

Bryant Chronology 1794–1836

1794. William Cullen Bryant born November 3 to Dr. Peter and Sarah Snell Bryant at Cummington, Massachusetts.
1798. June, enters district school.
1802. Begins to compose verses.
1807. March 18, first published poem in *Hampshire Gazette*.
1808. June, "The Embargo; or Sketches of the Times: A Satire. By a Youth of Thirteen," published in Boston. November, begins college preparation in Latin under uncle, Rev. Thomas Snell, at North Brookfield, Massachusetts.
1809. February, "The Embargo," second edition with other poems, Boston. July, returns to Cummington. August to October, studies Greek with Rev. Moses Hallock at Plainfield, Massachusetts.
1810. Spring, studies mathematics with Hallock. October, enters sophomore class at Williams College.
1811. May, returns to Cummington. July 9, receives honorable dismissal from Williams. December, begins law study with Samuel Howe at Worthington, Massachusetts. Composes verses on love and death, 1811–1815.
1814. June, continues law study with Congressman William Baylies at West Bridgewater, Massachusetts. November–December, ill at Cummington.
1815. July, completes "To a Waterfowl." August, admitted to practice law in Massachusetts Court of Common Pleas; returns to Cummington. Autumn, writes first, incomplete draft of "Thanatopsis." December, begins law practice at Plainfield.
1816. July, appointed lieutenant in Massachusetts militia. August, leaves law practice at Plainfield. October, enters partnership at Great Barrington, Massachusetts, with George Ives. December, meets Frances Fairchild.
1817. February, resigns lieutenantcy in militia. May, Bryant–Ives partnership dissolved; enters solitary practice. September, "Thanatopsis" and other verses published anonymously in *North American Review*. Admitted to practice in Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court.
1818. March, "To a Waterfowl" in *NAR*. June, visits New York City. July, publishes criticism of Solymán Brown's verse *Essay on American Poetry* in *NAR*.
1819. June, essay "On the Happy Temperament" in *NAR*. September, given honorary M.A. by Williams; essay "On the Use of Trisyllabic Feet in Iambic Verse" in *NAR*.
1820. February, elected town clerk of Great Barrington. March, death of Dr. Peter Bryant. May, appointed justice of the peace. July 4, gives oration at Stockbridge, Massachusetts, on Missouri Compromise. August, contributes five hymns to Unitarian hymnal to be published in New York. October, notice of James Hillhouse's *Percy's Masque* in *NAR*. December, appointed to seven-year term as justice of the peace, Berkshire County.
1821. January 11, marries Frances Fairchild at Great Barrington. April, appointed clerk of center school district, Great Barrington. August, reads Phi Beta Kappa poem, "The Ages," at Harvard commencement. September, *Poems* published at Cambridge. Contributes poems to Richard Dana's periodical, *The Idle Man*.
1822. January 2, daughter Frances (Fanny) born. cFebruary–March, Bryant's 1821 *Poems* reprinted at London in William Roscoe's *Specimens of the American*

- Poets*, and reviewed in *Blackwood's Edinburgh Magazine* for June. October–November, literary and political criticisms printed in Massachusetts newspapers.
1823. March, serves as Secretary of the Federal Republican Convention at Lenox, Massachusetts. December, gives address at Great Barrington in support of Greek revolutionaries.
1824. April, composes first of twenty-three poems for *United States Literary Gazette*. Visits New York, meeting Cooper, Halleck, Sands, and Verplanck. July, notice of Henry Pickering's *The Ruins of Paestum* in *NAR*. September, verdict favorable to Bryant's client in *Bloss vs. Tobey* reversed by judges on appeal. December, death of Sarah (Sally) Bryant Shaw.
1825. April, notice of Catharine Sedgwick's *Redwood* in *NAR*. May, moves to New York City. June, first number of *New-York Review*, edited by Bryant and Henry Anderson. November, elected to Bread and Cheese Lunch Club.
1826. January, *Miscellaneous Poems Selected from the United States Literary Gazette*, with Bryant's contributions. March–April, four Lectures on Poetry before New York Athenaeum. July, becomes editorial assistant on New York *Evening Post*. October, first number of *United States Review*, edited by Bryant and Charles Folsom.
1827. September, *USR* ceases publication. December, made joint editor of *EP*. *The Talisman for MDCCCXXVIII* published.
1828. February, gives first annual series of five lectures on mythology at National Academy of Design. December, *The Talisman for MDCCCXXIX*.
1829. February, first recorded attendance at Sketch Club. July 13, becomes editor-in-chief of *EP*. December, *The Talisman for MDCCCXXX*. Edwin Forrest performs *Metamora*, selected by prize committee led by Bryant.
1830. November, Bryant's committee gives prize offered by James Hackett to Paulding's *Lion of the West*. December, *The American Landscape*, with introduction and letterpress by Bryant.
1831. April 20, horsewhips editor Stone of *Commercial Advertiser*. June 29, daughter Julia Sands Bryant born at Cummington.
1832. January, *Poems* published at New York; London edition "edited" by Washington Irving. Visits Washington, meeting President Jackson and cabinet members. May, moves to Hoboken, New Jersey. May–July, visits John Bryant at Jacksonville, Illinois, and tours prairie; buys first parcel of Illinois land. June, *Tales of Glauber-Spa* with two stories by Bryant published. December, death of Robert Sands.
1833. July–August, visits northern New England and Canada.
1834. January, *Poems*, second edition, published at Boston. June, contracts to furnish twenty poems to *New-York Mirror*. June 24, sails on packet boat *Poland* with wife and daughters for indefinite stay in Europe. July 15, lands at Le Havre; travels by steamboat to Rouen, by diligence to Paris, arriving July 18 at Hôtel des Étrangers. August 21, leaves by diligence for Châlons, steamboat to Lyons, diligence to Marseille, carriage to Nice, diligence to Genoa, carriage to Florence, reaching Hôtel de l'Europe September 12. September 17, takes lodgings on Lung' Arno near Ponte alla Carraia. November 19, departs for Pisa, lodging on Lung' Arno at 700 Casa Genoni.
1835. March 18, by carriage to Rome, through Volterra, Siena, Ronciglione, reaching Hôtel Frantz March 26. cApril 2 to lodgings at Palazzo Corca, 57 Via Pontifici. April 28, by diligence to Naples, arriving May 1 and lodging at 267 Strada Chiaga. Visits Pompeii, Herculaneum; climbs Vesuvius. cMay 22 leaves Naples; May 26–June 2 at Rome; June 9–16 at Florence. Passes through Bologna, Ferrara, Padua, and Mestre to Venice, reaching Albergo dell'Europa June 20. June

24, takes carriage through Italian and Austrian Tyrol, via Cenada, Serravalle, Venas, Landro, Bruneck, Sterzing, and Innsbruck to Munich, arriving June 30. Lodges at 31 The Bazaar, at the southeastern corner of Ludwigstrasse. October 2, departs for Heidelberg, staying at King of Portugal Hotel from October 6 to November 1, then engaging house for six months at 266 Friedrichstrasse. December 8, learns of William Leggett's illness and of substitute editors on *EP*. December 11, Henry Longfellow and Clara Crowninshield settle at Heidelberg for winter. December 14–January 24, Bryants see Longfellow and Miss Crowninshield almost daily.

1836. January 25, Bryant departs for New York, leaving wife and daughters at Heidelberg. Travels by diligence, in company with Philip Zimmern, through Karlsruhe, Strasbourg, Metz, Verdun, Châlons, and Meaux, reaching Paris January 29 and Le Havre February 1. Sails cFebruary 7; becalmed in Plymouth Harbor cFebruary 12–17; arrives at New York March 26.