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THOREAU AND TUBERCULOSIS by Walter Harding

Thoreau has long gone down in history as one of the best known victims of tuberculosis, but surprisingly little has been studied or written about its impact on his life. It is generally assumed that the Thoreau family was prone to the disease for his father, brother, and sister Helen were all said to have suffered from it. Since nothing was known in their day about the high contagiousness of tuberculosis, I think we can assume that little or no effort was expended in keeping the ill members of the family out of contact with the others. Tuberculosis was also highly prevalent in the Concord of Thoreau's day. In 1862, the year of Thoreau's death, it was by far the leading cause of death according to the Town Report for that year, twenty per cent of the deaths that year being ascribed to it--and that was not at all an untypical year.

It is a tradition, though not medically proven, that one important factor in the great surge of tuberculosis in the mid-nineteenth century America was the adoption of air-tight stoves in place of fireplaces for heating homes. Supposedly it made one's lungs more susceptible to invasion by the tuberculosis bacillus. From various references in Thoreau's journal it is apparent that the Thoreau's generally heated their house by stoves and in Walden Thoreau indicates that in his second year at the pond he abandoned his fireplace and used a stove instead.

It is difficult not to believe that the family pencil business had a notably deleterious effect on their illness. Ironically in his pursuit of a better pencil Henry developed a mill which ground the graphite for the pencils much more finely than usual. The resulting dust not only covered the interior of the pencil factory, but despite Mrs. Thoreau's ardent housekeeping efforts, it penetrated the house to which the factory was attached. One visitor to the house has spoken of opening the family piano and finding the keys covered with pencil dust. Such dust would inevitably irritate the lungs.

One modern medical theory suggests that persons living on a high carbohydrate-low protein diet are particularly susceptible to tuberculosis. Benjamin Sandler, in "Thoreau, Pulmonary Tuberculosis and Dietary Deficiency" (Chest, 63, 1974, 855-6), after analyzing Thoreau's diet as recorded in Walden, suggests that Thoreau most likely suffered that dietary deficiency.

Thoreau suffered from a number of illnesses during his lifetime. He had to drop out

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.

of college for a term. He was ill most of the time in spent in Staten Island in 1843. In 1855-6 he had a strange illness that doctors were unable to diagnose and which made his legs feel particularly weak. And in 1860 he caught a bad cold from Bronson Alcott that developed into bronchitis and led to his fatal illness. It is thought that



some or perhaps even all of these illnesses involved the opening of tubercular lesions in his lungs, but details of the illnesses are so sparse that diagnosis cannot be confirmed.

Many have wondered why Thoreau went to Minnesota seeking a cure for his illness. Actually his doctors recommended the West Indies or southern Europe instead to get him away from Concord's cold climate. But Minnesota was just beginning to advertise itself as a good climate for those suffering from tuberculosis. Also one of Tho-

reau's distant Maine cousins, suffering from the disease, had moved to Minnesota and found relief. (Ironically the cousin died in Minnesota only a few weeks after Thoreau returned from there, but his death was caused by a carriage accident rather than tuberculosis).

Thoreau invited the seventeen-year-old Horace Mann, Jr., to accompany him on the trip to Minnesota. A few years later Mann died of tuberculosis. Knowing that young people are particularly susceptible to the disease, Louise Hall Tharp (Until Victory, Boston, 1953, p. 236) has wondered if possibly Mann caught the disease from Thoreau on that trip.

There has long been a tradition, though never proven medically, that there is some connection between tuberculosis and creativity, some arguing that creative persons are more susceptible to tuberculosis and others that the tubercular bacillus creates chemical reactions that affect creativity. Arthur Jacobson, in "Tuberculosis and the Creative Mind" (Medical Library and Historical Journal, 5, 1907, 229) argues for the latter in Thoreau's case.

It has been widely noted that Thoreau's last days were notably euphoric. Visitor after visitor to his sickbed commented on his cheerfulness. Sam Staples, for example, commented that he "never saw a man dying with so much pleasure and peace." When friends and relatives attempted to console him, Thoreau was more than likely to reply with a quip, as when his Aunt Louisa Dunbar asked him if he had made his peace with God, he replied, "I did not know that we had ever quarreled, Aunt." According to Mark Caldwell (The Last Crusade: The War on Consump-

tion 1862-1954, New York: Atheneum, 1988, p.18) this euphoria is a widely recognized characteristic of victims of tuberculosis.

Many years ago I heard a rumor that Dr. Edward Trudeau, who fostered the once popular "outdoor cure" for tuberculosis in this country at his well-known sanatorium at Saranac Lake in the Adirondacks, in which the patient was kept out-of-doors in the coldest weather, even sleeping outdoors, developed the idea when in reading a series of biographies of famous tuberculars he was puzzled when he noted that Thoreau, instead of dying young as most tuberculars did, apparently survived a whole series of attacks spread over more than twenty years. Seeking to discover what was different about Thoreau's life that enabled him to fight off the disease for so long, Trudeau came to the conclusion that Thoreau's regular outdoors exercise might have helped, and so he experimented with encouraging his own patients to spend more and more time outdoors. Actually, as Mr. Caldwell points out in his book, Trudeau derived his theory from an Austrian physician, Gustav Brehmer (p. 69), who had developed the theory earlier. But as Mr. Caldwell has pointed out to me in a very helpful personal letter, Thoreau did become a hero to the proponents of the outdoor cure theory and is frequently cited in their literature, pointing out specifically an article in the December 1908 issue of Journal of the Outdoor Life which I have as yet been

unable to locate.

There is one last point that should be made and that is, ironically, that it is perfectly possible that Thoreau did not have tuberculosis at all! His contemporaries always referred to his illness as "consumption" which was then a generic term applied to a number of lung diseases, among them both tuberculosis and bronchitis. Recognized symptoms of these various diseases overlapped a great deal and they could not be positively identified. For example, it was long thought that Ralph Waldo Emerson suffered from tuberculosis as a young man; it is now more generally believed that he had bronchitis. It was not until 1882, long after Thoreau's death, that Robert Koch succeeded in isolating and identifying the tuberculosis bacillus, so positive identification of the disease could be made only after that date. Thus while we cannot say with absolute certainty that Thoreau had the disease, his illness displayed so many of its symptoms that it is highly likely that he was tubercular.

It is regrettable that we do not have better medical records available for Thoreau's illnesses. Almost everything we now have available is but hearsay. Nor is it likely that further records will be discovered for Josiah Bartlett, who was the regular Thoreau family physician, made a regular practice of burning all his paid and unpaid bills each January first, thus enabling his patients to start out with a fresh slate each year. Had we more records available there is no telling how much more we would be able to understand Thoreau's life, work, and personality.



2-5-53

NOTES AND QUERIES . . .

The 1889 ANNUAL MEETING will be held in Concord on Saturday July 15. The president, Tom Blanding, is working on the program.

Ronald Hoag, chairman of the nominating committee, announces the following nominations to be presented at the annual meeting: president, Thomas Blanding; secretary, Walter Harding; treasurer, Eric Parkman Smith, all for terms of one year; and Joel Myerson and Marcia Moss, members of the Board of Directors for three years.

President Blanding announces the appointments of Christopher Roof as Chair of the Historic Sites Committee and of Hope Luder as a member of the Lyceum Committee.

David Robinson will direct a 1989 Summer Seminar for Secondary School Teachers on the American Transcendentalists (including Thoreau) at Oregon State University under the sponsorship of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Fifteen teachers from around the country will be chosen to attend the 5-week seminar, and will receive a stipend of \$2375 for participating. Inquiries should be addressed to Prof. Robinson, Dept. of English, Oregon State University, Corvallis, Oregon 97331.

A WALKING TOUR OF THOREAU-RELATED SITES IN
CONCORD'S SLEEPY HOLLOW CEMETERY by Walter
Harding

Concord's Sleepy Hollow Cemetery is often referred to as a sort of American Westminster Cathedral for it contains the graves of so many famous Americans. For Thoreauvians it has a very special significance for not only does it contain his graves [sic] but those of many of his friends and relatives. Sleepy Hollow Cemetery is actually an amalgamation of three cemeteries. The southeastern end was opened early in the nineteenth century as the "New Burying Ground" when Concord's two older cemeteries, one at each end of the Mill Dam, began filling up. In the mid-1850s, Thoreau was asked to survey the old Middlesex Agricultural Society grounds, the northwestern end of the present cemetery and it was opened as Sleepy Hollow Cemetery, a garden cemetery in imitation of the then popular Mount Auburn Cemetery in nearby Cambridge. Then, as those two cemeteries began to fill up, the intervening section between the two was opened and the three units all became known as Sleepy Hollow. Thus the first section of the cemetery tends to have graves dated in the early nineteenth century; the further section, in the late nineteenth century, and the middle section, in the twentieth century.

1.) Entering the cemetery immediately at the end nearest downtown Concord, one will find a tiny building and immediately to its right, the Dunbar family lot, which contains the graves of Mary Jones Dunbar Minott (Thoreau's grandmother), Louisa Dunbar (Thoreau's aunt, and Charles Dunbar (Thoreau's eccentric uncle). Originally Thoreau himself, his father, his brother John, and his sister Helen were all buried in this plot, but sometime in the 1870s they were all disinterred and moved to their present resting places on Author's Ridge at the other end of the cemetery. Their gravestones then apparently matched the brownstone Gothic stones of the Dunbars. These were moved over to Author's Ridge for a time but were eventually replaced by the headstones now in use there.

2.) Elizabeth Weir was a close friend of Sophia Thoreau and inherited a number of Thoreau's books from her.

3.) George Minott, Thoreau's much-admired farmer friend.

4.) Perez Blood, Concord's amateur astronomer.

5.) Annie Sawyer Downes, Concord poet who has left us interesting reminiscences of Thoreau and his friends.

6.) Fred Hosmer, one of Concord's earliest Thoreau enthusiasts. He gathered together the remarkable Thoreau collection now in the Concord Free Public Library.

7.) Mrs. Prudence Ward was Ellen Sewall's grandmother and Mrs. Thoreau's star boarder. Her grave is marked with a flag because her husband was a colonel in the Revolutionary War.

8.) Ed Neally was a youth in Thoreau's day and Thoreau encouraged his interest in both birds and Indian artifacts. Note that

his gravestone is an actual Indian mortar which when it becomes filled with rainwater serves as a birdbath.

9.) Sammy Hoar, who as a child was often entertained by Thoreau.

10.) Allen French, Concord historian.

11.) Melvin Memorial, designed by Daniel Chester French to honor the Melvin brothers who died in the Civil War.

12.) David Wasson, a Unitarian clergyman who rented the Texas House from the Thoreaus and wrote a poetic tribute to Thoreau.

13.) Franklin B. Sanborn, Thoreau's friend and biographer.

14.) Grindall Reynolds, Concord Unitarian clergyman who was a friend of the whole Thoreau family.

15.) Prescott Keyes, who as a young man knew Thoreau and later published a "disquisition" about him.

16.) Daniel Chester French, Concord's world famous sculptor of both the Minuteman and of Abraham Lincoln.

17.) Jean LeBrun, Mrs. Thoreau's friend and neighbor who wrote a spirited defense of Thoreau's mother after F.B. Sanborn maligned her in print.

18.) Ellery Channing, Thoreau's closest friend and biographer.

19.) Nathaniel Hawthorne

20.) The Thoreau family plot with the graves of Henry, his sisters Sophia and Helen, his father and his mother. The large granite family stone in the center was erected in the late nineteenth century as a bequest in Aunt Maria Thoreau's will. Henry's stone looks lighter than the rest because it was stolen some years ago and had to be replaced.

21.) The Alcott family plot contains most of the "Little Women" and their father and mother. Louisa May's stone is marked with a flag because she served as a nurse in the Civil War.

22.) John Shepard Keyes, who once competed with Thoreau for Ellen Sewall's hand.

23.) Mrs. Daniel Lothrop ("Margaret Sidney") who wrote the "Five Little Peppers" series of children's books.

24.) The Emerson family plot. Note not only Emerson's grave (the large rose quartz stone which has established a fashion for many New England cemeteries, but those also of his second wife Lydian, his daughter Ellen, and his brothers William and Bulkeley. Bulkeley was retarded; note the beautiful and appropriate inscription.

25.) Sarah Alden Ripley, Concord's most noted bluestocking who lived in the Old Manse.

26.) George Partridge Bradford, Emerson's lifelong friend.

27.) Dr. Josiah Bartlett, the Thoreau family physician.

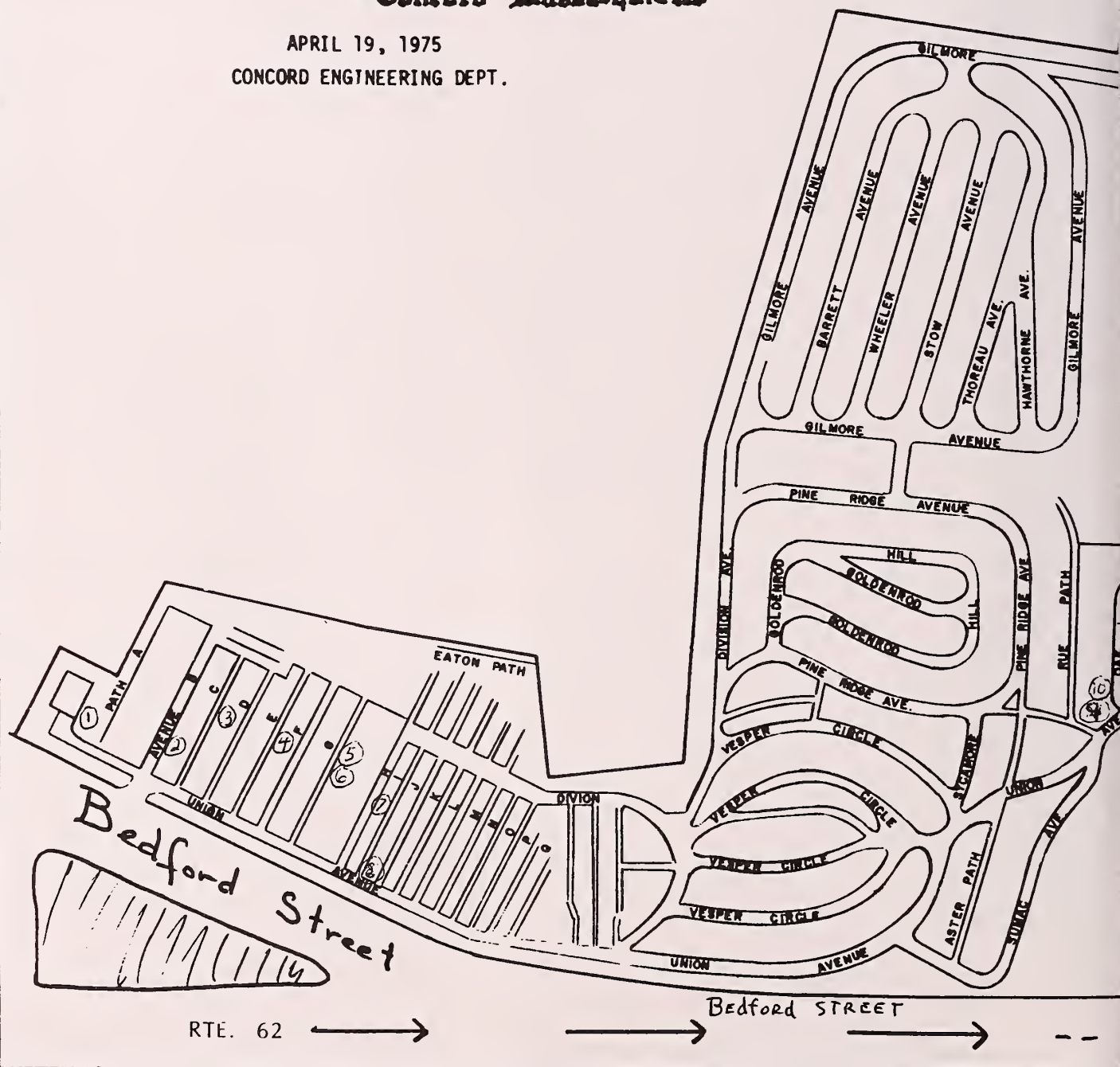
28.) William Munroe, the pencil manufacturer who competed with the Thoreaus.

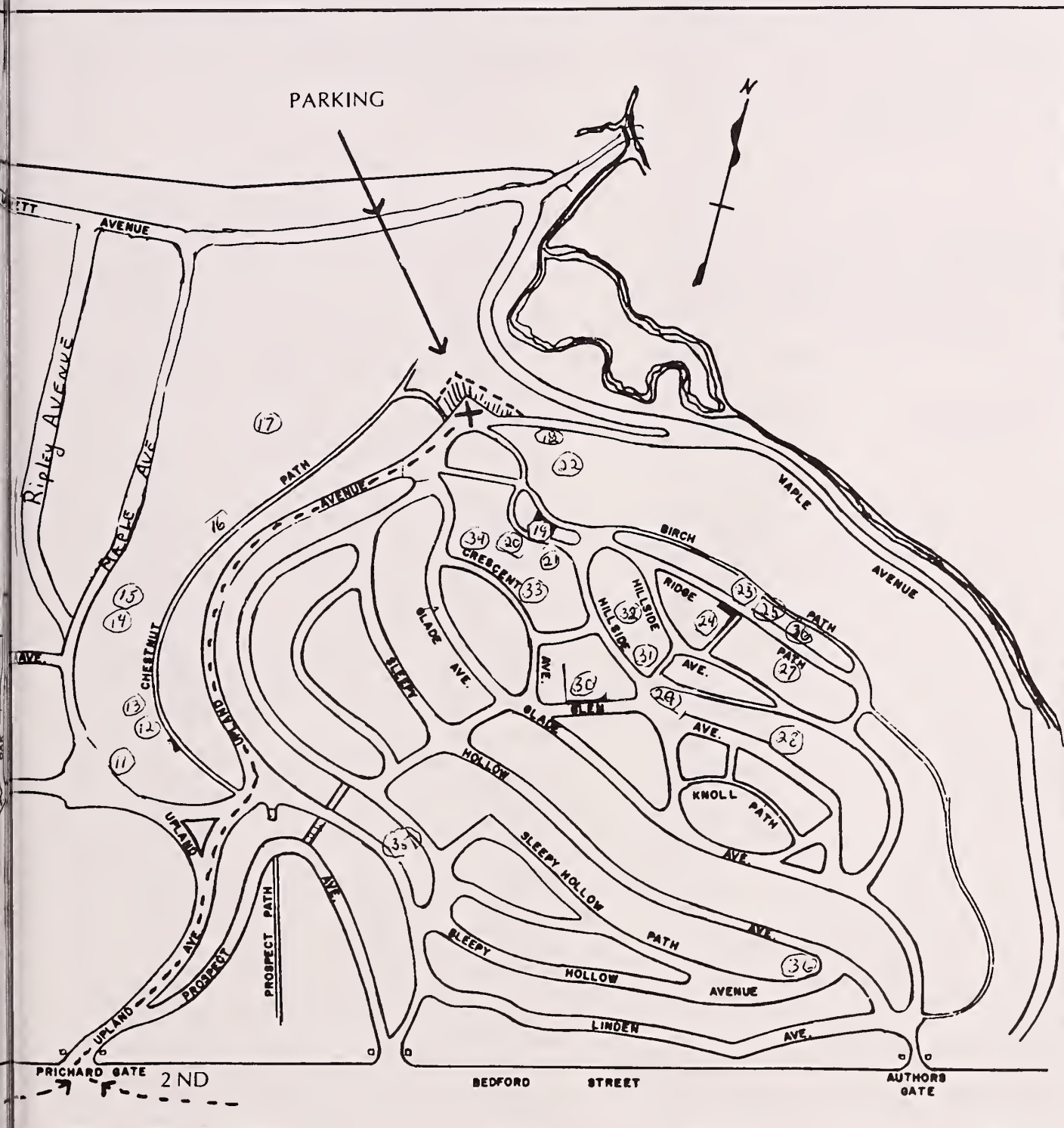
29.) Ephraim Wales Bull, who developed the Concord grape. Note the stone is in the shape of a grapevine. The inscription refers to the fact that Bull never patented his grape and others made fortunes on his work.

30.) The Hoar family plot with the graves

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of Elizabeth Hoar (who had been engaged to Emerson's brother), George Frisbie Hoar (who became a United States senator), Ebenezer Rockwood Hoar (who became attorney-general in Grant's cabinet), and Edward Hoar (who, following in Thoreau's footsteps devoted his quiet life to the observation of nature--note the particularly appropriate inscription on his stone).

31.) Barzillai Frost, another Concord Unitarian clergyman who was a neighbor of the Thoreaus on Main Street.

32.) Sam Staples, Concord's jailer, constable, and tax collector, who arrested Thoreau.

33.) Edmund Hosmer, Thoreau's farmer friend.

34.) William S. Robinson, a prominent newspaper columnist who wrote under the pen name of "Warrington" and who for a time rented the Texas House from the Thoreaus.

35.) Elizabeth Palmer Peabody, the publisher of the Dial who introduced the kindergarten to this country.

36.) Ruth (Mrs. Caleb) Wheeler, Concord historian.



1-20-53

THE CURATOR'S CORNER by Anne R. McGrath

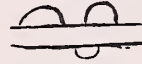
One of the pleasures of working at the Lyceum is the opportunity to meet Thoreau enthusiasts from all over the world. The past six months have been particularly rewarding in this respect.

For instance, late in June, after some preliminary correspondence, Peter Hooper of New Zealand, a life member of the society, arrived at our door. He was delighted to find that friends of the Lyceum who were about to start for Australia were happy to have him stay in their house for his Concord visit. We were delighted to find that Peter was friendly, enthusiastic and eager to help. He plunged into sorting, folding, stuffing and stamping as if he liked it, regaling the staff with stories of his life on the other side of the world. Peter Hooper was a welcome visitor indeed.

Quite another kind of guest arrived late one November afternoon as I was about to lock the front door. Tall and thin with narrow steel-rimmed glasses, wearing a white robe and carrying a staff, this 84-year-old gentleman from India had been a friend of Mahatma Gandhi and knew all about Gandhi's interest in Thoreau. He was beaming with happiness to be in Concord and at the Lyceum. In a sense, he was making the pilgrimage which his old friend had not been able to make. This was the high point of the season for me and made all the busy-ness seem worthwhile.

We are indebted to the following for information sent in for use in the bulletin: T. Blanding, J. Burger, W. Bottorff, B. Bartlett,

D. Barto, D. Capra, J. Dawson, R. Dillman, M. Ferguson, J. Fitzgibbon, J. Flanigan, R. Fleck, R. Galvin, N. Jackson, E. Johnson, K. Kasegawa, A. McGrath, E. Meyer, W. Mott, R. Poland, B. Parker, G. Ryan, E. Smith, P. Schmidt, M. Sagoff, M. Sherwood, F. Wagner, J. Welch, S. Wellman, P. Williams, S. Yoos, and A. Zwinger. Please keep the secretary informed of items he has missed and new ones as they appear.



1-20-53

ADDITIONS TO THE THOREAU BIBLIOGRAPHY...WH

Albanese, Catherine. *THE SPIRITUALITY OF THE AMERICAN TRANSCENDENTALISTS*. Macon: Mercer Univ. Press, 1988. An anthology of selections from the writings of various Transcendentalists concerned with spiritual matters, including a hundred pages from Thoreau's major writings, plus a long and thoughtful introduction discussing their concerns with spiritual matters.

Albert, John. "The Contemplative Witness of Henry David Thoreau," *MONASTIC EXCHANGE*, 3 (Fall, 1976), 7-14.

----- "Inauguration of Prayer House," *THEOLOGY ACTIVITIES ORGANIZATION NEWS-LETTER* (St. Meinrad School of Theology), Fall, 1971

----- "Lights across the Ridge: Thomas Merton & Henry David Thoreau," *MERTON ANNUAL*, I (1988), 271-317. A lengthy meditation on the relationship of Merton to Thoreau. It catalogs many of Merton's published references to Thoreau. All the other Albert articles listed here deal in part at least with the Merton-Thoreau relationship. "Thomas Merton and Henry Thoreau fought to preserve the integrity of the human conscience, not as isolated individuals, but as persons struggling to be responsible to the societies in which they lived."

----- "Mind Guards against the White Knight" *MERTON SEASONAL*, 9 (Autumn, 1984), 4-10

----- "Thomas Merton's Journey Home," *GEORGIA BULLETIN*, 22 (Dec. 6, 1984), 5.

Alcott, Louisa May. *THE SELECTED LETTERS OF* Edited by Joel Myerson, Daniel Shealy, & Madeleine B. Stern. Boston: Little, Brown 1988. 352pp. A superbly edited selection of 271 letters written by Thoreau's friend. Although none is directed to Thoreau, he is frequently mentioned. It includes two letters describing Thoreau's funeral and one concerning the sale of the Main Street Thoreau house to the Alcotts. Others describe his participation in an Alcott funeral and an Alcott wedding. And the introduction tells us that Thoreau once told LMA that "a cobweb was a handkerchief dropped by a fairy." Another good solid addition to Thoreau's background.

Anzai, Yoshimi. "Life and Thought of Henry David Thoreau," *CALAMUS* (Senshu Univ.), 4 (Dec. 1978), 38-48. Texts of all these Anzai articles are in Japanese.

----- "On the Acceptance of Thoreau in Japan: Koichiro Mizushima and Thoreau,"

- THOREAU SOCIETY OF JAPAN BULLETIN, 7 (Dec. 1980), 38-43; 8 (Jan. 1982), 26-32.
- "On the Comparative Study of Henry D. Thoreau and Henry Stephens Salt," THOREAU SOCIETY OF JAPAN BULLETIN, 11 (April 1985), 13-17
- "On the Substance and Value of 'Life of Henry David Thoreau' by Henry Stephens Salt," THOREAU SOCIETY OF JAPAN BULLETIN, 14 (Aug. 1987), 28-32
- "The Quality of WALDEN," EASTERN CULTURE (Ashikaga Institute of Technology), 6 (Feb. 1982), 34-44.
- Beaver, Harold. THE GREAT AMERICAN MASQUERADE. Towata: Barnes & Noble, 1985. Thoreau and the American Indian, pp. 33-39.
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- Bromell, N. "Quabbin," GEORGIA REVIEW, 42 (Spring, 1988), 95-102. "The reductive and simplifying 'economy' [of WALDEN] no longer seems workable."
- The Same. HARPER'S MAGAZINE, 277 (Oct. 1988), 34-39.
- Burbick, Joan. THOREAU'S ALTERNATIVE HISTORY. Reviews: CHOICE, Dec. 1987; LIBRARY JOURNAL, May 1, 1987.
- Caldwell, Mark. THE LAST CRUSADE: THE WAR ON CONSUMPTION 1862-1954. New York: Atheneum, 1988. Many comments on Thoreau's tuberculosis and its treatment.
- Clemens, John K. & Douglas F. Mayer. "Thoreau" in THE CLASSIC TOUCH: LESSONS IN LEADERSHIP FROM HOMER TO HEMINGWAY. Homewood, Ill.: Dow-Jones-Irwin, 1987. pp. 169-75. In a book addressed to corporate businessmen, surprisingly a biographical sketch of Thoreau to suggest that conglomerates simplify themselves through divestiture for more efficient business.
- Davis, Charles E. "W.M. Kelley and H.D. Thoreau: The Music Within," OBSIDIAN: BLACK LITERATURE IN REVIEW, 2 (1987), 2-13.
- Diggins, John. "Locke, Calvinism, and the Transcendentalist Negation: Emerson and Thoreau," in THE LOST SOUL OF AMERICAN POLITICS. New York: Basic Books, 1984, pp. 192-228.
- Dillman, Richard. "Reader Response to Thoreau's WALDEN: a Study of Undergraduate Reading Patterns" in READER: ESSAYS IN READER-ORIENTED THEORY, CRITICISM, AND PEDAGOGY, 19 (Spring, 1988), 21-36. Based on a study of 300 student journals kept while reading WALDEN, this essay is one of the most comprehensive and specific studies of college student reaction to WALDEN that has been compiled. Definitely worth looking up.
- Dunn, Stephen. "An Interview with Philip Booth," NEW ENGLAND REVIEW & BREADLOAF QUARTERLY, 8 (1986), 134-58. The poet has much to say on Thoreau's influence on his life.
- Fleck, Richard. "Thoreau Country" in EARTH-ERN WAYFARER. Iowa City: Writers House Press, 1988. p. 33. A poem.
- Oates, Joyce Carol. "Looking for Thoreau," in (WOMAN) WRITER: OCCASIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES. New York: Dutton, 1988, pp. 152-162. This is the text of the address which she gave at the Thoreau Society annual meeting in 1987.
- Phillips, Louis. "'Yours, not sitting on a Pumpkin," SMITHSONIAN, 19 (Nov. 1988), 124-5. Purported correspondence between Thoreau and Donald Trump. Also syndicated in various newspapers.
- Radaker, Kevin. "'A Separate Intention of the Eye': Luminist Eternity in Thoreau's A WEEK ON THE CONCORD AND MERRIMACK RIVERS," CANADIAN REV. OF AMERICAN STUDIES, 18 (1987), 41-61.
- Reynolds, Larry J. EUROPEAN REVOLUTIONS AND THE AMERICAN LITERARY RENAISSANCE. New Haven: Yale, 1988. The first book to deal extensively with the impact of the European revolutions of 1848 on American writers. While he demonstrates that the revolutions "excited the emotions and stirred the imaginations of some of the writers," a chapter entitled "Kossuth 'Fever' and the Serenity of WALDEN" (pp. 153-170) shows that Thoreau paid little attention other than to mention Kossuth's name briefly, deriding most of the excitement about him, and that Thoreau believed that "true heroism is associated with aloof serenity, not brutal warfare." Yet, paradoxically, as Reynolds points out, it was Thoreau who was most aroused a few years later with John Brown's revolutionary activities.
- Strong, Douglas H. "The Forerunners: Thoreau, Olmsted, Marsh," in DREAMERS & DEFENDERS. Lincoln: Univ. of Neb., 1988. 9-39. Thoreau as a pioneer conservationist.
- Thomas, Ron. "Thoreau, William James, and Frost's 'Quest of the Purple-Fringed': a Contextual Reading," AMERICAN LITERATURE, 60 (Oct. 1988), 433-450.
- Thoreau, Henry D. CAPE COD. Edited by Joseph J. Moldenhauer. Princeton University Press, 1988. 441pp. Now after well more than a century we for the first time have available a capably and accurately edited edition of CAPE COD, a new volume of course in the Princeton Edition of the Writings of Henry D. Thoreau. It is difficult to imagine more precise and detailed editing than that that has been given here by Joseph Moldenhauer. As a matter of fact, there are more pages of notes than of text. While a great deal of it is devoted to minutia of spelling and capitalization and even hyphenation, a great many textual problems of greater import are solved. The long historical introduction also gives many new details about Thoreau's problems with his editors, George William Curtis in particular. This is, without question, the standard edition of CAPE COD to be used from now on. And it is a joy to see the Princeton Edition up to nine volumes. They are worth waiting for.

----- "IN WILDNESS IS THE PRESERVATION OF THE WORLD!" Selections and Photographs by Eliot Porter. San Francisco: Sierra Club [1988]. Unpaged. Twenty-five years ago, when this volume was first issued in its hugh "exhibit format, it caused a sensation and was rated "one of the ten most beautiful books in the world." After being out of print for some time, it is being re-issued in all its glory. A choice collection of quotations from Thoreau illustrated by some of Eliot Porter's great full color photographs. A volume not to miss, and not to be confused with the paperback version that was available for a while.

NOTES AND QUERIES (Cont.)

The preservation of Walden Pond continues to make headlines in the newspapers--in the CONCORD JOURNAL for July 14, 21, Aug. 4, 11, 25, Nov. 3, 24, Dec. 1 and 22, 1988; the NEW YORK TIMES for Aug. 7 and Dec. 18, 1988; the CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR for June 29, 1988; ORGANIC GARDENING for July, 1988; the MINNEAPOLIS STAR TRIBUNE for Aug. 6, 1988; the BUFFALO NEWS for Aug. 5, 1988; the HARTFORD COURANT for Oct. 22, 1988; and the OLYMPIA [Wash.] OLYMPIAN for Dec. 16, 1988.

Daniel Marcus, in charge of the shipyard at Mystic Seaport Museum (Mystic, Conn. 06355) is planning to build a replica of Thoreau's Concord and Merrimack boat and would appreciate learning of details of that boat.

Rev. John F. Butkis (4041 Via Marisol 104, Los Angeles, CA 90042) recently found a copy of Thoreau's CAPE COD inscribed with a poem entitled "The Monument at Provincetown" by Robert Coit. Can anyone help him identify Coit?

Morgan K. Smith, Sr., of Concord has presented to the Thoreau Society several boxes of metal plates used by Houghton Mifflin Company in its printing of various collected editions of Thoreau's writings in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The collection includes a dozen views of Thoreau Country from the photographs of Herbert Wendell Gleason.

On October 9, 1988, about fifty people attended a "Thoreau dig" in the backyard of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Beyer of 52 Authors Road, Concord. As indicated in our fall 1988 bulletin, local tradition identified a granite block buried in the Beyers' garden as a survey marker set out by Thoreau. The exposed top of the stone, ten inches square, was clearly marked with a chiseled +. Tradition said that the initials "HDT" would be found etched on one of the hidden sides of the stone. The marker was unearthed with appropriate ceremony, but no initials were discovered. Nonetheless, the likelihood of this being a Thoreau survey marker was increased when Thoreau Society archivist Marcia Moss pointed out that the Beyer property was part of the Isaac Watts lot surveyed by Thoreau in November 1849--the first job entered by Thoreau in his surveying notebook.

With the continuing financial problems of the society we are particularly indebted to the following for donations to the society: Esther Almgren, Alexander Armstrong, Else Trautner, Kazuto Ono, William Boger III, Charles H. Hamilton, Vera Burckley, Evelyn Smith, Rev. Milton Detteline, and Marjorie Garrard.

TCCA AND THE CONCORD OFFICE PARK: AN UPDATE by Thomas Blanding

The Thoreau Country Conservation Alliance won a second victory in its ongoing effort to stop the construction of the Concord Office Park on Brister's Hill in Walden Woods when the Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs announced on Dec. 14, 1988, that it would require a full environmental review from the project's developer, Mortimer Zuckerman of Boston Properties. The study will focus on the impact of increased traffic on the already congested intersection of Route 2 and Walden Street. The 148,000-square-foot complex, just 700 yards from Walden Pond, would include a parking facility for 518 cars. Attorneys for TCCA pointed out that the developer's data on traffic is two and a half years old and that the traffic counts were taken in November, while traffic is heaviest in the summer when swimmers and most tourists visit the pond.

Newly appointed Secretary of EOEA, John P. DeVillars, stated in a press release: "Our responsibility is to ensure that we take every reasonable measure to avoid or minimize damage to this historic area. Nothing short of a full review will fulfill this responsibility." Calling state officials the "caretakers" of Walden, DeVillars noted, "We must protect the pond and surrounding area from any increased traffic and congestion that might threaten the beauty and serenity of this special part of the Commonwealth."

Edward Linde, president of Boston Properties, responded that "the state's 11th-hour request for an environmental review has no basis in law or logic" and indicated that lawyers for the developer are reviewing the decision. Concord zones the land for commercial development and, according to the Associated Press, "the town's officials are eager to add the development to the tax base."

This study will, at the very least, delay the project several months, allowing TCCA time to try to raise money to acquire the property. Boston Properties, which paid \$3.1 million for the 18-acre parcel four years ago, is offering to sell the land for \$7 million to \$10 million.

The intrusion of this massive development is unprecedented and will change the character of Walden Woods forever. To help protect this unique historic landscape the Concord Historical Commission is seeking historic landmark designation for the entire Walden Woods tract, covering over 2,000 acres in Concord and Lincoln.