

CONCORD CONNECTIONS

BY THE RUDE BRIDGE THAT ARCHED THE FLOOD,  
THEIR FLAG TO APRIL'S BREEZE UNFURLED,  
HERE ONCE THE EMBATTLED FARMERS STOOD,  
AND FIRED THE SHOT HEARD ROUND THE WORLD.

THE FOE LONG SINCE IN SILENCE SLEPT;  
ALIKE THE CONQUEROR SILENT SLEEPS;;  
AND TIME THE RUINED BRIDGE HAS SWEPT  
DOWN THE DARK STREAM WHICH SEAWARD CREEPS.

ON THIS GREEN BANK, BY THIS SOFT STREAM,  
WE SET TODAY A VOTIVE STONE:  
THAT MEMORY MAY THEIR DEED REDEEM,  
WHEN, LIKE OUR SIRES, OUR SONS ARE GONE.

SPIRIT, THAT MADE THOSE SPIRITS DARE  
TO DIE, AND LEAVE THEIR CHILDREN FREE,  
BID TIME AND NATURE GENTLY SPARE  
THE SHAFT WE RAISE TO THEM AND THEE.

(Ralph Waldo Emerson)

NARRATOR: Ralph Waldo Emerson was born at Boston, Massachusetts on May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1803. Throughout his life he preferred being called "Waldo".

In 1817, he began his education at Harvard College. Following Graduation, he tried school teaching but soon gave that up in favor of returning to Harvard to prepare for the Ministry.

His connections with Concord included a grandfather named Ezra Ripley who had married Waldo's paternal grandmother and opened his home to Edward and Ralph Emerson following their father's death.

Alexis de Tocqueville was a member of the French aristocracy who came to the United States in May, 1831, to investigate first-hand the state of democracy in America.

He spent nine months observing various aspects of life in North America before returning to Europe to record and publish his impressions.

SCENE 1, occurs on the Lexington Road leading from Boston to Concord where de Tocqueville has come to see for himself the site of the first armed confrontation of the American Revolution, - the so-called "shot heard 'round the world".

SCENE 1: CONCORD BRIDGE

Alexis De Tocqueville  
Ralph Emerson

Tocque: Excuse me sir. Is this the place