

Former Inhabitants, leaves containing Paragraphs 3, 4

Draft E

HM 924 Vol 5, p. 165

<https://cdm16003.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p16003coll16/id/832>

~~of Duncan Ingraham Esq,~~

P. 397-8 in gray pencil by Sanborn in left margin

~~gentleman of Concord Village,~~

of . . . Concord *cancelled in pencil*

who built his slave a house

and gave him permission

Cato not Uticensis but Concordiensis

to live in Walden Woods[^]. Some

say he was a Guinea negro. There

are those who remember his little

patch among the walnuts, and

the tree which he let grow up

till he should be old and need

them, but a younger & whiter

He too however occupies an equally narrow house at present

speculator got them at last. [^]

Cato's His half obliterated cellar hole still remains though known to His *cancelled in pencil*
few, being concealed from the traveller by a fringe of pines.

And here by the very

It is now filled with the smooth sumach (rhus glabra) and

corner of my field still nearer

one of the earliest species of Golden rod grows there luxuriantly.

to town, Zilpha, colored wo-

man had her little house

where she spun linen for the
towns folk, making the
Walden Woods ring with her
shrill singing, for she had
a loud and notable voice.

*period added in pencil at top of comma cancelled
in pencil*

At length, in the war of
1812, her dwelling was set on

A written in pencil over a

fire by English soldiers
prisoners on parole, ^{when she was away} ^ and

her cat & dog & hens were

all burned up together. She

lead a hard life & somewhat

inhumane

~~witch-like~~. One old frequenter P. 398-9 in gray pencil by Sanborn in right margin

of these woods remembers

that as he passed her house

one ~~day~~ noon, he heard

her muttering to herself

over her gurgling pot

“Ye are all bones—bones.”

I have seen bricks amid the oak copse there.

And down the road

on the right hand on Brister’s

Hill lived Brister Freeman

a “handy negro” slave of

’Squire Cummings once, there

where grow still the apple

trees which Brister planted

and tended, large old trees

but still wild & ciderish to

my taste. Not long since

a unmarked old

**see note below*

I read his epitaph ^ in the ^ Lin-

a little on one side near the ^ graves of the British gren-

coln burying ground^, where

adiers who fell in the retreat from Concord
he is styled "Sippio Brister"

Scipio Africanus he had some
title to be called—"a man of
color" as if he were discolored.

It also told me when he died,
but that seemed ^{but} ^ an indi-
rect way of informing me

that he ever lived. And there
^{too lived} was Fenda, his hospitable was c in p

**I think T's revisions produce the following:*

^a
I read his epitaph in the old Lin-/coln burying ground a little on one side near the
unmarked graves of the British gren-/adiers who fell in the retreat from Concord, where
he is styled "Sippio Brister"

*He started adding a little . . . above epitaph, but changed his mind and wrote it below, without
cancelling a. I think he wanted unmarked to be between the and graves and used two carets,
one after epitaph and one between the and graves to position the word. I think the caret after
ground is intended to position a little . . . Concord*

wife, who told fortunes P. 399 in gray p by Sanborn preceding wife,

yet pleasantly—large

round and black—blacker

than any of the children

of night—such a dusky

orb as never rose on Con-

cord before nor since.

And further down the

hill upon the left, on the

old road in the woods, are

marks of some homestead

of the Stratten family, whose

^{once}orchard ^ covered all the slope

^{but was}of Brister's Hill, ~~now~~ long

now cancelled in pencil

^{supplanted}since ~~killed out~~ by pitch pines,

*killed out cancelled in pencil**

^{excepting a few stumps whose old roots}~~but still furnishing from their~~

but . . . their cancelled in pencil

~~old roots~~ the wild stocks

*old roots cancelled in pencil final s of stocks
cancelled in pencil*

of many a thrifty village

tree.

And nearer yet to
town, you come to Breeds

B written over b

location, on the other side

of the way. But history must

transposition marked in pencil

not yet tell the tragedies

enacted there. Let time in-

2

tervene in some measure to

assuage and lend an azure

turning them to myths

1

tint to them[^]. (Ground famous

**T cancelled killed out in pencil and interlined supplanted in pencil above killed out. The pencil in both the cancellation and the interlineation is faint; he may have intended to restore the original reading by rubbing off the graphite.*

Transcription by Elizabeth Witherell, CC-BY-SA 4.0