

WALT WHITMAN: SPECIMEN DAYS

Walt Whitman's tremendous popularity as a poet has caused many to overlook his deeply moving autobiography, *Specimen Days*, which our research focused on. We took on a variety of jobs in order to help prepare the edition to be published as a part of Oxford University's World's Classics Series, one of which was the ever-important Glossary of Names.

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Glossary of Names

Overall the course of *Specimen Days*, Whitman mentions hundreds of names, ranging in specificity and notoriety from "Abraham Lincoln" to random first names or various sets of initials. The goal in creating the Glossary of Names was to have an alphabetically arranged index of every single person mentioned throughout the piece, listed with their full name, years of birth and death, and some understanding of their relation to Walt Whitman himself.

Methodology Cont.

The next step of the process was trying to identify each figure we made note of. Some were found with just a simple internet search, others required consultation of Whitman biographies and other academic sources, and a few still remain unknown.

Future Goals

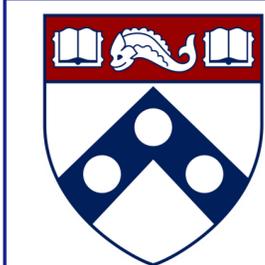
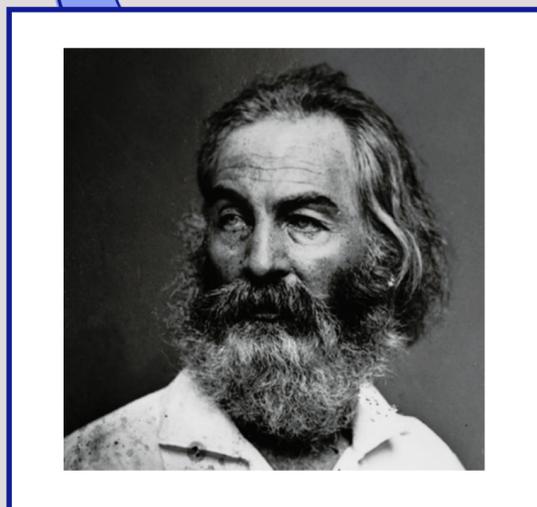
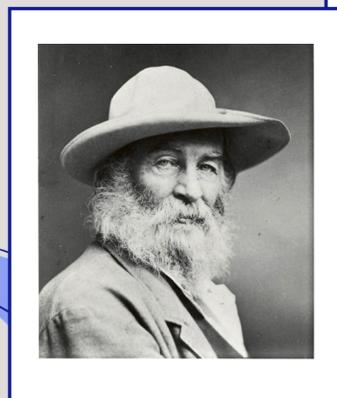
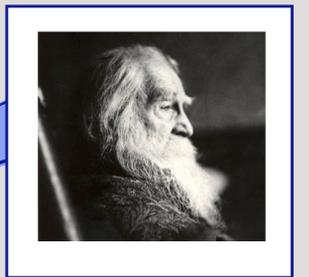
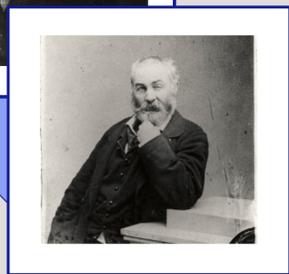
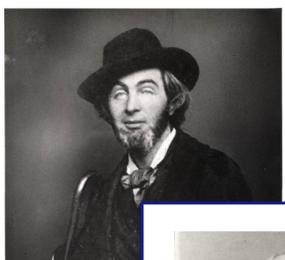
As work on *Specimen Days* continues, it's our goal to find each and every person mentioned, and compile this information alongside biographical details and larger historical context. In doing so, we hope that this edition will become useful and accessible in and out of academic spaces, and that Walt Whitman's autobiographical prose garners the literary recognition we believed it deserves.

Objective

The purpose of this edition of *Specimen Days* is to create a copy of the book that is usable in both academic and recreational contexts. The Glossary of Names is an organized starting point for anyone interested in further researching Whitman himself, but it also provides historical and personal insight into Whitman's life for non-literary scholars.

Methodology

In order to create the Glossary of Names, we first combed the piece and recorded every single name mentioned. This process took a great deal of time and patience, but we concluded with a gigantic list spanning several pages and multiple documents!



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