

Thomas Hardy's Lifeline

- 1840:** Thomas Hardy born on June 2nd, in Higher Bockhampton.
- 1848:** Hardy begins attending Julia Martin's school in Bockhampton.
- 1849:** Begins playing violin locally.
- 1853:** Hardy's education becomes intensive -- he studies Latin, French and begins reading widely.
- 1856:** Hardy is articulated to the local architect John Hicks. The office is next to Barnes' school. Around this time Hardy meets and studies with Horace Moule, going through the Greek dramatists under his tutelage. Hardy witnesses the execution of Martha Browne in August.
- 1862:** Hardy travels to London to work under Arthur Blomfield. While finding his way in London he attends the Exhibition. He explores the cultural life of London, visiting museums, attending plays and operas, and begins writing poetry in earnest.
- 1865:** Hardy publishes his first article, "[How I Built Myself a House.](#)"
- 1867:** Hardy returns to Dorset and works for Hicks. Hardy begins considering writing as a profession and writes the unpublished novel: *The Poor Man and the Lady*.
- 1869:** Hardy works for Crickmay.
- 1870:** Hardy travels to [St. Juliot](#) to work on the restoration of the church. Here he meets Emma Lavinia Gifford.
- 1871:** *Desperate Remedies* published.
- 1872:** *Under the Greenwood Tree* published.
- 1873:** *A Pair of Blue Eyes* published. Hardy now relinquishes architecture as a career to write full-time. Horace Moule commits suicide in Cambridge.
- 1874:** *Far From the Madding Crowd* appears serially. In September Hardy marries Emma, travels to Paris, and sets up house in London. He moves around a bit and eventually settles in Sturminster Newton.
- 1876:** *The Hand of Ethelberta* published.
- 1878:** *The Return of the Native* published. With it Hardy publishes a map. Hardy moves again and with the success of this novel, begins to experience life as a celebrity. He joins the Saville Club.
- 1880:** *The Trumpet-Major* is published -- it is one of Hardy's earliest treatments of the Napoleonic war.
- 1881:** *A Laodicean* is published. It was written while Hardy was bed-ridden. Hardy moves back to Dorset.
- 1882:** *Two on a Tower* published.
- 1883:** Hardy designs and supervises construction of his Dorchester home, Max Gate.
- 1886:** *The Mayor of Casterbridge* published soon after Hardy moves into Max Gate.
- 1887:** *The Woodlanders* published. Hardy tours the continent. When they return, he begins habit of visiting London for "the season."
- 1888:** *Wessex Tales*, Hardy's first collection of short stories, is published.
- 1891:** *A Group of Noble Dames* published. There is a small uproar after the publication of *Tess of the d'Urbervilles*.
- 1892:** Hardy's father dies. He begins serialization of *The Pursuit of the Well-Beloved*.

- 1893:** Meets Florence Henniker.
- 1894:** *Life's Little Ironies*, Hardy's third collection of short stories, is published.
- 1895:** Osgood-McIlvaine begins bringing out the first collected edition of Hardy's works. The set includes the first edition of *Jude the Obscure*.
- 1897:** *The Well-Beloved* appears in volume form after extensive revisions.
- 1898:** Hardy's first volume of poems, *Wessex Poems*, appears in an edition of only 500 copies. He is now, officially, an ex-novelist.
- 1902:** *Poems of the Past and Present*, Hardy's second volume as a poet, is published.
- 1903:** Part One of *The Dynasts*, Hardy extended verse-play about Napoleon and the clash of powers he brought about, appears. Hardy intends it as his masterpiece.
- 1906:** *The Dynasts: Part Two* appears.
- 1908:** *The Dynasts: Part Three* is published, thus concluding Hardy's epic trilogy.
- 1909:** *Time's Laughingstocks*.
- 1910:** Hardy receives the Order of Merit and the Freedom of Dorchester.
- 1912:** A "definitive" edition of Hardy's works, the Wessex Edition, is published. It is a chance for Hardy to thoroughly revise his body of work. The year ends on a low note, though, as Emma suddenly dies on November 27 .
- 1913:** Hardy's final book of short stories, *A Changed Man*, is published. Hardy makes a pilgrimage to the sites of his and Emma's early love.
- 1914:** *Satires of Circumstance* is published. It contains the "Poems of 1912-13," written in memory of Emma.
- 1914:** Hardy marries Florence Dugdale. World War I breaks out, contributing to Hardy's pessimism.
- 1917:** *Moments of Vision*.
- 1922:** *Late Lyrics and Earlier*.
- 1923:** *The Famous Tragedy of the Queen of Cornwall*.
- 1925:** *Human Shows*. These later years see Hardy working on his autobiography, published posthumously under Florence's name.
- 1928:** *Winter Words* is published posthumously: Hardy died on January 11. His ashes are buried in Poet's Corner, Westminster Abbey, and his heart is buried in Emma's grave. *The Early Life of Thomas Hardy* is published under Florence's name.
- 1930:** *The Later Years of Thomas Hardy* published under Florence's name.