

The THOREAU SOCIETY BULLETIN

BULLETIN 191 Spring, 1990
US ISSN 0040-6406

A PRONOUNCING GUIDE TO THE NAME THOREAU
by James Dawson

How do you pronounce the name Thoreau? Most everyone pronounces it incorrectly. New Englanders accent the first syllable while everyone else accents the last. Nearly everyone, that is. The citizens of Thoreau, New Mexico say Thru. What is correct?

In his *THE ANNOTATED WALDEN*, Phillip Van Doren Stern decided to settle the question. He wrote, "Although millions of people say Thoro', they pronounce the name incorrectly. The citizens of Concord--who should know because the Thoreau tradition has made a lasting impression on the town--say Thurrow, as in furrow." (1) T. Morris Longstreth in his *HENRY THOREAU, AMERICAN REBEL* wrote, "Thoreau is pronounced thorough in his native region as Henry lived his name, that is, thoroughly." (2) Van Doren Stern and Longstreth agree with each other. *WEBSTER'S NEW COLLEGIATE DICTIONARY* says that both furrough and thorough are pronounced the same--that is, that the u in furrow and the o in thorough are pronounced like the u in urn. Puns and tradition aside, is this correct? Actually--no.

If you walk around Concord, you will hear the name pronounced two ways: Thur'-ro (or Thorough) and Thor'-ro with the o pronounced like the o in more. Concordians can't even agree. Canby may have noted this in his biography *THOREAU* when he wrote "Henry David Thoreau (pronounced in the Concord of that day tho'row or thorough)." (3) I can't find that Emerson or any of Thoreau's early biographers made any pronouncements on the subject, but some of his friends had trouble at first. When Bronson Alcott met Thoreau for the first time in 1839, he spelled the name phonetically in his journal as Thorough. (4) However when Hawthorne met Thoreau in 1842, he seems to have heard the name differently. He wrote, "Sept. 1st Thursday. Mr. Thorow dined with us yesterday." (5) No agreement here--we seem to be back to Thurrow and Thor-ro.

The name is French. I asked a Frenchwoman, an English teacher, on her first trip to America how the name was pronounced in France. She didn't know--she only knew the American pronunciation. Would Thoreau's pronunciation have been French or American?

An unnamed classmate of Thoreau's settles this question only to add more confusion. Answering a newspaper query on the subject, he wrote, "Whoever pronounces Mr. Thoreau's name as "thorough" pronounces it barbarously. His ancestors were French, but he never pronounced his name as a Frenchman would, omitting the sound of the h, but accented the last syllable, Thoreau or Tho-row." (6) Now we have seven pronunciations counting the French and the New Mexican: Thur'-ro, Thur-ro', Thor'-ro, Thor-ro', Tho-ro', Tor-ro' and Thru. This is certainly a record for variations of an author's name.

The Thoreau Society, Inc., is an informal gathering of students and admirers of Henry David Thoreau. Thomas Blanding, president; Eric Parkman Smith, Treas.; and Walter Harding, sec. Address communications to the secretary at 19 Oak St., Geneseo, N.Y. 14454. Dues: \$20; students, \$10; family, \$35; benefactor, \$100; life member, \$500. Dues should be sent to the Thoreau Society, 156 Belknap St., Concord, Mass. 01742 where the Society sponsors the Thoreau Lyceum.

How did the Thoreau family pronounce their name? In 1880 someone sent the newspaper clipping to Maria Thoreau for her comment. She answered, "A few days since I receiv'd a note...wishing me to answer this Query respecting the name Thoreau. But as I have borne the "barbarous" as well as the ludicrous pronunciation of it for so many years I think I will let the controversy settle it." (7) Although Aunt Maria seemed to be fed up with the subject, she did agree with the classmate that the pronunciation Thorough was "barbarous," however Tho-ro' with the last syllable accented was "ludicrous." This leaves us with Thor'-ro.

How did Henry Thoreau pronounce Thoreau? Perhaps we get a clue in *CAPE COD* when he playfully compares himself with a viking: "But whether Thor-finn saw the mirage or not, Thor-eau, one of the same family did." (8) Thor'-ro, not Thur'-ro, Thor-ro' or Tho-ro'. I believe this settles it.

Actually, we don't say the name exactly as H.D.T. did. Channing wrote that Thoreau had a peculiar way of pronouncing his r's as if they had a slight burr to them. (9) Thoreau would have pr-r-ronounced his name Thor-r-reau.

(1) Stern, Philip Van Doren. *THE ANNOTATED WALDEN* (New York: Clarkson Potter, 1970), p.3.

(2) Longstreth, T. Morris. *HENRY THOREAU, AMERICAN REBEL*. (New York: Dodd, Mead, 1963) p. 140.

(3) Canby, Henry S. *THOREAU* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1939), p.3.

(4) Canby, p. 458.

(5) Harding, Walter. *THOREAU, MAN OF CONCORD* (New York: Holt, Rinehart & Winston, 1960), p. 154.

(6) Todd, Mabel Loomis. *THE THOREAU FAMILY TWO GENERATIONS AGO*. (Berkeley Heights, N.J.: Oriole Press, 1958), pp.20-21 (*THOREAU SOCIETY BOOKLET #13*)

(7) Todd, p. 21.

(8) Thoreau, Henry D. *CAPE COD* (Boston: Ticknor & Fields, 1865), p. 178

(9) Channing, Ellery. *THOREAU, THE POET-NATURALIST* (Boston: Roberts Bros., 1873), p.2.



11-1-53

THOREAU AND RAISIN BREAD by Walter Harding

For some years now there have been rumors circulating that Henry Thoreau was the inventor of raisin bread. The earliest printed statement of these rumors that I have been able to find was in a column by Ann Batchelder in the September, 1943, *LADIES HOME JOURNAL* where she says, "It was over a hundred years ago that Thoreau, the one-time nature hound, left the trees and brooks long enough to invent raisin bread!" Where she got the idea I have no notion, nor does she give

any source.

When in 1965 I published my DAYS OF HENRY THOREAU, I mentioned these rumors because, as I said in the introduction, "I have not hesitated at times to introduce what I was almost certain was apocryphal, keeping in mind Thoreau's own statement in his sketch of Sir Walter Raleigh--'It does not matter much whether the current stories are true or not, since they at least prove his reputation.'"

Frankly I was strongly suspicious of the Batchelder statement because I thought inserting raisins into bread must have been common long before Thoreau's day, but I was unable to prove it. I was pleased therefore when recently in conversation with Lisa Whalen, domestic arts supervisor at Plimoth Plantation in Plymouth, Mass., to have her confirm my suspicions. She told me that adding raisins to bread dough was commonplace even as early as Elizabethan England and cited as an example a recipe in THE COMPLETE COOK published in London by Tyler & Holt in 1671 (p. 14).

She then went on to explain that in those days such concoctions were usually referred to as "plum cakes"--"plum" then being a generic term for any dried fruit and "cake" being a term for any pastry made from dough and filled with fruit. Thoreau himself used the term "plum cake" frequently (See, for example, CORRESPONDENCE, p. 623). He often took plum cakes with him on his excursions as an easy way to pack a good deal of food energy into a small space. Having somewhat of a sweet tooth, he probably packed them with more raisins than usual. Concord housewives, who delighted in being shocked by Thoreau's antics, probably inadvertently gave him improper credit for inventing raisin bread.



12-31-53

I DISCOVER THOREAU by Denny Bowden

[Ed. note: This is another in our series on discovering Thoreau. We would welcome similar short essays from any of our members who have had unusual experiences in personally discovering Thoreau.]

Shortly after I turned 19 (when I didn't know beans), I started carrying around a Signet edition of WALDEN, not realizing the impact that it would have. For several weeks I read and re-read the book, dog-earring the corners with my rough but earnest treatment. Before long I looked at my world and my life with new eyes, and I put my sports car up for sale.

My girlfriend didn't like the changes she saw; my parents didn't understand, but new vistas opened up for me, and literature, philosophy, and nature were transformed, and I decided to plant my first garden. Of course, with repeated readings, WALDEN

cast new and different spells on me, foremost of which was the desire to work with ideas--to be a teacher.

As a teacher I expressed my admiration of Thoreau's writings and his ideas so convincingly that one of my school newspaper staffs surprised me with an end-of-the-year gift of the two-volume set of Thoreau's journal.

I joined the Thoreau Society, the Lyceum, and the Thoreau Foundation, relishing the opportunities to read the latest ideas about Thoreau. In fact, I relived the early history of the society, sprawled out on the floor nightly, reading the bound copies of the first hundred numbers of the bulletin. It captivated me with the magical air of the founding of Fruitlands, and I felt that I was somehow a part of those early years of the society, just by reading the old bulletins.

My enthusiasm has carried over into my teaching, too, where Thoreau often comes up as an example in our study of vocabulary, or in an examination of a poem, or wherever else an analogy seems apt. At times I've noticed that this motif-like return to Thoreau allusions creates a special bond within a class.

When I neared the completion of my master's degree in English, I took an independent study on Thoreau, and this caused me to appreciate Thoreau's WEEK so much that I chose it for the topic of my thesis, which argued that Mircea Eliade's ideas on the myths of archaic man can be used to view Thoreau's WEEK as a redemptive myth.

Other teachers have seen my interest in Thoreau, and one colleague even presented me with my very own rock taken from beside Walden Pond.

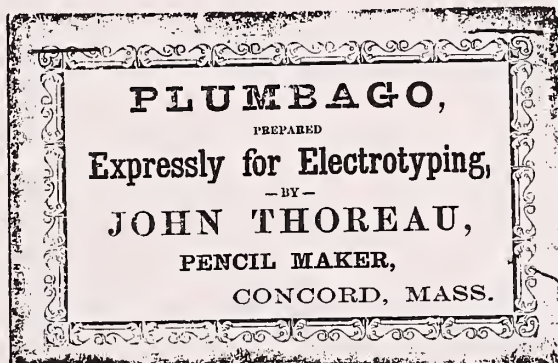


10-31-53

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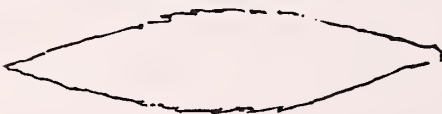
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We are indebted to the following for information sent in for the bulletin: C.Adams, C. Anderson, D. Barto, T. Blanding, J. Burger, J. Dawson, B. Dean, F. Fenn, L. Fergensen, M. Ferguson, W. Glick, L. Gougeon, G. Hendrick, E. Jacobson, E. Johnson, D. Kamen-Kaye, D. Lionel, K. Ljunquist, U. Lyons, A. McGrath, C. Mamali, T. Mansbridge, J. Moeldenhauer, E. Schofield, M. Shanks, M. Sperber, J. Welch, and L. Willis. Please keep the secretary informed of items he has missed and new ones as they appear.



9-4-53

RECENT DOCTORAL DISSERTATIONS (Cont.)
(Xerox copies of the full dissertation may be ordered from University Microfilms, 300 N Zeeb Rd., Ann Arbor, Mich. 48106.)

AN UNIVERSITY MICROFILMS ORDER NUMBER ADG83-11004. 0000.
AU GRICE-STEPHEN-ERNEST.
IN SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY AT CARBONDALE (0209) PH.D. 1982, 198 PAGES.

TI DEATH IN THE WRITINGS OF HENRY DAVID THOREAU.
SO DAI V44(01), SECA, PP168.

AB This dissertation is the first thorough examination of the literally thousands of death references in Thoreau's writings. It chronologically traces the development of his final view of death as a symbol of and a means to spiritual immortality. Along the way, it points out a few inconsistencies between this view and some of his other death-related ideas. But more importantly, it looks at how this view affected him as a writer and helped him face his own death.

Chapter one begins with a brief, selective history of New England attitudes toward death from the landing of the Pilgrims in 1620 until Thoreau's birth in 1817. It then looks at his early indirect contact with death prior to the death of his brother, John, in 1842. It examines his as yet untested attitudes toward death in his early writings--his college essays, an obituary, and his 1837-41 journal.

Chapter two describes John's death and Thoreau's traumatic, psychosomatic reaction. It then traces his gradual recovery as seen in his letters, poetry, 1842-49 journal, and A Week on the Concord and Merrimack Rivers. It also looks at his more general views on death and his experimentation with death imagery in his 1842-49 journal, his Dial essays, "Resistance to Civil Government," and A Week.

Chapters three and four discuss his use of death-related ideas

and imagery in his writings from 1850 through 1854 and from 1855 through his posthumous publications. Chapter three looks at his 1850-54 journal, "A Yankee in Canada," "Slavery in Massachusetts," and Walden; chapter four, his 1855-61 journal, his John Brown essays, "Autumnal Tints," "Walking," "Life without Principle", The Maine Woods, and Cape Cod. Chapter three records his acceptance of death as a symbol of and a means to spiritual immortality; chapter four examines the presence of this view in his final writings.

Chapter five reviews his lifelong interest in other people's deathbed scenes and his admiration for the heroic death. It then sketches his final illness, ending with his triumphant death in May of 1862.



9-22-53

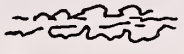
THE DEBATE OVER THOREAU'S SCIENTIFIC CREDENTIALS by Lawrence Buell (Abstract of a 1989 MLA Lecture).

Thoreau's scientific credentials have been a subject of continual debate, owing in the first instance to his own conflicting pronouncements on the role and value of science and to his ambiguous position in the scientific community of his day. As Thoreau devoted himself more seriously to scientific study, he paradoxically became more astringent toward science's myopic vision. As a member of the New England scientific community, his primary visible role was that of specimen collector--a role increasingly identified with the fringes rather than the vanguard of scientific progress--yet he absorbed Darwin before many of America's prominent scientists did and in retrospect might be seen as prophetically in advance of the taxonomy-oriented mentality that still dominated mid-19th century science: as a precursor of as-yet-unbaptized disciplines like ecology, limnology, and phenology.

The question of the place that science ought to be seen as occupying in Thoreau's thought and work has also been viewed very differently at different points in the history of Thoreau scholarship. Thoreau's reputation as a writer, especially in America, was chiefly nurtured by late 19th-century literary naturalists whose patriarch he increasingly seemed. When he was incorporated into the American literary canon at the turn of the century, it was chiefly on the basis of his stature as the American writer as scientist. Within a few decades, however, this aspect of Thoreau has been eclipsed by the images of Thoreau as social radical and/or as literary craftsman, both of which tended to marginalize Thoreau the natural historian.

Given this drift in the first half-century of Thoreau's reputation as a canonical figure, it is striking that the last decade or so has witnessed, for a variety of reasons, a rehabilitation of something like the earlier image of the scientific Thoreau. Some obvious signs of this are renewed attention to his natural history writings and the two most recent major biographies by Richardson and Howarth. Equally striking, however, has been the rate at which Thoreau's work has been cited by practicing scientists (cf. Robin McDowell's two TSB notes and Harding's VQR essay). A number

of these citations are window-dressing, but the more substantive among them add up to a rather impressive picture of Thoreau's stature as a figure that a number of scientists are glad to claim him as a fellow worker. This quasi-acceptance of Thoreau by the scientific community should not inspire complacency in literary scholars, however; on the contrary, it should inspire renewed efforts within our discipline to define Thoreauvian aesthetics, and the aesthetics of nonfiction generally, in a way that is capacious enough to include scientific discourse.



8-15-53

FINANCING THE TEXAS HOUSE by Walter Harding.

We are grateful to Robert Galvin for providing us with copies of the following two documents from the MIDDLESEX COUNTY REGISTRY RECORDS (CCCCXLIX, 297) concerning the Thoreau family's financing of what they always called their Texas House, which they built on what is now Belknap Street just beyond what is now the Thoreau Lyceum. The Texas House was badly damaged by fire and wind in the late 1930s and was eventually torn down in the 1950s. Another building has since been erected on its site.

In 1844, when the railroad from Boston first reached Concord, a station was erected on its present site on what is now Thoreau Street. David Loring purchased the adjacent Heywood farm and opened it up for real estate development.

Although the Thoreaus had moved to what they called the Yellow House on Main Street (what is now known as the Thoreau-Alcott House) in 1850), they continued to own the Texas House for many years, renting it out to various tenants such as the Wassons and the Robinsons.

The first document records the purchase for twenty-five dollars of the three-quarters acre lot from Loring; the second records their mortgaging it two days later for five hundred dollars to Augustus Tuttle to buy lumber and supplies for the building. The Thoreaus finally paid off the mortgage eleven years later in 1855.

David Loring to John Thoreau -

Know all men by these Presents, That I, David Loring of Concord in the County of Middlesex Commonwealth of Massachusetts, in consideration of Twenty five dollars to me paid by John Thoreau, the receipt wherof is hereby acknowledged, do hereby give, grant, bargain, sell and convey unto the said Thoreau a certain tract of land lying in said Concord bounded as follows commencing at the Southeasterly corner on a street and by land of Nathan W. Brooks, running northerly on said Brook one hundred and seventy seven feet to a stake and stones, then westerly on land of the grantor one hundred and eighty feet to a stake and stones, then southerly on land of the grantor two hundred and five feet to said street, thence

Easterly on said Street one hundred and seventy five feet to the bound first mentioned and containing about three fourths of an acres more or less.

To have and to hold the above granted premises with the privileges and appurtenances thereto belonging, to the said Thoreau, his heirs and assigns, to their use and behoof forever. And I the said Loring for myself and my heirs, executors and administrators, do covenant with the said Thoreau, his heirs and assigns that I lawfully seized in fee of the afore granted premises; that they are free from all incumbrances, that I have good right to sell and convey the same to the said Thoreau, his heirs and assigns forever against the lawful claims and demands of all persons.

In witness whereof, the said David Loring and Susan F. Loring wife of said David in token of her relinquishment to right to Dower in the premises, have hereunto set our hands and seals this tenth day of September in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and forty four. Executed and delivered, David Loring (seal), Susan F. Loring (seal). in the presence of us, George Loring, Lydia A. Loring Middlesex ss. Sept. 10th, 1844. Then personally appeared the above named David Loring and acknowledged the above Instrument to his free (act) and deed, Before Me, Nathan Brooks, Justice of the Peace, Middlesex ss. Sept. 14, 1844. Rec'd & Recorded by Henry Stone (?), Reg.

John Thoreau to Aug. Tuttle

Know all Men by these Presents, That I, John Thoreau of Concord in the County of Middlesex and Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Yeoman, in consideration of five hundred dollars paid by Augustus Tuttle of Concord aforesaid, Yeoman, the receipt whereof I do hereby acknowledge, do hereby give, grant, sell and convey unto the said Tuttle, a certain tract of land lying in said Concord as follows, commencing at the southeasterly corner on a street and by land of Nathan W. Brooks, running northerly on said Brooks land one hundred and seventy seven feet to a stake & stones, thence westerly on land of David Loring one hundred & eighty feet to a stake & stones, thence southerly on land of said Loring two hundred and five feet to said street, thence easterly on said street one hundred & seventy five feet to the bound first mentioned containing about three fourths of an acre with a dwelling house on the same.

To Have and to Hold the aforegranted premises to the said Augustus Tuttle, his heirs and assigns to his and their use and behoof forever. And I do covenant with the said Tuttle his heirs and assigns, that I am lawfully seized in fee of the aforegranted premises: that they are free of all incumbrances, that I have good right to sell and convey the same to the said Tuttle and that I will warrant and defend the same premises to the said Tuttle, his heirs & assigns forever, against the lawful claims

and demands of all persons. Provided nevertheless, That if the said John Thoreau, his heirs, executors or administrators pay to the said Tuttle, his heirs, executors, administrators or assigns the sum of five hundred dollars in five years with interest semi-annually, then this deed as also a certain note of hand bearing even date wills these presents given by the said Thoreau to the said Tuttle to pay the same sum of five hundred dollars & interest at the time aforesaid shall both be void; otherwise shall remain in full force. In witness whereof, I the said John Thoreau with Cynthia wife of said John who hereby releases her right of Dower in the premises, have hereunto set our hands and seals this first day of September in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty four. Signed, sealed and delivered in the presence of Helen L. Thoreau, Henry D. Thoreau - John Thoreau, (seal), Cynthia D. Thoreau (seal) Middlesex ss. September 12th 1844. Then the above named John Thoreau acknowledged the above Instrument to be his free act and deed - before me, Nathan Brooks, Justice of Peace. Middlesex ss. Sept. 14, 1844, Rec'd & Recorded by Henry Stone (?) Reg.

Know all men by these presents, That I Augustus Tuttle within named, in consideration of the full payment of the debt secured by the within mortgage by the within named John Thoreau the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged do hereby release & quit-claim unto the said Thoreau the lands herein described and hold said Thoreau free & acquit from all & every claim that I may have upon him by virtue of the within deed of Mortgagery the note secured thereby. Executed in presence of Geo. M. Brooks Middlesex ss Sept., 1855. Then personally appeared Augustus Tuttle and acknowledged the foregoing instrument to be his free act and deed. Before me Geo. M. Brooks, Jus. of Peace Cambridge, Feb. 11, 1856. Rec'd & Recorded by Cabel Hayden, Reg.

9-22-53

THE 1990 ANNUAL MEETING . . .

The 1990 annual meeting of the society will be held on Saturday, July 14, 1990, in the First Parish Church in Concord, Mass. Coffee and a social hour will begin at 9 a.m. The business meeting will start at 9:45. Thomas Blanding will deliver the presidential address and it will be followed by a concert-lecture conducted by Walter Harding and friends on "Musical Tributes to Thoreau." Saturday afternoon Jack Borden will speak on "Using Thoreau's Writings to Gain a Deeper Awareness of the Beauty and Wonder of the Sky"; there will be a forum on "Approaches to Teaching Thoreau"; and Marcia Moss will conduct her special tour of the Thoreau treasures in the Concord Free Public Library. In the evening Tom Potter will conduct a multi-media perspective on "Thoreau, the greatest Essay." On Friday evening, the 13th,

Anne McGrath will speak at the church on "Henry Thoreau: Correspondent." And on Sunday morning, the 15th, Mary Sherwood, chairwoman of Walden Forever Wild, will conduct a nature walk at Walden Pond.

At Saturday noon, a luncheon will be served at the church, and Saturday evening a supper will be served at the Lyceum. Tickets for each of these events

are \$12.00 apiece and reservations must be made in advance before Wednesday, July 11th, at the Thoreau Lyceum, 156 Belknap St., Concord, Mass. 01742 (Telephone: 508-369-5912.

The nominating committee announces that their candidate for president at the annual election will be Dr. Edmund Schofield of Scituate, Mass.

9-22-53

NOTES AND QUERIES . . .

We welcome into being volume one, number one of TRN: THOREAU RESEARCH NEWSLETTER for January, 1990, issued by Bradley P. Dean (P.O.Box 562, Conner, Mont. 59827). It is a clearinghouse on research on Thoreau and will appear quarterly. Subscriptions are seven dollars. And may all its issues be as stimulating and interesting as this one.

COLLECTORS' CORNER: Joseph Rubinfine (505 S. Flagler Dr., Suite 1301, W.Palm Beach, Fla. 33401) is offering the manuscript of Horace Greeley's letter of March 11, 1853 to Thoreau for \$2500.

BOOKMAN'S PRICE INDEX, Vol. 39, lists the following recent sales: 1st of CAPE COD, \$300, \$100; Watson ed. of CAPE COD, \$135, \$200; 1st of EARLY SPRING, \$150; 1st of EXCURSIONS, \$150; 1st & LAST JOURNEYS, \$250; LETTERS TO VAR. PERSONS, \$650; 1st of MAINE WOODS, \$300; 1st of WALDEN, \$3000; 1st English of WALDEN, \$175, \$450; 1st of WEEK, \$2000, \$225; MS Edition, \$4000; 1st of YANKEE, \$450, \$275. AMERICAN BOOK PRICES CURRENT 1989 lists: 1st of CAPE COD (Rockwood Hoar's copy), \$950; 1st of MAINE WOODS, \$160; 1st of WALDEN, \$2800, \$600; 1st of WEEK, \$2200; 1862 WEEK, \$800; MS Edition, \$2800, \$2400. ALS, Nov. 15, 1850, T to Franklin Forbes, \$4000; ALS, Feb. 2, 1855, T to Sanborn, \$6500; ALS, Mar. 8, 1857, T to Mary Brown, \$5000.

Composer John LaMontaine has recently donated to the Thoreau Society Archives both a recording and the score of his beautiful "Wilderness Journal" based on a text from Thoreau.

On Feb. 26, Anne McGrath, curator of our lyceum, lectured at West Concord Depot on Sophia Thoreau.

May 24-6, Hellgate Writers (210 North Higgins, Missoula, MT 59802) will sponsor a conference on "In the Thoreau Tradition: Nature and the Written Word." Among the speakers will be Robert Richardson.

At the July annual meeting, details of the gift of a remarkable collection of manuscripts relating to Thoreau and his New Bedford friend Daniel Ricketson, to the Thoreau Society archives by Ray E. Parmenter of Wrentham, Mass. will be announced.

Richard O'Connor is compiling a checklist of birds seen on the Walden Pond State Reservation and would appreciate receiving word of any unusual species seen thereon or learning of any checklists of the birds of the reservation past or present. He should be addressed at the Thoreau Lyceum, 156 Belknap St., Concord, Mass. 01742, where many of you know him as a guide there.

Thomas Blanding is conducting a seminar on Thoreau's natural history essays at the Thoreau Lyceum for eight weeks this spring. He also spoke on the conservation problems at Walden Pond on the CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR's Forum program for cable TV and public radio, broadcast widely in early February.

Publicity over that controversy continues widespread. See, for example, HISTORIC PRESERVATION for Feb., 1990; LINCOLN JOURNAL, Nov. 30, 1989; CONCORD JOURNAL, Dec. 21, 1989, Jan. 25, 1990, Feb. 1, 1990; AUDUBON MAGAZINE, Jan. 1990; POETS & WRITERS MAGAZINE, Jan. 1990; USA TODAY, Dec. 28, 1989, Jan. 3, 1990; and BOSTON GLOBE, Dec. 20, 1989.

The latest LAND'S END catalog quotes Thoreau: "All good things are cheap; all bad very dear."

THE NEW MENCKEN LETTERS, edited by Carl Bode (New York: Dial, 1977, p. 564) quotes a letter from Mencken to W.H. Archer: "Thoreau was an amusing fellow, and I agree with him in very large part. Nevertheless, I have never been able to convince myself that he was really profound. Unhappily, he has been horribly belabored by pinks of all sorts. I wish there were a really good edition of his writings." (Aug. 21, 1946).

J. Miller has called to our attention that all photographs of Thoreau show white under the iris of the eye. In Japan this condition is known as Sanpaku and is supposed to indicate a tragically short life.

On March 11, 1939, the novelist Scott Fitzgerald wrote his daughter Scottie, "After reading Thoreau I felt how much I have lost by leaving nature out of my life." (LETTERS, ed. by Andrew Turnbull (New York: Scribners, 1963, p. 51).

Charlotte Adams writes that she has recently come across a note among Raymond Adams' papers saying that in 1934 he interviewed Mrs. Mary Coughlin of Concord "whose mother worked for Mrs. Thoreau at the time Henry lived at Walden and while Mr. Thoreau was sick; in fact, the mother was married at the Thoreau house." A further indication of the Thoreau family's concern and interest in their Irish neighbors.

A fish caught in Walden Pond recently was found to contain a gold, horseshoe-shaped diamond ring appraised at \$600, according to the CONCORD JOURNAL for Feb. 1, 1990. We are quite sure it wasn't Henry's.

Jonathan T. Grimes, a Minnesota nursery man, reports in his memoirs written in 1898: "During the sixties I had an unusual experience. Mr. Henry D. Thoreau, poet-naturalist, came to Minnesota on account of his health. He boarded with a Mrs. Hamilton who had an exclusive boarding house on the shore of Lake Calhoun . . . where many southern people had

been guests before the war. As Mr. Thoreau was a lover of trees and flowers he often visited with me and one can imagine the pleasures Mr. Thoreau must have derived from roaming through Linden Hills when Lake Harriet was surrounded by a virgin forest." [from THE GRIMES FAMILY by May Agatha Grimes (Minneapolis: Lund, 1946, p. 20). It was Grimes, incidentally, who finally succeeded in showing Thoreau the wild crab apple.

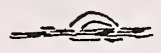
"At present I am reading my seventh volume of Thoreau. The very richest of his thoughts I have struck yet. FAMILIAR LETTERS, edited by Frank Sanborn. Wonderfully appealing, and brings one in closest touch with Thoreau as a fellow man. The book interprets a side of the philosopher which most biographers have purposely avoided, apparently to intensify their conception of the man as stoic.

"FAMILIAR LETTERS tells you how interested he was in the house cat, and what tenderness he showed for his home people and his few friends. The letters are full of genuine pathos, not because they are pathetic, but because they are so tender, and so sincere.

"Even in moments of intense grief, when he lost his favorite brother, 'John,' his child friend, 'Waldo' (Emerson's oldest boy), and his own father, his letters are wholesome, so hopeful and uplifting, that one feels the more, perhaps, his profoundly deep Grief."--N.C. Wyeth, THE WYETHS (Boston: Gambit, 1971. p. 339.

Marston Watson's Plymouth estate, Hillside, which Thoreau once surveyed, has now become a real estate development and one of its streets is labeled "Thoreau Road."

A cartoon in the August 22, 1989 MIDDLESEX NEWS contrasts cranes (blue herons) that Thoreau saw at Walden with building cranes now seen there.



On the next page we reproduce with the permission of the Concord Free Public Library Dr. Edward Jarvis's map of the Milldam of Concord Village as it was in Thoreau's childhood. This is now the northern end of the main shopping district in Concord. As this map shows, the main street was then literally a milldam with a mill pond (now long since drained) behind the stores on the east side. The mill brook still crosses the area though it is now completely covered over where it crosses the street.

Jarvis (1803-1884) was one of Concord's most distinguished citizens. A member of the Social Circle, he became a widely known pioneer in the treatment of the mentally ill, in the field of statistics, and in census-taking. A number of his manuscripts, including HOUSES & PEOPLE IN CONCORD, 1810-1820, from which this map is taken, are now in the Concord Free Public Library.

Concord Milldam Shops 1810-1820

SOUTH SIDE

NORTH SIDE

Thos. Litch
BLACKSMITH

Wm. Munroe
CABINETS

Aqueduct to Mill

Nathan Hosmer
CABINETS
Bettis and Peters
PRINTING
Saml. Rand
BARBER

Natl. Munroe
CLOCKMAKER

Mother McCloud house
WASHING

Aqueduct for Tannard

Lemuel Curtis
CLOCKS

Jas. Conswell
Hats made and sold

Fire engine house

Francis Jarvis barn



Front sills of shops rested on milldam, rear sills on pilings.

Francis Jarvis bakehouse
G. L. Tuttle LAW

(Wright Tavern)

(Nails, wire)

Triphammer

Joshua Jones
BLACKSMITH

Grist Mill

Food & clothes
Spirits & books Stephen Wood

Tannard - Stephen Wood

Bark House

Castina Shop

Mill Stream

Saml. Platt house

Gaius Proctor
SHOES

Common

The Milldam of Concord Village, 1810-1820
As remembered by Dr. Edward Jarvis in his
HOUSES AND PEOPLE IN CONCORD

Scale 40 ft = 1 inch Redrawn by T. Reed, 1971