

BOOKS

1. Pre-Scopes

- a. *“A History of the Warfare of Science with Theology in Christendom”* by Andrew Dickson White (1896). The abstract of this two-volume treatise published by the Cornell University Library summarizes this remarkable work as follows: *“White traces the evolution of human thought through a series of contrasts of ancient and modern theories of the world to show the impact of scientific research on the outmoded attitude of biblical literalism. Taking in an enormous range of subjects--including geography, astronomy, geology, chemistry, physics, medicine, psychology and economics--White illustrates the victory of empiricism over superstition, of scientific method and 'reason' over fundamentalism. White's aim was to show that the Church's attacks on scientific progress resulted in 'the direst evils both to religion and to science' and, more broadly, his study points up the dangers inherent in the religious control of higher education (at a time when nearly all universities in the USA and Europe were still under ecclesiastical control)... his excellent treatise finds special relevance today when academic freedom is once again under pressure from political and religious groups. It should now find a place in the libraries of all theologians, philosophers and historians.”*
- b. *“Dinosaurs at the Dinner Party: How an Eccentric Group of Victorians Discovered Prehistoric Creatures and Accidentally Upended the World”* by Edward Dolnick (2024). English Victorians saw no conflict between “Religion” and “Science”, what we call science today was basically empirical proof of the claims of religion. Religion was true, science documented the truth as visible in nature. In the case of what we call biology, every species had a purpose, whether we understand or not. It was up to people to discover what God meant. Chance was not involved.

In this version of the world, species simply *won't* go extinct. Why would God create a perfect piece, only to throw it away? It's not that extinction hasn't happened or couldn't happen. Extinction wasn't even a possibility until some pesky early geologists and paleontologists.

c. *“Origin Story; the Trials of Charles Darwin”* by Howard Markel (2025). In *Origin Story*, medical historian Howard Markel recounts the two-year period (1858 to 1860) of Darwin’s writing of *“On the Origin of Species”*. The book brings the runup to the June 30, 1860 annual meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science to life. At stake, on that summer’s day of spirited debate, was the very foundation of modern biology, not to mention the future of the church.

2. Scopes Trial

- a. *“Summer for the Gods: The Scopes Trial and America's Continuing Debate Over Science and Religion”* by Edward J. Larson (1997)
- b. *“Keeping the Faith: God, Democracy and the Trial that Riveted a Nation”* by Brenda Wineapple (2025)