

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.

1902 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'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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