



*A Brief Chronology
in the
Life of
Frederick Law Olmsted*

- 1822 Born on April 26 in Hartford, CT, to Charlotte Law (Hull) & John Olmsted.
- 1826-36 Attends various boarding schools in CT in preparation for college studies.
- 1837 Advised to abandon plans for college as a result of weak eyesight.
Serves as apprentice to civil engineer in Andover, MA.
- 1840 Works as clerk for New York City dry goods importing firm.
- 1843 Ships out as apprentice seaman on bark "Ronaldson" bound for China.
- 1845 Attends lectures at Yale College & studies scientific agriculture.
- 1846 Serves as apprentice on model farm near Syracuse, NY.
- 1847-48 Farms at Sachem's Head, Guilford, CT, & then on Staten Island, NY.
- 1850 Travels to Western Europe & British Isles.
WALKS AND TALKS OF AN AMERICAN FARMER IN ENGLAND is published.
Begins tour of American South as journalist for NEW YORK DAILY TIMES.
- 1855 Becomes partner in firm of Dix & Edwards, publishers of PUTNAM'S MONTHLYMAGAZINE.
- 1856 Publishing business fails financially.
A JOURNEY TO THE SEABOARD SLAVE STATES is published.
- 1857 Appointed first Superintendent of Central Park in New York City.
Collaborates with Calvert Vaux on design for park ("Greenward").
A JOURNEY THROUGH TEXAS is published.
- 1858 With Vaux, receives First Prize for "Greenward" plan.
Appointed Architect-in-Chief of Central Park.
- 1859 Marries Mary Cleveland Perkins Olmsted, his brother's widow, in Central Park.

- 1860 A JOURNEY IN THE BACK COUNTRY is published.
- 1861 Appointed Executive Secretary of U. S. Sanitary Commission.
THE COTTON KINGDOM is published.
- 1863 Accepts superintendency of the Mariposa Mining Estates, CA.
- 1864 Appointed Commissioner of Yosemite & Mariposa Mining Estates, CA.
- 1865 Reappointed Landscape Architect for Central Park.
Begins work on Brooklyn (Prospect) Park, NY.
- 1868 With Vaux, lays out model plan for suburban community in Riverside, IL.
Enters into negotiations for major park project in Buffalo, NY.
- 1872 Dissolves partnership with Vaux for reasons of mutual convenience.
- 1874 Engaged to plan Mount Royal Park, Montreal, Canada.
Appointed Landscape Architect for the U. S. Capitol Grounds,
Washington, D. C.
- 1875-77 Works on various landscape design projects across the U. S.
- 1878 Signs articles of agreement with Park Department of Boston, MA, with
regards to design for "Back Bay Park" (Back Bay Fens).
- 1881 Proceeds with work on Boston Park System ("Emerald Necklace").
- 1883 Makes permanent move to Brookline, MA, from New York City &
establishes residence & landscape design office at 99 Warren Street.
- 1885 Prepares final plan for Boston's West Roxbury Park (Franklin Park), his
last major public park project.
- 1886 Asked to plan grounds of Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA.
- 1888 Begins preliminary discussions with George Vanderbilt on design plan for
Biltmore Estate, Asheville, NC.
- 1890 Begins laying out grounds for World's Columbian Exposition, Chicago, IL.
- 1895 Retires from professional practice.
- 1898 Admitted as a patient to McLean Asylum, Waverley, MA.
- 1903 Dies at McLean Asylum on August 28 & is buried in Hartford, CT.