

# Timeline

- 1826** • Frederic Edwin Church born in Hartford, Connecticut.
- 1829** • Partnership of Louis Jacques Mandé Daguerre and Joseph Nicéphore Niépce for development of photographic inventions.
- 1830** • Albert Bierstadt born in Solingen, Germany.
  - President Andrew Jackson signs the Indian Removal Act, forcing Native Americans east of the Mississippi to move to the West.
- 1831** • Charles Darwin sails on an expedition to South America.
- 1837** • Victoria becomes Queen of Great Britain.
  - Financial panic in the United States.
- 1844** • Church becomes Thomas Cole's first pupil.
  - Turner paints *Rain, Steam, and Speed*.
- 1845** • Alexander von Humboldt's *Kosmos* is published in five volumes.
  - The United States annexes Texas.
- 1846** • Church has a successful exhibit at the National Academy of Design of his painting *Rev. Thomas Hooker and Company Journeying through the Wilderness from Plymouth to Hartford in 1636*.
  - United States declares war on Mexico (1846–48).
  - United States signs a treaty with Britain to obtain the Oregon Territory.
- 1847** • Church moves to New York to develop his independent painting career.
  - Establishes a studio in the American Art Union Building, New York.
- 1848** • Elected to the status of academician at the National Academy of Design.
  - Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels's *Communist Manifesto* is published.
  - Widespread revolts occur in Berlin, Budapest, Milan, Naples, Paris, Prague, Venice, Vienna, and Warsaw.
  - Treaty ending the Mexican-American War gives Texas, California, New Mexico, and other territories in the Southwest to the United States.
  - Gold discovered in California.
  - Sudden death of Thomas Cole.
- 1850–64** • Taiping Rebellion in China.
- 1851** • First World Exposition in London.
  - Herman Melville's *Moby Dick* is published.
  - Death of J.M.W. Turner.
- 1852** • Church paints *The Natural Bridge, Virginia*.
  - Harriet Beecher Stowe's *Uncle Tom's Cabin* is published.
- 1853** • Traveling with his friend Cyrus Field, Church is the first American artist to go to South America.
  - Baron Georges-Eugene Haussman begins reconstruction of Paris.
- 1854–56** • Crimean War.
- 1854–59** • Church travels to Maine, Nova Scotia, New Hampshire, Vermont, Niagara Falls, Newfoundland, and Labrador, and returns to Ecuador.
  - Paints *Sunset, Bar Harbor* (1854).
- 1855** • Exhibits paintings made from his South American trip (*The Andes of Ecuador*) to wide acclaim.
- 1857** • Completes *Niagara, Horseshoe Falls, and Mount Chimborazo at Sunset*.
  - Gustave Flaubert's *Madame Bovary* is published.

- 1858 • Church paints *Study for "Heart of the Andes," Study for "Under Niagara,"* and *Twilight, a Sketch*.
  - Paints *Niagara* and travels to Britain.
  - Establishes a studio in Studio Building on Tenth Street, New York.
- 1859 • Paints *Heart of the Andes*.
  - *Heart of the Andes* sells for \$10,000, the highest price for a work by a living American artist.
  - Travels to Newfoundland and Labrador, sketching icebergs.
  - Charles Darwin's *On the Origin of Species by Natural Selection* is published.
  - John Stuart Mill's essay "On Liberty" is published.
- 1860 • Church marries Isabel Mortimer Carnes and buys farmland in Catskill, New York.
  - Paints *Twilight in the Wilderness*.
- 1861 • Paints *The Icebergs*.
  - Abraham Lincoln becomes President of the United States.
  - Outbreak of the American Civil War (lasts until 1865).
- 1862 • Church paints *Cotopaxi*.
  - Paints *Under Niagara*.
  - Birth of first child, Herbert Edwin.
- 1863 • T.H. Huxley's *Man's Place in Nature* is published.
  - Manet paints *Dejeuner sur l'herbe*.
  - Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation and Gettysburg Address.
  - Bierstadt exhibits *The Rocky Mountains Lander's Peak*.
  - Bierstadt and Fitz Hugh Ludlow travel to Oregon and California, visit the Yosemite Valley, and record the scenery in their paintings.
- 1864 • Church paints *Chimborazo*.
  - Birth of second child, Emma Francis.
  - International Red Cross formed.
  - Leo Tolstoy's *War and Peace* is published.
- 1865 • Church's young son and daughter both die of diphtheria.
  - Paints *Blueberry Hill, Vermont*.
  - Church and his wife travel to Jamaica.
  - Paints *Sunset, Jamaica*.
  - Completes *The Aurora Borealis*.
  - *Cotopaxi* and *Chimborazo* are shown in London.
  - End of the Civil War.
  - Lincoln assassinated.
  - Lewis Carroll's *Alice in Wonderland* is published.
- 1866 • Church's son, Frederic Joseph Church Jr., is born.
  - Church paints *Hunter Mountain, Twilight*.
  - Paints *Rainy Season in the Tropics*.
- 1867 • Death of Church's younger sister, Charlotte Eliza.
  - Church and his family begin a year and a half long trip to Europe, North Africa, the Near East, and Greece, which provides inspiration for future work.
  - Paints *Niagara from the American Side* and *The Vale of St. Thomas, Jamaica*.
- 1868 • The technology for color photographs is invented.
- 1869 • Church goes to London to study the paintings of Turner.
  - Construction of Olana is begun, lasting sporadically until 1891.
  - Paints *The Parthenon* and *The Acropolis, Athens*.
  - Birth of fourth child, Theodore Winthrop, in Rome.
  - The transcontinental Union Pacific railroad is completed.

- 1870**
  - Church begins to suffer from rheumatism.
  - Birth of fifth child, Louis Palmer.
  - Paints *Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives*.
  - Franco-Prussian War (lasts until 1871).
  - Darwin's *The Descent of Man* is published.
  - Founding of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York.
  
- 1871**
  - Church paints *The Hudson Valley in Winter from Olana*.
  - Birth of sixth and last child, Isabel Charlotte (nicknamed "Downie").
  - Thomas Moran and photographer William Henry Jackson travel with geologist Ferdinand Hayden's expedition to Yellowstone River region.
  
- 1872**
  - Church and his family move into Olana.
  - Paints *Clouds over Olana*.
  
- 1874**
  - Paints *El Khasné, Petra*.
  - First impressionist exhibition in Paris.
  
- 1876**
  - Death of Church's father.
  
- 1877**
  - Completes *Morning in the Tropics*, his last major picture.
  
- 1882**
  - Begins spending his winters in Mexico.
  
- 1883**
  - Death of Church's mother.
  
- 1886**
  - Death of Church's older sister.
  
- 1888**
  - Church improves his property, adding a "studio" wing to his house (through 1889).
  
- 1889**
  - Vincent van Gogh paints *The Starry Night*.
  
- 1891**
  - Church paints *The Iceberg*.
  - Paul Gauguin settles in Tahiti.
  
- 1893**
  - Art Nouveau appears in Europe.
  
- 1899**
  - Church's wife Isabel dies.
  
- 1900**
  - Frederic Church dies in New York. Survived by three sons and a daughter.
  - Memorial exhibition of his paintings is held at the Metropolitan Museum of Art (May 28–October 15).

The information for this timeline was drawn from the following sources:

Baatz, Willfried. *Photography*. Hauppauge, NY: Barron's, 1997.

Huntington, David C. *The Landscapes of Frederic Edwin Church: Vision of an American Era*. New York: George Braziller Inc., 1966.

Ryan, James Anthony. *Frederic Church's Olana: Architecture and Landscape as Art*. New York: Black Dome Press Corp, 2001.

[www.artchive.com/ftp\\_site.htm](http://www.artchive.com/ftp_site.htm)

[www.tate.org.uk/britain/exhibitions/americansublime/timeline3/htm](http://www.tate.org.uk/britain/exhibitions/americansublime/timeline3/htm)