

Chronology

- 1839 On September 2 Henry George was born in Philadelphia, second child and oldest son of Richard and Catherine George.
- 1853 Henry left high school after five months, which was the last of his formal education.
- 1855 In April he sailed on the merchant ship *Hindoo* as foremast boy on a 14 months trip to Australia and India.
- 1856 He became an apprentice typesetter in Philadelphia.
- 1857 In December he left for California on the light-house tender *Shubrick* as ship's storekeeper.
- 1858 Lured by the report of gold discoveries along the Frazer River, he went to Victoria on Vancouver Island, Canada; he returned to San Francisco in November "dead broke," and found work as a typesetter.
- 1860 As soon as he became twenty-one years old, Henry George joined the typographical union. Shortly afterward he became a foreman printer on the *California Home Journal*.
- 1861 He became a partner in the San Francisco *Daily Evening Journal*, and withdrew when the partnership was dissolved. He and Annie Fox were married on December 3. He found work as a substitute typesetter on the *Union*, a morning daily paper, published in Sacramento.
- 1862 On November 3 Henry George, Jr. was born. (He was to be the first biographer of his father, and he afterward was elected to the United States House of Representatives from New York.)
- 1864 George lost his job on the Sacramento *Union* and became a printer on the San Francisco *Evening Journal* and other papers. He entered a partnership in a job-printing business.
- 1865 Richard Fox George, the second child, was born on January 27. (He was to become a sculptor.) Henry George abandoned the job-printing business and worked hard at perfecting his writing

skill. He published several articles, including "Sic Semper Tyrannis!" on the death of Lincoln. He was a typesetter and a reporter for the newspaper *Alta California*. Then he became a typesetter on state printing in California.

- 1866 George became a typesetter for the San Francisco *Times*. His editorials were accepted for publication, and he quickly became a reporter and then an editorial writer for the paper.
- 1867 He became managing editor of the San Francisco *Times*. The third child, Jennie Teresa George, was born.
- 1868 He became managing editor of the San Francisco *Chronicle*, and he was later sent to New York City by the San Francisco *Herald*. *The Overland Monthly* published his article, "What the Railroad Will Bring Us."
- 1869 He failed in his fight against the monopoly combination of the Associated Press and Western Union. The *New York Tribune* published his article opposing Chinese immigration. George became editor of the Oakland *Daily Transcript*, in which he published a letter from John Stuart Mill commenting on his *Tribune* article on Chinese immigration.
- 1870 George became editor and part owner of the *Sacramento Reporter*. When the railroad interests bought the paper, he left it.
- 1871 The Democratic Party nominated George for the state Assembly, but he lost the election. He published a pamphlet, "Our Land and Land Policy, National and State," that was a forerunner of *Progress and Poverty*. He became a partner and editor of the San Francisco *Daily Evening Post*, the first paper west of the Rocky Mountains to sell for a penny a copy.
- 1872 George was elected as a delegate to the Democratic National Convention in Baltimore, and at the convention he was elected secretary of the California delegation. He supported Horace Greeley for president.
- 1875 George and his partners lost control over the *Daily Evening Post* because of financial difficulties.
- 1876 The new Democratic governor of California appointed George State Inspector of Gas Meters because of his political help and to enable him to do some writing. He delivered his first formal

speech in support of Samuel J. Tilden, Democratic candidate for president of the United States. He became a leading speaker in California during the campaign.

- 1877 He lectured at the University of California in Berkeley on "The Study of Political Economy." He was designated "the Orator of the Day" at the Fourth of July celebration in San Francisco. On September 18 he began to write *Progress and Poverty*. On October 2 the fourth and last child, Anna Angela George, was born. (She was to be his second child to write his biography.)
- 1879 *Progress and Poverty* was published.
- 1880 George moved to New York City, where he lived for the rest of his life.
- 1881 George published the pamphlet, "The Irish Land Question," later republished as "The Land Question." He lectured in Canada; and he left for his first lecture tour in the United Kingdom with his wife and daughters in October, 1881.
- 1882 George was arrested twice in western Ireland. He returned to New York in October.
- 1883 *Social Problems*, George's second book, was published. He sailed with his older son for a second lecture tour in the United Kingdom.
- 1884 He returned to New York in April. He went to Canada a second time to speak under the auspices of the Knights of Labor. In October he left for his third speaking tour in the United Kingdom and returned early in the following year.
- 1886 George's third book, *Protection or Free Trade*, was published. In his first campaign for mayor of New York City he came in second, ahead of Theodore Roosevelt.
- 1887 George published and edited a new weekly newspaper, *The Standard*, in New York City. He ran for Secretary of State of New York State and lost.
- 1888 He spent two weeks in the United Kingdom on his fourth trip there.
- 1889 He returned to the United Kingdom with his wife and daughters on his fifth trip there; he also went to Paris to attend a land reform conference.
- 1890 He sailed with his wife from San Francisco to lecture in

Australia. On his way back to the United States he stopped in the United Kingdom for the sixth time to deliver some lectures. He returned to the United States in September, where he had his first stroke in December.

- 1891 George withdrew from *The Standard* in order to devote all his time to writing; this was made possible by the generosity of wealthy friends who supported him financially. He published "An Open Letter to Pope Leo XIII," in answer to the Pope's Encyclical Letter on the Condition of Labor.
- 1892 George published his fourth book, *A Perplexed Philosopher*.
- 1896 He visited both the Republican and Democratic national conventions, and he supported William Jennings Bryan for the presidency.
- 1897 Against medical advice, he ran a second time for mayor of New York City. A stroke killed him on Friday, October 29, four days before the elections.
- 1898 Henry George's fifth book, *The Science of Political Economy*, though unfinished, was published posthumously.