

Chronology of Whewell's Life

- 1794 Born in Lancaster, May 24, as the eldest son of John Whewell and Elizabeth Bennison
- 1807 Death of his mother
- 1808 Entered Lancaster Grammar School
- 1812 Entered Trinity College, Cambridge, as a subsizar
- 1813 Awarded Latin declamation prize, Trinity College, Cambridge
- 1814 Awarded Chancellor's (English) Gold Medal for poetry, Trinity College, Cambridge
- 1815 Elected scholar, Trinity College, Cambridge
- 1816 Graduated second wrangler
Second Smith's Prize man
Death of his father
- 1817 Elected fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge
President of the Cambridge Union Society
- 1818 Appointed assistant tutor (mathematical lecturer), Trinity College, Cambridge
Founding member of the Cambridge Philosophical Society
- 1819 Publication of *Elementary Treatise on Mechanics*
- 1820 Elected fellow of the Royal Society of London
Moderator on the Mathematical Tripos, University of Cambridge
- 1823 Appointed (head) tutor, Trinity College, Cambridge
Publication of *A Treatise on Dynamics*
- 1825 Ordained priest

- 1826 Start of experiments at Dolcoath mine, Cornwall, with George Biddell Airy, to determine the density of the earth
Publication of two contributions to the *Encyclopaedia Metropolitana*
- 1828 Elected professor of mineralogy, University of Cambridge
Publication of *An Essay on Mineralogical Classification and Nomenclature*
Moderator on the Mathematical Tripos, University of Cambridge
- 1830 Publication of *Architectural Notes on German Churches, with Remarks on the Origin of Gothic Architecture*
Publication of first of four papers on political economy: “Mathematical Exposition of Some Doctrines of Political Economy”
Supported John Herschel as a candidate for the office of president of the Royal Society
- 1831 Coined the words *Miocene* and *Pliocene* in a letter to Charles Lyell, dated January 31
Publication of reviews of works by John Herschel, Richard Jones, and Charles Lyell
Publication of “Science of the English Universities,” aimed at vindicating Cambridge from the charge of neglecting modern science
- 1832 Resigned as professor of mineralogy
- 1833 Publication of *Astronomy and General Physics Considered with Reference to Natural Theology*, the third Bridgewater Treatise
Publication of the first of fourteen papers on the tides: “Essay towards a First Approximation to a Map of Cotidal Lines”
Cofounder of the statistics section (Section F) of the British Association for the Advancement of Science (BAAS)
- 1834 Review of Mary Somerville’s *On the Connexion of the Physical Sciences*, where Whewell used the word *scientist*—coined by him—for the first time in print
Coined the words *anode*, *cathode*, and *ion* in letters to Michael Faraday, dated April 25 and May 5
Engaged in controversy with Connop Thirwall at Cambridge, defending compulsory chapel attendance and objecting to the admission of religious dissenters
- 1835 Vice president of the BAAS
Organized the “great tide experiment”

- 1836 Stood as (unsuccessful) candidate for the Lowndean Professorship of Astronomy and Geometry, University of Cambridge
Publication of *Newton and Flamsteed*, vindicating the character of Newton
- 1837 Publication of *The History of the Inductive Sciences*, in 1,660 pages
Publication of *On the Principles of an English University Education*, placing classics and mathematics at the core of a liberal education
Publication of *On the Foundations of Morals*
Recipient of the Queen's Medal from the Royal Society for research on the tides
Brought out first type of anemometer
- 1837–1839 President of the Geological Society
- 1838 Elected Knightbridge Professor of Moral Theology or Casuistical Divinity, University of Cambridge
Took degree of Bachelor of Divinity (BD)
- 1839 Resigned as tutor, and briefly considered taking a parish
- 1840 Publication of *The Philosophy of the Inductive Sciences*
- 1841 Married Cordelia Marshall, October 12
Appointed master of Trinity College, Cambridge
President of the BAAS
- 1842–1843 Vice-chancellor, University of Cambridge
- 1843 President of the Cambridge Philosophical Society
Advocated, alongside George Peacock, for the establishment of a board of mathematical studies at the University of Cambridge
- 1844 Took degree of Doctor of Divinity (DD)
- 1845 Publication *Of a Liberal Education in General, and with Particular Reference to the Leading Studies of the University of Cambridge*
Publication *The Elements of Morality, Including Polity*
Presented a statue of Francis Bacon to Trinity College, Cambridge
- 1846 Publication of *Lectures on Systematic Morality*
- 1847 Publication of *Sermons Preached in the Chapel of Trinity College, Cambridge*
Publication of *English Hexameter Translations*, with John Herschel, Julia Hare, Edward Hawtrey, and J. G. Lockhart
Supported election of Prince Albert as chancellor of the Uni-

- versity of Cambridge, hoping that it would avert the appointment of a royal commission
- Appointed honorary vice president, Institut d'Afrique, Paris
- Appointed visitor of the Royal Observatory, Greenwich
- 1848 Publication of *Butler's Three Sermons on Human Nature*
Helped establish the Natural and Moral Sciences Triposes, University of Cambridge
- 1849 Publication *Of Induction, with Especial Reference to Mr. J. Stuart Mill's System of Logic*
- 1850–1852 Answered inquiries of the commissioners of the Royal Commission on the University of Cambridge—appointed in 1850—prefacing each with a protest against government interference
- 1852 Publication of *Lectures on the History of Moral Philosophy in England*
- 1853 Publication *Of the Plurality of Worlds: An Essay*
- 1855 Death of Cordelia Whewell (néé Marshall)
Resigned as Knightbridge Professor, succeeded by John Grote
- 1855–1856 Vice-chancellor, University of Cambridge
- 1856 Engaged in a dispute, as vice-chancellor, with the syndicate of the University of Cambridge over the management of the Fitzwilliam Museum
- 1857 Elected corresponding member of the Institute of France
- 1858 Married Lady Everina Affleck (néé Ellis), widowed sister of former pupil Robert Leslie Ellis
Publication of first two parts of third edition of the *Philosophy: History of Scientific Ideas* and *Novum Organon Renovatum*
- 1860 Publication of third part of third edition of the *Philosophy: On the Philosophy of Discovery*
- 1860–1861 Publication of *The Platonic Dialogues for English Readers*, 3 vols.
- 1862 Publication of *Six Lectures on Political Economy*, which resulted from a set of lectures delivered to the Prince of Wales, the future King Edward VII
- 1865 Death of Lady Everina Frances Whewell (née Ellis, and formerly Affleck)

1866

Died in Cambridge, March 6, at the age of seventy-one
Established in his will the Whewell Professorship and
Scholarships in International Law, maintained from rents of
Whewell's Court, Trinity College, Cambridge, built at his
expense