

## George MacDonald: a Bio-Bibliographical Timeline

**DECEMBER 10, 1824** George MacDonald born in Huntly, Aberdeenshire, Scotland.

**1826** Family moves to the Farm, Huntly.

**1832** Death of MacDonald's mother, Helen MacKay MacDonald.

**1839** George MacDonald's father remarries Margaret McColl.

**1840** Enters King's College, Aberdeen. Studies math, languages, chemistry.

**1845** Awarded M.A. King's College.

**1848** Attends Highbury Theological College, London; proposes to Louisa Powell.

**1850** Theological degree from Highbury, accepts pastorate at Trinity Congregational Church in Arundel, Sussex.

**1851** Marries Louisa Powell on March 8; ordained to Congregational ministry; Gifts privately printed translation of *Twelve of the Spiritual Songs of Novalis* to friends on Christmas Day.

**1852** Birth of first child, Lilia Scott on January 4; congregation reduces his salary in June.

**1853** Resigns pastorate at Arundel, Mary Josephine born on July 23; the family moves to Manchester, MacDonald supports his family by lecturing, writing, teaching, editing a children's magazine, and gifts from friends.

**1854** Daughter Caroline Grace born on September 16.

**1855** Publishes *Within and Without: A Dramatic Poem* (Longmans).

**1856** Greville born on January 20, Lady Byron becomes MacDonald's patron; the family vacations in Algiers.

**1857** Irene born on August 31. MacDonalds settle in Hastings at Huntly cottage. Publishes *Poems*, (Longmans).

**1858** MacDonald's brother John dies in June. His father dies in August. *Phantastes* published (Smith, Elder). Winifrid Louisa born, 6th November. First meeting with Lewis Carroll.

**1859** Moves to London. MacDonald accepts professorship of English Literature at Bedford College in October.

**1860** Lady Byron dies. Ronald born on October 27. Publishes *The Portent* (serialized anonymously) in *The Cornhill Magazine* with an illustration by W. J. Linton.

**1862** Son Robert Falconer born.

**1863** MacDonald family read Lewis Carroll's "Alice" story. *David Elginbrod* published (Hurst & Blackett). Meets John Ruskin.

**1864** Maurice born in February. *Adela Cathcart* (Hurst and Blackett) and *The Portent* (Smith, Elder) published.

**1865** MacDonald tries unsuccessfully for professorship of Rhetoric and Belles Lettres (literature) at Edinburgh. *Alec Forbes of Howglen* (Hurst and Blackett) published. Bernard Powell born. Begins lecturing at King's College, London.

**1866** Becomes a member of the Church of England at the Chapel of St. Peter's, Vere Street, where F. D. Maurice is rector.

**1867** MacDonalds move to The Retreat, Hammersmith. George MacKay born. Publishes first of three volumes of *Unspoken Sermons* (Alexander Strahan), *Dealings with the Fairies* (Alexander Strahan), *Annals of a Quiet Neighborhood* (Hurst and Blackett) and *The Disciple* (Strahan & Co.).

**1868** Awarded LLD by Aberdeen University. *Guild Court* (Hurst and Blackett), *Robert Falconer* (Hurst and Blackett), *The Seaboard Parish* (Tinsley Brothers), and *England's Antiphon* (Macmillan) published.

**1869** Accepts editorship of *Good Words for the Young*, published monthly by Strahan until 1872. Lecture tour of Scotland. William Carey Davies, MacDonald's former student, begins to act as his proofreader and personal secretary (possibly 1868 with *Seaboard Parish*).

**1870** *The Miracles of our Lord* published (Strahan & Co.).

**1871** *At the Back of the North Wind* (Strahan), *Ranald Bannerman's boyhood* (Strahan & Co.), *Works of Fancy and Imagination* (Strahan) published. A. P. Watt began working as a reader for Strahan & Co.

**1872** Lecture tour of America with Louisa, and their son Greville. Climax of the Ruskin/ La Touche affair. *Wilfrid Cumbermede* inspired by Ruskin/ La Touche affair published (Hurst & Blackett). *The Princess and the Goblin* (Strahan & Co.) and *The Vicar's Daughter* (Tinsley Brothers) published. Strahan resigns from his publishing company, and it goes through several name changes.

**1873** *Gutta Percha Willie* published (Henry S. King).

**1875** The MacDonalds leave The Retreat. *The Wise Woman* (Strahan & Co.) and *Malcolm* (Henry S. King) published. A. P. Watt began looking after the business interests of George MacDonald.

**1876** *Exotics* (Strahan & Co.), *St. George and St. Michael* (Henry S. King), and *Thomas Wingfold, Curate* (Hurst & Blackett) published.

**1877** First trip to Italy. First performance of Pilgrims Progress organized by Louisa. MacDonald awarded a Civil List pension. *The Marquis of Lossie* (Hurst & Blackett) published.

**1878** Daughter Mary Josephine dies.

**1879** Maurice dies. *Paul Faber, Surgeon* (Hurst & Blackett) and *Sir Gibbie* (Hurst & Blackett) published.

**1880** The Family arrive in Bordighera. *Diary of an Old Soul* (privately printed) published by the author.

**1881** *Mary Marston* (Sampson Low), *Warlock o' Glen Warlock* (Boston: Lothrop) published. A. P. Watt incorporated his literary agency.

**1882** *Weighed and wanting* (Sampson Low), *Orts* (Sampson Low), and *The Gifts of the Child Christ* (Sampson Low) published. Strahan & Co. declared bankrupt. Strahan's publishing career ends.

**1883** *The Princess and Curdie* (Chatto & Windus), *Donal Grant* (Kegan Paul) and *A Threefold Cord* (privately printed by Macdonald) published.

**1884** Daughter Grace dies. Strahan stops publishing.

**1885** *Unspoken Sermons*, Second Series (Longmans) and *The Tragedie of Hamlet* (Longmans) published.

**1886** *What's Mine's Mine* (Kegan Paul) published.

**1887** *Home again* (Kegan Paul) published.

**1888** *The Elect Lady* (Kegan Paul?) published.

**1889** *Unspoken Sermons*, third series (Longmans) published.

**1890** First draft of *Lilith* completed. *Rough Shaking* published (New York: Routledge).

**1891** Daughter Lilia Dies. *The Flight of the Shadow* (Kegan Paul), *A Rough Shaking* (Blackie), *There and Back* published (Kegan Paul).

**1892** *The Hope of the Gospel* (Ward, Lock) published

**1893** *The Poetical works* (Chatto & Windus) and *Heather and Snow* (Chatto and Windus) published.

**1895** *Lilith* published (Chatto & Windus).

**1897** *Salted with Fire* (Hurst and Blackett), his last novel, and *Rampolli* (Longmans) published. MacDonald's health deteriorates.

**1898** *Far Above Rubies* (last work) published in *The Sketch*; published in book form in US by Dodd Mead (1899). MacDonald has a stroke. Withdraws into silence.

**1901** George and Louisa MacDonald's golden wedding anniversary.

**1901** 13th January, wife Louisa dies at Bordighera.

**SEPTEMBER 18, 1905** MacDonald dies at Ashted in Surrey. His cremated remains are buried at Bordighera beside those of his wife.

**See also:**

- George MacDonald [Timeline](#) at Taylor University
- George MacDonald's [Life Outline](#) at George MacDonald Society
- A [Descriptive Bibliography](#) of George MacDonald's Original 19th Century Works by Michael Phillips
- [Everything MacDonald](#) at The works of George MacDonald website

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