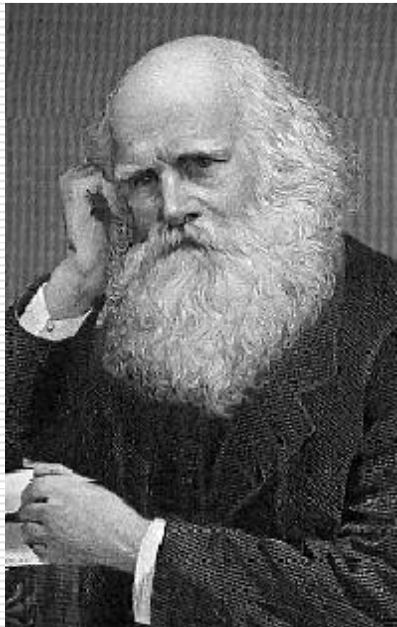


William Cullen Bryant

(1794-1878)



Primary Works

- ❑ "Thanatopsis," September, 1817, published in *The North American Review; Poems*, 1821; *The Poetical Works of WCB*, 1903. *Poems; with explanatory notes*. NY: Burt, [18--]. PS1150 .E00
 - ❑ WCB and Oliver Bell Bunce. *Picturesque America; or, The land we live in. A delineation by pen and pencil of the mountains, rivers, lakes, forests, water-falls, shores, canons, valleys, cities, and other picturesque features of our country. With illustrations on steel and wood by eminent American artists*. 2 vols. NY: D. Appleton, 1872-1874. Case / Folio E168 .B89
 - ❑ *A new library of poetry and song*. Edited by William Cullen Bryant; including also, a biographical memoir of Bryant, by James Grant Wilson. 2 vols. NY: Fords, Howard & Hulbert, 1883. Case / PR1175 .B78
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Primary Works

- ❑ *The Iliad of Homer*. Translated into English blank verse by William Cullen Bryant. 2 vols. NY: Houghton Mifflin and company, 1898? PA4025.A2 B7
 - ❑ *The Odyssey of Homer*. Translated into English blank verse by William Cullen Bryant. 2 vols. NY: Houghton Mifflin, 1899. PA4025.A5 B75
 - ❑ *Representative selections*. with introduction, bibliography, and notes, by Tremaine McDowell. NY: American Book Co, 1935. PS1153 .M25
 - ❑ *The letters of William Cullen Bryant*. edited by William Cullen Bryant, II, and Thomas G. Voss. 3 vols. NY: Fordham UP, 1975. PS1181 .A4
-

Other Works

□ Works of Translation

- *Iliad* - 1870; *Odyssey* - 1871

□ Collections of Works

- *Poems* — 1821 (1st ed.), 1832 (2nd ed.); *The Fountain and Other Poems* - 1842; *The White-Footed Deer and Other Poems* -1846; *Thirty Poems* -1864.

- Reuben, Paul P. "Chapter 3: Early Nineteenth Century - William Cullen Bryant." *PAL: Perspectives in American Literature- A Research and Reference Guide*.
WWW URL:

<http://www.csustan.edu/english/reuben/pal/chap3/bryant.html>



Bryant's poems:

http://www.4literature.net/William_Cullen_Bryant/

- ❑ Noted poet and long-time Editor in Chief of the New York Evening Post, Bryant purchased a country house in Roslyn in 1843. "Cedarmere" as it was called, remained in the family until the 1970's, when it was willed to Nassau County.
 - ❑ Although Bryant continued to commute to New York City, he was also active in Roslyn affairs. In the early 1870s he purchased land and built a Reading Room for the people of Roslyn. At his death in 1878, the Bryant Library Association was formed, and the building and land were turned over to the Association by his daughter, Julia.
 - ❑ Books by and about Bryant, as well as letters, photographs and clippings about Bryant, the library and Cedarmere can be found in the library's Local History Collection.
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Themes

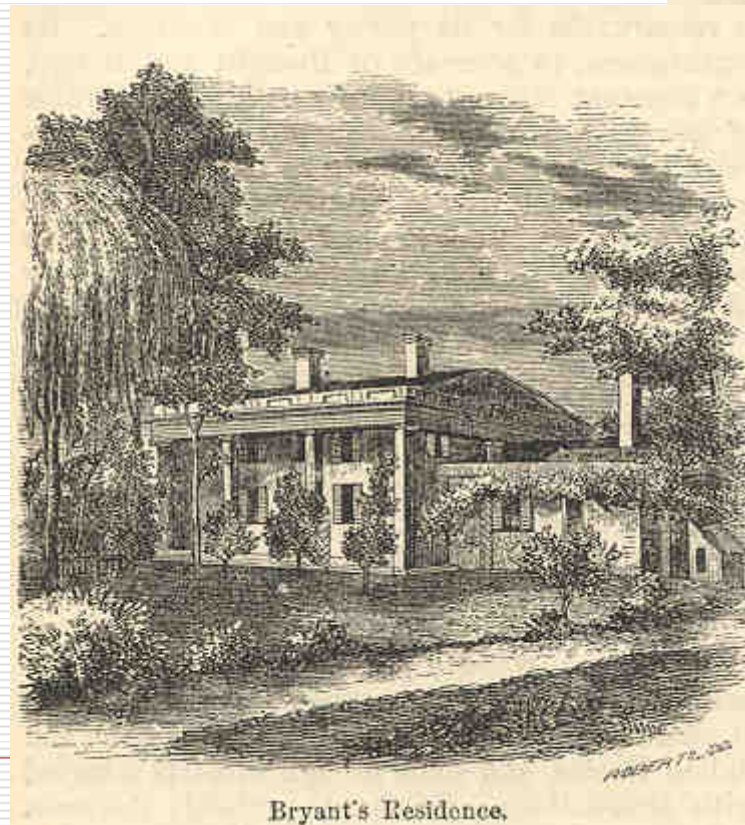
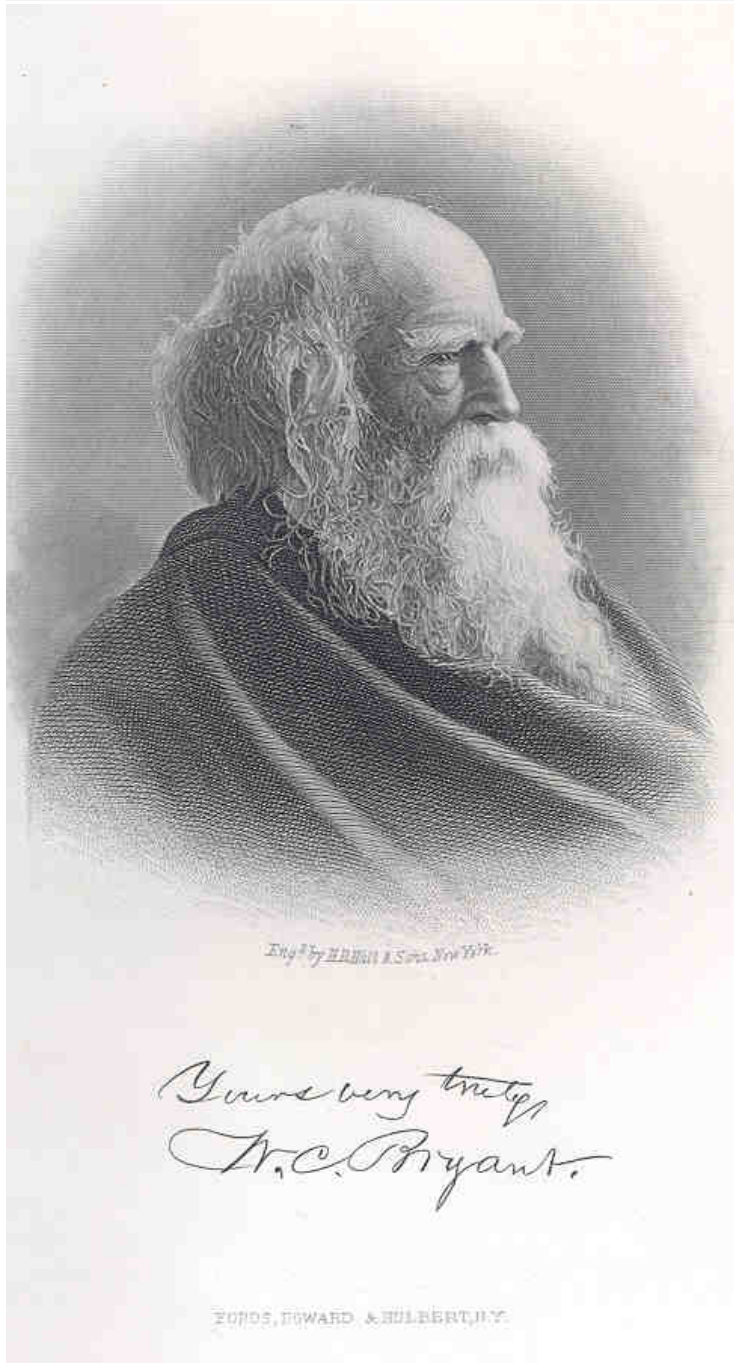
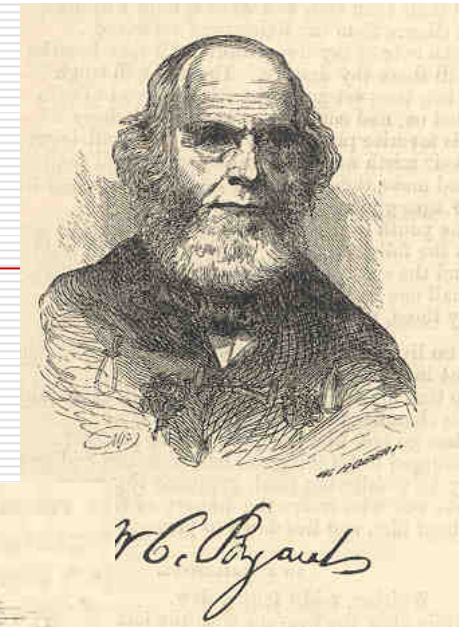
- Bryant is very useful as a means of demonstrating the imitative mode through which New Englanders of an intellectual bent sought to establish an acceptable American literary voice.
 - This is easily demonstrated by pairing his poems with comparable English productions. He can also be linked to the Transcendentalists--though with great caution, since much more is going on.
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Significant Form, Style, or Artistic Conventions

- Again, he should be shown in connection with his English models.
 - It's useful to point out the self-conscious regularity of these poems both in connection with their particularly derivative subject matter and in contrast with the form and subjects of those contemporary poems and songs (well represented in this anthology) that were not informed by the dominant English literary culture.
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<http://www.wvu.edu/~lawfac/jelkins/lp-2001/bryant.html>

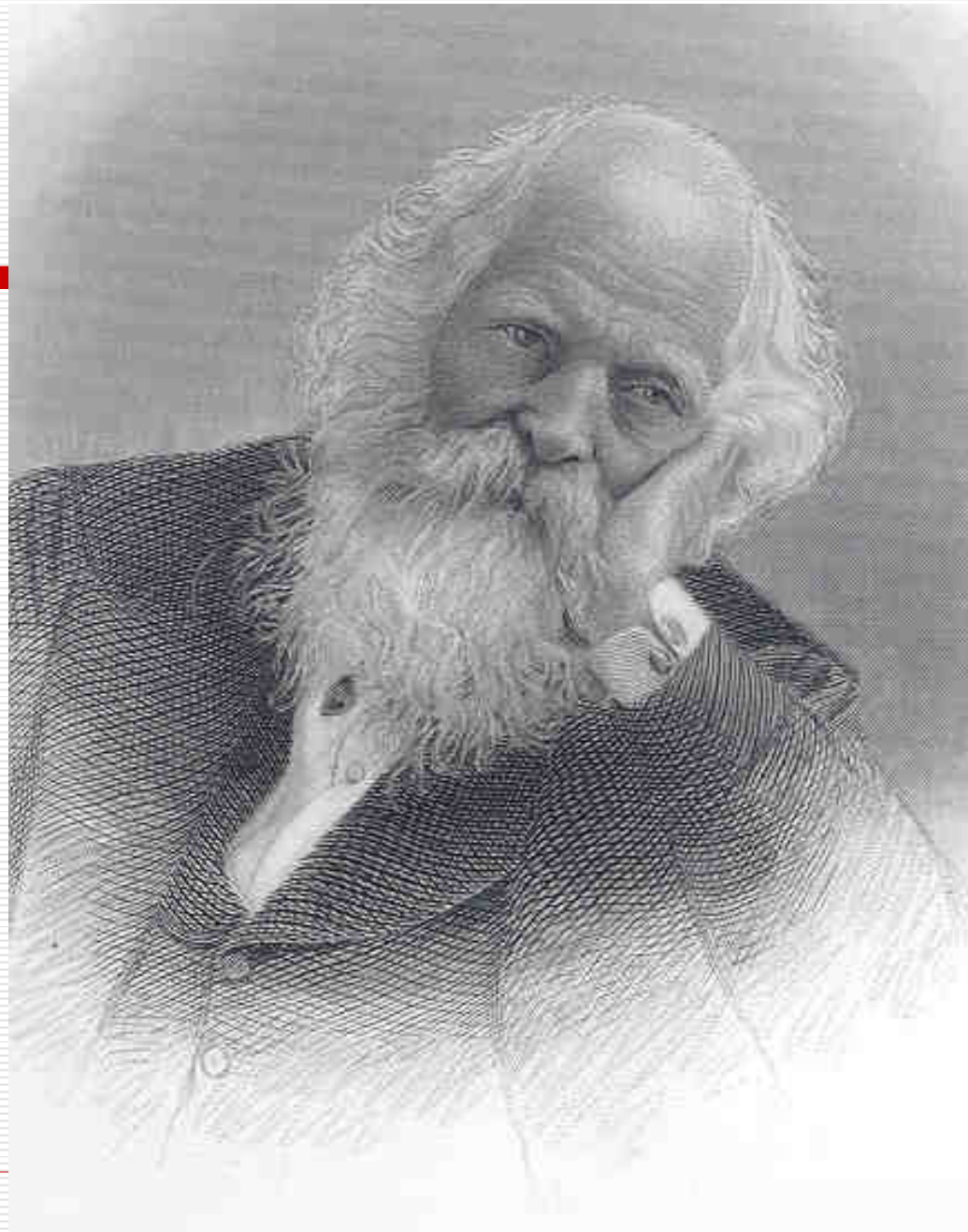
Photos, poems, links





MR. BRYANT'S LIBRARY AT CEDARHURST.

*Deem not the framing of a deathless lay
The pastime of a drowsy summer day.*



Bio

- William Cullen Bryant was a young lawyer when his poem "Thanatopsis" first appeared in the **North American Review** in 1817. Inspired by the romantic lyrics of William Wordsworth, Bryant found his subject in the American landscape, especially that of New England. By 1825, critics on both sides of the Atlantic called him the finest poet in the United States. But reputation alone could not support his family, and in 1826 Bryant joined the **New York Evening Post**.
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<http://www.npg.si.edu/exh/brady/gallery/70gal.html>

- By 1840, Bryant had largely abandoned poetry to become one of the country's leading advocates for abolition. From 1856 on, the **Evening Post** was a Republican paper, supporting the arming of abolitionist settlers in Kansas, deriding the Dred Scott decision, and celebrating John Brown as a martyr. In 1860, Bryant introduced [Abraham Lincoln](#) before the audience at Cooper Union in New York. Later, Bryant and the **Evening Post** influenced Lincoln's decision to issue the Emancipation Proclamation. Brady photographed the powerful editor in New York around 1860.
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Selected Readings

- ❑ Prairies:
<http://birdbath.hfu.edu.tw/share/American.Literature/bryant.prairies.biggertext.html>
 - ❑ To a Waterfowl :
<http://www.vcu.edu/engweb/webtexts/Bryant/waterfowl.html>
 - ❑ Sonnet--to an American Painter Departing for Europe:
<http://www.vcu.edu/engweb/webtexts/Bryant/sonnettocole.html>
 - ❑ The Poet:
<http://www.vcu.edu/engweb/webtexts/Bryant/poetbryant.html>
 - ❑ Thanatopsis:
<http://www.vcu.edu/engweb/webtexts/Bryant/thanatopsis.html>
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