we're us, I suppose.)



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Because of this explosion of which they were unaware, Americans would come to refer to their year 1816 as “eighteen-hundred-and-froze-to-death.”

Samuel Griswold Goodrich, the children’s author, would write the best-known contemporary account of this strange year. The season appears to have been a repeat of the growing season of the year 1454 in the Northern Hemisphere, when the [Chinese](#) wheat crop was destroyed by frosts after a winter in which the Yellow Sea had frozen, along the coast, to as much as a dozen miles out from the shoreline.

To bring this home to [Concord](#), Massachusetts, please note that per John Hanson Mitchell:

Departures are not necessarily well documented, but there is good evidence that 1816 might have broken the back of Estabrook [Thoreau’s “Easterbrooks Country”]. In 1815 the great volcano Tambora in Indonesia blew its top, and ... here in New England the effects were especially troublesome, since the soils were wearing out and the hardscrabble hilltop farms and marginal areas such as Estabrook were already hard-pressed.... The Estabrooks, the Kibbes, the Clarks, the Browns, and other “outlivers,” as they were called, who inhabited the poor farms in the tract that would come to be known as Estabrook Woods, were not immune to this pattern of settlement, and one by one, for varying reasons, the families pulled up stakes and went west ... and by Thoreau’s time Estabrook was a haunted land, the farms deserted, the families departed, and only a wind blowing.

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

*1st day / Our afternoon meeting was not quite as large as usual but proved a quiet favor’d opportunity - James Greene opened the meeting in a rather short testimony which savor’d well to me Then Gerrard F Hopkins in a large & excellent testimony, wherein the power of Truth was remarkably conspicuous - Margaret Judge concluded in a living prayer
In the Afternoon James Greene again, & as usual when present opened the Service then David Harkness, then Calvin Straight, then Christopher Healy & then Calvin Straight a second time - all the appearances, I thought were in the life - & The meeting as quiet as so large & mixed a gathering could be - in addition to our lodgers, we have tonight Isaac Thorne & wife of Nine Partners & Robert Pary & wife of Pennsylvania -*

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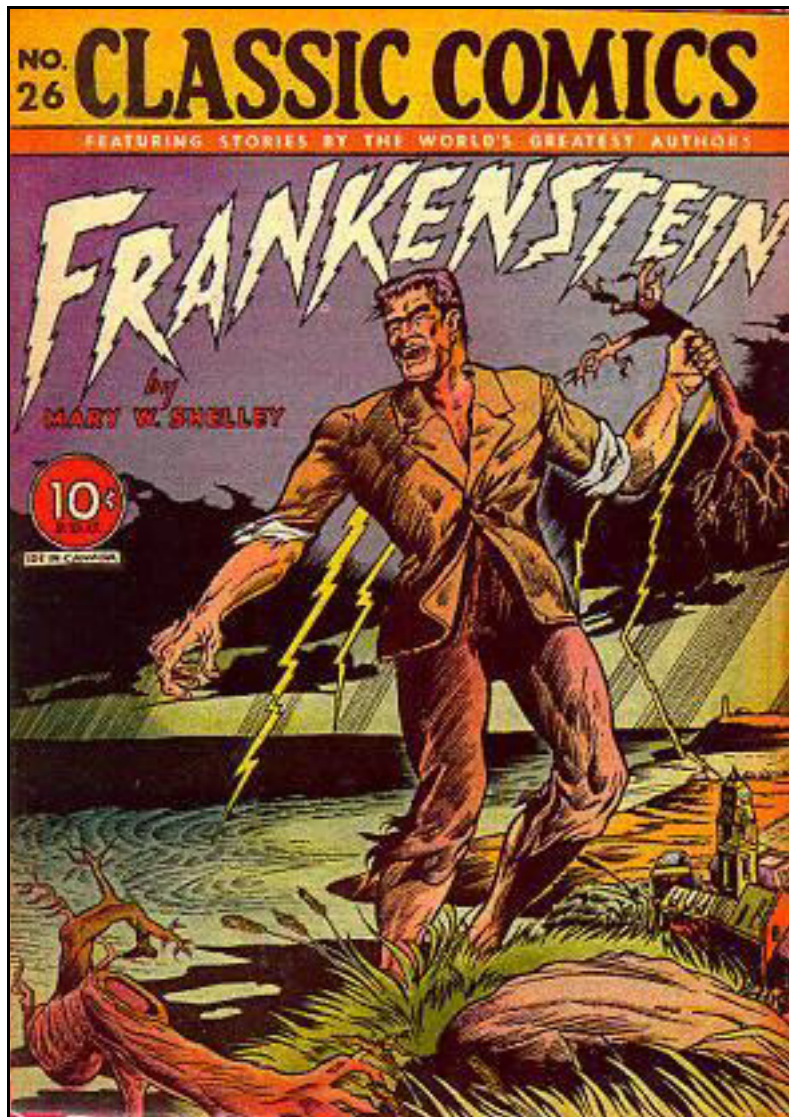
WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN



June 22, Saturday: Britain ended its 13-year occupation of St. Pierre and Miquelon as these islands reverted to being a colony of France.

That night, [George Gordon, Lord Byron](#) and [Percy Bysshe Shelley](#) having plans for a boat trip around Lake [Geneva](#) on the next day, they abandoned their efforts to compete in the story contest, but [Mary Godwin Wollstonecraft](#), after her late start, was persisting. The friends discussed a subject from [Madame de Staël](#)'s DE L'ALLEMAGNE: "whether the principle of life could be discovered and whether scientists could galvanize a corpse of manufactured humanoid."¹⁴



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

7th day Early this morning Several friends went to fort Walcot & procured liberty to meet with the Soldiers at 11 OClock, they went in the Custom House boat kindly accomodated by John



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Stevens. The company from abroad were James Halleck, John Hull - - - -Robert Parry, Sally Parry, Dorothy Holding, Alice Abbot of our own towns folks was father Rodman, Jonathon Dennis, John Slocum, Benja Hadwen Hannah Dennis, Ruth & Eliza Rodman. They first went to Fort Walcot where they had good service & truth was maintained, then to fort Adams where Truth also bore the Palm, & the good cause preserved -This meeting was of great weight on my Spirits & since I find it succeeded well, I feel rejoiced with those who went having travailed with them as deeply as my capacity would admit. - I was fully persuaded it was best for me not to go, but to stay & promote the meeting appointed for people of colour at 5 OC this afternoon -While our aforementioned friends were on the fort Hugh Judge, Gerrard T Hopkins & company were called to go on Board the Packet for NYork 0- which rendered my presence necessary to pay their passages as one of the committee for that purpose Robert & Sally Parry & Sister Ruth dined with us. - The black meeting this Afternoon was not largely attended, but succeeded pretty well John Hallock, Dorothy Golding twice, James Halleck twice were concerned in testimony - Robert & Sally lodged at Jonathon Dennis's to night & expect to be at [Portsmouth](#) tomorrow from thence to [Providence](#) homeward bound. -

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14. The term “scientist” in this translation is of course an anachronism, as this term would not begin to be used until 1830. In regard to the scientific currency of Mary Shelley’s galvanic mechanism for bringing life to Dr. Victor Frankenstein’s monster: In 1809 in *ELEMENTS OF PHYSIOPHILOSOPHY*, no less a credited figure than [Lorenz Oken](#) had declared that “Galvanism is the principle of life. There is no other vital force than the galvanic polarity.”





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➡ July 27, Saturday: On their boat tour around Lake [Geneva](#), [George Gordon, Lord Byron](#) and [Percy Bysshe Shelley](#) visited Ouchy, where Byron wrote “The Prisoner of Chillon.” He finished Canto III of “Childe Harold” and wrote “The Dream,” “Stanzas to Augusta,” and other poems.

A heated cannonball fired from the gunboats of the white attacking force blew up the powder magazine of Fort Barrancas at Pensacola, Florida, causing the instant death of 270 of its defenders. After the recognizable leaders among the few survivors had been summarily executed there remained 64 black persons to “return” per the orders of Andrew Jackson “to their former owners,” which is to say, 64 burned and maimed persons to be transported to Georgia and there shared out among the owners of various plantations for whatever remaining usefulness could be extracted from such survivors as field [slaves](#).¹⁵

WHITE ON RED, RED ON WHITE

“OLD COMERS”

➡ August: [Percy Bysshe Shelley](#) launched a silk hot-air balloon across the Lake of [Geneva](#) into the city of John Calvin, bearing a message intended to set the burgers to thinking.¹⁶



➡ August 29, Thursday: [Percy Bysshe Shelley](#), [Mary Godwin Wollstonecraft](#), and [Clare Clairmont](#) left [Geneva](#) to return to England.

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

5th day 29th of 8th M / Rode to [Portsmouth](#) with Sister Mary & John in the Chaise & attended the Moy [Monthly] Meeting, - stoped on the way thither at Uncle Thurstons - At Meeting D Buffum preached very lively - & a pretty good meeting to me - In the last we had considerable buisness some of which labor'd & occasioned some pretty smart remarks, particularly a communication from So Kingston Moy [Monthly] Meeting respecting a matter between R Hazard & T R Williams -- Daniel Gould was restored to membership & I hope he may prove more useful to society than he has hither to been We dined at Anne Anthonys after which we rode to the new Cotton factory in Motts Gulley after taking a View of it we return'd

15. News of the event would be suppressed by the US federal government.

16. The thinking burger will steer clear of McDonald's.



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to tea & then rode home by a little after sun set –

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1817



[Pierre Étienne Louis Dumont](#) laid before the magistrates of [Geneva](#) a draft of an Everything-Bentham-All-The-Time-Bentham-Bentham penal code. This would be referred to a commission of which he was a member, where its fate would be pointless, endless, and fruitless discussion (Dumont would obtain, however, the construction of a “panopticon” in which to incarcerate the region’s potentially penitent prisoners).





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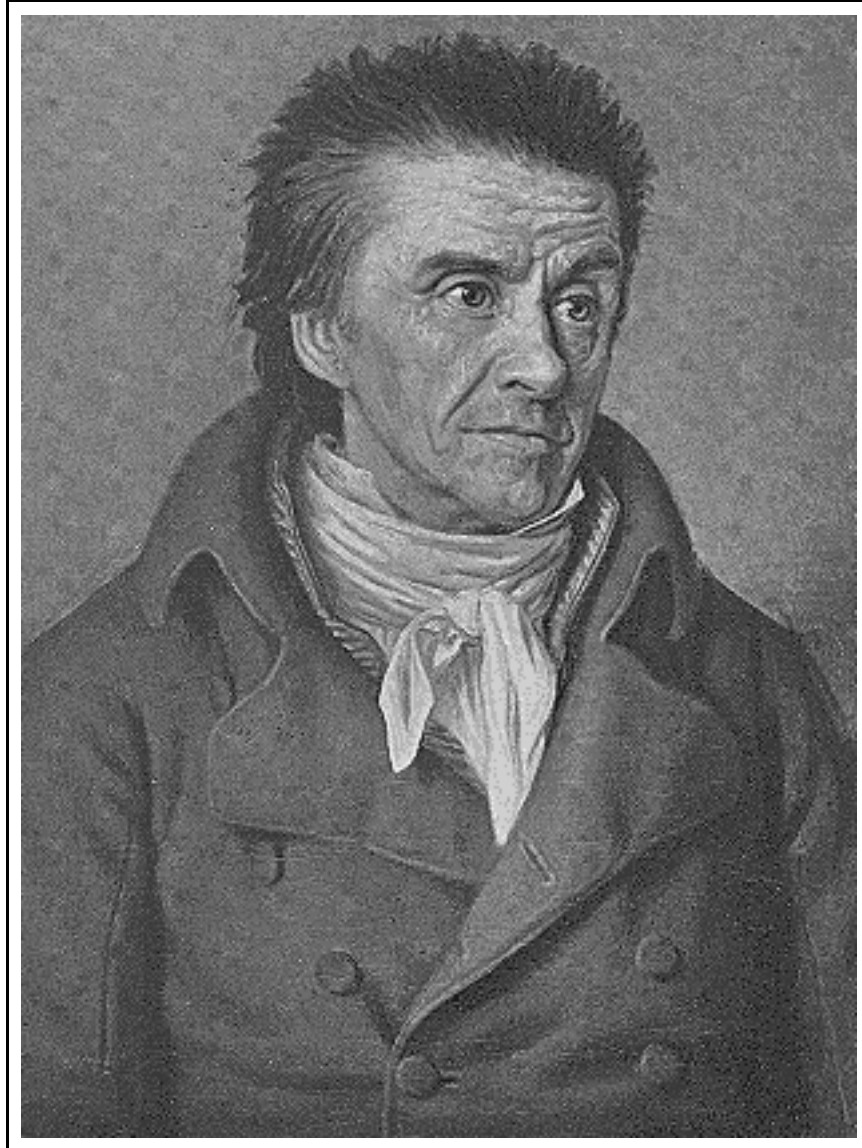
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1818



A drawing of [Johann Heinrich Pestalozzi](#) by G.A. Hippius, now in the “Pestalozzianum” of [Zürich](#).





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Summer: Alexander Baillie and his spouse [Marianne Wathen Baillie](#) were off on the jaunt that would result in her immortal FIRST IMPRESSIONS ON A TOUR UPON THE CONTINENT IN THE SUMMER OF 1818, THROUGH PARTS OF FRANCE, [ITALY](#), [SWITZERLAND](#), THE BORDERS OF [GERMANY](#), AND A PART OF FRENCH FLANDERS (London: John Murray, Albemarle-Street, 1819).

(Presumably this is the sort of book that some purchasers of [Henry David Thoreau's A WEEK ON THE CONCORD AND MERRIMACK RIVERS](#) presumed they were going to be reading, when they paid for a copy in a bookstore, and fully accounts for their distress at the diffuse digressions which they then encountered in what amounted not to merely another what-I-did-last-summer book but instead to the very first treatise ever presented in the new field of Comparative Religion.)



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I think that's the author and her hubby, on the road in the middle distance.



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1819



Fanny Wright's play *Altdorf*, about [Swiss](#) independence, flattering to the American promise of liberty, was produced in New-York and proved popular.



October 27, Wednesday: A gentleman had come to Frankfort, Texas with the news that while he had been in New Orleans, the agent of a company of [Swiss](#) merchants had arrived there from Europe, bringing with him a curious document: an official transfer from the Spanish monarch of the entire province of [Texas](#) to his employers. The document, the gentleman communicated, required the purchasers to settle Texas immediately and to acknowledge fealty to his catholic majesty but in every other respect left them at their liberty to form whatever government and establish whatever legal system they desired.



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1820



The Reverend [William Ellery Channing](#) declared his negative evaluation of [Calvinism](#) by way of a review of a book published considerably earlier in Boston, in fact in 1809, entitled A GENERAL VIEW OF THE DOCTRINES OF CHRISTIANITY, DESIGNED MORE ESPECIALLY FOR THE EDIFICATION AND INSTRUCTION OF FAMILIES.

[see following screens]



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The Reverend Channing's "The Moral Argument Against Calvinism," published originally in 1820, reprinted as pages 103-21 of Robinson, David, ed. WILLIAM ELLERY CHANNING: SELECTED WRITINGS (NY: Paulist Press, 1986)

"A Review From Professor Ross's Seminar"

THEOLOGY

Channing's argument against Calvinism is twofold:

- it makes God morally repugnant,
- and earthly life "a curse."

The key to the persistence of Calvinism, in Channing's analysis, is the fear believers have toward God: their

minds and consciences are subdued by terror, so that they dare not confess, even to themselves, the shrinking, which they feel, from the unworthy views which this system gives of God. (105)

Channing's critique of Calvinist dread is not Freud's projection theory, however. His theology springs from an analogical base; put negatively, we cannot ascribe to God what we would condemn in human thought and action. Channing's confidence in human beings arises from his conviction of our "likeness" to God. Made in his image, with the gift of reason to guide our reflections, we are capable of judging as good what God deems good. To argue, as the Calvinists do, that the Fall has damaged our reasoning, makes God look morally suspect: he gives us his "reason" to guide our reflective thought, but fails to make it operative. The Calvinists had always warned against spiritual pride; a more dangerous habit, Channing insists, may be an "affected humility":

we think it ungrateful to disparage the powers which our Creator has given us. (109)

Waldo Emerson inherits this trust in reason from the Unitarians. But for him, especially in the early essays, "reason" means what we might call imagination or intuition. What we know of God we gain not by ratiocination but by "revelation" or "inspiration." Emerson in this regard moves away from Channing's reasonableness and sounds surprisingly like the Calvinists whom Channing and all the Unitarians opposed.

(Johan Christopherson, February 13, 1992)

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The school systems of England were during this period completely under the sway of the “monitorial” system sponsored by the institutionalists Alexander Bell and Joseph Lancaster. Some 20 of these child-abuse centers, masquerading as common schools but incarcerating easily 200 children in each classroom, had been set up in New York State alone. The disciplinarians who were running these “monitorial” child-abuse centers were considering the [Swiss](#) teacher [Johann Heinrich Pestalozzi](#) to be, at best, “a distressing type of the German.”¹⁷ Their excuse, had they needed an excuse, would have been that, had they tried to do anything better, there would not have been an adequate supply of competent teachers willing to work at the prevailing level of salaries — and, of course, such an excuse may well have been close to reality.



17. Obviously, the popular image of the Teuton has changed considerably since that Vaseline-on-the-lens era, for nowadays, when we are tempted to think stereotypically of “a distressing type of the German,” we think perhaps of the German lady who confessed that she felt compelled to step on ants because they were so weak and helpless, rather than of an “idealistic dreamer” such as Pestalozzi.



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June 7, Wednesday: [Louis Pierre Louvel](#) was [guillotined](#) for the assassination of [Charles Ferdinand d'Artois, Duc de Berry](#).

HEADCHOPPING

[Karl Theodor Christian Friedrich Follen](#) had come under suspicion as an accomplice, and would flee to [Switzerland](#) (he would teach for awhile at the cantonal school at Coire and at the University of [Basel](#) while Prussian authorities continued to solicit Swiss authorities to deliver him unto their tender mercies, until both he and Charles Comte would be forced again to flee, in Follen's case to the United States of America).


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1821

 On August 10, 1792, [Swiss](#) mercenaries had attempted to defend the Tuileries Palace. They had been unaware that they were defending merely an ugly piece of architecture, King Louis XVI, [Marie Antoinette](#), and their children having already vacated the premises. After resistance ceased approximately 500-700 (accounts vary) had been chopped down by the Paris mob. Putting a nice face on the incident, their empty sacrifice was in this year commemorated in a sculpture of a wounded stone lion after a model by Bertel Thorvaldsen, outside one of the gates of Lucerne:



One might have thought it to have been more appropriate, to depict this mercenary lion as moribund atop a pile of coins he had earned while loyally defending his French employer.



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1822



March 8, Friday: President James Monroe sent a message to Congress proposing recognition of the new Latin American republics.

On this day or the following one, [Charles Frédéric Girard](#) was born in Mulhouse, in the Alsatian region of France. He would graduate from the College of [Neuchâtel](#) in [Switzerland](#), as a student of [Professor Louis Agassiz](#), his specialties being ichthyology and herpetology.

HDT

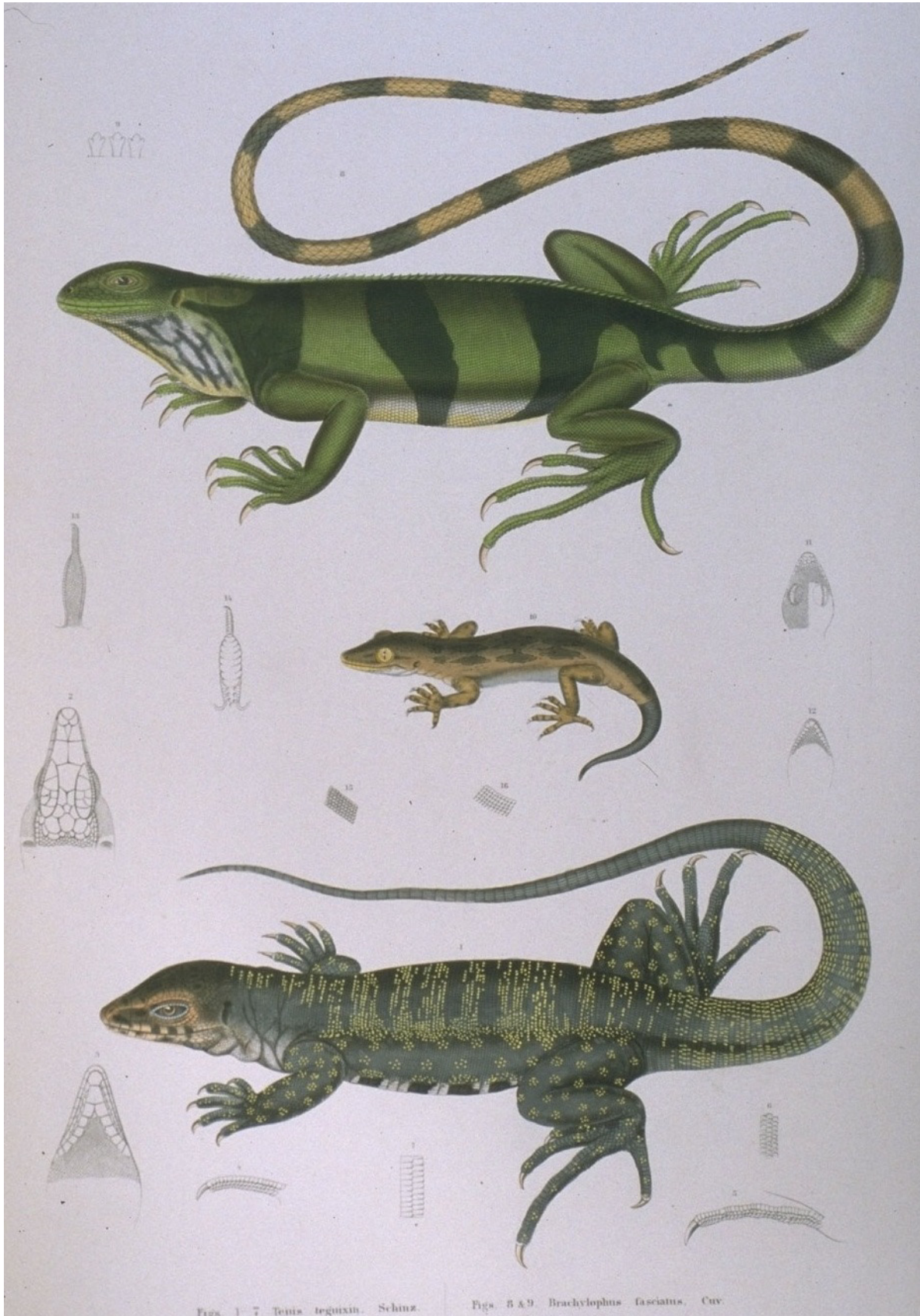
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1823



The Quebec Citadel Incline Plane was opened, using two cars on double track. Power was supplied by a stationary steam engine (this would be in operation until the late 1840s).

Claude Navier's *RAPPORT ET MEMOIRE SUR LES PONTS SUSPENDUS*, which would remain one of the most influential books on bridge building during [Henry David Thoreau](#)'s lifetime. In [Geneva](#), Guillaume Henri Dufour created the Saint Antoine bridge, the world's first permanent wire-cable suspension bridge. In England, George Stephenson created the world's first iron railroad bridge, a four-span lenticular-like truss to carry Stockton & Darlington trains over the River Gaunless. (This would stand at West Auckland for 76 years and then be relocated to the National Railway Museum at York.)



A small anonymous volume was produced in London "by a Foreigner, three years resident at Yverdon," titled HINTS TO PARENTS ON THE CULTIVATION OF CHILDREN, IN THE SPIRIT OF PESTALOZZI'S METHOD.

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



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(This would be studied by [Bronson Alcott](#), who was in this year changing his name from “Alcocke” or “Alcox” to Alcott,¹⁸ and reviewed by him in 1829. Since it has been suggested¹⁹ that this small volume was Alcott’s primary source for the ideas of [Johann Heinrich Pestalozzi](#), we should definitely include it in our “Stack of the Artist of Kouroo” project.)

18. Perhaps to distance himself from the jest “All-Cocks.” According to Eric Partridge’s THE PENGUIN DICTIONARY OF HISTORICAL SLANG, roosters everywhere have had to cope with innuendo since the 17th Century. Louisa May Alcocke’s LITTLE WOMEN, anyone? I think Partridge’s ascription of this slang name for the penis to the 17th Century must be late, for we know of a medieval lyric:

I have a gentil cok
Croweth me day;
He doth me risen erly,
My matins for to say.

I have a gentil cok,
Comen he is of gret;
His comb is of red corel
His tayel is of jet.

I have a gentil cok
Comen he is of kinde;
His comb is of red corel,
His tail is of inde.

His legges ben of asor
So gentil and so smale;
His spores arn of silver white,
Into the worte-wale.

His eynen are of crystal,
Loken all in aumber;
And every night he percheth him
In min ladyes chaumber.

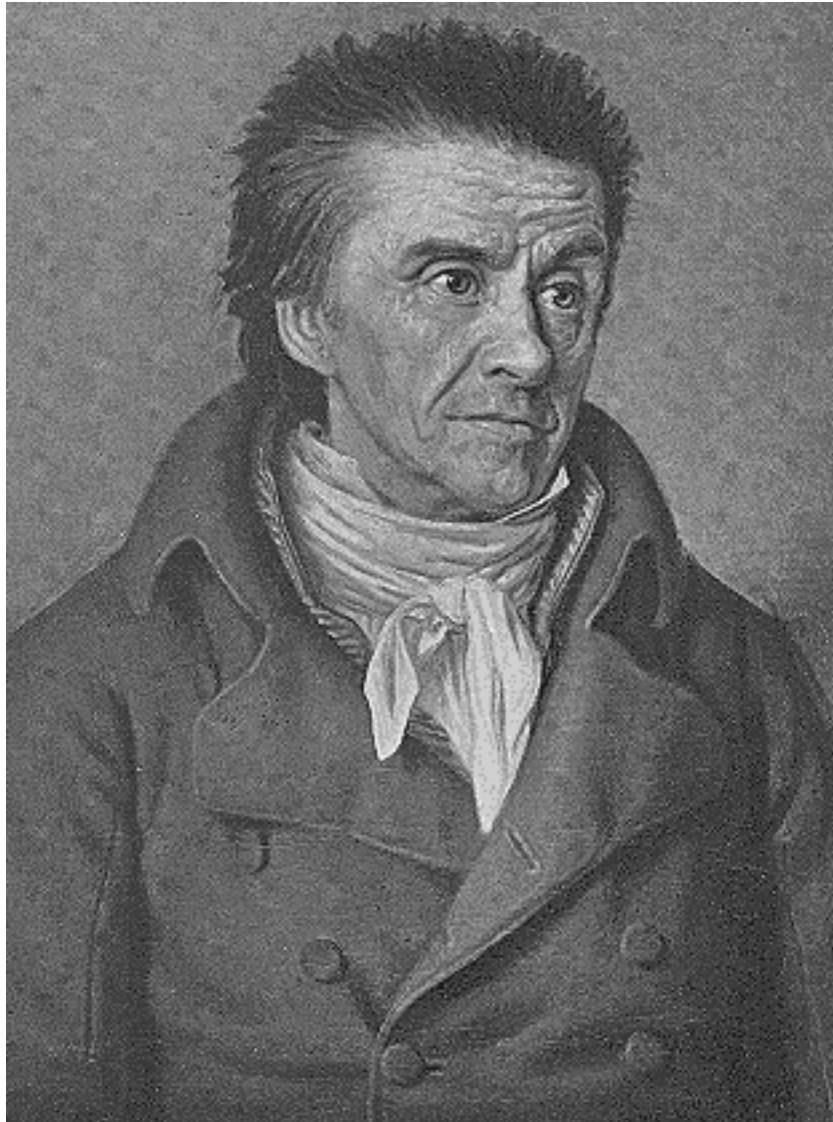
19. McCuskey, Dorothy. BRONSON ALCOTT, TEACHER. New York: Macmillan, 1940.



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READ ABOUT PESTALOZZI



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A Commentary on Pestalozzian Methods

HINTS TO PARENTS is little more than an anonymous pamphlet of two parts, yet in it are to be found clearly expressed most of Pestalozzi's ideas, and specific illustrations of the method. The only clue to the authorship is found in the first London edition, 1823, which bears these words, "By a Foreigner, three years resident at Yverdon." It is quite evident upon reading the book that it was written by someone who really knew the system, since it is in decided contrast to the more wooden accounts by Americans. There is both external and internal evidence to show that Alcott knew and used this book. In the first place, Alcott's Journal enables us to identify as his a later review of the book in the American Journal of Education. HINTS TO PARENTS contains a number of direct quotations at the bottom of the pages, chiefly from Pestalozzi. The first sentence of one of them is found correctly copied in the manuscript of Alcott's account of the Cheshire School:

The only solid and true foundation of all morality is found in the first relations of Mother and Child.

In a printed account written by Alcott, however, it reappears in a new wording to illustrate Moral Education:

The only solid and true foundation of all morality is laid in the first relations of Instructor and Pupil.

— Pestalozzi.

Since Alcott did not have access to Pestalozzi in the original, it is most probable that HINTS TO PARENTS is the source of the reworded quotation. It is not so easy to draw a direct line of connection between a book like HINTS TO PARENTS which is addressed chiefly to mothers, and a great desire to do something to aid mothers in their proper task of educating their little ones, though the connection is entirely within the realm of possibility. Similarly, Alcott often used the words, "in the spirit of Pestalozzi's method," and that note recurs throughout HINTS TO PARENTS. Though small, the book is surprisingly comprehensible, and vivid, and would appear to be the chief source of Alcott's knowledge of Pestalozzian principles.

— McCuskey, Dorothy. BRONSON ALCOTT, TEACHER. New York: Macmillan, 1940, page 36.



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1824



[Karl Theodor Christian Friedrich Follen](#)'s brother August Adolf Ludwig Follen (1794-1855) had been leading radical student political groups at Giessen and Heidelberg, and after having been imprisoned at Berlin for agitation (1819-1821) had taught in Aarau, Switzerland (1821-1827) and become a member of the Grand Council at Zürich. His politically active brother's works included the song *Freie Stimmen frischer Jugend* (1819), the novel *MALAGYS UND VIVIAN* (1829), the poem *Harfen-Grüsse aus Deutschland und der Schweiz* (1823), and the epic poem *Tristans Eltern* (1857). Karl, when the assassination of Kotzebue placed him and his friend Karl Sand under suspicion in the Holy Alliance of Austria, Prussia, and Russia, had been twice arrested and tried for conspiracy in that murder. He had fled first to France and then to the canton of [Basel](#) in [Switzerland](#), and from there during this year he continued on to New-York, where he chose to be known as [Charles Follen](#). Aided by letters of introduction from [the Marquis de Lafayette](#), he would establish himself in Massachusetts society. He would become headmaster of the Round Hill School in [Northampton](#),



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Massachusetts, and would get married with a daughter of one Boston's most prominent families, Eliza Lee Cabot.

While teaching French and miniature painting to the boys at the Round Hill Academy, [Nicholas Marcellus Hentz](#) got married with a 24-year-old lady, Caroline Lee Whiting. In this year, publication of his A MANUAL OF FRENCH PHRASES, AND FRENCH CONVERSATIONS: ADAPTED TO WANOSTROCHT'S GRAMMAR ... (Boston: Richardson and Lord, J.H.A. Frost, Printer).



In extreme old age, Walt Whitman would reminisce for one last time about this period, and that alleged manly



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kiss from [Lafayette](#):

“Memoranda”

It must have been in 1822 or '3 that I first came to live in Brooklyn. Lived first in Front street, not far from what was then call'd “the New Ferry,” wending the river from the foot of Catharine (or Main) street to New York City.

I was a little child (was born in 1819,) but tramp'd freely about the neighborhood and town, even then; was often on the aforesaid New Ferry; remember how I was petted and deadheaded by the gatekeepers and deckhands (all such fellows are kind to little children,) and remember the horses that seem'd to me so queer as they trudg'd around in the central houses of the boats, making the water-power. (For it was just on the eve of the steam-engine, which was soon after introduced [Page 1283] on the ferries.) Edward Copeland (afterward Mayor) had a grocery store then at the corner of Front and Catharine streets.

Presently we Whitmans all moved up to Tillary street, near Adams, where my father, who was a carpenter, built a house for himself and us all. It was from here I “assisted” the personal coming of Lafayette in 1824-5 to Brooklyn. He came over the Old Ferry, as the now Fulton Ferry (partly navigated quite up to that day by ‘horse boats,’ though the first steamer had begun to be used hereabouts) was then call'd, and was receiv'd at the foot of Fulton street. It was on that occasion that the corner-stone of the Apprentices' Library, at the corner of Cranberry and Henry streets — since pull'd down — was laid by Lafayette's own hands. Numerous children arrived on the grounds, of whom I was one, and were assisted by several gentlemen to safe spots to view the ceremony. Among others, Lafayette, also helping the children, took me up — I was five years old, press'd me a moment to his breast — gave me a kiss and set me down in a safe spot. Lafayette was at that time between sixty-five and seventy years of age, with a manly figure and a kind face.



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1825

➡ [Alphonse Louis Pierre Pyramus de Candolle](#) was awarded the Bachelor's Degree of the University of [Geneva](#).

➡ [Johann Heinrich Pestalozzi](#)'s boarding school near Neuchâtel, [Switzerland](#), the "Yverdon Institute," collapsed during an intense struggle among the members of his teaching staff as to which one was going to become his 2d-in-command and then inherit the mantle of his authority. Pestalozzi had to go back to his earlier establishment at Burgdorf, taking only a few of his pupils with him.



[Pestalozzi](#)'s four-volume novel LEONARD AND GERTRUDE, OR, A BOOK FOR THE PEOPLE, written in the 1780s in German about the ordinary lives of German "people," with the author's ideas as to moral, social, and political reform developing out of the inspirational example set by the devoted and self-sacrificing mother, was at this point translated into English and published as two volumes in London by J. Mawman.²⁰

Again "[Dickie](#)" [Dana](#), at the age of 10, was subjected to [corporal punishment](#) by a schoolmaster:

He had placed me in the middle of the floor for some offense or other, and my station being near the stove, and the room very hot, I became faint and asked to be allowed to go out and gave my reason, but to no purpose. In a few minutes we had our usual recess of a quarter of an hour, and I went out. Here I came very near fainting again, looked very pale, and asked leave to go home. This was refused. As I was really sick, at the suggestion of the boys, I went home, which was but a few minutes' walk, to get a written excuse. My father saw that I was ill and kept me at home, and sent me the next morning with a written excuse for my non-appearance, alleging faintness and sickness. Mr. W. was mortified and angry at this and said that the excuse only covered

20. Bronson Alcott's signature in these volumes, still in the Alcott Library, is in a hand he used during his early years.



THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

my not returning, while the chief offense was my going home without leave, which he could not excuse, and calling me out, took his ferule and ordered me to put out my left hand. (He also intimated that my sickness was all a sham.) Upon this hand he inflicted six blows with all his strength, and then six upon the right hand. I was in such a frenzy of indignation at his injustice and his insulting insinuations that I could not have uttered a word for my life. I was too small and slender to resist, and could show my spirit only by fortitude. He called for my right hand again, and gave six more blows in the same manner and then six more upon the left. My hands were swollen and in acute pain, but I did not flinch nor show a sign of suffering. He was determined to conquer me and gave six more blows upon each hand, with full force. Still there was no sign from me of pain or submission. I could have gone to the stake for what I considered my honor. The school was in an uproar of hissing and scraping and groaning, and the master turned his attention to the other boys and left me alone. He said not another word to me through the day. If he had I could not have answered, for my whole soul was in my throat and not a word could get out.

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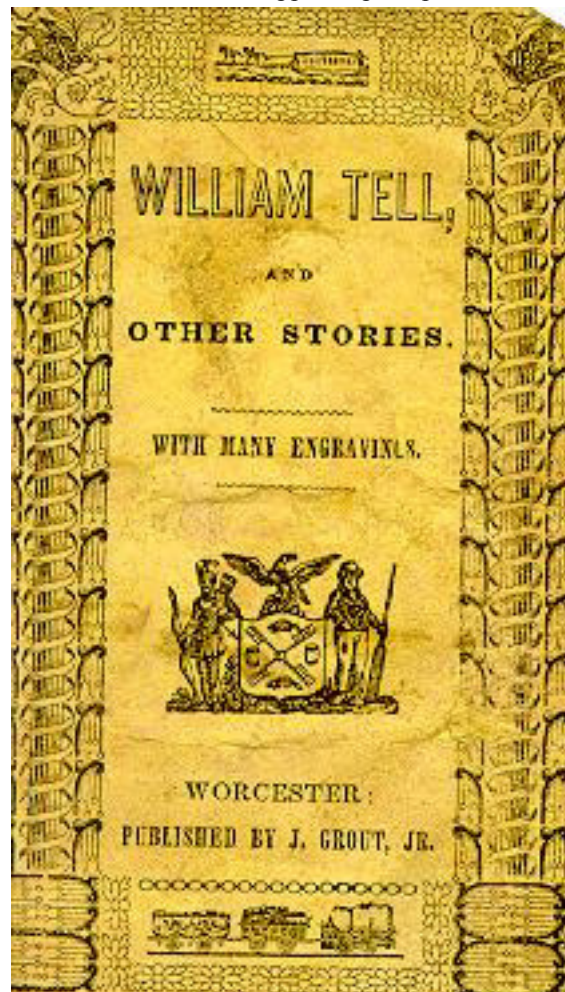
THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN



Fall: [David Henry Thoreau](#) returned for a 2d year of instruction at the [Concord](#) public [Town School](#). The first wave of school reform was beginning to sweep across New England. In this year, in BLAKE'S READER, [William Tell](#) was portrayed as he took careful aim at the apple atop the precious head of his son.





THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

(People still play around with this legend. For instance, on January 16, 2001, at a circus performance in Paris, Mme Cathy Jamet has been shot in the face by a crossbow arrow fired by her husband M Alain Jamet.)





THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1826



This was the year of the Swiss educator Johann Heinrich Pestalozzi's *SCHWANENGESANG* (SWAN SONG):

Life itself educates.



In boyhood Louis Agassiz had attended gymnasium in Bienne, and the academy at Lausanne. He had then entered the universities of Zürich, Heidelberg, and München. While at Heidelberg he “fenced” with such ferocity that he wounded a chum. (Would this have been actual fencing, or would it have amounted to hacking at one another with cavalry sabres in the Teutonic manner?) Our young gent considered that it devolved upon his strong right arm to defend the honor of his native Switzerland, and issued a standing challenge to cross blades with any German student. –Hey, great, this guy is all set to grow up to be a certain kind of honorable man! This hacker took at Erlangen the degree of doctor of philosophy and then at München that of doctor of medicine.

Although the classification of the species of some fish specimens brought from Brazil to München in 1819/1820 began, when the classifier would die the collection would be turned over to young Agassiz.

THE SCIENCE OF 1826



THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN



Engraved from a pastel drawing by his first wife, as of the age of 19



THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1827

➡ [Johann Ludwig Krapf](#) matriculated at the Basel Mission Seminary in [Switzerland](#). He would discontinue his studies there when he experienced doubts about a missionary vocation.

➡ February 17, Saturday: [Johann Heinrich Pestalozzi](#) died in Brugg, [Switzerland](#).

British Prime Minister Robert Jenkinson, Earl of Liverpool was found paralyzed in his breakfast room, the victim of a stroke (apoplexy). He would not become able to resume his duties. A new ministry would be formed in April.



THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN



May: In Brooklyn, Connecticut, the Reverend Samuel Joseph May organized the first ever convention “to improve and bless the Common Schools.”



At this convention attended by over 100 persons he learned of an experiment being conducted in a small town in western Massachusetts about 50 miles (one day's stagecoach travel) to the north, Cheshire.





THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

The experimental school in Cheshire, Massachusetts was being run by a rural master named [Amos Bronson Alcott](#). The schoolmaster had renamed Primary School #1 as “The Cheshire Pestalozzian School” in honor of the educational theories of the [Swiss](#) innovator [Johann Heinrich Pestalozzi](#), and the school’s motto he selected was “Education’s all.”

*I shall institute a new order of human culture. **Infancy** I shall invest with a glory – a spirituality, which the disciples of Jesus, deeply as they entered into his spirit, and caught the life of his mind, have failed to bring forth in their records of his sayings and life.*

May learned of this experiment from a not entirely impartial source, Bronson’s cousin [William Alcott](#), who was just in this year graduating in medicine from [Yale College](#). May wrote to Bronson “urgently to visit me.”

THE ALCOTT FAMILY



Summer: [Louis Agassiz](#) grew up in the Vaudois region of [Switzerland](#) where many followers of Pierre Waldo (the “[Waldenses](#)”), had holed up during the Middle Ages. The Agassiz family could trace its Protestant past back into the 13th Century in the canton of Vaud adjacent to Fribourg. His father was the 6th in an unbroken succession of pastors, and in all likelihood little Louis had remote ancestors who had attempted to lead a life like that of Jesus — but you know how it is, religions deteriorate badly with time and need to be perpetually renewed, the transformation rule for creating from a religion of peace and humility one of aggressive self-legitimation being simple: “wait a couple generations.” Clearly, little Louis’s well-reared parents had little to offer their son by the way of true religious council, for during the summer of 1827 he was left to extrapolate his life’s religion from the pages of Lorenz Oken’s *LEHRBUCH DER NATURPHILOSOPHIE* and –in the mode of his time and place– portray this religion as science much as Professor [E.O. Wilson](#) does today.



“Scientists have power by virtue of the respect commanded by the discipline. We may therefore be sorely tempted to misuse that power in furthering a personal prejudice or social goal – why not provide that extra oomph by extending the umbrella of science over a personal preference in ethics or politics?”

– [Stephen Jay Gould](#)

BULLY FOR BRONTOSAURUS

NY: Norton, 1991, page 429





THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

The core of this scientific religion of the self-worship of the white man as the highest form of existence was the attitude that inferior forms of life were but “persistent foetal states.” A worm would be seen as merely a man who had been incapable of growing a backbone —a woman as merely a man who had failed to mature a penis —an ape as merely a Negro that had not had the moxie to shed its body hair and stand tall —etc. This is because God has ordained that all creatures strive to fulfil one final and perfect type, the white human male who can “get ’em down and hump ’em,” and master the sciences, and dissect frogs, and hack other humans to pieces with his sabre. All very satisfying, and guaranteed to make your life work for you (if you happen to be a white man, and happen to be wilful enough to enable yourself to go for such shit).²¹

THE SCIENCE OF 1827

The Congregationalist Reverend Josiah Brewer (1796-1872) of Massachusetts was spending a pleasant summer in the midst of a vineyard on a very fruitful hill in Constantinople, renting at the residence of a Greek family that had formerly had the responsibility of educating the female children of the Seraglio. There, without the presence of a single male Turk, the little girls had been taught chiefly singing and dancing — until the father and two eldest sons of this Greek family had, for some offense given to the Sultan by a friend of the family, had their heads chopped off. After the [headchoppings](#) their habitations had been stripped as usual of anything of value. The only members of this Greek family who were left on the premises were the female members, who needed to support themselves with the produce of their vineyard, and with the rent of their houses to this visiting missionary family.

CONSTANTINOPLE IN 1827

21. OK, do it if you must, but don't come around here angling for respect.



THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1829



August 3, Monday: According to an almanac of the period, “Spanish invading army under General Barradas, having landed in Mexico, at Cabo Rojo (Cape Roque), take possession of the old town of Tampico, with 1500 men, after a trifling resistance.”

CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

The overture to Gioacchino Rossini’s 39th and final opera, WILLIAM TELL (GUILLAUME TELL) to words of Jouy, Bis and others after Schiller began with a *ranz des vaches*, a Swiss melody used to call the cows back to the barn, played on a cowherd’s horn:

WALDEN: They were beans cheerfully returning to their wild and primitive state that I cultivated, and my hoe played the *Ranz des Vaches* for them.

PEOPLE OF
WALDEN

THE BEANFIELD
FRIEDRICH SCHILLER

A diagram consisting of three light blue rounded rectangular boxes with thin black borders, arranged horizontally. The first box on the left contains the text 'HDT' in blue. The middle box contains the text 'WHAT?' in blue. The third box on the right contains the text 'INDEX' in blue.

WHAT?

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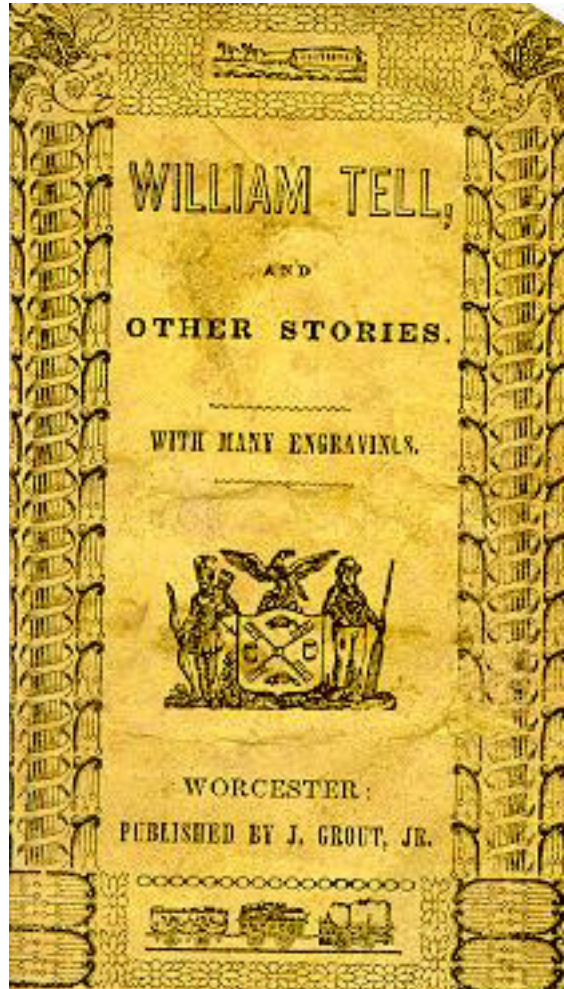
THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

This happened at the Paris Opera — the audience awarded respectful and restrained applause, although critics would be effusive in their praise (Rossini will live another 39 years but would never again offer an opera).

(Hey, remember the theme music of “The Lone Ranger” on the radio? In the opera, that *dah, dah dah dah, dah dah dah daw dum daw dah dum dah dee dee* had symbolized the approach of the mighty Swiss army.)²²



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

2nd day 3 of 8 M / Troubles & difficulty increase. we have heard of several new failures today, & where it will all end is very difficult to foresee. — Moses Brown has been here today & seems with the rest of us much tried & not a little distressed at the prospect of things. — & what more particularly affects us at present is that so large a number of failures should occur among

22. Rossini's full opera required six hours to sing. There's a story that on a repeat performance, a director of the Opéra informed the author that what was being staged that night was merely Act 2, to which Rossini responded "Indeed, all of it?" –The guy could care less, he had given up writing operas and gotten married.



THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

the Members of our Society. –

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS



THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1831

➡ [Alphonse Louis Pierre Pyramus de Candolle](#) became an honorary professor at the Academy of [Geneva](#).

➡ [Swiss](#) immigrants John and Peter Delmonico opened a restaurant in lower Manhattan, New-York, New York and introduced the menu to the US.

➡ [Charles Darwin](#) embarked on the *Beagle* voyage around the globe, returning to London in 1836.

THE SCIENCE OF 1831

With the help of [Alexander von Humboldt](#), [Louis Agassiz](#) got his first professorship, the chair in natural history at the University of [Neuchâtel](#) in [Switzerland](#). (However, all his life Agassiz would insist that each species was a separate and distinct “thought of God” and that God repeatedly rethinks organic life on earth – a series of independent and special creations without hereditary continuity– each time it is destroyed in a natural cataclysm.)

BIOLOGY
EVOLUTION

➡ [Johann Wolfgang von Goethe](#) noticed that:

[I]t is expected that a person who has distinguished himself in one field ... will not ... venture into one entirely unrelated. Should an individual attempt this, no gratitude is shown.





THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

An individual who followed Goethe's advice: Friend John [Cadbury](#) of Birmingham's premier breakfast product "Cocoa Nibs," was so successful that he rented a small factory in Crooked Lane, Birmingham to produce his own [cocoa](#). His brother Friend Benjamin Cadbury would join him later; from this beginning the Cadbury chocolate empire would ensue.

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

Phillipe Suchard, who opened a confectioner's shop in Neuchatel, [Switzerland](#) in this year, had been first introduced to chocolate when he went to collect a pound of the substance from an apothecary for his ailing mother.



THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1832



Professor [Louis Agassiz](#) traveled first to Paris (then a great center of scientific research) and later to [Neuchâtel, Switzerland](#), where he would spend many years. While in Paris he lived the life of an impecunious student in the Latin Quarter, supporting himself and helped at times by the kindly interest of such friends as the German naturalist Alexander von Humboldt—who would secure for him a professorship at Neuchâtel—and Baron Cuvier, the most eminent ichthyologist of his time. Already [Agassiz](#) had become interested in the rich stores of the extinct fishes of Europe, especially those of Glarus in [Switzerland](#) and of Monte Bolca near Verona, of which, at that time, only a few had been critically studied.

THE SCIENCE OF 1832

Until 1846, [Agassiz](#) would serve as professor of natural history in the University of Neuchâtel. In [Neuchâtel](#) he acted for a time as his own publisher and his private residence became a hive of activity with numerous young men assisting him. During this period he began *NOMENCLATOR ZOOLOGICUS*, a catalog with references of all the names applied to genera of animals from the beginning of scientific nomenclature (a date since fixed at January 1, 1758).

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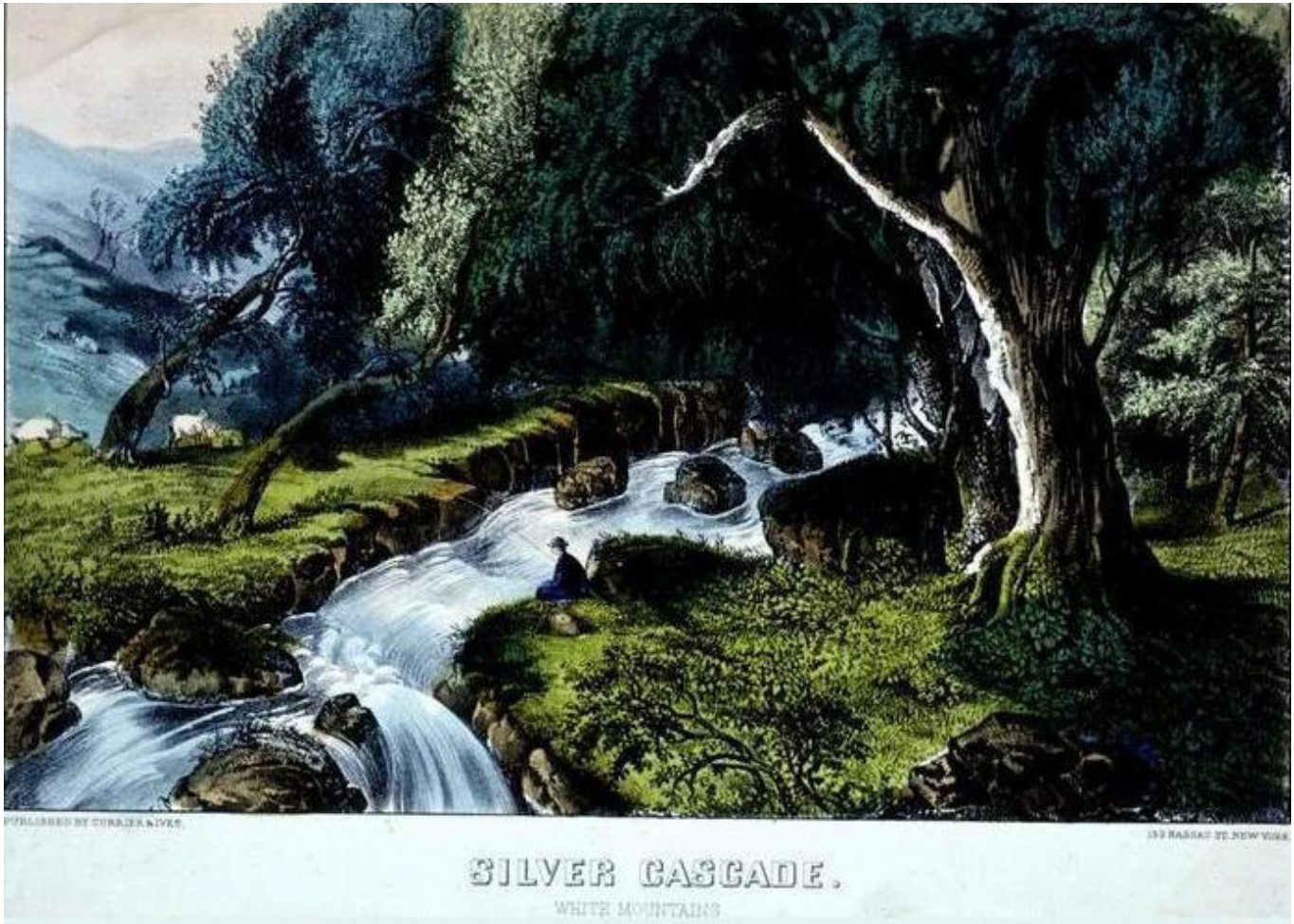
THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN



September 16, Sunday: [Nathaniel Hawthorne](#) wrote his mother in Salem from Burlington, Vermont, after visiting the White Mountains of New Hampshire (known at the time as “the [Switzerland](#) of the United States” and a contemporary landscape symbol of our local virtues of freedom and independence).



He had visited Crawford Notch. At this point he was considering going on north into Canada — and in fact for all we know he may have made it as far as Montréal before turning back and heading along the [Erie Canal](#) route for [Niagara Falls](#) in his search for the picturesque and/or sublime.





THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

Between this date and September 28th [Hawthorne](#) would pass through Rochester, New York, where he would be informed by locals that [Sam Patch](#) was alive, having hidden behind the Genesee waterfall after his leap. To obtain proper atmosphere, he would arrange to view these famous deadly falls at dusk and alone:

How stern a moral may be drawn from the story of poor Sam Patch! Why do we call him a madman or a fool, when he has left his memory around the falls of the Genesee, more permanently than if the letters of his name had been hewn into the forehead of the precipice? Was the leaper of cataracts more mad or foolish than other men who throw away life, or misspend it in pursuit of empty fame, and seldom so triumphant as he? That which he won is as invaluable as any except the unsought glory, spreading like the rich perfume of richer fruit from various and useful deeds.

Thus musing, I lifted my eyes and beheld the spires, warehouses, and dwellings of Rochester.



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

1st day 16 of 9 M / My dear wife attended the Morning Meeting but found herself so unwell that she did not think best to attempt it in the Afternoon & Dr Tobey was called in. – She seemed better in the eveng

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

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THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

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THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

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PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1833

➡ [Henry Jacob Bigelow](#) would be [David Henry Thoreau](#)'s classmate at [Harvard College](#), until first receiving a “public admonition” and finally being dismissed from the college on April 24, 1837, the Saturday prior to the commencement in that year, for having been in possession of firearms and ammunition in his dormitory room and repeatedly discharging a firearm inside the room (MH-Ar Faculty Records UAIII 5.5.2.IX, 311). Evidently he was able to resume his studies, at Dartmouth College.



In 1795 a *Conservatoire des Artes et Métiers* had been established for France, and in this year that system of trade museums was introduced into [Germany](#) (the 1st efforts to accomplish anything of the kind in England would not come until 1837 with the Museum of Economic Geology, in 1848 with the Museum of Economic Botany at Kew, and in 1851 with the Museum of Practical Geology and the School of Mines).



THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

At [Harvard](#), under instructor Hermann Bokum (who was filling the place left vacant by the departure of [Charles Follen](#)), [Thoreau](#) began four terms of study of the [German](#) language. Bokum had just come to Harvard from the University of Pennsylvania, where he had just prepared a new edition of BERNAYS' COMPENDIOUS GERMAN GRAMMAR, WITH A DICTIONARY OF PREFIXES AND AFFIXES, AND WITH ALTERNATIONS, ADDITIONS, AND REFERENCES TO AN INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF THE GERMAN LANGUAGE (60 pages; Philadelphia: Hogan and Thompson, 139½ Market Street, 1832). This, presumably, would have been used in Thoreau's classroom.²³

COMPENDIOUS GERMAN

[Heinrich Heine](#)'s *ZUR GESCHICHTE DER NEUREN SCHÖNEN LITERATUR IN DEUTSCHLAND* (PHILOSOPHY AND LITERATURE IN [GERMANY](#)). Also in this year, his *FRANZÖSISCHE ZUSTÄNDE* (FRENCH AFFAIRS).

Twelve year-old future philologist George Adler was brought to the USA from Leipzig, [Germany](#).

A projected uprising in the Piedmont was betrayed before it had begun, and a number of its idealistic and ruthless ringleaders committed suicide or were executed. The [Italian](#) government put a dead-or-alive price on [Giuseppe Mazzini](#)'s head, and he had to move to [Switzerland](#) to get out of the jurisdiction of the French police. In Switzerland he tried to raise an army to invade Savoy, but not enough young men were willing to die, so instead he founded organizations named Young [Germany](#), Young [Switzerland](#), Young Poland, and Young Europe.



A moderately liberal draft for a new federal constitution proposed [Lucerne](#) as the federal capital of [Switzerland](#). Conservative politicians, mainly from Central Switzerland, were unwilling to accept the proposal.

23. Interestingly, both Charles Follen and Hermann Bokum would be instrumental in bringing the Christmas Tree tradition to America.



THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1834



Joseph Chaley created the Fribourg suspension bridge over the Sarine River in [Switzerland](#) and demonstrated the feasibility of wire cable for long-span bridges. This bridge's span of 870 feet set a world record that would stand for 15 years.



The mid-13th-Century *Hofbrücke* of [Lucerne](#) (2d half of the famous Chapel Bridge, leading from St. Peter's Chapel to Hofkirche over marshy ground) was demolished, and a new lakeside promenade (*Schweizerhofquai*) was built to attract [tourists](#). Many old buildings and the medieval fortifications on the left side of the River Reuss (originally more than 40 towers and gates) were razed to allow rapid development of the *Neustadt* (new city) quarter. While other cities in [Switzerland](#) did away completely with their fortifications, Lucerne has preserved its northern Musegg Wall with seven towers as a unique historical monument, separating downtown Lucerne from the 20th-Century boomtown quarters.



THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1835



March 15, Sunday: John Henry Kagi, the best educated of the raiders at Harpers Ferry, was born as a son of the blacksmith for Bristolville, [Ohio](#), in a family of [Swiss](#) descent (the name originally having been Kagy).²⁴ He would be largely an autodidact, but his letters to the New-York [Tribune](#), the New-York [Evening Post](#), and the [National Era](#) would testify to the adequacy of his cultural self-grounding. A debater, public speaker, stenographer, wannabee writer, and total abstainer from [spirits](#), he would turn out both cold in manner and rough-hewn in appearance. He would be a nonparticipant in organized religion, but an able man of business.



24. In CROWN OF THORNS: POLITICAL MARTYRDOM IN AMERICA FROM ABRAHAM LINCOLN TO MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. (NY: New York UP, 1990, page 31), Eyal J. Naveh incorrectly characterizes John Henry Kagi as having been a black man: "Even though black followers of Brown, such as John Henry Kagi, were also executed in Virginia, for blacks, John Brown became the most famous martyr for their freedom."



THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1836



The *Beagle* brought [Charles Darwin](#) back to London after a mind-bending circumnavigation of the globe (his journal of this voyage would become Henry Thoreau's favorite travel reading).

THE SCIENCE OF 1836

In [Switzerland](#), [Louis Agassiz](#) began to study the movements and effects of glaciers. Several writers had already expressed themselves as of the opinion that these solid rivers must once have been much more extensive than at present, and must have been what produced the various boulders that could now be observed erratically scattered across the surface of the region. Some of these boulders were present even up toward the summit of the Jura Mountains, and how did they get there if they had not been carried there by the movements of glaciers? Agassiz constructed a hut out on the ice of the Aar Glacier, terming this the "Hôtel des Neuchâtelois," and from this hut he and his associates began to trace the structure and movements of the ice.



In Massachusetts, [Dr. Augustus Addison Gould](#) became a corresponding member of the Connecticut Natural History Society.

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THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

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PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1837

July: [Jean de Charpentier](#) having described how glaciers carry along “erratic” rocks and scrape and gouge the bedrock which they pass over, [Louis Agassiz](#), after a tour of the valley of the Rhone River, recognizing that many of the topographical features he could inspect in this land currently free of rivers of ice (known as “glaciers”) could be best explained as features left behind by vanished massive past rivers of ice, proposed that this same process had operated at one time on a vastly larger scale than at present, and that huge glaciers had once covered Europe and Asia all the way down to the Mediterranean and Caspian Seas.



OUR MOST RECENT GLACIATION

(There have been actually, we now know, not merely the recent “Wisconsinian” but at least 17 glacial maximums, or “Ice Ages.” The rocks of America are presently still rising after having been pressed down under an accumulation of three kilometers of such overburden, the Laurentide, that had melted and flowed into the oceans only 12,000 years ago.)

THE SCIENCE OF 1837



THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

At a meeting of the [Swiss](#) Society of Natural Sciences (*Schweizerische Naturforschende Gesellschaft*) at Neuchâtel, Professor [Agassiz](#) presented his theory that there had been an Ice Age (*Eiszeit*) during which all of Europe had been covered by glaciers. The shocked audience reacted with hostility — most scientists were then presuming that the earth had been gradually and smoothly cooling down ever since its birth as a molten globe, and his theory was viewed as in conflict with this general tendency.



"Everything is what it is because it got that way."
— D'Arcy W. Thompson, *ON GROWTH AND FORMS*
Cambridge UP, 1917





THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1838

[Charles Darwin](#) formulated a new theory of natural selection, but due to a responsibility which he deeply felt in regard to its not fully thought out but obviously manifold implications for the practices of religion, politics, and culture, was careful to tell no-one.

EVOLUTIONARY ETHICS

After having published for a decade about fossil fishes, [Louis Agassiz](#) would until 1842 be publishing about the fossil echinoderms of [Switzerland](#).

Although [Professor Thomas Bell](#) had supported the arrangements for publication of ZOOLOGY OF THE VOYAGE OF H.M.S. BEAGLE, he had been very slow to make progress on the work, and though the first parts of work were at this point published, Part 5, his contribution on reptiles, would not be published until 1842 and 1843 — and then subsequently he would neglect to take any action at all in regard to the crustacea.

THE SCIENCE OF 1838



THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1839

Roderick Murchison and Adam Sedgwick named the Devonian System.

THE SCIENCE OF 1839

From this year until the great European revolution of 1848, [Professor Arnold Henri Guyot](#) would be teaching physical geography and history at the Academy of Neuchatel. His interests were in glaciology, physical geography, meteorology, and cartography. His early studies on the flow of ice and the distribution of glacial erratics in [Switzerland](#) served to underpin the catastrophist theory of glaciation that had been advanced and championed by [Professor Louis Agassiz](#).

PALEONTOLOGY



OUR MOST RECENT GLACIATION

[Timothy Abbott Conrad](#) accepted Agassiz's catastrophist theory of glaciation as an explanation for various surface features in the United States, such as the Mississippi depression.



THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1840

[Louis Agassiz](#)'s *ÉTUDES SUR LES GLACIERS ... OUVRAGE ACCOMPAGNÉ D'UN ATLAS DE 32 PLANCHES* (Neuchatel, aux frais de l'auteur).²⁵ In this he demonstrated irrefutably that at a geologically recent period all of [Switzerland](#) had been covered by "great sheets of ice, resembling those now existing in Greenland," resulting in all this "unstratified gravel (boulder drift)" that now clutters its surface. He and [Charles Darwin](#) made each other's acquaintance at the British Association for the Advancement of Science.



25. [Henry Thoreau](#) would check this out of Harvard Library on March 13, 1854.





THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

(Characteristically, the author omitted any mention of [Karl Friedrich Schimper](#), who had brought him into this glacial research and who also was preparing a book about the glaciation of the Alps.)



Thus began Agassiz's lifetime of intense personal conflicts with colleagues and contemporaries. One of these would be with a self-taught American field scientist named [Henry D. Thoreau](#).

OUR MOST RECENT GLACIATION

THE SCIENCE OF 1840



THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1841

September 9, Friday: [Augustin Pyramus de Candolle](#) died at [Geneva](#).

By this point [Theodatus Garlick](#) had rented a room in Cleveland, [Ohio](#) and was producing miniatures “perfect in all aspects, drawn by the Daguerreotype art true to nature” (quoting here from his advertisement). — It has been alleged that in this year he not only exposed the 1st Daguerreotype landscape image made in the United States, but also created the 1st acceptable Daguerreotype portrait to be made, without the use of sunlight directly to brighten the face of the sitter.



THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1842

Summer: [Margaret Fuller](#)'s brother [Richard F. Fuller](#) moved to [Concord](#). –It seems that Margaret had put him up to it, with the idea that [Henry David Thoreau](#) would prove to be an excellent and utterly cheap (unreimbursed) tutor in preparation for Richard's matriculation exams at [Harvard College](#) that fall. (This scheme having worked so well, Thoreau was given a music box with placid [Lucerne](#) on the lid. It would be interesting to know what tune it played.)



THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1843

The [Swiss](#) canton of [Zürich](#) and the country of Brazil began to imitate England in the use of postage stamps.

January 16, Monday: [Richard F. Fuller](#), the younger brother of [Margaret Fuller](#) and of [Ellery Channing](#)'s wife [Ellen Fuller Channing](#) whom [Henry David Thoreau](#) had taken along on his walk to Wachusett and tutored in Latin free of charge, had sent him a music box with "placid [Lucerne](#) on the lid."²⁶ On this day Thoreau sent off a thank-you note from [Concord](#) to Fuller in his dorm room at [Harvard College](#) in Cambridge.

Concord Jan 16th 1843.

Dear Richard,

I need not thank you for your present for I hear its music, which seems to be playing just for us two pilgrims marching over hill and dale of a summer afternoon — up those long Bolton hills and by those bright Harvard lakes, such as I see in the placid Lucerne on the lid — and whenever I hear I hear it it will recall happy hours passed with its donor.

When did mankind make that foray into nature and bring off this booty—? For certainly it is but history that some rare virtue in remote times plundered these strains from above, and communicated them to men. Whatever we may think of it, it is a part of the harmony of the spheres you have sent me, which has condescended to serve us Admetuses, and I hope I may so behave that this may always be the tenor of your thought for me.

If you have any strains, the conquest of your own spear or quill to accompany these, let the winds waft them also to me.

I write this with one of the "primaries" of my osprey's wings, which I have preserved over my glass for some state occasion — and now it offers.

Mrs. Emerson sends her love —

Yr friend,

Henry D. Thoreau

26. It would be interesting to know what tune it played, how many prongs it had, where the Fullers had gotten it, and how much it had cost them to make this present after Thoreau had helped them so considerably.



THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1844

Finding that he had many powerful enemies at court, [Adam Gurowski](#) left secretly for Berlin and would go from there to Heidelberg. He would devote himself to study, and for two years would lecture on political economy in the University of [Berne](#), Switzerland.

The 1st public and unafraid [Catholic](#) mass ever was celebrated in [Concord](#), by a priest who visited on this occasion specifically for this purpose.²⁷ (This would have had to do with the great number of Irish laborers at work on the new railroad track, rather than with long-term Catholic residents of the area, as regular masses would not begin, for Concord's Irish, French Canadian, and other Catholic citizens, for another full decade, until 1854.)²⁸

[Lucerne](#) called upon the Jesuit Order to strengthen the conservative ideology in its educational system.

27. The Reverend John B. Fitzpatrick, the priest of St. John's Church serving [Catholic](#) worshipers in Cambridge, Somerville, and points west, in this year became coadjutor-bishop of the diocese, so it was very likely him who came to [Concord](#) for this 1st public and unafraid celebration of the mass.

28. Notice that Anti-Papist sentiment has from time to time been alive and hearty in [Concord](#). For instance, when during the ministry of the Reverend Joseph Estabrook between 1667 and 1711 one of his elderly deacons had noticed that a collection plate had the Papal cross and three nails on it, he had had the man heave it across the church with such force that it smashed. The pieces of that plate, more or less glued back together, are even now on display, hopefully as a warning against religious bigotry.

Notice also that Thoreau, despite knowing full well that his father's family of origin had been driven out of France by the [Catholics](#), never participated in the slightest manner in any such Anti-Papist sentiment.



THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

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PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1845

Armed liberal rebels marched upon [Lucerne](#). Things would not go at all well for them: in two battles 185 of these rebels would be killed, and 1,785 imprisoned.

[James David Forbes](#)'s *REISEN IN DEN SAVOYER ALPEN UND IN ANDEREN THEILEN DER PENNINEN-KETTE NEBST BEOBACHTUNGEN ÜBER DIE GLETSCHER* (Bearbeitet von Gustav Leonhard. In 3 Original-Lieferungsheften. Stuttgart, E. Schweizerbart).

Forbes pursued detailed studies of the glaciers of the Alps and of Norway during many subsequent summers. He determined that the surface of a glacier moves faster than the ice vertically beneath it and that the velocity of a glacier increases directly with the steepness of its bed. He postulated that a glacier is a viscous body whose movement is due to the mutual pressure of its parts. (DICT. SCIENT. BIOGR.)



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PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

Summer: The leader of the conservative party in [Lucerne](#), Joseph Leu von Ebersol, was murdered in his bedroom.

[William Chapman Hewitson](#) and Mr. John Hancock made an excursion into the [Swiss Alps](#) during which they were able to collect a series of Diurnal Lepidoptera. News of this would appear in the [Zoologist](#).





THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

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PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1846

Konstantin Siegwart-Müller, conservative mayor of [Lucerne](#), was the leader of the *Sonderbund* (special alliance) of conservative cantons. So far, the conflict between conservatives and liberals had not been a question of denomination, but of purely political preference. Major Protestant cantons like [Zürich](#) and [Berne](#) had a conservative cantonal government. At this point the *Sonderbund* reactivated similar older alliances dating back to the religious civil wars of 1529, 1531, 1656, and 1712. When the secret *Sonderbund* alliance became public, this brought in a denominational aspect and strengthened the liberal forces in Protestant [Berne](#), [Geneva](#), and [Basel](#).



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WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

September: Late in this year Lola Montez danced in München, where King Ludwig I became infatuated with her. As his mistress and as countess of Landsfeld she would influence him toward liberal and anti-Jesuit policies. Both radical and clericalist factions would become incensed at the influence she would wield.

There was a report in a [Swiss](#) newspaper that the [German](#) Christian F. Schönbein had been able to degrade ordinary [cotton](#) into a substance more explosive than gunpowder.²⁹ Placing a “drachm” of this substance into a gun barrel, the good Professor was able to send a ball through three inches of deal plank some 600 feet away. The newspaper presented this under the headline “Explosive Cotton — Gunpowder Superseded.” In America, the [Scientific American](#) magazine referred to this as an “article of the humbugguous class.” The report had been, unfortunately, all too accurate: a quantity of cotton so degraded had already been presented to the Basle Society of Natural History and had already been tested as a propellant for deadly globules of lead. Soon the newspaper reports would be becoming slightly more accurate, as witness this report from [The Mystery](#):³⁰



EXPLOSIVE COTTON

Two German Philosophers have discovered a mode of preparing Cotton so as to give it all the properties of Gunpowder. The mode of preparing it is thus explained:

“In order to obtain explosive cotton, I steed it for half a minute in strongly concentrated nitric acid, which I prepare by the distillation of ten parts of dry saltpetre and six parts of the oil of vitriol. I then wash it immediately in water, renewing the water so as to get rid entirely of the acid, taking care to separate the portions which adhere too closely together. It is then dried and the process is thus completed. The effects of this preparation have astonished all who have

29. After several decades of experimentation to make it more stable, guncotton would supercede black powder in many of its applications.

30. Incidentally, cotton is the sort of stuff that can be degraded into carbohydrates and sugars as well. The English might find some use for this new lead-propellant on the island of [Ireland](#), where it seemed there was a local concentration of [Irish](#), more of them than anyone really had any use for — but in this universe so exquisitely designed by God, this popular surplus would prove to be the sort of problem that can solve itself merely through inattention!



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witnessed them. The smallest quantity of this cotton placed upon an anvil, and struck with a hammer, produces and explosion equal to that of fulminating mercury. When a light is set to it, it explodes like gunpowder, and in a gun produces all the effects of gunpowder in much smaller quantities. The explosive cotton is to be used precisely the same way as gunpowder. It is made into a kind of plug, after which a wadding is introduced, as with gunpowder, and over this the ball is placed, and all are rammed down with a ramrod. The explosion of the capsule produces that of cotton."

Experiments have been made with the prepared cotton by several European governments, all of which have tested the invention satisfactorily. Two ounces of the prepared cotton are found to have as much force as three ounces of gunpowder.

Mr. Von Schmidt, of New York, also claims to have made the same discovery, and the cotton prepared by his mode, has been tested by the War Department at Washington with complete success.

The advantages of this cotton over gunpowder are: 1st. It is cheaper. 2d. It is unattended with danger in its preparation. 3d. It can be transported with more ease and safety. 4th. It is cleaner when it explodes, it leaves neither smell nor dirt behind. 5th, It is not injured by wet, after being thoroughly soaked, and dried again, it explodes as well as ever.

This invention will work an entire revolution in the shooting business, in a very short time.



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PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1847

[Giuseppe Mazzini](#) founded the People's International League.

A civil war, the *Sonderbundskrieg*, began with an attack by troops of Sonderbund upon the [Swiss](#) conservative alliance, and would result in the following year in the transformation of [Switzerland](#) into a federal state. It would also result in 86 dead soldiers and 500 wounded soldiers, and the exile of the defeated conservative leader to [Italy](#).

In a scientific journal called *L'Institut*, the [Italian](#) chemist Ascanio Sobrero announced the invention of "nitroglycerin," a powerful but unstable new explosive (on a scale of 1 to 100, top-quality 19th-Century nitroglycerin measured at 73). In 1864 [Alfred Nobel](#) would devise a way of mass-producing this chemical, rename it "blasting oil," and begin aggressively marketing it for use in North American, Australian, and European mines. Improper handling and storage—water vapor makes nitroglycerin horribly explosive—would quickly cause a rash of accidental explosions. While this was not a problem for the owners of the Central Pacific Railroad and the Canadian Pacific Railway who saw no problem with having employees use nitroglycerin to build railroads through the North American West because the employees in question were merely gangs of contract Chinese, the risks—at least 600 Chinese died in British Columbia alone—frightened most non-industrial users. To reduce the risk and increase his sales, Nobel would develop several safer explosives and powders. The first would be the "Dynamite Nr. 1" which he would patent in 1866. Dynamite Number 1 consisted of 75% nitroglycerin and 25% kieselguhr, a clay-like diatomaceous soil often used as a packing material. Its relative power index was 62. While this substance had a tendency to "sweat" out drops of pure nitroglycerin, comparatively it was indeed more stable, and would quickly become the standard chemical explosive for the European construction and mining industries.



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1848

PRINCIPLES OF ZOÖLOGY: TOUCHING THE STRUCTURE, DEVELOPMENT, DISTRIBUTION AND NATURAL ARRANGEMENT OF THE RACES OF ANIMALS, LIVING AND EXTINCT; WITH NUMEROUS ILLUSTRATIONS. FOR THE USE OF SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES. PT. I. COMPARATIVE PHYSIOLOGY. BY [LOUIS AGASSIZ](#), AND [AUGUSTUS A. GOULD](#) (Boston: Gould, Kendall and Lincoln. 59, Washington Street).³¹

PRINCIPLES OF ZOÖLOGY, I

[Dr. Gould](#) became a member of the Phi Beta Kappa Society.

The [Swiss](#) federal constitution. Although [Lucerne](#) had played a major role in the old Swiss confederacy and had been proposed earlier in the 19th Century for the federal capital, [Berne](#) was chosen due to Lucerne's opposition to this new constitution.

[Theodore Sedgwick Fay](#) would function as the United States's Chargé d'Affaires during the sittings of the German Parliament at Frankfort. There would occur what was referred to as the "[Neuchâtel](#) Affair," having to

31. Most of the illustrations for this had been prepared by Louis François de Pourtalès (1824-1880), who had followed Professor Agassiz from Switzerland and at this point was joining the US Coast Survey (eventually he would become custodian of Harvard University's Museum of Comparative Zoology).



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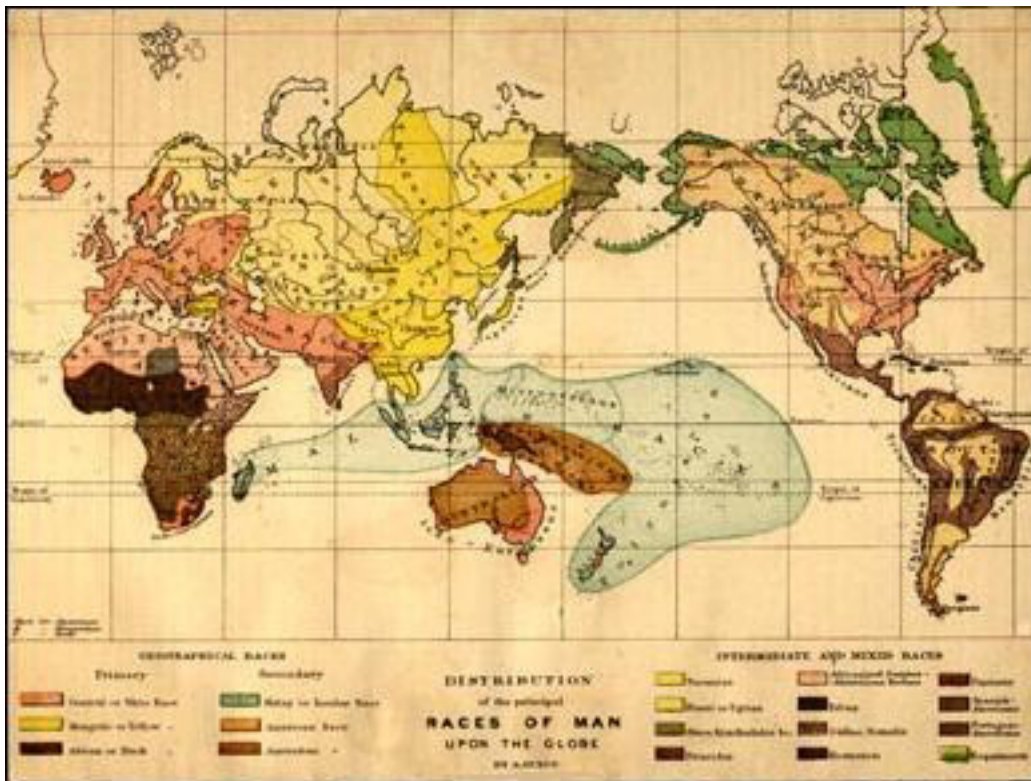
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do with the peculiar relationship in which the Canton of Neuchâtel had stood in regard to Prussia, since it had in 1707 fallen by inheritance under Prussian control. In this year Prussia gave tacit consent for the canton to ally itself with the Swiss Confederation.

When the [Academy of Neuchâtel](#) closed due to the political unrest of this year's European politics, [Louis Agassiz](#) suggested to [Arnold Henri Guyot](#) that he emigrate to the United States. He gave a series of lectures at the Lowell Institute in Boston titled "The Earth and Man" which would in the following year become the basis for a text of the same name.



In front of Nassau Hall at [Princeton University](#) now stands the Guyot boulder, a glacial erratic that would be



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sent by Guyot's former students at the [Academy of Neuchâtel](#).



THE SCIENCE OF 1848



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1849

January 26, Friday: Thomas Beddoes committed suicide in [Basel, Switzerland](#).



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1850

August 28, Thursday: Richard Wagner's *Lohengrin*, a romantische Oper was performed for the initial time, at the Hoftheater in Weimar, Germany, despite the fact that the author, after the failure of the German revolution, was still in hiding in [Switzerland](#). It was directed by Franz Liszt, and this was of course [Johann Wolfgang von Goethe](#)'s birthday. The theater was full of artistic luminaries including [Giacomo Meyerbeer](#), Robert Franz, Joseph Joachim, and Hans von Bülow.



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1853

March 16, Wednesday: On this day [Henry Thoreau](#) made no journal entry.

[Theodore Sedgwick Fay](#) was nominated as Minister Resident for [Switzerland](#) and Liechtenstein. He would present his credentials in [Berne](#) on June 29th, and would serve until 1861.

Handwritten signature of Theodore Sedgwick Fay.



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1856

[Theodore Sedgwick Fay](#)'s VIEWS OF CHRISTIANITY. In this year he was able to successfully mediate between [Switzerland](#) and Prussia when the Swiss police discovered a conspiracy of Prussian nobles in [Neuchâtel](#), to deliver that canton back into the hands of Prussia, and incarcerated them. The government of William IV of Prussia threatened armed intervention unless these Prussian nobles were released, and both sides began preparations for war. Then Fay showed up, acting entirely without instruction or sponsorship or authorization, on his own initiative as a concerned private citizen — and managed to calm this thing down.³²

A Daniel Webster anecdote first surfaced, in Willey's INCIDENTS IN WHITE MOUNTAIN HISTORY, as follows: "Said an eccentric speaker, at a celebration a few years since in Fryeburg, 'Men put out signs representing their different trades; jewellers hang out a monster watch; shoemakers, a huge boot; and, up in Franconia, God Almighty has hung out a sign that in New England he makes men.'" This comment by this "eccentric speaker" would be repeated in various guidebooks, until eventually, as a piece of famous oratory, it would be ascribed to the famous orator, Daniel Webster.

The firm of [Thomas Cook](#) pleonastically advertised its first "grand circular tour of the continent."³³ His London-originating "tour-ists" would have stopovers in Antwerp, Brussels, the battlefield at Waterloo, Cologne, the River Rhine and its political boundaries, Mayence, Frankfort, Heidelberg, Baden-Baden, Strasbourg, Paris, and Le Havre. Soon he and his son would be offering tours of [Switzerland](#), and even tours of the United States of America.



[How inane it is to protest] that places of rare interest should be excluded from the gaze of the common people, and be kept only for the interest of the "select" of society. But it is too late in this day of progress to talk such exclusive nonsense, God's earth with all its fullness and beauty, is for the people; and railways and steamboats are the result of the common light of science, and are for the people also.... The best of men, and the noblest minds, rejoice to see the people follow in their foretrod routes of pleasure.



THE GRAND TOUR

32. Some politicians sallied that he should be recalled in disgrace for having exceeded his authority. Cooler heads responded that it might be difficult to disgrace him once his unauthorized action had come to be recognized as so utterly effective and helpful.

33. Etymologically, to "tour" involves an eventual return to one's point of origin; touring, unlike travel, is inevitably circular.



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[Arnold Henri Guyot](#) founded at [Princeton University](#) what is now the Princeton Museum of Natural History, and would continue to contribute specimens to it until his death. In Guyot Hall also are his handwritten labels of the glacial erratic stones he collected in the 1840s in [Switzerland](#) (the specimens themselves have disappeared). While Professor [Louis Agassiz](#) of Harvard University, a fair-weather Unitarian, in *ESSAY ON CLASSIFICATION* advocated a theory of multiple creations that contradicted both evolution and the story of Noah's ark, calling for a virtual infinitude of miracles, Guyot, an evangelical Presbyterian, insisted that God had made only three-count-'em-three intrusions into the natural order, specially creating matter –then life – then humans. The Presbyterian [geologist](#) John William Dawson followed his mentor Charles Lyell in positing successive creations in various “centres” but stopped short of insisting that “all groups of individual animals, which naturalists may call species, have been separate products of creation.” Professor Agassiz would on more than one occasion frustrate his scientific colleagues by refusing to speculate on how any species might have come into existence. Agassiz's Harvard colleague Jeffries Wyman would once demand of him, “When a mammal was created, did the oxygen, hydrogen, nitrogen, and carbon of the air, and the lime, soda, phosphorus, potash, water, etc., from the earth come together and on the instant combine into a completely formed horse, lion, elephant, or other animal?” — observing that if the answer to such a question were yes, then “it will be easily seen that the answer is entirely opposed by the observed analogies of nature.” The ichthyologist Theodore N. Gill, likewise complaining about the “vague and evasive” responses which these non-evolutionists were providing, demanded that they answer the following questions: “Did elemental atoms flash into living tissues? Was there vacant space one moment and an elephant apparent the next? Or did a laborious God mould out of gathered earth a body to then endue with life?”

The 1st volume of Joseph Arthur, *comte de Gobineau*'s 1853-1855 *ESSAI SUR L'INEGALITÉ DES RACES HUMAINES* appeared in English translation in the United States of America, bearing the title *THE MORAL AND INTELLECTUAL DIVERSITY OF RACES*. The [Swiss](#)-American Henry Hotze, who had just moved to Mobile, Alabama and had been assisted in this effort by [Dr. Josiah Clark Nott](#), had substantially edited the volume to shift its emphasis away from inequality of races and toward the difference created by the separate development of the races.

RACISM



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1857

The Milan-Venice railway was completed, thus linking Venice by rail with other important (if less wonderful) European capitals.

[Herman Melville](#) continuing on tour abroad, arrived in Palestine.³⁴ Edward Dahlberg has described this visit in the following manner:



Melville traveled to the Holy Land for surcease and grace, to tarry at the sepulcher, at Bethesda, to gaze at Kedron's flow; but stayed to repine at the scrofulous Cavalry relics, the cross-mongers, "Cloaca of remotest day." Melville found an impious, lousy Gethsemane.

Meanwhile, stateside, his THE CONFIDENCE-MAN: HIS MASQUERADE appeared. This is a long tale now seldom read except by literature grad students, in which "an impression of Thoreau" as "Egbert" has been said to function as a minor character.³⁵



Within a few months after the publication of this book a partner at the Dix & Edwards publishing house dipped his hand in the till, and the firm was forced out of business.

During this year or the following one, [Melville](#) would continue on tour abroad, visited [Italy](#), [Switzerland](#), [Germany](#), and the Netherlands, return to England, and sail for home. In the US again, he would lecture on crowd-pleasing topics such as "Statues in Rome." It must have been entirely wearing.

Samuel Langhorne Clemens, intending to go to the Amazon, journeyed down the Mississippi toward New Orleans and met the steamboat pilot Horace Bixby. He became a pilots' apprentice.

34. You may consult this in JOURNAL OF A VISIT TO EUROPE AND THE LEVANT, 1856-1857, edited by Howard C. Horsford in 1955.



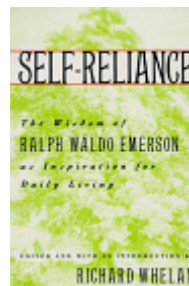
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35. [Melville](#) also satirized Ralph Waldo Emerson as “Mark Winsome.” To his perception, in their writings these two had presented false characters of themselves to the world. They had not actually **been** their literary personae:

Their so-called “philosophy” masks Yankee shrewdness and cold-blooded selfishness under the names of plain dealing and self-reliance.



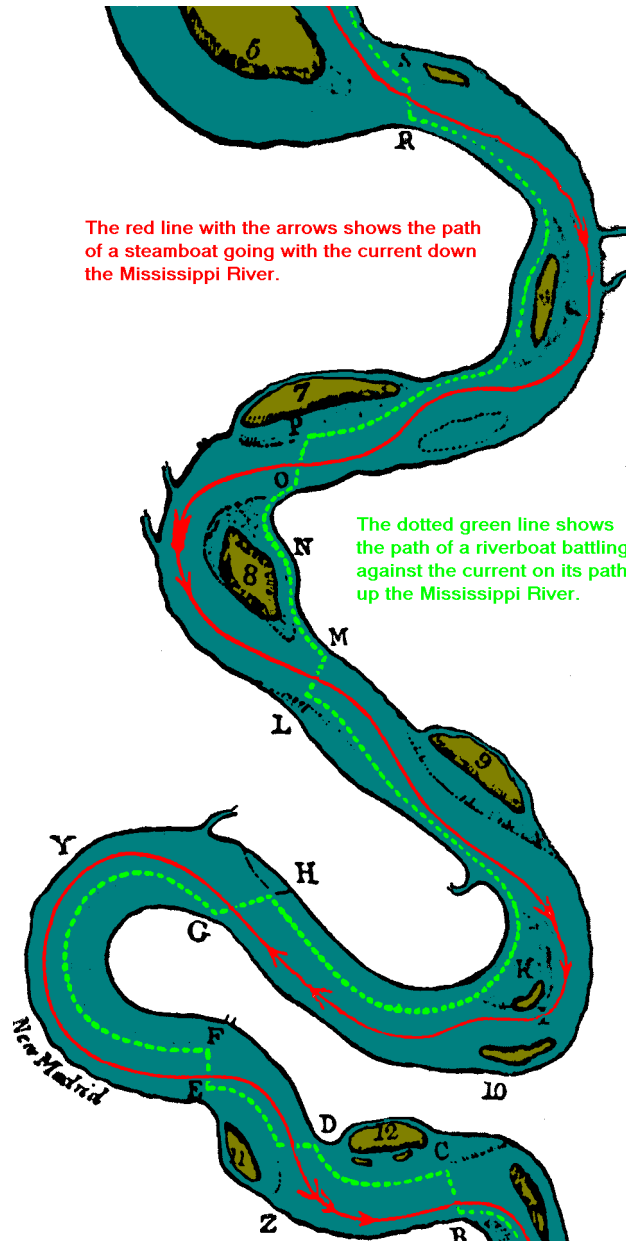
The “whodunit” in this book is alleged to be that the reader needs to figure out which of the passengers on the river boat is the confidence trickster, with the suspicion being allowed that all of them are tricksters in the sense that each person negotiates his or her way through life by projecting a persona for his or her own purposes. Big wow. If this writing indicates anything to me at all, however, it indicates that [Melville](#) didn’t know [Henry Thoreau](#)’s thought very well, although the line “War would be left to the red and black ants” in Melville’s story “The Armies of the Wilderness” does suggest that this author had made at least a superficial scan of the “Brute Neighbors” chapter in WALDEN.

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David Livingstone's book of MISSIONARY TRAVELS was published. He had sent back to Europe a dried tsetse fly *Glossina palpalis* (Isaiah 7:18-25) and a portrait of this "scourge" appeared on the frontispiece. The head of the fly had come off in transport and had been remounted, so in this frontispiece the head of the tsetse actually is upside down. At that time it was supposed that the fly was deadly to domestic livestock because it injected a debilitating poison, and nothing was known of the *Trypanosoma brucei* microorganism of which it is the vector. It is, of course, entirely due to the protection of a band across middle Africa from the depredations of humans bringing domestic livestock that we owe the continued existence of so many of the large veldt animals of Africa, such as the lion, the elephant, the rhinoceros, etc. And it is, of course, entirely due to the



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fact that this region of Africa has been protected from us that we refer to the tsetse (named after its buzzing sound) as a “scourge” and have been attempting repeatedly to eradicate it.



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[Giuseppi Mazzini](#) helped plot the Carlo Pisacane landing in the Reggio Calabria of [Italy](#) — which proved to be a disaster.



Demolition, in New-York, of the Broadway Tabernacle, a Congregational church on Worth St. near Broadway erected in 1836, which had hosted the annual meetings of numerous moral reform groups during the 1830s and 1840s. The congregation had built a new tabernacle further up Broadway. (I don't have an image of what the

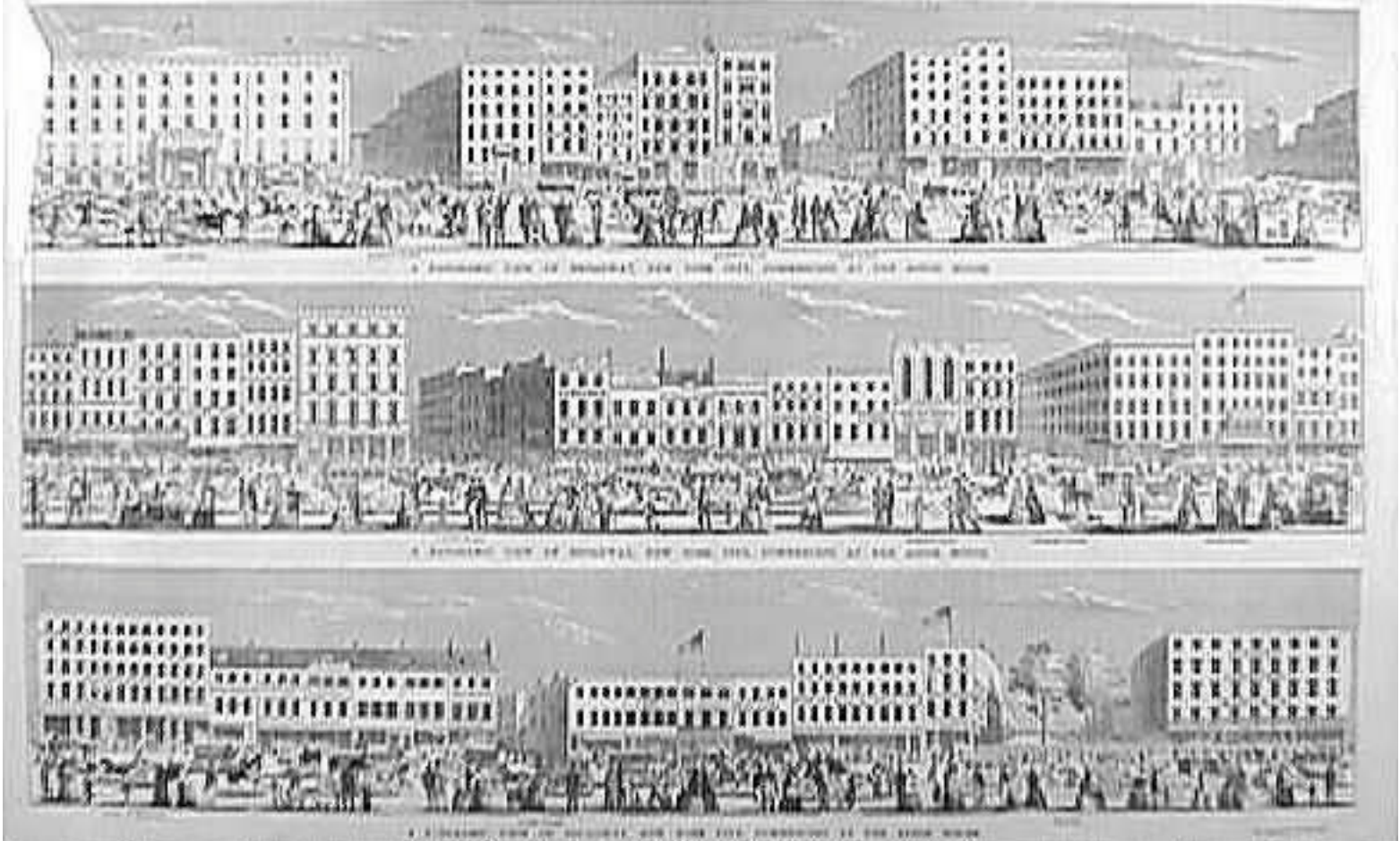
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avenue looked like in 1857, but what follows is how it would appear in 1860.)



April/May: Late in April, [Herman Melville](#) toured [Switzerland](#), [Germany](#), and the Netherlands.

In Nicaragua, Commander C.H. Davis of the United States Navy, with some marines, received the surrender of William Walker and his gang of [filibusters](#), who had been attempting to get control of the country, thus protecting these Americans from the retaliation of the native allies who had been opposing their intrusion.

[US MILITARY INTERVENTIONS](#)



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1859

In [Switzerland](#), a railway line from [Basel](#) reached [Lucerne](#).

Professor [James David Forbes](#)'s OCCASIONAL PAPERS ON THE THEORY OF GLACIERS, NOW FIRST COLLECTED AND CHRONOLOGICALLY ARRANGED, with a prefatory note on the recent progress and present aspect of the theory (Edinburgh: R. and R. Clark for Adam and Charles Black). He was appointed as the successor to Sir David Brewster in the principalship of the United College of St Andrews.

July 20, Wednesday: In a letter from Montreux, Canton de Vaud, Switzerland to Charles Wesley Slack, the Reverend [Theodore Parker](#) informed Slack that Charles Sumner would not be able to return to lecture soon without making himself an invalid, and discussed Edwin McMasters Stanton as a presidential candidate.

[Richard Henry Dana, Jr.](#) started on a trip around the world (ending September 27, 1860). As an aging man he reminisced 24 years subsequent to the one great boyish adventure of his life:

AND NOW, FOR SOMETHING ENTIRELY DIFFERENT, A REPORT FROM OUR SAILOR:

It was in the winter of 1835-6 that the ship *Alert*, in the prosecution of her voyage for hides on the remote and almost unknown coast of California, floated into the vast solitude of the Bay of San Francisco. All around was the stillness of nature. One vessel, a Russian, lay at anchor there, but during our whole stay not a sail came or went. Our trade was with remote Missions, which sent hides to us in launches manned by their Indians. Our anchorage was between a small island, called Yerba Buena, and a gravel beach in a little bight or cove of the same name, formed by two small projecting points. Beyond, to the westward of the landing place, were dreary sand-hills, with little grass to be seen, and few trees, and beyond them higher hills, steep and barren, their sides gullied by the rains. Some five or six miles beyond the landing-place, to the right, was a ruinous Presidio, and some three or four miles to the left was the Mission of Dolores, as ruinous as the Presidio, almost deserted, with but few Indians attached to it, and but little property in cattle. Over a region far beyond our sight there were no other human habitations, except that an enterprising Yankee, years in advance of his time, had put up, on the rising ground above the landing, a shanty of rough boards, where he carried on a very small retail trade between the hide ships and the Indians. Vast banks of fog, invading us from the North Pacific, drove in through the entrance, and covered the whole bay; and when they disappeared, we saw a few well-wooded islands, the sand-hills on the west, the grassy and wooded slopes on the east, and the vast stretch of the bay to the southward, where we were told lay the Missions of Santa Clara and San Jose, and still longer stretches to the northward and northeastward, where we understood smaller bays spread out, and large rivers poured in their tributes of waters. There were no settlements on these bays or rivers, and the few ranchos and Missions were remote and widely separated. Not only the neighborhood of our anchorage, but the entire region of the great bay, was a solitude. On the whole coast of California there was not a lighthouse, a beacon, or a buoy, and the charts were made up from old and disconnected surveys by British, Russian, and Mexican voyagers. Birds of prey and passage swooped and dived about us, wild beasts ranged through the oak groves, and as we slowly floated out of the harbor with the tide, herds of deer came to the water's edge, on the northerly side of the entrance, to gaze at the strange spectacle.

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July 20: The little Holbrook boy showed me an egg which I unhesitatingly pronounced a peewee's, given him by Joe Smith. The latter, to my surprise, declares it a meadow-hen's; saw the bird and young, and says the latter were quite black and had hen bills. Can it be so?

Humphrey Buttrick says he finds snipes' nests in our meadows oftener than woodcocks'.

P. M.—To Eddy Bridge.

Abel Hosmer says that the Turnpike Company did not fulfill their engagement to build a new bridge over the Assabet in 1807; that the present stone bridge was not built till about the time the Orthodox meeting-house was built. (That was in 1826.) Benjamin says it was built soon after the meeting-house, or perhaps 1827, and was placed some fifty feet higher up-stream than the old wooden one.

Hosmer says that the eddy and wearing away of the bank has been occasioned wholly by the bridge; that there was only the regular bend there before. He had thought that it was in consequence of the bridge being set askew or diagonally with the stream, so that the abutments turned the water and gave it a slant into the banks, thus:



I think that this did not create, only increased, the evil. The bank which it has worn away rises some sixteen feet above low water, and, considering the depth of the water, you may say that it has removed the sand to a depth of twenty-five feet over an area of a quarter of an acre, or say to the depth of three feet or a yard over two acres, or 9680 cubic yards or cartloads, which, at twenty-five cents per load, it would have cost \$2420 to move in the ordinary manner, or enough to fill the present river for a quarter of a mile, calling it six rods wide and twelve feet deep. Beside creating some small islands and bars close by, this sand and gravel has, of course, been distributed along in the river and on the adjacent meadows below. Hosmer complains that his interval has accordingly been very much injured by the sand washed on to it below,—“hundreds of dollars” damage done to him. All this within some thirty-five [Or thirty-two?] years.

It may well be asked what has become of all this sand? Of course it has contributed to form sand-bars below, possibly a great way below.

Jacob Farmer tells me that he remembers that when about twenty-one years old he and Hildreth were bathing in the Assabet at the mouth of the brook above Winn's, and Hildreth swam or waded across to a sandbar (now the island there), but the water was so deep on that bar that he became frightened, and would have been drowned if he had not been dragged out and resuscitated by others. This was directly over where that island is now, and was then only a bar beginning under water. That island, as he said, had been formed within thirty-five years, [Farrar (blacksmith) does not remember such a change.] or since the Eddy Bridge was built; and I suggest that it may have been built mainly of the ruins of that bank. It is the only island in the Assabet for two and a half miles.

There is a perfect standstill in the eddy at Eddy Bridge now, and there is a large raft of grass, weeds, and lumber perfectly at rest there, against Hosmer's bank. The coarser materials—stones as big as a hen's egg—are dropped close by, but the sand must have been carried far down-stream.

Hosmer says that when he digs down in his millet-field, twenty rods or more from the river, in his interval at three or four feet depth he comes to coarse stones which look like an old bed of the river. I see them at each of the small wooden bridges, and very likely they underlie the whole of that interval, covered with sand. Such is the character of a river-bottom,—the stones from a hen's egg to the size of your head dropped down to one level, the sand being washed away, and now found in one stratum.

So completely emasculated and demoralized is our river that it is even made to observe the Christian Sabbath, and Hosmer tells me that at this season on a Sunday morning [He should rather say Monday morning.] (for then the river runs lowest, owing to the factory and mill gates being shut above) little gravelly islands begin to peep out in the channel below. Not only the operatives make the Sunday a day of rest, but the river too, to some extent, so that the very fishes feel the influence (or want of influence) of man's religion. The very rivers run with fuller streams on Monday morning. All nature begins to work with new impetuosity on Monday.

I see where turtles' eggs are still being dug up!



THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN **WALDEN**



THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1860

[Theodore Sedgwick Fay](#)'s HISTORY OF [SWITZERLAND](#).

THE COTTAGES OF THE ALPS: OR, LIFE AND MANNERS IN [SWITZERLAND](#). BY THE AUTHOR OF PEASANT LIFE IN GERMANY [i.e., [Anna C. Johnson](#)] WITH ILLUSTRATIONS (New York: Charles Scribner). THE COTTAGES OF THE ALPS: OR, LIFE AND MANNERS IN [SWITZERLAND](#). BY A LADY. ILLUSTRATED WITH THE CRESTS OF THE CANTONS. IN TWO VOLUMES (London: Sampson Low, Son, & Co., 47, Ludgate Hill).

Summer: Edwin Morton returned from [Switzerland](#) and commenced the study of law in [Plymouth](#).



THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1861

July 1, Monday: [Theodore Sedgwick Fay](#) had since 1853 been Minister Resident for [Switzerland](#) and Liechtenstein, at Berne. Upon the election of Abraham Lincoln as president, however, for political reasons, he felt he needed to resign. He would reside during his retirement at Berlin.

On this night and the following night, a maximum tail length of 118 degrees were being reported for the great [comet II Tebbutt](#). The tail was reaching south, from the head directly below Polaris near the northern horizon, to well past the zenith of the southern skies, and was all night rotating about the pole.

SKY EVENT

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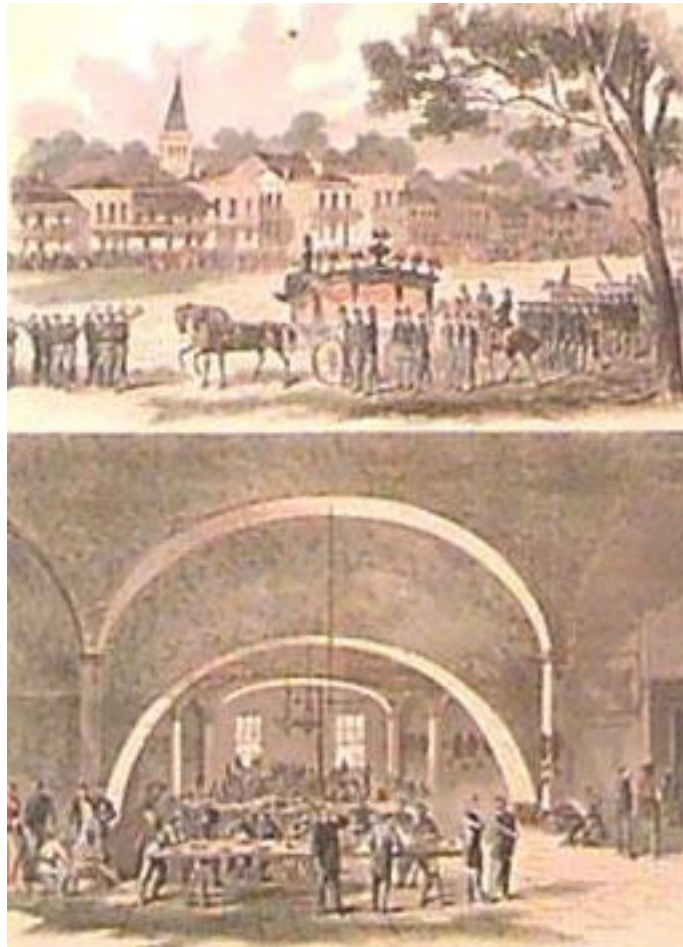
THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1862

July: This is what New Orleans looked like in roughly this early war period:



The Reverend [Moncure Daniel Conway](#)'s new book *THE GOLDEN HOUR*, an elaboration on his "The Golden Hour" sermon, amounted to a 178-pages missive to President Abraham Lincoln proposing that he utilize his war powers to decree an end to enslavement in these United States of America.³⁶

THE GOLDEN HOUR

Albeit Conway was becoming somewhat less sanguine about Lincoln becoming the Graceful Emancipator at this point, than he had before, nevertheless the Reverend still was gracelessly holding out to people locked in mortal combat the utterly preposterous and counterfactual illusion that if the southern slaves were set free by proclamation at long range, then the Southern resistance would of necessity collapse — and all this killing

36. Among the many books offered by Ticknor and Fields at the back of this volume, Henry D. Thoreau's *WALDEN* appeared as 1 volume, 16 mo. for \$1.⁹⁰ and *A WEEK ON THE CONCORD AND MERRIMACK RIVERS* as 1 volume, 12 mo. for \$1.²⁵.

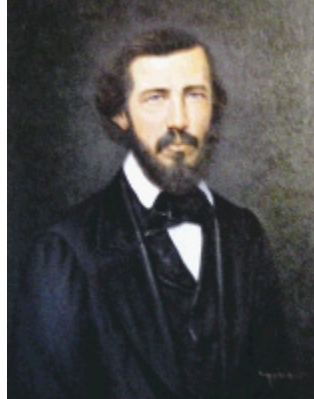


THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

would of necessity be suddenly over.



Conway was going around declaring stupid stuff like that if the announcement were made, those darkies would beat their African tom-toms and the good news would get all the way down the Mississippi River to New Orleans before it even could arrive by telegraph wire. Along the way Conway attempted to deploy the memory of [Henry Thoreau](#) in a most intriguing manner:

The naturalist Thoreau used to amuse us much by thrusting his hand into the Concord River, and drawing out at will a fine fish, which would lie quietly in his hand: when we thrust in ours, the fish would scamper out of reach. It seemed like a miracle, until he explained to us that his power to take up the fish depended upon his knowledge of the color and location of the fish's eggs. The fish will protect its spawn; and when Thoreau placed his hand underneath that, the fish, in order to protect it, would swim immediately over it, and the fingers had only to close for it to be caught. Slavery is the spawn out of which the armed forces of treason and rebellion in the South have been hatched; and by an inviolable instinct they will rush, at any cost, to protect Slavery. You have only, Sir, to take Slavery in your grasp, then close your fingers around the rebellion.

This is enough to remind one of what certain of our irritated and frustrated professional warmongers would be saying during the Vietnam War: that once we had firmly grabbed them by their gonads their hearts and minds would of necessity follow.

[Waldo Emerson](#) was really buying into this sort of Fantasy Island stuff about the efficacy of warfare.



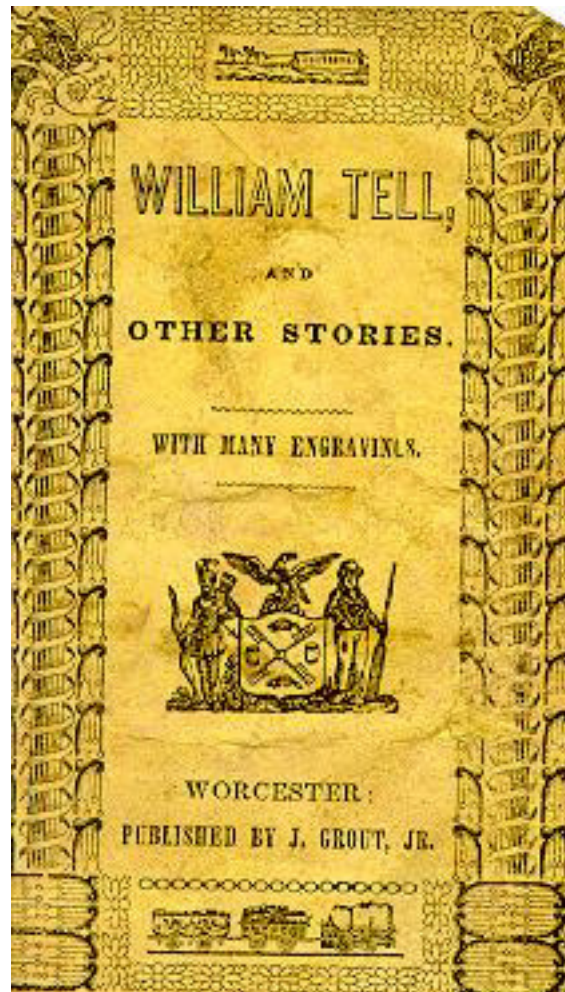
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THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

The Atlantic Monthly, however, reported sad news, that the authenticity of the story of Winkelried and his “sheaf of Austrian spears,” a necessary part of the story of [William Tell](#), had been cast into the shadow of doubt, owing to the fact 1.) that somebody had noticed that said events had gone unmentioned in contemporary documents and chronicles, and owing to the fact 2.) that somebody had noticed that the Halbsuter poem recounting said events actually had plagiarized a previous poem which had made no mention of such events, and owing to the fact that 3.) somebody had notice that actually this Halbsuter poet had not been a citizen of the fair commune of [Lucerne](#).



Nothing is safe from the debunkers!

This stuff about [Tell](#) was presumably of great interest to the American audience, because during Thoreau’s lifetime some 40,000 [Swiss](#) had emigrated to America, out of a population of about 2,500,000. (People still play around with this legend. For instance, on January 16, 2001, at a circus performance in Paris,



THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

Mme Cathy Jamet has been shot in the face by a crossbow arrow fired by her husband M Alain Jamet.)



During this month Sgt. Brown, the real or original subject of the song “John Brown’s Body,” a shortie, drowned while attempting to ford the Rappahannock with his unit.

JULIA WARD HOWE



THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1864

The [Geneva](#) Convention for the treatment of prisoners of war was signed. (This is the one that we've recently been ignoring, Wubya making the claim that such niceties do not apply to an all-out effort against an unprincipled enemy, such as our Crusade in Iraq –excuse me– “War On Terror.”)



THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1865

A first road was built alongside Lake Lucerne.



THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1866

[Alphonse Louis Pierre Pyramus de Candolle](#) retired from his involvement in public service in the [Geneva](#) city government.

Sabine Baring-Gould pointed out, in *CURIOUS MYTHS OF THE MIDDLE AGES*, published in this year in London, that Saxo Grammaticus, a writer of the 12th Century, had told a “[William Tell](#)” story in regard to a hero of his own country, Denmark, an archer named Toki who had for some time been in the service of the wicked King Harald Bluetooth (died 1066 CE fighting the English at the Battle of Stamford Bridge), who had on account of superior virtue caused his comrades to become consumed with jealousy. One day he drank too much, and boasted that with his 1st arrow he could hit a very small apple atop a stick at some distance. His comrades passed his boast on to Harald, who maliciously ordered him to make good on his boast, with his own son in place of the stick — and if he should miss the apple he was to pay with his head. Toki had his son stand facing away from him, took out three arrows, and with his first shot carried away the apple. Harald asked why three arrows rather than one, and he went: “That I might avenge on thee the error of the first, by the points of the others, lest my innocence might happen to be afflicted, and thy injustice go unpunished.”

Baring-Gould also pointed out that this same incident had been told of Egil, brother of the mythical Velundr, in the *SAGA OF THIDRIK*.

Baring-Gould also pointed out that another Norse archer, Hemingr, was challenged by King Harald Bluetooth on a densely wooded island. Harald jabbed a spear vertically into the soil, as his target, and then shot an arrow straight up. The arrow came back down and fixed itself in the butt of the spear. So, Hemingr then shot his own arrow into the air — and when it came down it pierced the nick of Harald’s arrow. As his next target, Harald stuck a knife in the trunk of an oak. The king’s arrow stuck in the haft of the knife. While Hemingr prepared to shoot, the king noticed that his arrows were inlaid with gold: “You are a capital workman.” Hemingr explained: “They are not of my manufacture, but are presents.” When he shot, his arrow cleft the haft of the knife, with the point entering the socket of the blade. As his next target Harald pierced a tender twig, but then Hemingr split a hazelnut, and at a greater distance. The king set up a deadly spear contest: “Take a nut and set it on the head of your brother Bjorn, and aim at it from precisely the same distance.” He added that if Hemingr would be executed if he missed. Hemingr was going to refuse to endanger his brother, but Bjorn went: “Shoot, brother, rather than die yourself.” The king told Oddr Ufeig’s son to stand by Bjorn and see that the shot was fair. Hemingr then stood at the distance assigned to him by Harald, and made the sign of the cross, saying: “God be my witness that I had rather die myself than injure my brother Bjorn; let all the blame rest on King Harald.” Then he flung the spear. The spear knocked the nut off as it flashed by the crown of his brother’s head. (Years later, when at the Battle of Stamford Bridge an English arrow took Harald in the wind-pipe, it would be supposed that this was the arrow of Hemingr, since he had gone into the service of the English monarch.)

Baring-Gould also pointed out that King Olaf the Saint (died 1030 CE), trying to convert the heathen Eindridi to Christianity, first had a swimming race with him, and then wrestled him, and then engaged him in an archery



THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

contest. King Olaf had in this story proposed that their target be a writing-tablet on top of Eindridi's son's head. Two attendants bound the eyes of the lad and held the ends of the cloth so as to steady him should he hear the whistle of the arrow. The king's arrow grazed the boy's head, then, with the father preparing to launch his arrow, the mother persuaded King Olaf to relent. Eindridi would have sought revenge had his son been injured.

Baring-Gould also pointed out that actually, a story very like the [Swiss "William Tell"](#) thingie can also be found in any number of versions, in countries as remote as Persia, Iceland, and Finland.

(People still enact the tradition. For instance, on January 16, 2001, at a circus performance in Paris, Mme Cathy Jamet has been shot in the face by a crossbow arrow fired by her husband M Alain Jamet.)





THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1868

[Josiah Gilbert Holland](#)'s KATRINA: HER LIFE AND MINE, IN A POEM, which would outsell all other American poems with the single exception of [Henry Wadsworth Longfellow](#)'s HIAWATHA (sales exceeded 99,000 copies), bringing the author means that, as a child in a factory, he would hardly have been able to imagine. He traveled in Europe and met Russel Smith, with whom on a memorable occasion, on a bridge in [Geneva](#), he would scheme to start a magazine.

KATRINA: HER LIFE AND MINE

(We really ought to conduct a determined investigation, and discover what was the last year in which anyone managed to read this once-upon-a-time-next-best-selling KATRINA poem.)



THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1869

January: Friedrich Nietzsche was offered the position of professor at [Basel](#) University.

April: Settling in [Basel](#), Friedrich Nietzsche became a [Swiss](#) citizen.



THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1871

January: Professor Friedrich Nietzsche applied for the chair of philosophy at [Basel](#) University.

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THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1874

In England, C.R. Write created [heroin](#) by boiling [morphine](#). What a boon it would be if this would turn out to be less dangerous and less addicting than morphine!

The 1st milk [chocolate](#) was produced by Daniel Peter in [Switzerland](#), using the condensed milk perfected by his compatriot Henri Nestle. (It still needed work. For instance, using milk would mean that the processors would need to be careful about the usual sorts of infections carried by this product, such as the microorganism which we would name the “*Salmonella*” after a Dr. Daniel Elmer Salmon who was the boss of its discoverer, Theobald Smith — and appropriated his underling’s discovery.)

Probably, by this point in time, this undated Currier & Ives print having to do with the William Tell story was in circulation:





THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1875

Milk [chocolate](#) was perfected by Daniel Peter in [Switzerland](#). (To get it exactly right in combination with the condensed milk produced by his compatriot Henri Nestle, Peter had been experimenting for eight years.)

[Cadbury](#) produced the 1st [chocolate](#) Easter Eggs.



THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1876

February: Professor Friedrich Nietzsche discontinued teaching at [Basel University](#).

April: Professor Friedrich Nietzsche visited [Geneva](#) and proposed to Mathilde Trampedach. He finished work on his Wagner essay so UNTIMELY MEDITATIONS could be published.³⁷

37.  Friedrich Nietzsche. *UNZEITGEMÄßE BETRACHTUNGEN* (UNTIMELY MEDITATIONS or THOUGHTS OUT OF SEASON), 1876



THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1877

September: Professor Friedrich Nietzsche returned to [Basel](#) to finish HUMAN, ALL TOO HUMAN.³⁸

38.  Friedrich Nietzsche. *MENSCHLICHES, ALLZUMENSCHLICHES* (HUMAN, ALL-TOO-HUMAN), sections 517-8 in Volumes VIII-IX of the Musarion Verlag edition, 1878-1879



THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1879

Rodolphe Lindt of [Berne, Switzerland](#) produced for the first time a [chocolate](#) which would melt on the tongue. This was an idea whose time finally had come!

[Cadbury](#) in England began construction of its garden factory in January and completed it by the autumn. The name “Bournville” was assigned — from Bourn, the name of the stream on the estate, plus *ville*, all things Frenchy being considered *à la mode* at the time.

May: Continuation of serial publication of [Fyodor Mikhaylovich Dostoevski](#)’s THE BROTHERS KARAMAZOV in The Russian Herald: Book V, 1-4 (Ivan introduces the Grand Inquisitor.)

Professor Friedrich Nietzsche resigned his position at [Basel University](#).



THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1881

July: Friedrich Nietzsche went to [Sils Maria](#) in [Switzerland](#).



THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1884

July: Friedrich Nietzsche went to [Sils Maria](#) in [Switzerland](#) to work on the manuscript for the 3d book of what would become his *ZARATHUSTRA*.³⁹

The child is innocence and forgetting, a new beginning, a game,
a self-propelled wheel, a first movement, a sacred "Yes."
("On the Three Metamorphoses," Kaufmann translation, page 139)

39. Friedrich Nietzsche. *ALSO SPRACH ZARATHUSTRA, EIN BUCH FÜR ALLE UND KEINEN*; 1961, *THUS SPOKE ZARATHUSTRA*, tr. R.J. Hollingdale, Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1982c (1883-1885)




THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1886

September: Frederick Douglass and Helen Pitts Douglass began an extended tour of England, Ireland, France, [Switzerland](#), [Italy](#), [Egypt](#), and Greece. They wouldn't be back until August of the following year.


Brewster records that in this month of this year in Concord, the last American Passenger Pigeon  *Ectopistes migratorius* to be sighted there was destroyed.

Friedrich Nietzsche's BEYOND GOOD AND EVIL.⁴⁰ In evaluating this work, consider it in conjunction with the advice [Henry David Thoreau](#) offered for such target shooting in one of his letters, "Aim above morality," and compare it with Thoreau's 1841 journal entry, "The best thought is not only without somberness, but even without morality. The universe lies outspread in floods of white light to it. The moral aspect of nature is a jaundice reflected from man. To the innocent there are no cherubim nor angels. Occasionally we rise above the necessity of virtue into an unchallengeable morning light, in which we have not to choose in a dilemma between right and wrong, but simply to live right on and breathe the circumambient air. There is no name for this life unless it be the very vitality of vita. Silent is the preacher about this, and silent must ever be, for he who knows it will not preach."

To help you form an impression, whether there was a soul affinity between Nietzsche and Thoreau, I will include here a snippet about hermiting from this volume:

In the writings of a hermit one always hears something of the echo of the desolate regions, something of the whispered tones and the furtive look of solitude; in his strongest words, even in his cry, there still vibrates a new and dangerous kind of silence – of burying something in silence. When a man has been sitting alone with his soul in confidential discord and discourse, year in and year out, day and night; when in his cave – it may be a labyrinth or a gold mine – he has become a cave bear or a treasure digger or a treasure guard and dragon; then even his concepts eventually acquire a twilight color, an odor just as much of depth as of must, something incommunicable and recalcitrant that blows at every passerby like a chill.

The hermit does not believe that any philosopher – assuming that every philosopher was first of all a hermit – ever expressed his real and ultimate opinions in books: does one not write books precisely to conceal what one harbors? Indeed, he will doubt whether a philosopher could **possibly** have "ultimate and real" opinions, whether behind every one of his caves there is not, must not be, another deeper cave – a more comprehensive, stranger, richer world beyond the surface, an abysmally deep ground behind every ground, under every attempt to furnish "grounds." Every philosophy is a foreground philosophy – that is a hermit's judgement: "There is something arbitrary in his

40.  Friedrich Nietzsche. *JENSEITS VON GUT UND BÖSE* (BEYOND GOOD AND EVIL), in *THE PORTABLE NIETZSCHE*, NY: Viking Press, 1982b (1886)



THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

stopping **here** to look back and look around, in his not digging deeper **here** but laying his spade aside; there is also something suspicious about it." Every philosophy also **conceals** a philosophy; every opinion is also a hide-out, every word also a mask.

HERMITS



THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:


WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1887

April-May: Friedrich Nietzsche traveled in Cannobio, [Zürich](#), and Chur.

June: Friedrich Nietzsche went to [Sils Maria](#) in [Switzerland](#) and there worked on THE GENEALOGY OF MORALS.⁴¹

41.  Friedrich Nietzsche. *ZUR GENEALOGIE DER MORAL* (THE GENEALOGY OF MORALS: AN ATTACK), NY: Vintage Books, 1967b (1887)




THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1888

June: Friedrich Nietzsche left for [Sils Maria](#) in [Switzerland](#). There he began TWILIGHT OF THE IDOLS.⁴²

42.  Friedrich Nietzsche. *DIE GÖTZEN-DÄMMERUNG ODER WIE MAN MIT DEM HAMMER PHILOSOPHIERT* Volume XVII of the Musarion Verlag edition; THE TWILIGHT OF THE IDOLS, OR HOW ONE PHILOSOPHIZES WITH A HAMMER, Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1968a (1889)



THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1889

January: Friedrich Nietzsche collapsed in the street in Turin. Overbeck came to Turin to escort him back to [Basel](#), where he would undergo treatment. The “*Schreibkugel*” or typewriter of Hans Rasmus Johann Malling Hansen that had been used by Nietzsche and his secretary is preserved at the *Abbildung Nationale Forschungs- und Gedenkstätten der klassischen deutschen Literatur* in Weimar.⁴³

January 13, Sunday: Friedrich Nietzsche’s mother Franziska arrived in [Basel](#).

January 17, Thursday/18, Friday: Friedrich Nietzsche was taken to Jena for treatment.

43. For a first-class color photograph and description, see “*Nietzsches Schreibkugel und seine Sekretärinnen*,” pages 288-9 and pages 293-311 in Kittler, Friedrich A., *GRAMMOPHON FILM TYPEWRITER*, Brinkmann & Bose, Berlin, 1986.



THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1891

June 22, Monday: While with his parents for their summer vacation in Europe, [John Robinson Jeffers](#) was enrolled in kindergarten in [Zürich](#).



THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1892

June: While with his parents for their summer vacation in Europe, [John Robinson Jeffers](#) was enrolled in Kindergarten in [Lucerne](#).

When [Robert Frost](#) graduated from Lawrence High School, he shared valedictorian honors with [Elinor Miriam White](#).





THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1893

April 4, Tuesday: [Alphonse Louis Pierre Pyramus de Candolle](#) died in [Geneva](#).



THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1896

June 23, Tuesday: A “[William Tell](#) Bank” was patented by Russell Frisbie of Cromwell, Connecticut:



To operate this bank, one pulls the gun's hammer back and inserts a coin in the slot on the top of the gunbarrel. In doing this, the head of William Tell lowers as if he is taking careful aim. When one presses the right arm of the boy down, this brings a yellow apple to the top of his head. For optional sound effects, a paper explosive cap of the type used in play cap pistols may be placed inside the gun barrel. To deposit the coin in the bank, one presses on the father's right foot. The head of the father recoils backward and the cap explodes as the coin knocks the apple from the son's head and the coin, entering the aperture, strikes against a bell inside.⁴⁴



THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

This brightly colored and immensely popular iron toy savings bank was initially distributed as a promotional item by the local bank of Cromwell, Connecticut.

WALDEN: While these things go up other things come down. Warned by the whizzing sound, I look up from my book and see some tall pine, hewn on far northern hills, which has winged its way over the Green Mountains and the Connecticut, shot like an arrow through the township within ten minutes, and scarce another eye beholds it; going

"to be the mast
Of some great ammiral."

44. An actual 400+ grain "quarrel" or "bolt" discharged from an actual 700-pound draw military crossbow would reach a velocity of 130-140 feet per second. That's not as fast as a speeding bullet, but plenty fast enough to put a part in your son's hair. (Modern fiberglass crossbows can achieve 200 feet per second. Neither modern nor ancient crossbows can be dry-snapped without a quarrel as they may very well tear themselves into flying fragments.) Here is an actual quarrel from a 15th-Century German crossbow:





THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

WALDEN: Far through unfrequented woods on the confines of towns, where once only the hunter penetrated by day, in the darkest night dart these bright saloons without the knowledge of their inhabitants; this moment stopping at some brilliant station-house in town or city, where a social crowd is gathered, the next in the Dismal Swamp, scaring the owl and fox. The startings and arrivals of the cars are now the epochs in the village day. They go and come with such regularity and precision, and their whistle can be heard so far, that the farmers set their clocks by them, and thus one well conducted institution regulates a whole country. Have not men improved somewhat in punctuality since the railroad was invented? Do they not talk and think faster in the depot than they did in the stage-office? There is something electrifying in the atmosphere of the former place. I have been astonished at the miracles it has wrought; that some of my neighbors, who, I should have prophesied, once for all, would never get to Boston by so prompt a conveyance, were on hand when the bell rang. To do things "railroad fashion" is now the by-word; and it is worth the while to be warned so often and so sincerely by any power to get off its track. There is no stopping to read the riot act, no firing over the heads of the mob, in this case. We have constructed a fate, an *Atropos*, that never turns aside. (Let that be the name of your engine.) Men are advertised that at a certain hour and minute these bolts will be shot toward particular points of the compass; yet it interferes with no man's business, and the children go to school on the other track. We live the steadier for it. We are all educated thus to be sons of Tell. The air is full of invisible bolts. Every path but your own is the path of fate. Keep on your own track, then.

PEOPLE OF
WALDEN

WILLIAM TELL



THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

The toy taught generations of little children that they needed to trust their parents –really really trust them– or, it taught them that one the one hand there were human relations, that were one thing, and on the other hand, there was money, which was another thing entirely. (We have all of us been educated thus as sons of Tell.)

(People still play around with this legend. For instance, on January 16, 2001, at a circus performance in Paris, Mme Cathy Jamet has been shot in the face by a crossbow arrow fired by her husband M Alain Jamet.)





THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1900

Edwin Morton died in [Morges, Switzerland](#).

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THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

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July 28, Saturday: In [Zurich](#), [Albert Einstein](#) received his diploma from the Eidgenossische Technische Hochschule.

In New Haven, Connecticut, Louis Lassing invented the hamburger.



In [Beijing](#), the Roman Catholic [Xu Jingcheng](#), formerly the ambassador to Russia, Germany, Austria, and Holland, was decapitated at Caishikou Execution Grounds for having positioned himself in opposition to the Boxer faction of the Imperial Court, and the head was placed on display.



THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

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PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1902

[Benito Mussolini](#) emigrated to [Switzerland](#) but was unable to find a lasting job and was expelled back to [Italy](#), where he enlisted in the military.

[Harry S Truman](#) worked for a couple of weeks in the mailing room of the [Kansas City Star](#) and then took a job as a timekeeper for L.J. Smith on the Santa Fe Railroad construction project.

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THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

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1903

FINALLY THE AMERICAN NATURE-BOY ENCOUNTERS THE Swiss NATURE-BOY:

In this year Maurice Muret commented about the Princesse de Polignac's translation of 35 pages of the "Economy," "Solitude," and "Reading" chapters of **WALDEN** into the French language:

Voltaire écrivait à *Rousseau*: "Vous me donnez envie de marcher à quatre pattes." L'ermite de Walden mérite le même ... compliment.

(As Mrs. Charlotte Haze commented to Humbert Humbert her dodgy lodger, "I just adore the French tongue, don't you?")





THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1907

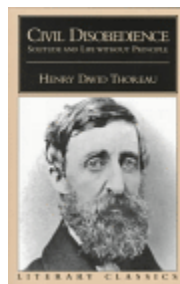
Bubonic Plague killed 1,200,000 in [India](#).

[Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi](#), a British-educated [Indian](#) lawyer in prison in Pretoria, South Africa, read "RESISTANCE TO CIVIL GOVERNMENT":



The Thoreau-Gandhi entente has ... become a straw for Indo-American amity for both nations to clutch at on appropriate occasion. The Thoreau Centennial provided such an occasion in 1962, and the Indian Ambassador to the United States made a whole log out of this straw when he delivered his address at the dedication of Malvina Hoffman's bust of Thoreau in the Hall of Fame at New York University.

Thoreau's essay titled "Civil Disobedience" was republished in a South African newspaper [Indian Opinion](#) which Gandhi was editing.



The leading anarchist journal in the US, [Liberty](#), began to claim "Civil Disobedience" as an "anarchist classic." However, these people were still focusing more upon [Waldo Emerson](#) and Walt Whitman than upon [Henry Thoreau](#). (And they were paying no attention at all to actual US legal enactment and precedent.)



Publication of the Reverend James Wood's THE NUTTALL ENCYCLOPÆDIA BEING A CONCISE AND COMPREHENSIVE DICTIONARY OF GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CONSISTING OF OVER 16,000 TERSE AND ORIGINAL ARTICLES ON NEARLY ALL SUBJECTS DISCUSSED IN LARGER ENCYCLOPÆDIAS, AND SPECIALLY DEALING WITH SUCH AS COME UNDER THE CATEGORIES OF HISTORY, BIOGRAPHY, GEOGRAPHY, LITERATURE, PHILOSOPHY, RELIGION, SCIENCE, AND ART:

THE SEVEN SAGES OF GREECE:

- [Solon of Athens](#), his motto "Know thyself"
- [Chilo of Sparta](#), his motto "Consider the end"
- [Thales of Miletus](#), his motto "Whoso hateth suretyship is sure"
- [Bias of Priene](#), his motto "Most men are bad"
- [Cleobulus of Lindos](#), his motto "Avoid extremes"

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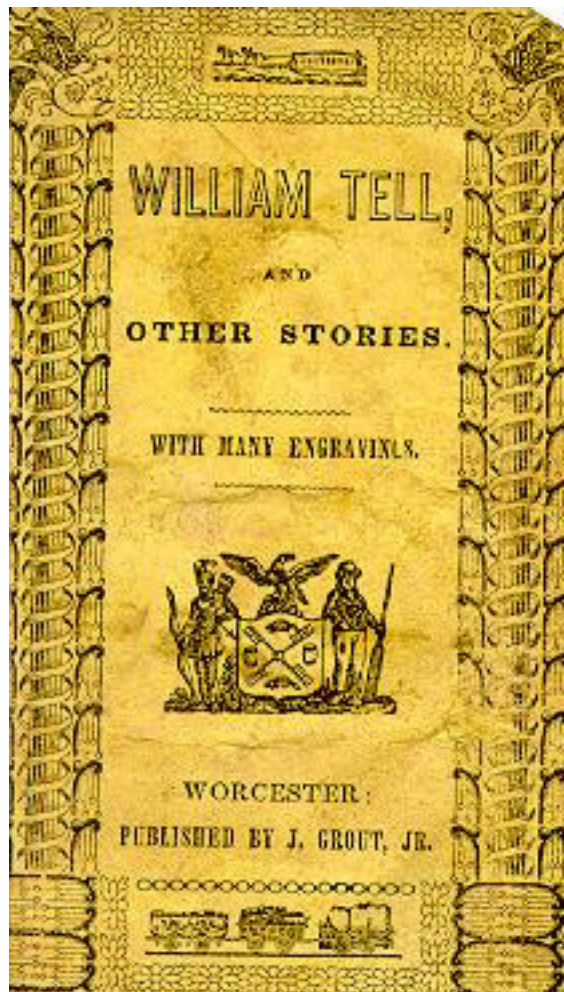
THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

- [Pittacus of Mitylene](#), his motto "Seize Time by the forelock"
- [Periander of Corinth](#), his motto "Nothing is impossible to industry."

[WILLIAM TELL](#), Swiss hero and patriot, a peasant, native of the canton of [Uri](#), who flourished in the beginning of the 14th century; resisted the oppression of the Austrian governor Gessler, and was taken prisoner, but was promised his liberty if with his bow and arrow he could hit an apple on the head of his son, a feat he accomplished with one arrow, with the second arrow in his belt, which he told Gessler he had kept to shoot him with if he had failed. This so incensed the governor that he bound him to carry off to his castle; but as they crossed the lake a storm arose, and Tell had to be unbound to save them, when he leapt upon a rock and made off, to lie in ambush, whence he shot the oppressor through the heart as he passed him; a rising followed, which ended only with the emancipation of [Switzerland](#) from the yoke of Austria.





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PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

(People still play around with this legend. For instance, on January 16, 2001, at a circus performance in Paris, Mme Cathy Jamet has been shot in the face by a crossbow arrow fired by her husband M Alain Jamet.)





THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1909

In a suggested change to the law in [Switzerland](#), the offense of bestiality was intentionally omitted. (And suddenly, it wasn't such a lonely place anymore?)



THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

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1919

June: After years of conflict, the Nobel festival resumed. No [Nobel Peace Prize](#) was awarded in this year, not because there wasn't anyone to give it to, but obviously because all the people it might have been given to had been ruled out or vetoed for sensitive reasons: Keir Hardie and Bertrand Russell in Britain; the French Socialist leader, Jean Jaures, who was assassinated for his hostility to the conflict; the German Socialist member of parliament, Karl Liebknecht, who voted against war credits in the Reichstag and declared that "a patriot was an international blackleg," and his colleague Rosa Luxemburg, who was imprisoned for her fiery anti-war speeches; and the unknown Russian duo, Lenin and Trotsky, who had convened a European conference in the [Swiss](#) town of [Zimmerwald](#) to oppose the war, obviously were objectionable as recipients of any prize.

But, will there now be a return to normalcy? Will conflict be no more? Will no more dynamite ever explode anymore, anywhere?

WORLD WAR I



ALFRED NOBEL

Well, even if there were no dynamite, we'd still be blowing up! During this month, Lord Rutherford, one of those inquisitive types, was busily transforming some nitrogen atoms into oxygen atoms — a first step toward understanding how to suddenly release large quantities of energy without making use of the chemical bond.

ATOM BOMB

Brace yourselves, folks, what goes 'round gonna be comin' 'round.

WORLD WAR II



THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

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PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1920

The League of Nations established itself in [Geneva, Switzerland](#).



THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

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PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1923

At the age of 20, [John von Neumann](#) presented a definition of ordinal numbers (this definition has been universally adopted). He took the entrance exam for 2nd year standing in the chemical engineering program at the prestigious Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule in [Zürich](#) — at which [Albert Einstein](#) had famously, in 1895, initially failed the entrance exam. In spite of the fact that he often cut class, he would achieve a perfect grade of 6 in each of his courses (organic chemistry, inorganic chemistry, analytical chemistry, experimental physics, higher mathematics, and French) during his 1st semester of Winter 1923/1924.





THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1925

Great Britain, the USA, and [Germany](#), among other nations, agreed in principle to a proposed [Geneva](#) Protocol renouncing first use of biological weapons. Isn't that nice?

WORLD WAR II

Although this Protocol prohibited the use of chemical and biological agents, it omitted to mention any halt to research and development of these agents.

Despite this, for some reason [Japan](#) was unwilling to be a party to this treaty. Were they up to something?

Also, although the United States became a signatory, a full half century would elapse before our Senate would be willing to ratify the signature of our diplomat. Were we up to something?



GERM WARFARE

Oh, gosh, Mr. Pogo, you don't suppose we have met the enemy and they are us?

In this year the German Jewish couple who would become the parents of [Anne Frank](#) married and settled in Frankfurt, [Germany](#).



THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1926

After studying chemistry in a non-degree program at the University of Berlin for a couple of years, [John von Neumann](#) had transferred to the chemical engineering program at the *Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule* in [Zürich](#), and at this point was awarded simultaneously a diploma in chemical engineering there and, for his dissertation about axiomatization of the set theory that had been developed by George Cantor, a PhD in mathematics from the University of Budapest. He was 22. After receiving these diplomas he went over to the university in Göttingen, Germany to attend to some other interests. Theories had begun to appear in the quantum mechanics of [atomic particles](#), attempting to deal with some discrepancies that were showing up when scientists attempted to use purely Newtonian physics to describe their observations at this level of tininess. One of these discrepancies has to do with the wavelengths of light that atoms can absorb and emit: hydrogen, for example, although it can absorb energy at 656.3 nm, 486.1 nm, 434.0 nm, or 410.2 nm, curiously does not absorb energy at wavelengths in between. Newton would have predicted that an electron orbiting the nucleus in an atom ought to radiate all wavelengths of light, therefore losing energy and quickly falling into the nucleus. Since, very clearly, this was not what was happening in the real world, Max Plank had in 1900 introduced a new theory of “quanta” according to which energy could be emitted only in very specific packets. Two competing theories had arisen to describe the nature of an atom which could only absorb and emit energy in specific quanta. Erwin Schrödinger had proposed that the electron in hydrogen, like a string in a musical instrument which emits a specific tone along with overtones, would have a certain “tone” at which it would emit energy. He had created a wave equation that correctly described the wavelengths of light that hydrogen did emit. Werner Heisenberg, Max Born, and Pascual Jordan, however, at Göttingen, had put their focus on the position and momentum of an electron in an atom. Since these values were not directly observable (only the light emitted by that atom could be observed) they might actually be exhibiting some behavior very unlike the motion of a Newtonian particle and we’d be none the wiser. The scientists at Göttingen had theorized that the values of position and momentum should be described by mathematical constructs other than ordinary numbers. They made use of matrices and matrix algebra to describe the motion of the electron. These two systems had, however, been already demonstrated to be mathematically equivalent to each other. Von Neumann set out to discover what it was that these mathematically equivalent models, wave mechanics and matrix mechanics, had in common.





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Through a more rigorous mathematical approach he wanted to find a new theory, more fundamental and powerful than the other two. He abstracted the two systems using an axiomatic approach, in which each logical state is the definite consequence of the previous state. Von Neumann constructed the rules of “abstract Hilbert space” to aid in his development of a mathematical structure for quantum theory. His formalism of the subject allowed considerable advances to be made by others and even predicted strange new consequences, such as that consciousness and observations alone can affect electrons in the laboratory.

But this was just something our guy was doing in his spare time for fun. Beginning in this year and continuing into 1929, [John von Neumann](#) became a *privatdocent* (lecturer) at the University of Berlin. He was working also on operator theory.



THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1929

A [Geneva](#) Convention agreed to a set of principles on the decent treatment of Prisoners of War. (Citizens in prison for refusing military conscription weren't regarded as prisoners of war — maybe they were "enemy noncombatants" or something.)

[Germany](#) formally ratified the [Geneva](#) Protocol we had all agreed to in principle in 1925 renouncing first use of biological weapons. Isn't that nice? (Gee, what were they up to?)



GERM WARFARE

Oh, wait a minute. Our diplomat had agreed in principle, but our Senate hadn't yet approved his signature. Our Senate wouldn't approve his signature for half a century. (Gee, what are we up to?)

It was announced that [penicillin](#) had been discovered by [Alexander Fleming](#) on a September morning in the previous year. We were going to need that, as soon as we realized what it might accomplish and as soon as we would become able to produce enough of it.



THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1930

Great Britain and the USA decided to follow the example of [Germany](#), and formally ratified the [Geneva](#) Protocol they had agreed to in principle in 1925 renouncing first use of biological weapons. Isn't that nice?

GERM WARFARE



Disney/ABC radio personality Paul Harvey doesn't think it's nice. He thinks it is a serious mistake for us to be trying to play Mr. Nice Guy. Mr. Nice Guy, according to Paul Harvey, Disney, and ABC, finishes last, and we're going to finish last too, unless we mend our ways and become again as ruthless as we were before:



"For what it's worth, after the attack on Pearl Harbor, [Winston Churchill](#) told the American people, "We didn't come this far because we are made of sugar candy," and that reminder was taken seriously. We proceeded to develop and deliver the time bomb, the bomb. Even though roughly 150,000 men women and children perished in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, with a single blow [WWII](#) was over. Following New York's September 11 Pearl Harbor [Winston Churchill](#) was not here to remind us. That we didn't come this far because we're made of sugar candy.



So, we mustered our humanity. We gave old pals a pass. Even though men and women from Saudi Arabia were largely responsible for the devastation of New York, and Pennsylvania and our Pentagon, we called Saudi Arabians our partners against terrorism and we sent men with rifles into Afghanistan and Iraq, and kept our best weapons in their silos. Even now, we stand there dying. Daring to do nothing decisive because we've declared ourselves to be better than our terrorist enemies. More moral, more civilized. Our image is at stake, we insist. But we didn't come this far because we're made of sugar candy. Once upon a time, we elbowed our way onto and across this continent by [giving smallpox-infected blankets to Native Americans](#). That was [biological](#)



THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

warfare. And we used every other weapon we could get our hands on to grab this land from whomever. And we grew prosperous. And yes, we greased the skids with the sweat of slaves. So it goes with most great nation-states, which -feeling guilty about their savage pasts- eventually civilize themselves out of business and wind up invaded and ultimately dominated by the lean, hungry up-and-coming who are not made of sugar candy.

- Disney/ABC radio personality Paul Harvey, expressing family values on June 23, 2005

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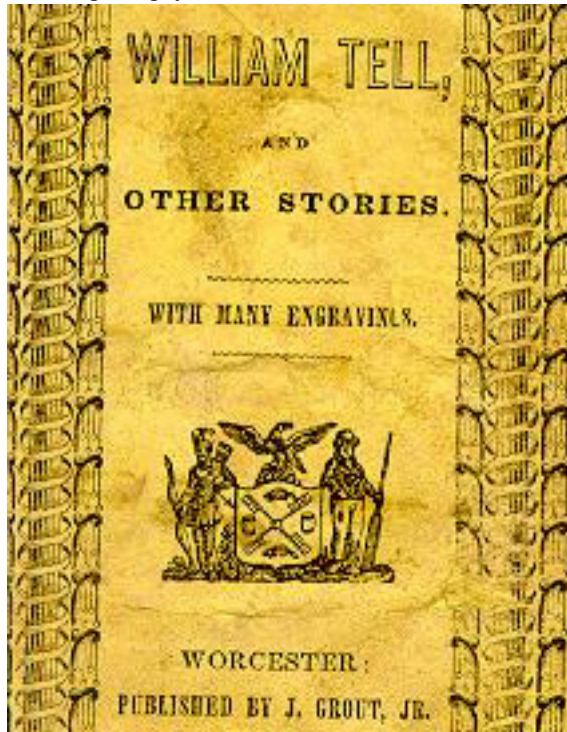
THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1933

January 31, Tuesday: The 1st performance of “The Lone Ranger,” on WXYZ radio out of Detroit, Michigan. It was only appropriate that they exploit the tune from the [William Tell](#) Overture by Gioacchino Rossini as the theme music, since the guy in the white hat in this Western drama was, like the famous [Swiss](#) marksman, a straight shooter — he would always blast the bad guy’s gun right out of his hand, disarming him and causing him to give in to the good guys.⁴⁵



45. This is almost true — actually, in the course of the radio series, the Lone Ranger was portrayed as killing exactly one man. (The Lone Ranger thus supposedly racked up the same total body count as William Tell, who also supposedly killed exactly one guy, the Austrian governor Gessler.)



THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1934

The [Swiss](#) Parliament enacted a Bank Secrecy Law the purpose of which, ostensibly, was to protect the bank accounts of German Jews trying to survive under the Nazi regime.⁴⁶

46. The difficulties the surviving family members of murdered Jews would have, in getting their family assets returned to them after WWII, would cause some to suspect the honesty of this declared intention.

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THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

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PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

Great Britain decided to hedge its bets. Sure, it and the USA had decided in 1930 to follow the example of [Germany](#) and formally ratify the [Geneva](#) Protocol they had all agreed to in principle in 1925, renouncing 1st use of biological weapons. But who knew what those nasty Germans were actually up to? So the decision was, better that we be prepared, and do all the harmless research that needs to be done in the techniques and mechanisms of germ warfare, so that we'll be "ready to respond" — if Germany should turn out to have been tricking us!

[GERM WARFARE](#)[WORLD WAR II](#)



THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1939

[Switzerland](#) began to use DDT to control the Colorado Potato Beetle.

About 200 worked ivory fragments, roughly 32,000 years old, were found in the Hohlenstein-Stadel cave in Germany (three decades later the pieces would be reassembled as statue of a lion-headed man).

THE SCIENCE OF 1938

PALEONTOLOGY



THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

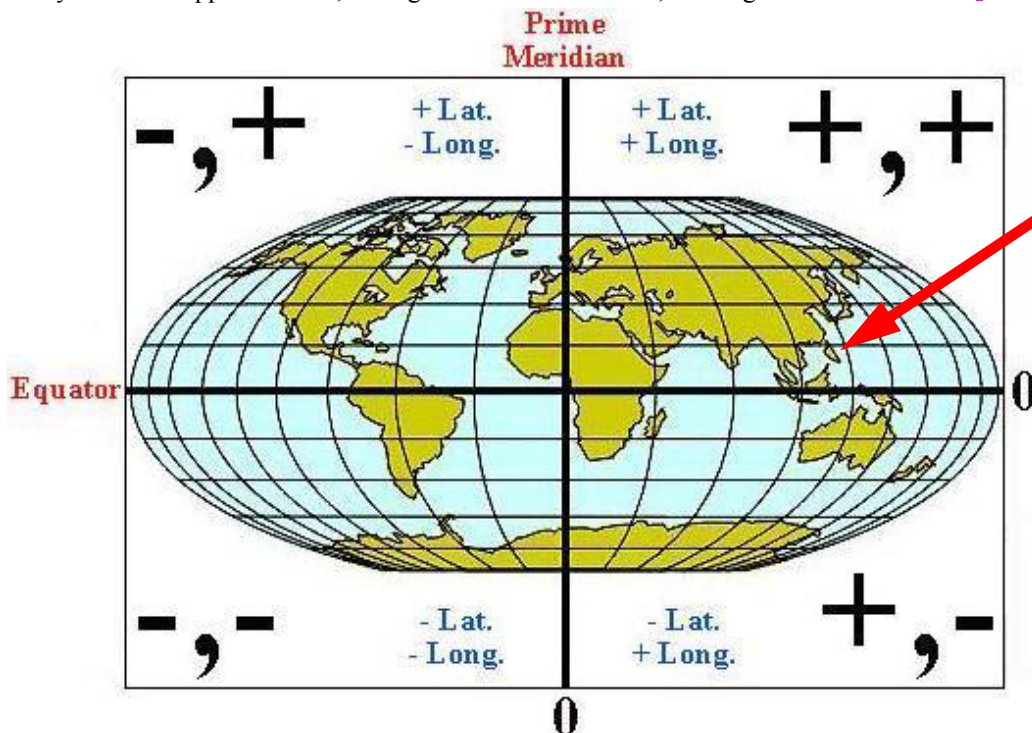
WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1942

January 20, Tuesday: Soviet troops captured Mozhaisk, 170 kilometers west of Moscow.

The United States naval vessel PT-31 was damaged by grounding and sunk by United States forces in the vicinity of the Philippine Islands, 14 degrees 45 minutes North, 120 degrees 13 minutes East.



The Japanese submarine I-124 was sunk by destroyer *Edsall* (DD-219) and three Australian corvettes off Port Darwin, Australia.

SS Leader Reinhard Heydrich held a conference in the appropriated mansion of a Jew in Grossen-Wannsee, a pricey suburb of East Berlin, to coordinate the “Final Solution (*Endlösung*) of the Jewish Question (*Judenfrage*).” There were 15 Nazi bureaucrats in attendance including Herr Adolf Eichmann, chief of Jewish affairs for the Reich Central Security Office (*Reichssicherheitshauptamt*)

ANTISEMITISM
WORLD WAR II

Stamp: Top Secret

30 copies
16th copy

Minutes of discussion.



THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

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PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

I.

The following persons took part in the discussion about the final solution of the Jewish question which took place in Berlin, am Grossen Wannsee No. 56/58 on 20 January 1942.

Gauleiter Dr. Meyer
and Reichsamtleiter
Dr. Leibbrandt

Reich Ministry for the Occupied
Eastern territories

Secretary of State Dr. Stuckart

Reich Ministry for the Interior

Secretary of State Neumann

Plenipotentiary for the
Four Year Plan

Secretary of State Dr. Freisler

Reich Ministry of Justice

Secretary of State Dr. Bühler

Office of the Government General

Under Secretary of State
Dr. Luther

Foreign Office

SS-Oberführer Klopfer

Party Chancellery

Ministerialdirektor Kritzinger

Reich Chancellery

SS-Gruppenführer Hofmann

Race and Settlement Main Office

SS-Gruppenführer Müller
SS-Obersturmbannführer Eichmann

Reich Main Security Office

SS-Oberführer Dr. Schöngarth
Commander of the Security Police
and the SD in the
Government General

Security Police and SD



THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

SS-Sturmbannführer Dr. Lange Security Police and SD
Commander of the Security Police
and the SD for the General-District
Latvia, as deputy of the Commander
of the Security Police and the SD
for the Reich Commissariat "Eastland".

II.

At the beginning of the discussion Chief of the Security Police and of the SD, SS-Obergruppenführer Heydrich, reported that the Reich Marshal had appointed him delegate for the preparations for the final solution of the Jewish question in Europe and pointed out that this discussion had been called for the purpose of clarifying fundamental questions. The wish of the Reich Marshal to have a draft sent to him concerning organizational, factual and material interests in relation to the final solution of the Jewish question in Europe makes necessary an initial common action of all central offices immediately concerned with these questions in order to bring their general activities into line. The Reichsführer-SS and the Chief of the German Police (Chief of the Security Police and the SD) was entrusted with the official central handling of the final solution of the Jewish question without regard to geographic borders. The Chief of the Security Police and the SD then gave a short report of the struggle which has been carried on thus far against this enemy, the essential points being the following:

- a) the expulsion of the Jews from every sphere of life of the German people,
- b) the expulsion of the Jews from the living space of the German people.

In carrying out these efforts, an increased and planned acceleration of the emigration of the Jews from Reich territory was started, as the only possible present solution.

By order of the Reich Marshal, a Reich Central Office for Jewish Emigration was set up in January 1939 and the Chief of the Security Police and SD was entrusted with the management. Its most important tasks were

- a) to make all necessary arrangements for the preparation for an increased emigration of the Jews,
- b) to direct the flow of emigration,
- c) to speed the procedure of emigration in each individual case.

The aim of all this was to cleanse German living space of Jews in a legal manner.

All the offices realized the drawbacks of such enforced accelerated emigration. For the time being they had, however, tolerated it on account of the lack of other possible solutions of the problem.



THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

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PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

The work concerned with emigration was, later on, not only a German problem, but also a problem with which the authorities of the countries to which the flow of emigrants was being directed would have to deal. Financial difficulties, such as the demand by various foreign governments for increasing sums of money to be presented at the time of the landing, the lack of shipping space, increasing restriction of entry permits, or the cancelling of such, increased extraordinarily the difficulties of emigration. In spite of these difficulties, 537,000 Jews were sent out of the country between the takeover of power and the deadline of 31 October 1941. Of these

approximately 360,000 were in Germany proper on 30 January 1933
approximately 147,000 were in Austria (Ostmark) on 15 March 1939
approximately 30,000 were in the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia on 15 March 1939.

The Jews themselves, or their Jewish political organizations, financed the emigration. In order to avoid impoverished Jews' remaining behind, the principle was followed that wealthy Jews have to finance the emigration of poor Jews; this was arranged by imposing a suitable tax, i.e., an emigration tax, which was used for financial arrangements in connection with the emigration of poor Jews and was imposed according to income.

Apart from the necessary Reichsmark exchange, foreign currency had to be presented at the time of landing. In order to save foreign exchange held by Germany, the foreign Jewish financial organizations were - with the help of Jewish organizations in Germany - made responsible for arranging an adequate amount of foreign currency. Up to 30 October 1941, these foreign Jews donated a total of around 9,500,000 dollars.

In the meantime the Reichsführer-SS and Chief of the German Police had prohibited emigration of Jews due to the dangers of an emigration in wartime and due to the possibilities of the East.

III.

Another possible solution of the problem has now taken the place of emigration, i.e. the evacuation of the Jews to the East, provided that the Führer gives the appropriate approval in advance.

These actions are, however, only to be considered provisional, but practical experience is already being collected which is of the greatest importance in relation to the future final solution of the Jewish question.

Approximately 11 million Jews will be involved in the final solution of the European Jewish question, distributed as follows among the individual countries:



THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

| | Country | Number |
|----|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| A. | Germany proper | 131,800 |
| | Austria | 43,700 |
| | Eastern territories | 420,000 |
| | General Government | 2,284,000 |
| | Bialystok | 400,000 |
| | Protectorate Bohemia and Moravia | 74,200 |
| | Estonia - free of Jews - | |
| | Latvia | 3,500 |
| | Lithuania | 34,000 |
| | Belgium | 43,000 |
| | Denmark | 5,600 |
| | France / occupied territory | 165,000 |
| | unoccupied territory | 700,000 |
| | Greece | 69,600 |
| | Netherlands | 160,800 |
| | Norway | 1,300 |
| B. | Bulgaria | 48,000 |
| | England | 330,000 |
| | Finland | 2,300 |
| | Ireland | 4,000 |
| | Italy including Sardinia | 58,000 |
| | Albania | 200 |
| | Croatia | 40,000 |
| | Portugal | 3,000 |
| | Rumania including Bessarabia | 342,000 |
| | Sweden | 8,000 |
| | <u>Switzerland</u> | 18,000 |
| | Serbia | 10,000 |
| | Slovakia | 88,000 |
| | Spain | 6,000 |
| | Turkey (European portion) | 55,500 |
| | Hungary | 742,800 |
| | USSR | 5,000,000 |
| | Ukraine | 2,994,684 |
| | White Russia | |
| | excluding Bialystok | 446,484 |
| | Total | over 11,000,000 |

The number of Jews given here for foreign countries includes, however, only those Jews who still adhere to the Jewish faith, since some countries still do not have a definition of the term "Jew" according to racial principles.



THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN:

WILLIAM TELL

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

The handling of the problem in the individual countries will meet with difficulties due to the attitude and outlook of the people there, especially in Hungary and Rumania. Thus, for example, even today the Jew can buy documents in Rumania that will officially prove his foreign citizenship.

The influence of the Jews in all walks of life in the USSR is well known. Approximately five million Jews live in the European part of the USSR, in the Asian part scarcely 1/4 million.

The breakdown of Jews residing in the European part of the USSR according to trades was approximately as follows:

| | |
|--|--------|
| Agriculture | 9.1 % |
| Urban workers | 14.8 % |
| In trade | 20.0 % |
| Employed by the state | 23.4 % |
| In private occupations such as medical profession, press, theater, etc. | 32.7 % |

Under proper guidance, in the course of the final solution the Jews are to be allocated for appropriate labor in the East. Able-bodied Jews, separated according to sex, will be taken in large work columns to these areas for work on roads, in the course of which action doubtless a large portion will be eliminated by natural causes.

The possible final remnant will, since it will undoubtedly consist of the most resistant portion, have to be treated accordingly, because it is the product of natural selection and would, if released, act as a the seed of a new Jewish revival (see the experience of history.)

In the course of the practical execution of the final solution, Europe will be combed through from west to east. Germany proper, including the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia, will have to be handled first due to the housing problem and additional social and political necessities.

The evacuated Jews will first be sent, group by group, to so-called transit ghettos, from which they will be transported to the East.

SS-Obergruppenführer Heydrich went on to say that an important prerequisite for the evacuation as such is the exact definition of the persons involved.

It is not intended to evacuate Jews over 65 years old, but to send them to an old-age ghetto - Theresienstadt is being considered for this purpose.

In addition to these age groups - of the approximately 280,000 Jews in Germany proper and Austria on 31 October 1941, approximately 30% are over 65 years old - severely wounded veterans and Jews with war decorations (Iron Cross I) will be accepted in the old-age ghettos. With this expedient solution, in one fell swoop many interventions will be prevented.



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The beginning of the individual larger evacuation actions will largely depend on military developments. Regarding the handling of the final solution in those European countries occupied and influenced by us, it was proposed that the appropriate expert of the Foreign Office discuss the matter with the responsible official of the Security Police and SD.

In Slovakia and Croatia the matter is no longer so difficult, since the most substantial problems in this respect have already been brought near a solution. In Rumania the government has in the meantime also appointed a commissioner for Jewish affairs. In order to settle the question in Hungary, it will soon be necessary to force an adviser for Jewish questions onto the Hungarian government.

With regard to taking up preparations for dealing with the problem in Italy, SS-Obergruppenführer Heydrich considers it opportune to contact the chief of police with a view to these problems.

In occupied and unoccupied France, the registration of Jews for evacuation will in all probability proceed without great difficulty.

Under Secretary of State Luther calls attention in this matter to the fact that in some countries, such as the Scandinavian states, difficulties will arise if this problem is dealt with thoroughly and that it will therefore be advisable to defer actions in these countries. Besides, in view of the small numbers of Jews affected, this deferral will not cause any substantial limitation.

The Foreign Office sees no great difficulties for southeast and western Europe.

SS-Gruppenführer Hofmann plans to send an expert to Hungary from the Race and Settlement Main Office for general orientation at the time when the Chief of the Security Police and SD takes up the matter there. It was decided to assign this expert from the Race and Settlement Main Office, who will not work actively, as an assistant to the police attaché.

IV.

In the course of the final solution plans, the Nuremberg Laws should provide a certain foundation, in which a prerequisite for the absolute solution of the problem is also the solution to the problem of mixed marriages and persons of mixed blood.

The Chief of the Security Police and the SD discusses the following points, at first theoretically, in regard to a letter from the chief of the Reich chancellery:

1) Treatment of Persons of Mixed Blood of the First Degree

Persons of mixed blood of the first degree will, as regards the final solution of the Jewish question, be treated as Jews.

From this treatment the following exceptions will be made:



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a) Persons of mixed blood of the first degree married to persons of German blood if their marriage has resulted in children (persons of mixed blood of the second degree). These persons of mixed blood of the second degree are to be treated essentially as Germans.

b) Persons of mixed blood of the first degree, for whom the highest offices of the Party and State have already issued exemption permits in any sphere of life. Each individual case must be examined, and it is not ruled out that the decision may be made to the detriment of the person of mixed blood.

The prerequisite for any exemption must always be the personal merit of the person of mixed blood. (Not the merit of the parent or spouse of German blood.)

Persons of mixed blood of the first degree who are exempted from evacuation will be sterilized in order to prevent any offspring and to eliminate the problem of persons of mixed blood once and for all. Such sterilization will be voluntary. But it is required to remain in the Reich. The sterilized "person of mixed blood" is thereafter free of all restrictions to which he was previously subjected.

2) Treatment of Persons of Mixed Blood of the Second Degree

Persons of mixed blood of the second degree will be treated fundamentally as persons of German blood, with the exception of the following cases, in which the persons of mixed blood of the second degree will be considered as Jews:

a) The person of mixed blood of the second degree was born of a marriage in which both parents are persons of mixed blood.

b) The person of mixed blood of the second degree has a racially especially undesirable appearance that marks him outwardly as a Jew.

c) The person of mixed blood of the second degree has a particularly bad police and political record that shows that he feels and behaves like a Jew.

Also in these cases exemptions should not be made if the person of mixed blood of the second degree has married a person of German blood.

3) Marriages between Full Jews and Persons of German Blood.

Here it must be decided from case to case whether the Jewish partner will be evacuated or whether, with regard to the effects of such a step on the German relatives, [this mixed marriage] should be sent to an old-age ghetto.

4) Marriages between Persons of Mixed Blood of the First Degree and Persons of German Blood.



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a) Without Children.

If no children have resulted from the marriage, the person of mixed blood of the first degree will be evacuated or sent to an old-age ghetto (same treatment as in the case of marriages between full Jews and persons of German blood, point 3.)

b) With Children.

If children have resulted from the marriage (persons of mixed blood of the second degree), they will, if they are to be treated as Jews, be evacuated or sent to a ghetto along with the parent of mixed blood of the first degree. If these children are to be treated as Germans (regular cases), they are exempted from evacuation as is therefore the parent of mixed blood of the first degree.

5) Marriages between Persons of Mixed Blood of the First Degree and Persons of Mixed Blood of the First Degree or Jews.

In these marriages (including the children) all members of the family will be treated as Jews and therefore be evacuated or sent to an old-age ghetto.

6) Marriages between Persons of Mixed Blood of the First Degree and Persons of Mixed Blood of the Second Degree.

In these marriages both partners will be evacuated or sent to an old-age ghetto without consideration of whether the marriage has produced children, since possible children will as a rule have stronger Jewish blood than the Jewish person of mixed blood of the second degree.

SS-Gruppenführer Hofmann advocates the opinion that sterilization will have to be widely used, since the person of mixed blood who is given the choice whether he will be evacuated or sterilized would rather undergo sterilization.

State Secretary Dr. Stuckart maintains that carrying out in practice of the just mentioned possibilities for solving the problem of mixed marriages and persons of mixed blood will create endless administrative work. In the second place, as the biological facts cannot be disregarded in any case, State Secretary Dr. Stuckart proposed proceeding to forced sterilization.

Furthermore, to simplify the problem of mixed marriages possibilities must be considered with the goal of the legislator saying something like: "These marriages have been dissolved."

With regard to the issue of the effect of the evacuation of Jews on the economy, State Secretary Neumann stated that Jews who are working in industries vital to the war effort, provided that no replacements are available, cannot be evacuated.

SS-Obergruppenführer Heydrich indicated that these Jews would not be evacuated according to the rules he had approved for carrying out the evacuations then underway.



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State Secretary Dr. Bühler stated that the General Government would welcome it if the final solution of this problem could be begun in the General Government, since on the one hand transportation does not play such a large role here nor would problems of labor supply hamper this action. Jews must be removed from the territory of the General Government as quickly as possible, since it is especially here that the Jew as an epidemic carrier represents an extreme danger and on the other hand he is causing permanent chaos in the economic structure of the country through continued black market dealings. Moreover, of the approximately 2 1/2 million Jews concerned, the majority is unfit for work.

State Secretary Dr. Bühler stated further that the solution to the Jewish question in the General Government is the responsibility of the Chief of the Security Police and the SD and that his efforts would be supported by the officials of the General Government. He had only one request, to solve the Jewish question in this area as quickly as possible.

In conclusion the different types of possible solutions were discussed, during which discussion both Gauleiter Dr. Meyer and State Secretary Dr. Bühler took the position that certain preparatory activities for the final solution should be carried out immediately in the territories in question, in which process alarming the populace must be avoided.

The meeting was closed with the request of the Chief of the Security Police and the SD to the participants that they afford him appropriate support during the carrying out of the tasks involved in the solution.

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July 29, Wednesday: After a four-day battle, [Japanese](#) forces took Kokoda, Papua from Australians.

A resident of [Switzerland](#), Gerhart Moritz Reigner, learned thirdhand from the managing director of a [German](#) mining company, Eduard Schulte, a man who had access to information from inside the 3rd Reich, that the Nazis had recently created something that was being termed the “Wannsee Protocol,” according to which they were planning to use a pesticide made from prussic acid to exterminate 3,500,000 to 4,000,000 Jews ([Zyklon-B](#) is in fact a pesticide derived from prussic acid: a version with an unpleasant odorous chemical added was being used by building custodians to kill rats and cockroaches and had this warning odor added because the cyanide gas itself smells only faintly of almonds, while production lots for use in human extermination lacked the telltale odor additive). He began to go for long walks by the lake, to think about this.

[ANTISEMITISM](#)[WORLD WAR II](#)

In the Philippines, the extremely high death rate at Camp O'Donnell, the highest of any POW camp anywhere, was compelling the [Japanese](#) to move most of the Americans north to another camp at Cabanatuan. It was at Cabanatuan that the Death March survivors were combined with those captured on Corregidor. They were divided into work parties and sent out to burn the corpses of Japanese soldiers. They collected right hands, the ashes of these hands to be placed in small urns and returned to their families in Japan.

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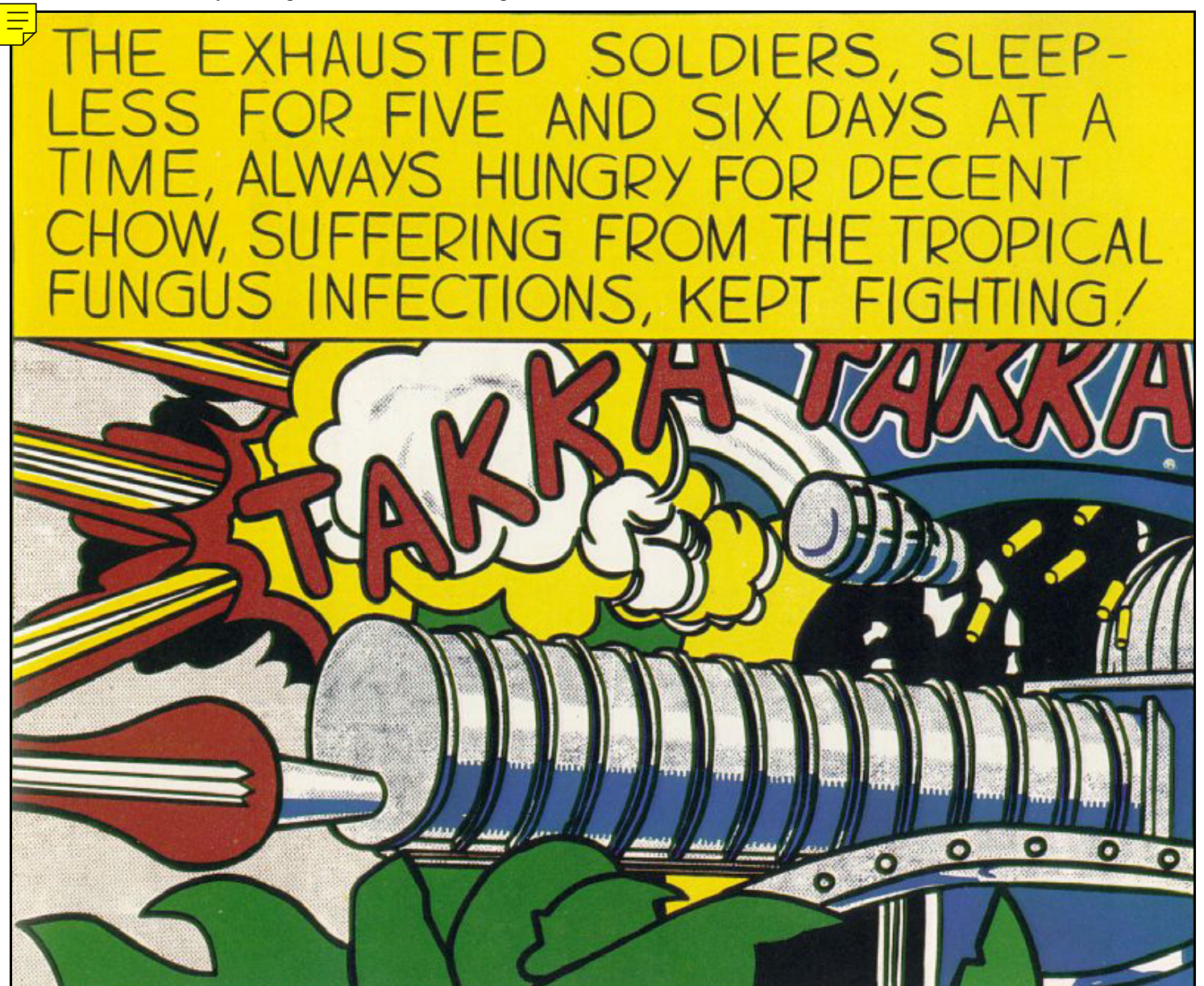
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August 8, Saturday: Les animaux modèles, a ballet by Francis Poulenc to a scenario by de LaFontaine, was publicly staged for the initial time, at the Paris Opéra.

Two works by Roy Harris were performed for the initial time, at Colorado College, Colorado Springs: Namesake (A Theatre Dance) for violin and piano, and What So Proudly We Hail, a ballet for chorus, strings and piano.

The 1st Marine Division won control of Tulagi, Gavutu, and Tanambogo, Solomon Islands. An unfinished enemy air strip on Guadalcanal was captured and renamed Henderson Field.





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Four [German](#) saboteurs were executed in Washington (their plans had not been realized and nothing had been blown up). A [German](#) submarine laid mines off mouth of St. Johns River, east of Jacksonville, Florida.

United States Transport *George F. Elliott* (AP-13) was damaged by [Japanese](#) suicide bombers in the vicinity of the Solomon Islands, and was sunk by United States forces at 9 degrees 10 minutes South, 160 degrees 10 minutes East. United States Destroyer *Jarvis* (DD-393) was damaged by a [Japanese](#) aircraft torpedo in the vicinity of the Solomon Islands, 9 degrees 10 minutes South, 160 degrees 1 minute East.

WORLD WAR II

A resident of [Switzerland](#), Gerhart Moritz Reigner, had learned thirdhand on July 29th from the managing director of a German mining company, Eduard Schulte, a man who had access to information from inside the 3rd Reich, that the Nazis had recently created something that was being termed the “Wannsee Protocol,” according to which they were planning to use a pesticide made from prussic acid to exterminate 3,500,000 to 4,000,000 Jews (Zyklon is in fact a pesticide derived from prussic acid: [Zyklon-B](#) is used by building custodians to kill rats and cockroaches and has a nasty warning odor added to it because the cyanide gas is itself odorless or smells only faintly of almonds, while for production of lots to be used for human extermination the pesticide factory would withhold the telltale odor additive).⁴⁷



Reigner had gained the confidence of the American consul in [Geneva](#), Howard Elting, and after a week or two of personal indecision he went to the consul and persuaded him to slip a message through this diplomat to the US Embassy in Bern.

“Received alarming report that in Fuehrer’s headquarters plan discussed and under consideration, according to which all Jews in countries occupied or



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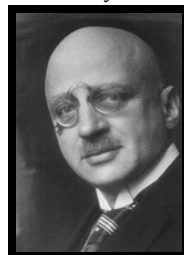
PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

controlled by Germany, numbering 3 1/2 to 4 million, should, after deportation and concentration in the East, be exterminated at one blow to resolve once and for all the Jewish question in Europe."

Luckily, Reigner also submitted this message, at the same time, to the British Consulate in Geneva. The message submitted to the Americans went to the US Ambassador in Bern, who despite his doubts did submit the message to the Department of State in Washington DC. The District of Columbia, however, considered the information to be "unsubstantiated," and refused to forward it inside the USA.

"Never did I feel so strongly the sense of abandonment, powerlessness and loneliness as when I sent messages of disaster and horror to the free world

47. It is an interesting footnote to history that Fritz Haber, the German chemist who during the 1920s had developed this Zyklon gas, had in 1934 been forced out of Germany because, despite his early conversion to Christianity, and despite his wholehearted service to their cause, the Nazis considered him to be still "racially" a Jew.





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and no one believed me."

The British did pass the message, however, to its intended recipient, Rabbi Stephen S. Wise, leader of the American Jewish Congress.

When Rabbi Wise would go to the US Department of State with this alarming message from [Switzerland](#), received through British diplomatic channels, he was told to keep his mouth shut as the info had not yet been officially confirmed and the State Department had made inquiries with the Vatican and the Red Cross but neither organization had a clue of this.



The message submitted by Gerhart Moritz Reigner is now at the Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington.

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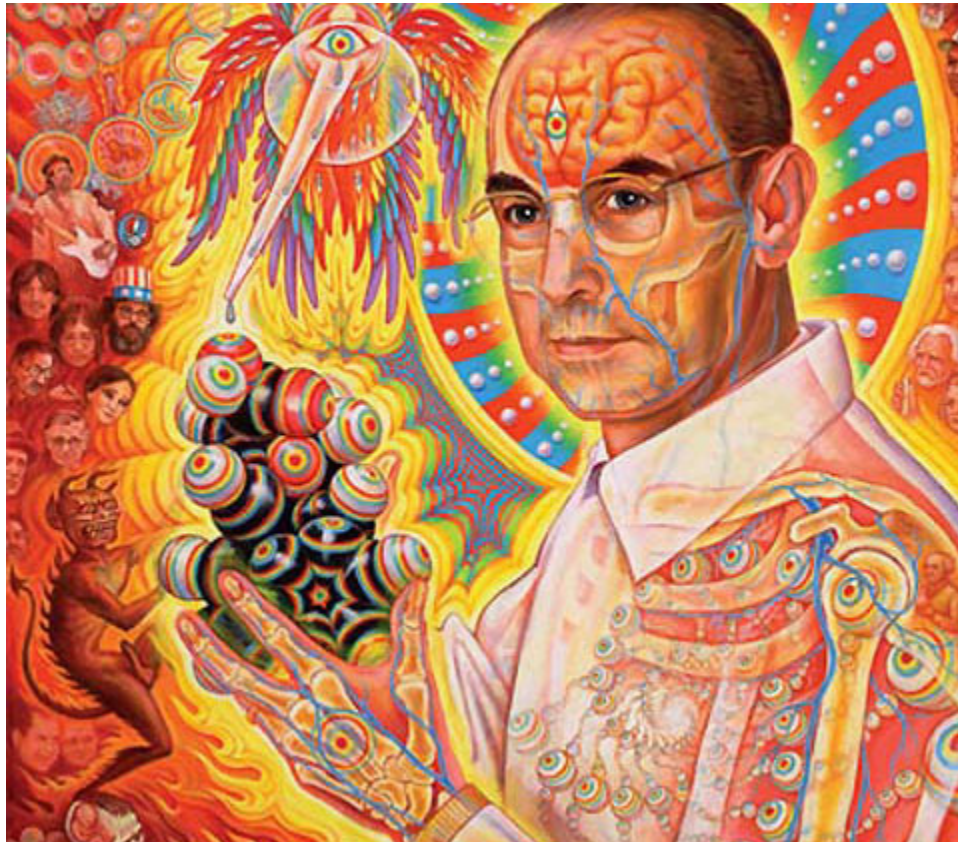
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1943

April 16, Friday: The zoom lens for television cameras was first demonstrated by NBC in New York City.

The last of 18 patriotic fanfares for brass and percussion commissioned by Eugene Goossens and the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, Fanfare for the Merchant Marine by Eugene Goossens, was performed for the initial time, in Cincinnati.

In [Switzerland](#), Dr. Albert Hofmann was researching the synthesis of a lysergic acid compound, LSD-25, and by getting some on his fingertips, found himself to be on the world's first "acid trip."



Last Friday, April 16, 1943, I was forced to interrupt my work in the laboratory in the middle of the afternoon and proceed home, being affected by a remarkable restlessness, combined with a slight dizziness. At home I lay down and sank into a not unpleasant intoxicated condition, characterized by an extremely stimulated imagination. In a dreamlike state, with eyes closed (I found the daylight to be unpleasantly glaring), I perceived an uninterrupted stream of fantastic pictures, extraordinary shapes with intense, kaleidoscopic play of colors. After some two hours this condition faded away.



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Now, little by little I could begin to enjoy the unprecedented colors and plays of shapes that persisted behind my closed eyes. Kaleidoscopic, fantastic images surged in on me, alternating, variegated, opening and then closing themselves in circles and spirals, exploding in colored fountains, rearranging and hybridizing themselves in constant flux.

(Elsewhere in the world, on this day, people were going around killing one another quite as usual.)

WORLD WAR II

October: The Kenedy Alien Detention Camp was at its peak of operation in [Texas](#), processing 1,168 [Germans](#), 705 [Japanese](#), 72 [Italians](#), and 62 others such as Rumanians, Hungarians, Bulgarians, Swedes, Finns, Russians, and Koreans. The sum total for this camp would be more than 3,500, with between 700 and 1,200 detainees inside its barbed wire perimeter at any given time.



The State Department negotiated with the Axis powers to exchange enemy aliens on a one-for-one basis, using Lisbon, Portugal as the neutral port of exchange. Various consignments of detainees would be loaded aboard the SS *Gripsholm* chartered by the Swedish government, the SS *Drottningholm* chartered by the [Swiss](#) government, and the *Serpa Pinta* of unknown registration. By the end of 1943 a total of 975 internees would have been used in prisoner exchanges.

WORLD WAR II

October 4, Monday: French forces entered Bastia, completing their occupation of Corsica. The island was placed under Free French administration.

1,260 children and 53 doctors and nurses from the Biaystok Ghetto were sent from Theresienstadt to Auschwitz.

Schutzstaffel Reichsführer Heinrich Himmler gave a speech at Posen.

When Kos, in the Aegean, fell to the Germans, 1,388 British and 3,145 [Italian](#) soldiers came with the island. Since Italy had signed its armistice with the Allies during the previous month, the Italian troops were in the



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same situation as the British — automatic prisoners of war. However, on September 11th, *Führer* [Adolf Hitler](#) had ordered his forces to execute any Italian officer they happened to capture. No [Geneva](#) Convention protections for the likes of them! The Colonel in charge of the Italians, Felice Leggio, and his officer staff of 101 others, were therefore marched off to a salt pan just east of the town of Kos where, in groups of ten, they were executed. (When Kos would return to Greece after the war, these corpses would be dug from their mass grave and sent for reburial in a military cemetery at Bari, Italy.

Aircraft from carrier *Ranger* (CV-4) attacked enemy shipping along the coast of Norway.

[German](#) submarines sunk:

- U-336, by naval land-based aircraft (VB-128), North Atlantic area, 60 degrees 40 minutes North, 26 degrees 30 minutes West
- U-422, by aircraft (VC-9) from escort carrier *Card* (CVE-11), north of Azores Islands, 43 degrees 18 minutes North, 28 degrees 58 minutes West
- U-460, by aircraft (VC-9) from escort carrier *Card* (CVE-11), north of Azores Islands, 43 degrees 13 minutes North, 28 degrees 58 minutes West

WORLD WAR II



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1945

Publication of Henry Thoreau's WALDEN in the German translation of Siegfried Lang in [Zürich, Switzerland](#).

May: Paula Hitler, [Adolf Hitler](#)'s weak-minded younger sister, was living in Vienna when she was interrogated. She pled with the Americans: "He was my brother." She would continue under the name Frau Wolf — a name her famous brother had asked her to adopt after his 1938 Anschluss with Austria.

WORLD WAR II

For the journal Equality, the [Reverend George Mills Houser](#) explained his views on non-violence:

A person trying to practice non-violence will refuse to retaliate violently. He merely absorbs the physical punishment. This sounds crazy to the average person, who has been taught to protect himself by retaliating when attacked, even if he does take a beating in the process. Why, then, is non-retaliation essential to the non-violent approach? From the negative standpoint, if non-violence is forsaken by the minority group it means the police can be called to arrest them. From the positive point of view, non-retaliatory action may make possible the winning of the support of the public, of the police, and of the opposition.

The Croatian armed forces, as well as hordes of civilian refugees, were fleeing the triumphant Yugoslav communist partisans of Tito. On the border between Austria and Slovenia, in a field at Bleiburg crowded with an estimated 100,000 Croatian troops and civilian refugees, negotiations were proceeding for the Croatian troops to stack their arms for the British forces when, from the wooded hills surrounding this field, Titoists opened up with machine-guns. Densely packed, incapable of fleeing or taking any sort of cover, as the machine-guns swung back and forth people were falling in windrows. Within minutes thousands lay dead or dying, and panicked horses were dragging their wagons over the bodies of the fallen. Those who survived this would be driven back across the border to be dealt with by the waiting Titoists. At other roads along the border, masses of Croatian soldiers and civilians were being turned back after being disarmed by the British Army. They were being reassured that they were being transported to camps in Italy, but actually they were being forcibly repatriated, and at the town of Maribor the Titoists would be shooting them down by the thousands in a continuous slaughter that would be going on for more than a week. Under the direction of Serbian officers, the 17th Partisan Assault Division executed approximately 40,000 in the Tezen Forest at Maribor, while at Sestine approximately 5,000 were executed, and at Vrgin Most approximately 7,000. The naked corpses of thousands of Serbs and Slovene Home Guard (Domobranici) from the camp at Viktring in Austria were heaved into a deep chasm at Kocevje, and then out of an awareness that in the top layers of such a pile of bodies, somebody might still be able to breathe while playing dead, grenades were thrown down — but this was not entirely effective as there would indeed be three or four survivors who would after the fall of darkness would be able to claw their way out from underneath other bodies and up the sides of the chasm. In total, 12,196 Croats, 5,480 Serbs, 8,263 Slovenes, and 400 Montenegrins were being handed over to the Titoists unarmed for their execution. The estimate is that around 180,000 Croatian soldiers and civilian refugees were executed by the Titoists. (In 1999, during the construction of the Slovenian section of a highway between Nürnberg and

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Zagreb, between Pesnica and Slivnica the bulldozers would plow a swath 60 meters wide across an anti-tank ditch containing the remains of 1,179 Croatian soldiers. This count of 1,179 was made in but this 60-meter swath, out of an anti-tank trench that had once stretched a kilometer and a half in each direction! Since the collapse of the communist regime in 1990, around 110 such sites have been discovered in Slovenian territory. Who was ultimately responsible for these forced repatriations? [Winston Churchill](#) had expressly forbidden the sending back of any who were unwilling to go, but the Resident Minister at Field Marshal Alexander's headquarters, Harold MacMillan –later a Prime Minister of Great Britain– seems to have ignored the instructions — he was never interrogated about this denial of [Geneva](#) Convention protections to POWs because, before his involvement was discovered, he had already died.) The population of the Crystal City, [Texas](#) wartime detention camp peaked at 3,326.



In Russian-occupied zones of Eastern Europe and Germany, hundreds of thousands of civilian men and women, Poles, Czechs, Romanians, and Germans, were being transported to the Urals where they would be used by the USSR as slave laborers until their release in the late 1940s. In a merciless revenge perpetrated upon the entire German civilian population of Eastern Europe during the closing stages of the war and for many months afterward, the lives of over 2,000,000 ethnic German men, women, and children were being sacrificed. For generations these Germans had lived and toiled in areas that today are part of central and Eastern Europe. Around 15,000,000 such “Volksdeutsche” were being driven from their homes and ancestral lands back into the Allied occupied zones of Germany. Blind to the political consequences of allowing the Soviets to be the ones to liberate Czechoslovakia, our American armies halted at the Karlsbad-Pilsen-Budweis line in strict accordance with the agreements into which our leaders had entered at the Yalta and Potsdam conferences. The Soviet Army would be unconcerned and thus the Sudeten

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Germans would have no protection whatever from the Czechs with their raw memories of the Lidice massacre



(what goes around comes around, you know). Soldiers were being disarmed, tied to stakes, doused with gasoline, and set on fire. Wounded soldiers obtained at the local hospital were strung from the lampposts in Wenzell Square with fires beneath them so they might suffer maximally while roasting slowly. Note that although these ethnic Germans had been living for years in fear of Russian savagery — the Soviets were merely allowing this to happen, and it was being performed on them by people who were their former neighbors. Thousands of the German residents were being murdered in their homes by Czechs, while others were being forced into interment camps to be abused and maltreated before being expelled. While you might have been supposing that religion would be a moderating factor in such exigencies, it is on the record that Bishop Beranek of Prague declared “If a Czech comes to me and confesses to having killed a German,

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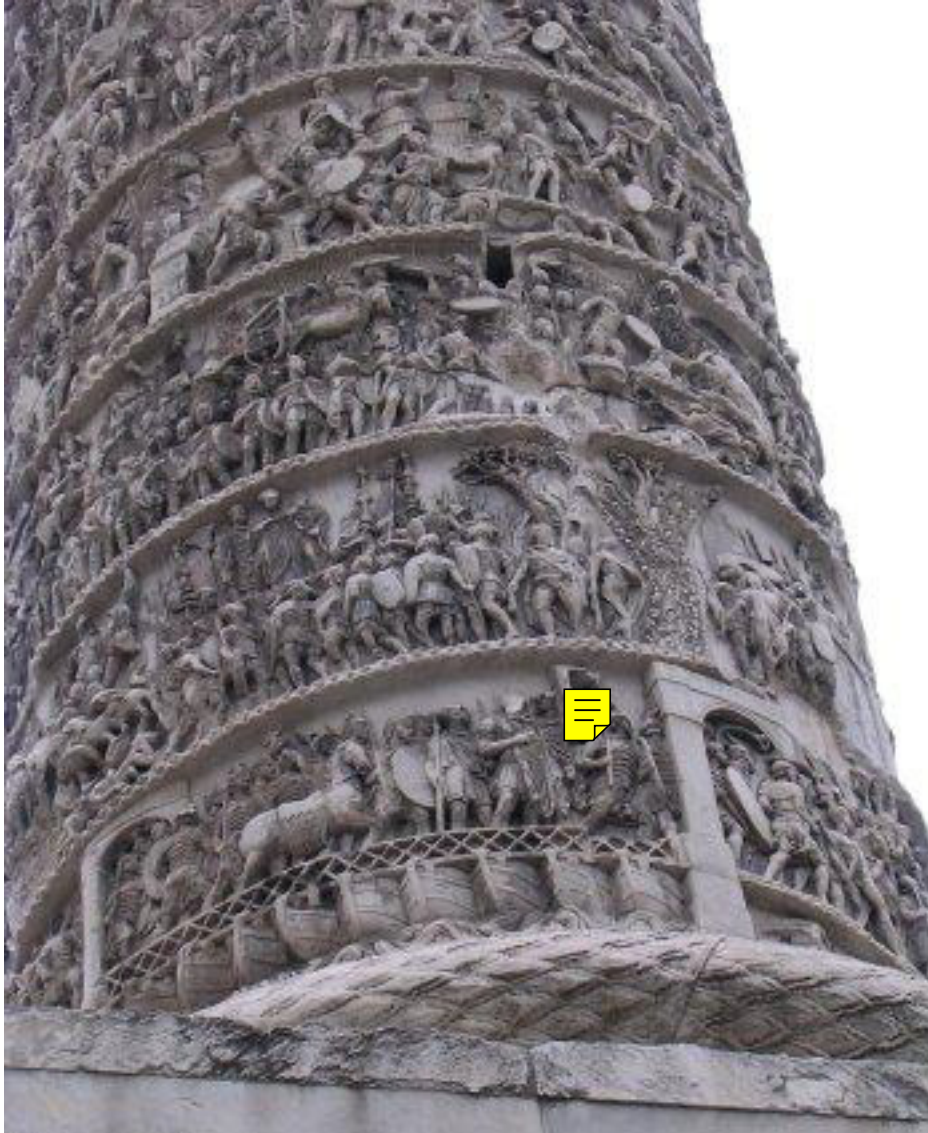
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I absolve him immediately.”



What
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1946

The war is dead, long live war! In a [China](#) no longer facing an external threat, civil war erupted between the Kuomintang (KMT) and the Communist Party (CCP).

The Neutrals

Now the sordid tragedy crashes to a close,
Blood, fire and bloody slime, all the dogs in the kennel
Killing one dog: it is time to commend the neutrals.
I praise them first because they were honest enough
Not to be scared nor bought, and then I will praise them
That their luck held. I praise free [Ireland](#), horse-breeding, swan-haunted,
And high Switzerland, armed home of pure snows,⁴⁸ and Sweden,
High in the north, in the twice-hostile sea: these three hold all
That's left, of the honor of Europe.

I would praise also
Argentina, for being too proud to bay with the pack,
But her case is not so clear and she faced no danger. I will praise Finland —
In one poem with the peace-keepers unhappy Finland —
For having fought two wars, grim, clean and doomed.

— [Robinson Jeffers](#)

48. This was written long before we discovered that [Switzerland](#), alleged land of liberty, alleged neutral, actually had functioned during the war not only as the 3d Reich's accountant but also its secret collaborator and money launderer, a mere channel for transforming the gold fillings from the mouths of gassed Jews into negotiable bullion.



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1948

April 16, Friday: Elpidio Quirino y Rivera replaced Manuel Roxas y Acuña as president of the Philippines.

As British troops withdrew from Safed (Zefat) north of the Sea of Galilee, Arabs began bombarding the Jewish quarter.

ANTISEMITISM

The Greek army began an offensive against leftist rebels in the north of the country.

The Organization for European Economic Development was founded by Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, [Germany](#) (western occupation zones), Greece, Iceland, [Ireland](#), [Italy](#), Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, [Switzerland](#), Trieste, Turkey and the United Kingdom. It would become the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in 1961.

The United Nations General Assembly opened an emergency session to deal with the situation in Palestine.

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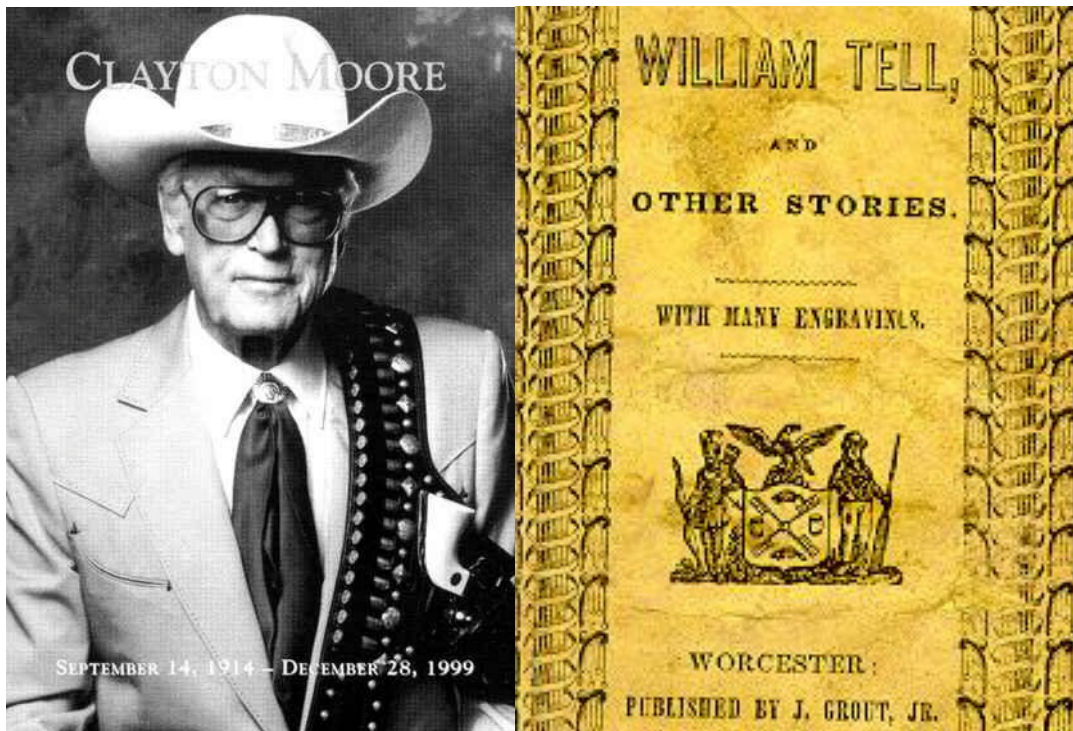
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1949

September 15, Thursday: The Lone Ranger moved to ABC television — it usually played on Thursdays nights, from 7:30 to 8:00 (Clayton Moore was the *Kemo Sabe*, I met him once at a supermarket opening, and Jay Silverheels was *Tonto*). The theme music continued to be as on radio, from the [William Tell](#) Overture by Gioacchino Rossini.





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1951

September 7, Friday: William S. Burroughs, not yet a weird author, was on an endlessly drunken vacation escape in [Mexico](#) when he suddenly decided to relieve everyone's boredom by "doing his [William Tell](#) act":

(next screen)

Bill, heir to a calculating-machine fortune, had already failed in East [Texas](#) as a farmer whose crops were oranges, cotton, and marijuana. He and his wife Joan Vollmer Adams Burroughs and their two children had gone on the lam a step ahead of the American illicit-drug authorities. At the sodden party in question, Joan, seated in an armchair, cooperatively set a 6-ounce highball glass atop her head, turning to the side since, she joked, "I can't stand the sight of blood." He took careful aim with his Star .380 automatic pistol. A little hole appeared in his wife's temple, the glass fell off her head and rolled around intact on the linoleum floor, and she slumped.⁴⁹

Here he is, playfully posing later with a pistol for a book jacket:



⁴⁹. An ambulance would take the victim to the Red Cross Hospital near Orizaba but when it would arrive she would be pronounced dead. The Mexican authorities would charge the shooter with criminal imprudence but while on bail awaiting his trial, his lawyer would kill someone. When his lawyer fled, Burroughs also would flee, winding up as a druggie along the north coast of Africa. He would author such noted works as *NAKED LUNCH* (1959) and *ELECTRONIC REVOLUTION* (1971) and would credit this [William Tell](#) incident with having gotten him started as a writer.



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October 16, Tuesday: Prime Minister Liaqat Ali Khan of Pakistan was gunned down by an Afghan fanatic as he addressed a meeting at Rawalpindi Army headquarters (the assassin was killed by spectators). Khwaja Nazimuddin became prime minister.

British troops battled rioters in Port Said and Ismailiya, [Egypt](#), over the status of the [Suez Canal Zone](#) (there were a dozen fatalities).

In Lausanne, Charles Davis admitted to having been a spy for US Senator [Joseph R. McCarthy](#), paid to collect damaging evidence about former US Minister to [Switzerland](#) John Carter Vincent. Sentenced to eight months in prison for political espionage, for reasons of health the convict would be released and expelled from the country.

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Heir's Pistol Kills His Wife; He Denies Playing Wm. Tell

Mexico City, Sept. 7 (AP).—William Seward Burroughs, 37, first admitted, then denied today that he was playing William Tell when his gun killed his pretty, young wife during a drinking party last night.

Police said that Burroughs, grandson of the adding machine inventor, first told them that, wanting to show off his marksmanship, he placed a glass of gin on her head and fired, but was so drunk that he missed and shot her in the forehead.

After talking with a lawyer, police said, Burroughs, who is a wealthy cotton planter from Pharr, Tex., changed his story and insisted that his wife was shot accidentally when he dropped his newly-purchased .38 caliber pistol.

Husband in Jail.

Mrs. Burroughs, 27, the former Joan Vollmer, died in the Red Cross Hospital.

The shooting occurred during a party in the apartment of John Healy of Minneapolis. Burroughs said two other American tourists whom he knew only slightly were present.

Burroughs, hair disheveled and clothes wrinkled, was in jail today. A hearing on a charge of homicide is scheduled for tomorrow morning.

No Arguments, He Says.

"It was purely accidental," he said. "I did not put any glass on her head. If she did, it was a joke. I certainly did not intend to shoot at it."

He said there had been no arguments or discussion before the "accident."

"The party was quiet," he said. "We had a few drinks. Everything is very hazy."

Burroughs and his wife had been here about two years. He said he was studying native dialects at the University of Mexico. He explained his long absence from his ranch by saying that he was unsuited for business.

Wife From Albany.

He said he was born in St. Louis and that his wife was from Albany, N. Y. They have two children, William Burroughs, Jr., 3, and



William Seward Burroughs in Mexico City prison.



The late Mrs. Joan Burroughs—killed at party.

Julie Adams, 7, who he said was his wife's daughter by a previous marriage. The couple had been married five years.

She had attended journalism school at Columbia University before her marriage to Burroughs. Burroughs, who also had been married before, formerly lived in

Loudonville, a swank suburb of Albany. He is a graduate of Harvard University and worked for two weeks in 1942 as a reporter for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

His paternal grandfather laid the foundation of a fortune when he built his first adding machine in St. Louis in 1885.



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1954

John Grimek of the United States was the 1st weightlifter **known** to use anabolic steroids on a regular and systematic basis. His source of supply was John Ziegler, a physician working for a [Swiss](#) pharmaceutical company associated with the CIA. (Anabolic steroids are an outgrowth of artificial testosterone research done during [World War II](#) by both the [Germans](#) and the Americans. Armies want chemically enhanced soldiers and are willing to do what it takes to get them.)

May 8, Saturday: The [Geneva](#) Conference on Indochina began, attended by the US, Britain, [China](#), the Soviet Union, France, [Vietnam](#) (Viet Minh and representatives of Bao Dai), Cambodia, and Laos — all meeting to negotiate a solution for Southeast Asia.

July 21, Saturday: The [Geneva](#) Accords divided [Vietnam](#) in half at the 17th parallel, with Ho Chi Minh's Communists ceded the North, and Bao Dai's regime granted the South. These accords also provided for elections to be held in all of Vietnam within two years to reunify the country. The US, fearing a likely victory by Ho Chi Minh, opposed the idea of the holding of unifying elections in the nation.





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1960

In [Switzerland](#), Jean Tinguely demonstrated his self-destructing sculpture “Homage to New York.”



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1969

Swiss-born psychologist Elisabeth Kübler-Ross's ON DEATH AND DYING introduced the theory that human responses to dying and other unpleasant realities normally pass through a continuum comprised of denial, anger, bargaining, depression, and acceptance. In 1995, US Army psychologist Dave Grossman would extend her schema to identify normal human responses to killing. These responses are

- 1) concern about the ability to kill,
- 2) the actual kill,
- 3) exhilaration,
- 4) remorse and revulsion,
- 5) rationalization, and
- 6) acceptance.

"It is vital," Grossman would insist, "that future soldiers understand that [exhilaration] is a normal and very common response to the abnormal circumstances of combat, and they need to understand that their feelings of satisfaction at killing are a natural and fairly common aspect of combat." Grossman would add that 3 out of every 4 soldiers are emotionally incompetent to personally kill another human being. As aggressive behavior is generally valued and such inhibitions are generally scorned, a soldier's discovery that he or she is personally unable to kill can traumatize them just as thoroughly as an actual first kill! Fancy that!

PSYCHOLOGY



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1979

By this point in time the [Concord](#) municipal disposal facility hard by [Walden Pond](#) was being referred to politely as “the town’s landfill.” Nevertheless, as a Concord family got its trash ready for their Saturday jaunt to this, ahem, landfill, their children were likely to be singing a ditty “To the dump, to the dump, to the dump dump dump” to that catchy *dum, dah dah dum, dah dah dum dum dum* from the [William Tell](#) Overture (that had, for Rossini, signalled the approach of the mighty [Swiss](#) army).

(We may wonder what treasures will be excavated from this landfill, after the extermination of the humanoids and the rise of the cockroachoids!)

Fresh out of law school and short on ready cash, Robert Heggstad purchased on the installment plan at a Virginia antique shop a cabinet that turned out to contain some 1,700 plant and invertebrate specimens from the personal collection of [Alfred Russel Wallace](#). Oh, wow!

THE SCIENCE OF 1979

Crystal Bennett found in the Amman Citadel a human-altered sea urchin fossil in Islamic (Fatimid) deposits dating from the 10th to 12th centuries.

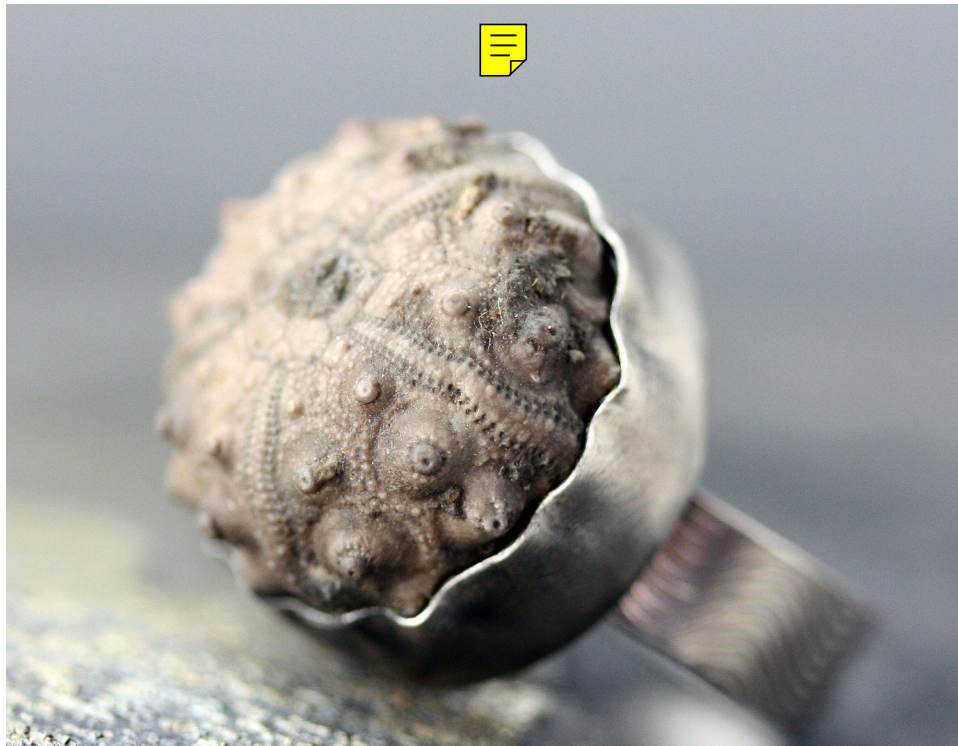
PALEONTOLOGY



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1980

A news item relating to the development of ELECTRIC WALDEN technology:

- Tim Berners-Lee, who wasn't at all good at making random connections, or at remembering details, was spending six months at C.E.R.N., the laboratory for particle physics near [Geneva](#), and so he wrote himself a little program he could utilize as a substitute for a better memory, a calendar program he named Enquire by which one might keep track of quite random associations. This would be the 1st cut at the Wide World Web, confined to a single machine. Tim's program was centered around a document within which he could click on words which would open other documents containing background and context for those words. A neat idea. An idea whose time had come.

Tim's original NeXT box, which hosted the very first website, would eventually be put on display in the foyer of the main admin building in CERN, in a glass case!



"I liked the idea that a piece of information is really defined only by what it's related to, and how it's related. There really is little else to meaning. The structure is everything.... The brain has no knowledge until connections are made between neurons. All that we know, all that we are, comes from the way our neurons are connected."



— Tim Berners-Lee, in **WEAVING THE WEB:
THE ORIGINAL DESIGN AND ULTIMATE
DESTINY OF THE WORLD WIDE WEB**
BY ITS INVENTOR (1999)





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1989

March: The World Wide Web began at CERN (European Laboratory for Particle Physics) in [Geneva, Switzerland](#) when Tim Berners-Lee proposed a global hypertext project to allow people to work together by combining their knowledge in a “web” of hypertext documents. What Tim initially proposed was a simple scheme that would incorporate various databases of information, already available at CERN but stored on several different servers, into one accessible virtual space, using hypertext to provide a standardized user interface. In the late 1980s, CERN joined the Internet. Tim would go on to write the first WWW server and the first client, a wysiwyg hypertext browser/editor. He would begin this work in October 1990, with the actual program “WorldWideWeb” first being made available within CERN in December, and on the Internet during the summer of 1991.



Tim’s original NeXT box, which hosted the very first website, would eventually be put on display in the foyer of the main admin building in CERN, in a glass case.



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1990

US Bureau of the Census publications such as HISTORICAL STATISTICS OF THE UNITED STATES and STATISTICAL ABSTRACT OF THE UNITED STATES provide statistics with which we can continue George Rogers Taylor's "American Economic Growth before 1840" in the Journal of Economic History (December 1964) and Robert Gallman's "The Pace and pattern of American Economic Growth" in Davis, Lance, et al AMERICAN ECONOMIC GROWTH (Harper & Row, 1972) for purposes of comparison:

US Per Capita Income

| | Current \$ | Constant 1989 \$ | Annual Growthrate |
|------|------------|------------------|-------------------|
| 1710 | \$28 | \$350 | |
| 1710 | \$45 | \$550 | |
| 1775 | \$60 | \$750 | 1.18/0.48% |
| 1840 | \$109 | \$1350 | 0.91% |
| 1880 | \$205 | \$2650 | 1.70% |
| 1990 | \$22,099 | \$20,950 | 2.14% |

At this 1990 point on our national economic trajectory, on the 1991 list given in the WORLD DEVELOPMENT REPORT of the World Bank and International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the USA is ranking as the 6th most prosperous nation of the planet, after [Switzerland](#), [Japan](#), Norway, Finland, and Sweden. However, were we to go back and place ourselves as we were in 1710 on this current chart, at that 1710 point on our national economic trajectory, our living conditions here would have had to be ranked somewhere between those in Angola as it now is at 82d and those in Bangladesh as it now is at 120th.



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2001

January 16, Tuesday: At a circus performance in Paris, Mme Cathy Jamet was shot in the face with a crossbow arrow by her husband M Alain Jamet:



TIMELINE OF ACCIDENTS

William Tell Shoots His Wife

A CIRCUS star shot his wife through the head with a crossbow – as 5,000 people watched in horror. Hundreds of children were in the crowd when Alain and Cathy Jamet's [William Tell](#) act ended in disaster.

Alain, 43, had been aiming to hit an apple 35ft away on Cathy's head – a feat he had been doing for 14 years.

But the bolt from his high-powered bow smashed into her face less than an inch beneath her eye. Cathy, 39, was last night critically ill in hospital.

But incredibly she has already pledged to carry on with the act when she recovers.

A spokesman for the Pinder-Jean Richard circus in Paris –where the accident happened– said: "The first thing she said was she had to get back to work as soon as possible.

"She knew the risk she was taking and she said this will not stop her performing again – even if she loses the sight in one eye."

Circus boss Gilbert Edelstein added: "They've got that routine

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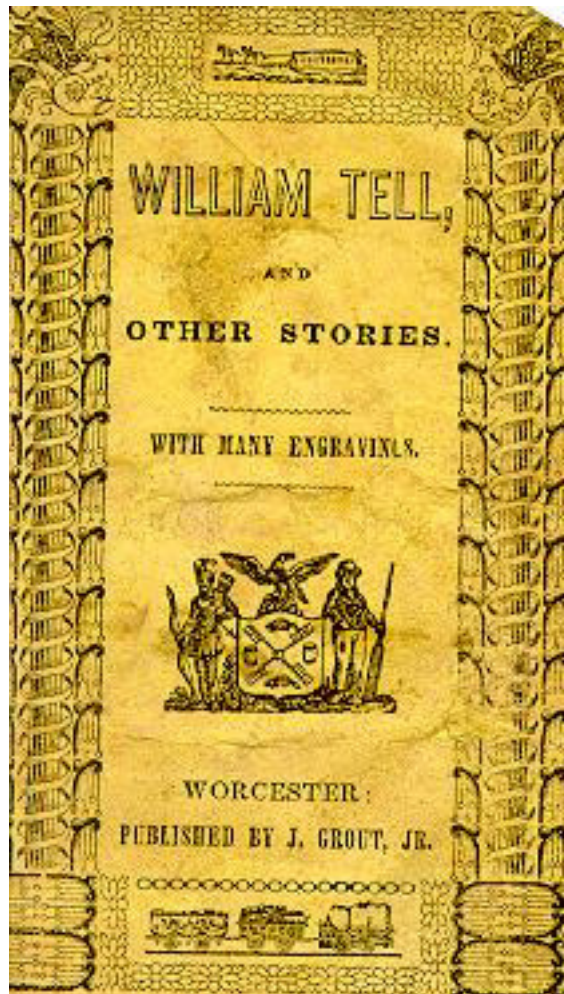
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down to the nearest thousandth of a millimetre.

"But that's circus life. Sometimes there is a catastrophe but the show must go on."

September 27, Thursday: A citizen who considered himself to be being treated unfairly by the authorities, Friedrich Leibacher, truly a son of [William Tell](#), managed to kill or seriously wound dozens of members of the Swiss Parliament and government with his Swiss-made 5.6-mm SIG "Sturmgewehr 90" (the assault rifle commonly used by his nation's militia army), and explosives, before offing himself.⁵⁰



50. The Swiss believe in peace, and therefore in homeland defense. They consider that there should be a gun in every home. Since a crossbow can't fire all that far, they manufacture a heavy sniper rifle with a laser scope, the 50 BMG, that can put a big hole in somebody at a distance of one kilometer even if they are riding inside an armored personnel carrier — and there is a firing range in the Bernese Oberland at which one may practice with this device. Don't mess with the Swiss, they'll mess with you. Swiss guards defend the Pope.



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2005

January: Howard Schweber's *THE CREATION OF AMERICAN COMMON LAW, 1850-1880: TECHNOLOGY, POLITICS AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF CITIZENSHIP* (NY: Cambridge UP, 2004) was reviewed for the internet list H-LAW by Professor Gordon Morris Bakken of California State University – Fullerton. The burden of this book review, for our purposes, would be that in the timeframe in which the American public was first appreciating Thoreau's *WALDEN*, we were preparing ourselves for a new duty, our "Duty to Get Out of the Way," in implementation of a new public policy, here termed the "Need For Speed." The engineer of a locomotive was not going to be asked to avoid destroying wandering livestock, risk-taking carriages, lumbering farm carts, and inattentive children, who after all are "sons of Tell" and therefore expendable.

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For one thing, the rolling stock of the period in question had no braking mechanisms whatever. For another thing, in accordance with this new national policy there would have been no requirement ever to put on the brakes even had there been brakes. The unofficial name of the railroad engine was *Atropos* and the unofficial motto of the American people had since 1837 been "Go Ahead."

Appellate Cases North and South: Railroads and Slavery at Intersections

This ambitious book analyzes appellate cases in Illinois and Virginia in the setting of case law in the North of Ohio, Vermont and New York and the South of Georgia, North Carolina and Kentucky to assess the velocity of common-law modernization. The research question involves the impact of the railroad and/or slavery on the development of law in the mid-nineteenth century. In the North, particularly in Illinois, an American common law emerged that expressed a new concept of citizenship. Persons in their use of property were not to injure other property owners according to eighteenth-century thinking. The advent of the railroad and the cases that rolled into courts created a conceptual shift to property users having duties to everyone, a legal standard of conduct suiting the needs of railroads. Schweber articulates this new duty as The Duty to Get Out of the Way and the public policy grounding for the duty in the Need For Speed. Railroads simply could not stop at intersections for livestock, children, or carriages and passengers needed to keep their elbows inside of rolling stock. If rolling stock crushed pigs, cows, horses, and people, then these property users would have to bear the burden of the Need For Speed.

In the South, particularly in Virginia, railroads were not favored in courts, legislatures, or city councils. The slave culture in law and judges favored the preservation of a hierarchical social order. Law reflected this paramount value in differentiated standards of duty based in class. Virginia law protected old conceptions of virtue against the threat of change symbolized by railroads.



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Yet both North and South, a political and social construction of citizenship constituted virtue and found measurement in access to common law courts. The political economy of the North or the Need For Speed promised everything to citizens but demanded everything of those citizens. Their duty was to be vigilant to avoid being harmed by the use of property of another. The public good was not the reasonable use of the commons but the Need For Speed. The political economy of the South expressed in law focused only on particular relationships with other private property users. Law was a shield preserving eighteenth-century values against novel ideas about property rights and tort duties. It was not until the 1870s and 1880s that the South adopted northern precedents forged in the railroad cases of the 1850s.

Schweber makes clear that neither railroad development alone nor slavery caused legal change or inertia. Rather the subject matter raised questions that challenged the legitimacy of older principles and legal forms of pleadings. Legal doctrines, socio-political values, and the property interests of the litigants came into play in the cases where courts worked out an American common law.

Schweber also discusses state constitutional conventions to provide context. The Illinois Constitution of 1848 abolished slavery in the state but excluded free blacks from its borders. Only white males with one year of residency could vote. Delegates outlawed state banks, state credit for internal improvements, and state bonds in excess of \$50,000. The Supreme Court now had appellate jurisdiction and its members were elected regionally. The Virginia Constitution of 1850 removed the property requirement for the white male franchise, taxes on slaves was fixed at below market value, Supreme Court justices were elected from five geographic districts, and the conservation of property rights prevailed.

In the process of arguing his case, Schweber deals with several prominent historians and their work. He distinguishes his findings from those of Peter Karsten on third party beneficiary contracts. Schweber makes clear that the subsidy theories of James Willard Hurst and Lawrence Friedman, the instrumentalist argument of Gary Schwartz, and ideological approach of Morton Horwitz regarding enterprise liability are outdated. Yet Joseph Schumpeter's concept of creative destruction is very much a part of his analysis.

This is a provocative book and should spur some thought. It is a book in black and white: African slaves and white males. This reviewer wonders how the analysis could have proceeded if it was more inclusive. As Kenneth L. Karst observed in 1989 "Indians and slaves were implicitly set apart as not belonging to American society – a view that still impresses itself on a great many blacks and Indians."⁵¹ Indian slavery was very much a part

51. Kenneth L. Karst, *BELONGING TO AMERICA: EQUAL CITIZENSHIP AND THE CONSTITUTION* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1989), p. 29.



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of ante-bellum southern life and a critical part of Georgia history.⁵² Lawrence M. Friedman's *REPUBLIC OF CHOICE* goes unnoticed and its two chapters "Modernity and the Rise of the Individual" and "Technology and Change" beg for comparative analysis.⁵³ James Willard Hurst's *LAW AND THE CONDITIONS OF FREEDOM IN THE NINETEENTH-CENTURY UNITED STATES* (1964) is noted, but his *LAW AND ECONOMIC GROWTH* (1964) covering much of the same legal and economic issues that reached in Illinois appellate docket is unexplored.⁵⁴ Robert Samuel Summers's *INSTRUMENTALISM AND AMERICAN LEGAL THEORY* is similarly missing.⁵⁵ Constitutional conventions held without railroads confronted similar or the same issues.⁵⁶ Earlier studies of the Americanization of the common law similarly need attention.⁵⁷ Most curiously, Schweber neglects Randolph Bergstrom's study of tort law in New York City. This is curious because Bergstrom's conclusions clearly collide with Schweber's in important cultural and legal ways.⁵⁸ Clearly, Schweber is part of an emerging group of scholars using railroad cases as a lens. Nan Goodman's *SHIFTING THE BLAME* puts law and literature at the intersection of road and railroad track.⁵⁹ James W. Ely, Jr.'s *RAILROAD AND AMERICAN LAW* takes a comprehensive look at the impact of railroads on legal thinking including slavery and tort law issues.⁶⁰ William G. Thomas's *LAWYERING FOR THE RAILROAD* puts the perspective of the practicing bar and the South in litigation and business perspective.⁶¹ Finally, Kathleen Brosnan has demonstrated that Colorado was much like the South without slaves. She found that "the transition to a modern capitalist society in this region was contested, inconsistent, and incomplete. Miners, farmers, and even state court judges regularly turned to traditional legal principles that protected local economic interests and community welfare

52. Alan Galley, *THE INDIAN SLAVE TRADE: THE RISE OF THE ENGLISH EMPIRE IN THE AMERICAN SOUTH, 1670-1717* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2002). James Brooks, *CAPTIVES AND COUSINS: SLAVERY, KINSHIP, AND COMMUNITY IN THE SOUTHWESTERN BORDERLANDS* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2002). Since Brooks demonstrates the Mexicans were far more adept than southerners at maintaining slavery well into the late nineteenth century, a glance at territorial decisions in New Mexico and Arizona Territories might be fruitful.

53. Lawrence M. Friedman, *THE REPUBLIC OF CHOICE: LAW, AUTHORITY, AND CULTURE* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1990). Also see Herbert Hovenkamp, *ENTERPRISE AND AMERICAN LAW, 1836-1937* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1991), pp. 114-148.

54. James Willard Hurst, *LAW AND ECONOMIC GROWTH: THE LEGAL HISTORY OF THE LUMBER INDUSTRY IN WISCONSIN, 1836-1915* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1964).

55. Robert Samuel Summers, *INSTRUMENTALISM AND AMERICAN LEGAL THEORY* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1982).

56. David Alan Johnson, *FOUNDING THE FAR WEST: CALIFORNIA, OREGON AND NEVADA, 1840-1890* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1992).

57. William E. Nelson, *AMERICANIZATION OF THE COMMON LAW: THE IMPACT OF LEGAL CHANGE ON MASSACHUSETTS SOCIETY, 1760-1830* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1975). Hendrik Hartog, *PUBLIC PROPERTY AND PRIVATE POWER: THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK IN AMERICAN LAW, 1730-1870* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1983).

58. Randolph E. Bergstrom, *COURTING DANGER: INJURY AND LAW IN NEW YORK CITY, 1870-1910* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1992).

59. Nan Goodman, *SHIFTING THE BLAME: LITERATURE, LAW, AND THE THEORY OF ACCIDENTS IN NINETEENTH-CENTURY AMERICA* (Princeton: Princeton UP, 1998), pp. 133-158.

60. James Ely, Jr., *RAILROADS AND AMERICAN LAW* (Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 2001), pp. 117-138.

61. William G. Thomas, *LAWYERING FOR THE RAILROAD: BUSINESS, LAW, AND POWER IN THE NEW SOUTH* (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1999). Also see Gordon Morris Bakken, *PRACTICING LAW IN FRONTIER CALIFORNIA* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1991), pp. 83-92.



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against outsiders with more dynamic property interests and concentrated capital.”⁶² Perhaps a historical look beyond the Mississippi might help our analysis of the construction of an American common law.

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“MAGISTERIAL HISTORY” IS FANTASIZING, HISTORY IS CHRONOLOGY

62. Kathleen A. Brosnan, UNIFYING MOUNTAIN AND PLAIN: CITIES, LAW, AND ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE ALONG THE FRONT RANGE (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2002), pp. 6-7.



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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 9, 2014



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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@brown.edu>. Arrgh.