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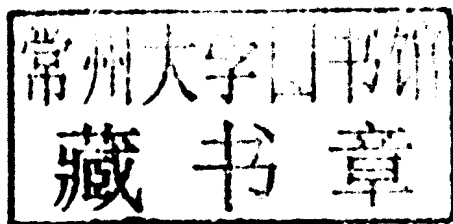


NINETEENTH-CENTURY
AMERICAN POETRY

Edited by Kerry Larson

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CENTURY AMERICAN
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CHRONOLOGY

- 1773 Phillis Wheatley, *Poems on Various Subjects, Religious and Moral*
- 1775 The American Revolutionary War (1775–1783)
Patrick Henry delivers “Give Me Liberty, or Give Me Death!” speech to the Virginia Convention
Paul Revere’s ride
- 1776 Declaration of Independence
- 1781 States adopt the Articles of Confederation
- 1783 United States and Britain sign the Treaty of Paris, ending the Revolutionary War
- 1787 US Constitution signed in Philadelphia
- 1789 George Washington elected president
US Congress holds first meeting in New York City
- 1790 First Census records a US population of 3,929,000
Beginning of the Second Great Awakening, religious revival lasting roughly into the first four decades of the nineteenth century
- 1791 Congress ratifies the Bill of Rights
- 1793 First fugitive slave law passed
Cotton gin invented
- 1795 Naturalization Act establishes guidelines for US citizenship
- 1798 Congress passes Alien and Sedition Acts, prohibiting anti-government behavior and legalizing deportation
- 1800 Thomas Jefferson elected president
Library of Congress founded
Seat of government moves from Philadelphia to Washington DC
Census: 5,308,000
- 1801 The New York *Evening Post* founded as Federalist newspaper by Alexander Hamilton
The Port Folio (1801–1827) founded
- 1803 USA purchases Louisiana Territory from France
The Monthly Anthology and Boston Review (1803–1811) founded
- 1804 Lewis and Clark expedition (1804–1806) to explore the Louisiana Territory officially departs from St. Louis

- 1805 Lewis and Clark expedition reaches the Pacific coast
- 1807 The Boston Athenaeum (eventually encompassing a library, museum, and laboratory) founded
Joel Barlow, *The Columbiad*
- 1808 USA and Britain officially ban the international slave trade, but internal trade continues
- 1809 Philip Freneau, *Poems Written and Published During the American Revolutionary War*
- 1810 Census: 7,240,000
- 1812 War of 1812 (1812–1815)
American Antiquarian Society founded in Worcester, Massachusetts
- 1813 Washington Allston, *The Sylphs of the Seasons*
- 1814 British burn the White House; Britain and USA sign peace treaty
Francis Scott Key, “The Star-Spangled Banner”
- 1815 *The North American Review* begins publication
Philip Freneau, *A Collection of Poems on American Affairs*
Lydia Huntley (later Sigourney), *Moral Pieces in Prose and Verse*
- 1816 First Seminole War (1816–1818) between federal troops and Native Americans assisted by runaway slaves
- 1817 William Cullen Bryant, “Thanatopsis”
- 1818 William Cullen Bryant, “To a Waterfowl”
John Neal, *Battle of Niagara*
Samuel Woodworth, “The Bucket”
- 1819 Spain cedes Florida to USA
First steam ship, the *Savannah*, crosses the Atlantic from Georgia to Liverpool
Richard Henry Wilde, “The Lament of the Captive”
- 1820 Missouri Compromise makes Missouri a slave state and legalizes slavery in all territories south of the 36°30’ Parallel
Census: 9,634,000
Maria Gowen Brooks, *Judith, Esther, and Other Poems*
- 1821 First public high school opens in Boston
The Saturday Evening Post begins weekly publication in Philadelphia
Richard Henry Dana, “The Dying Raven”
- 1822 American colony of Liberia established in Africa
Henry Rowe Schoolcraft appointed government agent for Indian affairs in the Great Lakes region
The anthology *Specimens of the American Poets* published in London
William Cullen Bryant, *Poems*
Philip Freneau, “On the Civilization of the Western Aboriginal Country”
Lydia Huntley Sigourney, *Traits of the Aborigines*
- 1823 Monroe Doctrine rebuffs European interference and expansion of colonies

- The New-York Mirror and Ladies' Literary Gazette* (1823–1857) founded
- 1824 *The United States Literary Gazette* (1824–1826) founded
- 1825 Erie Canal opens passage from Great Lakes to Atlantic Ocean
Thomas Cole moves to New York City, establishes reputation as landscape painter
Henry Wadsworth Longfellow and Nathaniel Hawthorne graduate from Bowdoin College
The first American “gift book” anthology, *The Atlantic Souvenir* (1825–1831), appears in time for the holiday season
- 1826 Nashoba, colony for free African Americans, established on the outskirts of Memphis, Tennessee
Henry Rowe Schoolcraft and Jane Johnston Schoolcraft create and circulate the manuscript journal *The Literary Voyager* (1826–1827)
The Casket (renamed *Graham's Magazine* in 1841) begins publication
George Moses Horton, *The Hope of Liberty*
- 1827 Cherokee Nation establishes its constitution (1827–1828) and founds newspaper, *The Cherokee Phoenix*
First publication of *The Talisman*, an annual gift book
Edgar Allan Poe, *Tamerlane and Other Poems*
Nathaniel Parker Willis, *Sketches*
- 1828 Andrew Jackson elected president
“Jim Crow” minstrel character introduced in Louisville, Kentucky
- 1829 Edgar Allan Poe, *Al Aaraaf, Tamerlane, and Other Poems*
- 1830 Indian Removal Act passed
Census: 12,866,000
Sarah Josepha Hale, “Mary Had a Little Lamb”
- 1831 Nat Turner leads slave rebellion in Virginia
Abolitionist journal *The Liberator* founded by William Lloyd Garrison
- 1832 Andrew Jackson reelected president
Fanny Kemble tours America with her father's theatrical company
William Ticknor and John Allen found publishing house Allen and Ticknor in Boston
- 1833 The British Emancipation Act abolishes slavery in Britain's colonies
The Knickerbocker (1833–1865) begins publication in New York
Maria Gowen Brooks, *Zophiel, or the Bride of Seven*
- 1834 *The Ladies' Companion* (1834–1844) begins publication in New York
Lydia Huntley Sigourney, *Poems*
- 1835 Second Seminole War (1835–1842)
Grimké sisters lecture against slavery
Edgar Allan Poe takes position as editor of the *Southern Literary Messenger* (1834–1864), a post he holds until 1837
Alexis de Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*
- 1836 Thomas Cole completes series of paintings, *The Course of Empire*

- Bronson Alcott, *Conversations with Children on the Gospels* (first volume)
- Ralph Waldo Emerson, *Nature*
- Oliver Wendell Holmes, *Poems*
- 1837 Financial depression brings widespread bank and business closures
The Gentleman's Magazine, later *Burton's Gentleman's Magazine* (1837–1840), founded in Philadelphia
United States Magazine and Democratic Review (1837–1849) founded in New York.
- 1838 “Trail of Tears” forces the Cherokee west to present-day Oklahoma
 Underground Railroad formally organized
 Ralph Waldo Emerson delivers Divinity School Address at Harvard
 Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, “A Psalm of Life”
- 1839 Slave revolt on the Spanish ship the *Amistad*, off the eastern seaboard
 Louis Daguerre develops early form of photography in France
 Margaret Fuller initiates her “Conversations,” seminars for Boston women
The Liberty Bell (1839–1857), a semi-annual gift book, begins publication
 Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, *Voices of the Night*
 Jones Very, *Essays and Poems*
- 1840 Census: 17,000,000
The Dial is published in its first incarnation (1840–1844)
 William Cullen Bryant (editor), *Selections from the American Poets*
- 1841 Cooperative community Brook Farm established near West Roxbury, Massachusetts
New York Tribune founded
 Edgar Allan Poe edits *Graham's Magazine*
 Ralph Waldo Emerson, *Essays: First Series*
 Lydia Huntley Sigourney, *Pocahontas and Other Poems*
- 1842 Rufus Griswold (editor), *The Poets and Poetry of America*
 Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, *Ballads and Other Poems; Poems on Slavery*
- 1843 Bronson Alcott establishes short-lived utopian community at Fruitlands, in Massachusetts
 William Ellery Channing, *Poems*
- 1844 Samuel Morse invents telegraph
 Joseph Smith, founder of Mormon Church, is killed in Illinois
 Margaret Fuller becomes book reviewer for the *New-York Tribune*
 Christopher Pearse Cranch, *Poems*
 Ralph Waldo Emerson, *Essays: Second Series* (including “The Poet”)
 Fanny Kemble, *Poems*
- 1845 Annexation of Texas
 Journalist John O’Sullivan coins the phrase “Manifest Destiny”

- Poe edits the *Broadway Journal*
 George Ripley edits *The Harbinger* (1845–1849) a Fourierist journal
 Edgar Allan Poe, *The Raven and Other Poems*
 Henry Rowe Schoolcraft, *Oneota; or Characteristics of the Red Race of America*
- 1846 US–Mexican War (1846–1848)
 Margaret Fuller travels to Europe as foreign correspondent for the *New-York Tribune*
 Walt Whitman writes for the *Brooklyn Daily Eagle*
 Edgar Allan Poe publishes the series “The Literati of New York City” in *Godey’s Lady’s Book*
The National Press, later *The Home Journal* (1846–1901), begins publication
 Ralph Waldo Emerson, *Poems*
 Oliver Wendell Holmes, *Poems*
 Frances Sargent Osgood, *Poems*
 Edgar Allan Poe, “The Philosophy of Composition”
- 1847 Mormons settle in Salt Lake City, Utah, led by Brigham Young
 Frederick Douglass begins publishing the *North Star*, an anti-slavery newspaper
 Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, *Evangeline*
 William Wetmore Story, *Poems*
- 1848 Seneca Falls Convention for women’s rights (first in the USA)
 California Gold Rush (1848–1849)
 Edgar Allan Poe delivers “The Poetic Principle” in Providence, Rhode Island
 Walt Whitman founds *Brooklyn Freeman* (1848–1849)
 Rufus Griswold (editor), *The Female Poets of America*
 James Russell Lowell, *The Biglow Papers; A Fable for Critics; The Vision of Sir Launfal*
- 1849 Asher B. Durand paints “Kindred Spirits,” of William Cullen Bryant and Thomas Cole in the Catskills
 Harriet Tubman escapes from slavery
 Edgar Allan Poe, *Eureka: a Prose-Poem*; “Annabel Lee”; “The Bells”
 Henry David Thoreau, *A Week on the Concord and Merrimack Rivers*
- 1850 Fugitive Slave Act (strengthening of 1793 Act) compels citizens of free states to return escaped slaves to slaveholders
 Census: 23,192,000
Harper’s New Monthly Magazine (1850–) founded
 Washington Allston, *Lectures on Art and Poems*
 Alice and Phoebe Cary, *Poems*
 John Greenleaf Whittier, “Ichabod,” *Songs of Labor*
- 1851 Sojourner Truth delivers “Ain’t I a Woman” at Women’s Rights Conference in Ohio

- The New York Times* established
 Stephen Foster, "Old Folks at Home" (song)
 Herman Melville, *Moby Dick*
- 1852 Franklin Pierce elected president
 Charles Baudelaire publishes first of his critical studies of Poe
The Memoirs of Margaret Fuller (including poems)
 Alice Cary, *Lyra and Other Poems*
- 1853 New York and Chicago linked by railroad
Putnam's Monthly Magazine (1853–1857) begins publication
 Stephen Foster, "My Old Kentucky Home" (song)
 J. M. Whitfield, *America and Other Poems*
 Sarah Helen Whitman, *Hours of Life and Other Poems*
- 1854 Kansas–Nebraska Act repeals Missouri Compromise
 Republican Party founded, bringing together anti-slavery parties
 James T. Fields enters full partnership with William Ticknor under the
 imprint Ticknor & Fields
 Henry David Thoreau, *Walden*
 Frances Ellen Watkins Harper, *Poems on Miscellaneous Subjects*
- 1855 Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, *Song of Hiawatha*
 Maria White Lowell, *Poems*
 Walt Whitman, *Leaves of Grass*
- 1856 Walt Whitman, *Leaves of Grass* (2nd edition)
- 1857 Supreme Court's Dred Scott ruling denies citizenship to African
 Americans
Atlantic Monthly (1857–)
Harper's Weekly (1857–1916)
- 1858 Abraham Lincoln delivers "A House Divided" speech
 Oliver Wendell Holmes, *The Autocrat of the Breakfast Table*
 Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, *The Courtship of Miles Standish*
- 1859 John Brown's raid on Harpers Ferry and subsequent execution
- 1860 Abraham Lincoln elected president
 Census: 31,443,000
 South Carolina secedes from Union
 Pony Express runs from Missouri to California
 William Dean Howells and John James Piatt, *Poems of Two Friends*
 Thomas Buchanan Read, *Complete Poetical Works*
 Edmund Clarence Stedman, *Poems Lyrical and Idyllic*
 John Greenleaf Whittier, *Home Ballads*
 Walt Whitman, *Leaves of Grass* (3rd edition)
- 1861 American Civil War (1861–1865)
 First printed version of "John Brown's Body"
 Ada Isaacs Mencken first performs title role in *Mazeppa*, in Albany,
 New York
- 1862 Lincoln issues Emancipation Proclamation

- Emily Dickinson writes over 360 poems, 4 of which she encloses in a letter to Thomas Wentworth Higginson
- Emerson delivers address at Henry David Thoreau's funeral
- Julia Ward Howe, "The Battle Hymn of the Republic"
- 1863 Lincoln delivers "Gettysburg Address"
- 1865 Lincoln assassinated
- 13th Amendment abolishes slavery
- Walt Whitman, *Drum Taps; Sequel to Drum Taps*
- 1866 Herman Melville, *Battle-Pieces and Aspects of the War*
- John Greenleaf Whittier, *Snow-Bound: A Winter Idyl*
- 1867 Reconstruction Acts grant African-American males right to vote
- First important collection of spirituals, *Slave Songs of the United States*, is published
- Ralph Waldo Emerson, *May-Day and Other Pieces*
- Emma Lazarus, *Poems and Translations*
- Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (translator), *The Divine Tragedy*
- James Russell Lowell, *The Biglow Papers (Second Series)*
- 1868 Congress approves 8-hour workday for federal employees
- 1869 First transcontinental railroad is completed
- Frances Ellen Watkins Harper, *Moses: A Story of the Nile*
- 1870 Census: 38,553,000
- Scribner's Monthly* founded
- Helen Hunt Jackson, *Verses by H.H.*
- 1872 Frances Ellen Watkin Harper, *Sketches of Southern Life*
- Celia Thaxter, *Poems*
- 1873 Comstock Act defines contraceptive information as "obscene"
- William Dean Howells, *Poems*
- 1874 Ralph Waldo Emerson (editor), *Parnassus*
- Sarah Morgan Piatt, *A Voyage to the Fortunate Isles*
- G. D. Pike, *The Jubilee Singers of Fisk University*
- 1876 Ralph Waldo Emerson, *Selected Poems*
- Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (editor), *Poems of Places* (31 volumes, 1876-1879)
- Herman Melville, *Clarel: A Poem and Pilgrimage in the Holy Land*
- Walt Whitman, *Leaves of Grass* (Centennial Edition)
- 1877 Sidney Lanier, *Poems*
- Edmund Clarence Stedman, *Hawthorne and Other Poems*
- Constance Fenimore Woolson, *Two Women*; 1862
- 1878 Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, *Kéramos and Other Poems*
- Sarah Morgan Piatt, *A Woman's Poems*
- 1880 Census: 50,156,000
- Sidney Lanier, *The Science of English Verse*
- 1881 Bronson Alcott, *An Autobiographical Poem*
- Oliver Wendell Holmes, *Poetical Works*

- John James Piatt, *Idyls and Lyrics of the Ohio Valley*
- 1882 Oscar Wilde makes lecture tour of the USA
Emma Lazarus, "The New Colossus"; *Songs of a Semite*
- 1883 Ella Wheeler Wilcox, *Poems of Passion*
- 1884 Henry Wadsworth Longfellow becomes first American poet to be commemorated with a bust in Westminster Abbey
Helen Hunt Jackson, *Easter Bells*
Louise Imogen Guiney, *Songs at the Start*
- 1885 Edmund Clarence Stedman, *Poets of America*
James Russell Lowell, *Under the Old Elm*
- 1886 The Haymarket Affair in Chicago results in the execution of four demonstrators
Franz Boas conducts fieldwork on the northwest coast
Emma Lazarus recites "The New Colossus" at the dedication of the Statue of Liberty
- 1888 Stéphane Mallarmé, *Les Poèmes d'Edgar Poe: Traductions en Prose*
Rose Terry Cooke, *Poems*
- 1889 Edmund Clarence Stedman begins publication of ten-volume *Library of American Literature*
Emma Lazarus, *The Poems of Emma Lazarus*
- 1890 Census: 62,948,000
Emily Dickinson, *Poems* (edited by Thomas Wentworth Higginson and Mabel Loomis Todd)
Stuart Merrill, *Pastels in Prose*
James Whitcomb Riley, *Rhymes of Childhood*
John Greenleaf Whittier, *At Sundown*
- 1891 Emily Dickinson, *Poems: Second Series*
Herman Melville, *Timoleon*
Walt Whitman, *Goodbye, My Fancy; Leaves of Grass* (final edition)
- 1892 Harriet Monroe commissioned to write "The Columbian Ode" for dedication of the World's Fair (Columbian Exposition) in Chicago
- 1893 The World's Columbian Exposition ("The White City") held in Chicago
Panic of 1893 results in widespread unemployment
Ambrose Bierce, *Black Beetles in Amber*
Paul Laurence Dunbar, *Oak and Ivy*
- 1894 Robert Frost prints *Twilight* in an edition of only two copies
Sarah Morgan Piatt, *Collected Poems*
George Santayana, *Sonnets and Other Verses*
- 1895 Henry Adams, "Buddha and Brahma"
Stephen Crane, *The Black Riders and Other Lines*
Paul Laurence Dunbar, *Majors and Minors*
- 1896 The US Supreme Court decision in *Plessy v. Ferguson* upholds the segregation of African Americans in public accommodations
Franz Boas, "Songs of the Kwakiutl Indians"

- Emily Dickinson, *Poems: Third Series*
 Paul Laurence Dunbar, *Lyrics of a Lowly Life*
 Edwin Arlington Robinson, *The Torrent and the Night Before*
 1897 John James Piatt, *Odes in Ohio*
 Edwin Arlington Robinson, *Children of the Night*
 1898 John Jay Chapman, *Emerson and Other Essays*
 George Cabot Lodge, *The Song of the Wave*
 Edgar Lee Masters, *A Book of Verses*
 1899 Stephen Crane, *War is Kind*
 Paul Laurence Dunbar, *Lyrics of the Hearthside*
 Louise Imogen Guiney, *The Martyrs' Idyl and Shorter Poems*
 1900 Census: 76,304,000
 Alice Fletcher, *Indian Story and Song from North America*
 Edmund Clarence Stedman (editor), *An American Anthology*,
 1787-1899
 George Santayana, *Interpretations of Poetry and Religion*

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CONTENTS

<i>List of contributors</i>	page vii
<i>Chronology of major works and events</i>	x
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	xix
Introduction	i
KERRY LARSON	
I MANDATES, MOVEMENTS, AND MANIFESTOES	
1 The reception of nineteenth-century American poetry	15
MARY LOUISE KETE	
2 American Indian poetry in the nineteenth century	36
ROBERT DALE PARKER	
3 The poet as Poetess	54
VIRGINIA JACKSON	
4 Transcendentalist poetics	76
STEPHEN CUSHMAN	
5 Slavery and its metrics	94
MAX CAVITCH	
6 Weathering the news in US Civil War poetry	113
ELIZA RICHARDS	
7 The "Twilight of the Poets" in the era of American realism, 1875-1900	135
ELIZABETH RENKER	