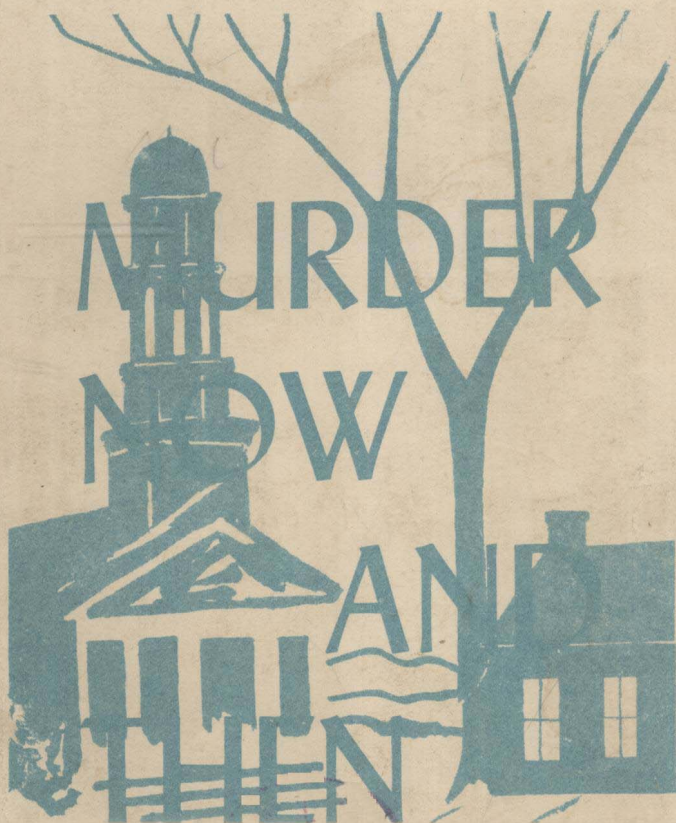
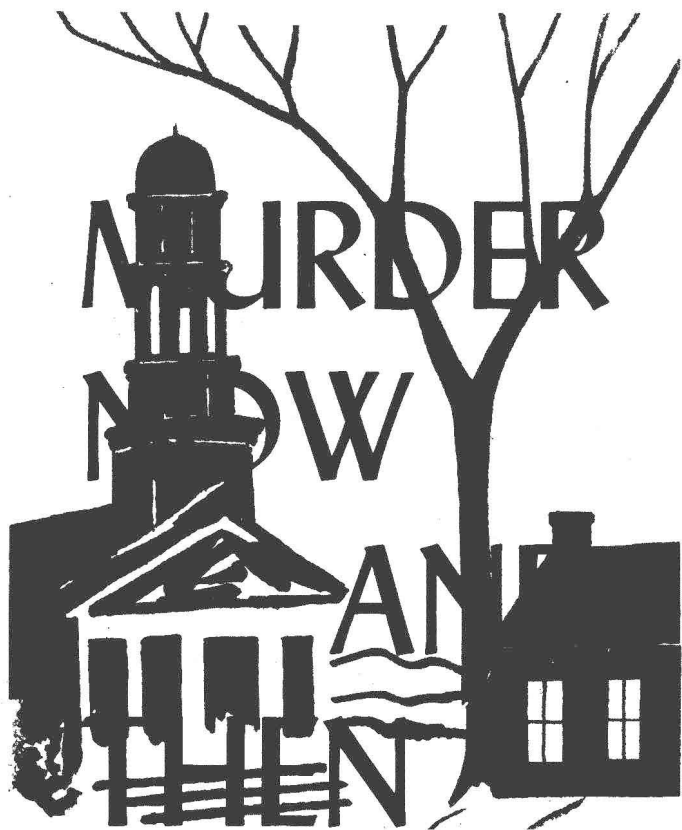


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#### ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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## PREFACE

This book has been adapted from Herbert Brean's novel *Hardly a Man Is Now Alive*. This contemporary mystery story, utilizing material from the history of the New England village of Concord, Massachusetts, in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, should prove especially interesting to adult students of English. The vocabulary is on the 4,000-word level; words beyond that limit are defined in the glossary, and short biographical notes and a historical introduction are also included. For classroom use, there are comprehension questions on each chapter.

*Murder Now and Then* is one of the COLLIER-MACMILLAN ENGLISH READERS, which, together with other types of English-language teaching materials, have been created for the Collier-Macmillan English Program by the Materials Development Staff of English Language Services, Inc., under the co-direction of Edwin T. Cornelius, Jr., and Willard D. Sheeler. Mary Raitt and Helena Newman rewrote and adapted the original work. Earle W. Brockman served as consulting editor.

Illustrations are by Eleanor Mill.

CHARACTERS IN  
MURDER NOW AND THEN

- Annandale, Dr. John* 104-year-old minister who lives with the Eliots. Friend of R. W. Emerson as a young man. Heard about the Battle of Concord from Ben Tick, who was there.
- Carswell, Maria* a \*spiritualist who visits the Satterthwaite house in Concord in order to communicate with Percy Nightingale, who died there in 1775.
- Daniel, David* a friend of Emerson and of John Annandale, and great-grandfather of Phipps Daniel. He died in 1879.
- Daniel, Phipps* a great grandson of David Daniel, and \*fiancé of Retty Satterthwaite. His family is rich and important.
- Eliot, Uncle Bowler and Aunt Kate* Constance Wilder's only living relatives, who have arranged her wedding in Concord, where they have lived all their lives. Dr. Annandale lives with them.
- Frame, Reynold* a professional photographer from New York, who has distinguished himself (in previous novels by Herbert Brean) as an amateur detective. Frame has come to Concord to marry Constance Wilder.
- Gerry, Mrs.* the lady in charge of the Museum at Concord.
- Hobbes, Humphrey* a history professor from Chicago, who is staying at the Satterthwaites' while doing research in Concord.
- Leverett, Captain* the chief of the Concord police.

- Nightingale, Percy* an \*intelligence officer in the British army, who was wounded in the Battle of Concord and died in the Satterthwaite house in 1775.
- Satterthwaite, Retty* the\* fiancée of Phipps Daniel, and a friend of young J. J. Walmsley.
- Satterthwaite, Tom* Retty's father, who owns the house where Frame, Hobbes, and Miss Carswell are staying, and where J. J. Walmsley had been living before he disappeared.
- Tick, Ben* an old man who fought as a boy in the Concord Battle, and told the story of it to the young John Annandale.
- Vann, Prof. Leslie* the Professor of History at the University of Chicago, who is a specialist in the American Revolution. He has been attending a conference of history professors in Concord.
- Wilder, Constance  
(or Connie)* Reynold Frame's fiancée, who grew up in Massachusetts. She has come to Concord to be with her only remaining relatives, the Eliots, for her wedding.
- Wilder, Job* Constance's ancestor, a Revolutionary spy who fought in the Battle of Concord, April 19, 1775.

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## INTRODUCTION

The story you are about to read takes place in the little town of Concord, Massachusetts, which is considered by many to be the cradle of the American Revolution. In addition, during the middle part of the nineteenth century this small town was the home of some of the greatest scholars and literary men that the United States has produced. The story will be much more interesting to you if you are familiar with some of the historical associations that a well-informed American reader would bring to it, and which the author has more or less taken for granted. In this introduction you will find notes on the early history of New England and the origin of the American Revolution, on the town of Concord itself, and on some of the men of letters who are associated with the town.

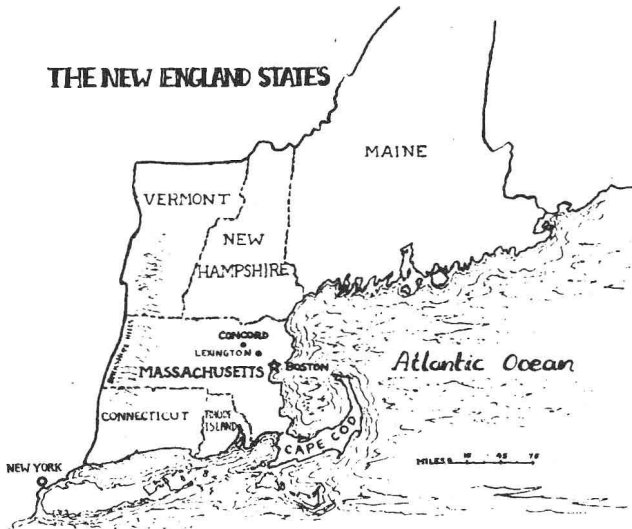


## HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The settlement of \*New England began in 1620, when a group of \*Puritans, or \*Pilgrims as they called themselves, who had been driven from England by religious oppression, landed at Plymouth, Massachusetts. Almost entirely independent of interference from the mother country, the settlers set up a self-governing colony with an extremely strict, "puritanical" set of laws. The towns of the colony were small, tightly centered about the church and the village \*green for the protection of the settlers against the harsh New England winter as well as the threat of Indian attacks. Each town was led by the local minister, who was often the schoolmaster as well, and was governed democratically by the town meeting, in which each male church member had a vote.

The other colonies along the Atlantic coast of North America developed differently from New England. Because the climate and the soil were more hospitable, they developed balanced agricultural economies. Massachusetts was cold and stony, however, and afforded a poor living from agriculture, but it had a long coastline and many protected bays, and the colonists there soon found a good way of life in fishing, shipbuilding, and trade. In fact, as the colonial economy developed, New England prospered greatly, since it carried goods to and from all parts of the new country, and its ships became world famous.

For sixty years, the Puritans ruled Massachusetts, imposing their own rigid rules of behavior on all citizens, and unjustly denying civil rights to non-Puritans, in spite of the fact that they themselves had come to the New World in search of religious freedom. In 1684 a new charter for Massachusetts took control of the local government away from the Puritans and established the tradition of the separation of church and state that has been typical of the United States ever since. (It was embodied in the United States Constitution, written almost a hundred years later.) At the same time, the British government took measures



intended to establish greater control by the mother country over the life of the colony, especially the rich trade enjoyed by New England. In general, the \*Yankee traders, who were famous for their resistance to outside interference of any kind, ignored the British regulations, trading as they pleased and unhesitatingly \*smuggling all kinds of goods past the British customs stations. They even insisted on continuing their trade with France, the enemy of England in the so-called French and Indian Wars of 1754-1763, and this time the mother country reacted with some new regulations which were designed to reduce the freedom of action enjoyed by the colonies. The Sugar Act of 1764 specifically forbade all trade with France. In 1765, the Stamp Act laid a direct tax on all documents and business transactions. This latter measure was especially unpopular in the colonies; the colonists called it "taxation without representation" (the colonies were not represented in the British Parliament, which had enacted the Stamp Act) and resisted it fiercely. It was repealed the following year, but

the habit of resisting English laws had been formed and was not easy to put down.

In 1767, the Revenue Act imposed \*customs duties on tea and other goods imported from England. Certain colonists tried to organize a total \*boycott of British goods. They did not quite succeed, but unrest was great, especially in Massachusetts, whose economy was most affected by the new laws. British troops had to be stationed in Boston in 1768 to keep the peace. In 1770, the Redcoats, as the British soldiers were known from their uniforms, fired on a rioting crowd, and five people were killed. Although the soldiers were later punished, the incident came to be known as the "Boston \*Massacre," and the angered people did not forget it.

Soon the mother country repealed all the customs duties except the one on tea, in an effort to pacify the rebellious colonies. The colonists fought back by refusing to buy English tea, smuggling in all their supplies from Holland. Then in 1773, the Tea Act gave the \*East India Company of England a monopoly on the sale of tea in the colonies, at the same time lowering the tax on tea so that the smuggled tea from Holland would no longer be profitable. The English Parliament was trying to establish the principle that it had the right to tax the colonies, and it was precisely this that angered the colonists. The Tea Act was bitterly resented all over the colonies. People refused to buy English tea, or even to handle it. Boston went furthest of all in its resistance to the hated act. During the night of December 16, 1773, a group of Boston citizens disguised as Indians boarded three East India Company ships in the harbor and dumped their cargoes of tea into the water. This incident, one of the most famous in American history, came to be known as the Boston Tea Party.

This act of open rebellion enraged the British, and Parliament passed a set of laws designed to punish Massachusetts. Boston harbor was closed, public meetings were forbidden, and General Gage, commander of the British forces in America, was named military governor of the colony.

In October 1774, and in March 1775, in open defiance of the British government, the colonists held provincial congresses in the town of Concord. They also began open preparations for war, storing supplies of gunpowder and training \*militia. The principal organizers of the resistance were Samuel \*Adams and John \*Hancock.

This is the background of the Concord fight which is described in Chapter 8 of this book. Except for "Percy Nightingale," "Job Wilder," and "Ben Tick," all of the men referred to are historical persons, and the description of the fight is an accurate one.

## THE TOWN OF CONCORD IN AMERICAN HISTORY

"Concord" means "peace," but the little Massachusetts village with this name is famous all over the United States as the scene of the first battle of the American Revolution.

Concord was founded in 1635 when Simon Willard, a fur trader, and the Reverend Peter Bulkley led twelve families into what was then a remote part of the wilderness. They bought six square miles of land from the Massachusetts tribe of Indians, and the bargain was sealed by the ceremony of smoking a peace pipe. The settlers and the Indians never quarreled; the name of the village commemorates their peaceful transaction.

Little happened in Concord until 1773, when the British Parliament closed the port of Boston as punishment for the Boston Tea Party. The irritation caused by the presence of the English army in Boston led the colonists to form companies of "minutemen," volunteers who were ready to drop whatever they were doing and fight on a minute's notice. Supplies of ammunition, especially gunpowder, were collected and hidden in Concord and other towns. Two provincial congresses were held in Concord under the leadership of Samuel Adams and John Hancock, who had to go into hiding to avoid arrest.

In April 1775, the English commander, General Gage,

decided to launch a surprise attack on Concord, seize the colonists' supplies, and arrest Adams and Hancock, who were in Lexington, a village four miles from Concord. Dr. Joseph Warren, an American spy in Boston, found out about this plan and sent William Dawes and Paul Revere to warn the villagers that the British were coming. Dawes and Revere left Boston separately but met at Lexington, alerting farmers and villagers along the way. The story of Paul Revere's midnight ride is familiar to every American schoolchild. The two messengers were stopped by the British before they could reach Concord, but a friend of theirs, Dr. Samuel Prescott, succeeded in getting through to Concord. The colonists thus had time to save most of their military supplies, and Adams and Hancock escaped.

A group of minutemen in Lexington tried to stop the British advance, but they were too few, and they were forced to scatter after the first shots were fired. The British marched on to Concord, seized the village, and began their search for hidden supplies. A party of soldiers went out of the town and there met the American militia, who had retreated to a hill overlooking the Concord River. The Americans advanced and forced the British party to retreat into the town, where it joined the rest of the British force. The Americans pressed their attack, and the British were forced to retreat to Boston, under fire all the way. The Americans attacked them from behind every wall and tree, and British losses were heavy. Only after reinforcements from Boston had met the Redcoats, and their own warships in Boston harbor were able to protect them, were the British free from the dangers of this long running fight.

This was the first battle in a war that was to last for eight years and lead to the formation of a new nation, the United States of America.

During the nineteenth century Concord became famous again, this time in a peaceful way. It became the home of the greatest concentration of intellectuals and writers that the country had known at that time and produced some of the best literature that has ever been written in America.

The "Concord School," as it became known, gathered around Ralph Waldo \*Emerson, a descendant of one of the founders of Concord, who spent his early years in Boston but settled in Concord in 1835. Emerson had been educated at Harvard and trained to be a minister, but he gave up the profession because he found that he could not agree with all parts of the church doctrine. He resigned from his first church and never took another, but he was always popular as a visiting preacher. He became a philosopher, and his ideas and his generous nature attracted many followers to Concord.

The members of the Concord School discussed philosophical ideas and developed a system known as \*transcendentalism. They also discussed social problems and wrote and lectured in favor of women's rights, the freeing of the slaves, and other social reforms. They experimented in new methods of education. There was a great deal of serious conversation in Concord and a lot of writing, much of it of a very high quality. Some of the writing was published in a magazine called *The Dial*, edited by one of the first women intellectuals in America, Margaret Fuller. The intensity of intellectual life in this one small village has seldom been equaled or surpassed in the entire history of the United States.

Among the writers who lived in Concord itself were, besides Emerson, the novelist Nathaniel \*Hawthorne; Bronson Alcott, a philosopher, father of Louisa May Alcott, who wrote one of the most famous children's books in American literature, *Little Women*; and Henry David \*Thoreau, the writer who was later to become probably the most famous of them all. Within a few miles, teaching at \*Harvard, were, among others, James Russell \*Lowell, Henry Wadsworth \*Longfellow, and Dr. Oliver Wendell \*Holmes. Connected from more distant places by friendship or literary correspondence were the great American novelist Herman \*Melville, author of *Moby Dick*, and the poet Walt \*Whitman, who wrote *Leaves of Grass*, whose greatness was first appreciated by Emerson.



In 1875, one hundred years after the famous battle at Concord, the American sculptor Daniel Chester French (known best for his statue of Abraham Lincoln in the Lincoln Memorial in Washington) modeled his famous statue, "The Minute-man," which shows a colonial volunteer leaving his plow in order to take up his gun and fight. French was just twenty-five years old at the time he made the statue. Emerson himself wrote the poem that was used to dedicate it. It was said with justification that few small villages in the world could furnish such a poet and such a sculptor, as well as such a great historic occasion for celebration.

Though close to the spreading urban complex of Boston, Concord remains an independent small town of about 12,000 inhabitants set in the pleasant New England countryside. It has retained its standing as an intellectual community, since among its residents are many scientists and scholars who teach in the nearby universities, as well as many business and professional people who travel to offices in Boston each day or who work in research organizations located in the area. In the woods where Thoreau used to walk we now find modern houses, but the historical character of the center of the town has been retained. Thousands of visitors come each year to see the place where the American Revolution began.

The twentieth-century events described in the story that follows are all imaginary, of course. And if Emerson and Thoreau ever wrote a novel together, it has escaped the notice of literary scholars.





