

December 10, 1830	Emily Elizabeth Dickinson is born at the Homestead in Amherst, Mass
1861-1865	American Civil War
1846-1848	Mexican War—ends in the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo
Late 1860's	Dickinson's period of intense reclusion begins.
1852	Harriet Beecher Stowe publishes the anti-slavery novel <i>Uncle Tom's Cabin</i>
1848	First Women's Rights Convention at Seneca Falls, NY.
1849	Henry David Thoreau writes <i>Civil Disobedience</i> in response to the Mexican War. "Must the citizen ever for a moment, or in the least degree, resign his conscience to the legislator? Why has every man a conscience, then? I think that we should be men first, and subjects afterward. It is not desirable to cultivate a respect for the law, so much as for the right. The only obligation which I have a right to assume is to do at any time what I think right."
January 1, 1863	Lincoln signs the Emancipation Proclamation, bringing to an end legal slavery in the U.S.
1836	Ralph Waldo Emerson publishes his essay <i>Nature</i> : "In the woods, we return to reason and faith. There I feel that nothing can befall me in life, -- no disgrace, no calamity (leaving me my eyes), which nature cannot repair. Standing on the bare ground, -- my head bathed by the blithe air and uplifted into infinite space, -- all mean egotism vanishes. I become a transparent eyeball; I am nothing; I see all; the currents of the Universal Being circulate through me..."
1855	Walt Whitman publishes <i>Leaves of Grass</i> . You shall no longer take things at second or third hand... nor look through the eyes of the dead, nor feed on the spectres in books, You shall not look through my eyes either, nor take things from me, You shall listen to all sides and filter them from yourself.
1890	U.S. Census reports the closing of the western frontier.
1840	Transcendental Club (led by Emerson) publishes <i>The Dial</i>
1869	Completion of the Transcontinental Railroad
1840's	Mark Twain is a boy growing up on the Mississippi River. Later, in 1885, he publishes <i>The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn</i>

