


Biographical Chronology: L. Frank Baum, 1856–1919

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- May 15, 1856:** Born Lyman Frank Baum in Chittenango, New York
- 1861–1863:** Family moves to and lives in Syracuse, New York
- 1866:** Father purchases Rose Lawn estate
- 1866–1868:** Is taught at home by English tutors
- 1868:** Is sent to Peekskill Military Academy
- 1870–1873:** Returns to Rose Lawn; publishes *Rose Lawn Home Journal*, *The Stamp Collector*, *Baum's Complete Stamp Dealer's Directory*, *The Empire*
- 1873–1874:** Attends Syracuse Classical School for one year; begins work in the theater as an actor
- 1875–1876:** Takes clerking job in family-owned Neal, Baum & Company dry-goods store in Syracuse
- 1876–1882:** Partners in poultry business with father and brother; publishes *The Poultry Record*; helps establish the Empire State Poultry Association; studies acting; writes for newspapers; manages family-owned theaters in New York and Pennsylvania; forms acting company and writes and stars in his *The Maid of Arran*
- November 9, 1882:** Marries Maud Gage
- 1883–1888:** Takes *The Maid of Arran* throughout the United States and Canada; moves back to Syracuse; cofounds Baum's Castorine; begins interest in theosophy
- December 4, 1883:** Son Frank Joslyn born
- February 1, 1886:** Second son, Robert Stanton, born; Maud is ill for two years after the birth
- February 18, 1886:** Brother Benjamin dies
- February 14, 1887:** Father dies

- September 1888:** Moves family to Aberdeen, Dakota Territory
- October 1, 1888:** Opens Baum's Bazaar
- Spring 1889:** Founds Aberdeen Baseball Club and Hub City Nine (professional baseball team)
- December 17, 1889:** Third son, Harry Neal, born
- January 1, 1890:** Baum's Bazaar is sold in foreclosure to sister-in-law Helen Gage
- January 25, 1890:** Begins publication of *The Aberdeen Saturday Pioneer* with "Our Landlady" columns
- March 24, 1891:** Fourth son, Kenneth Gage, born
- 1891:** Moves family to Chicago; in May begins as reporter for *Chicago Evening Post*, joins Chicago Press Club
- Fall 1892:** Becomes department store buyer for Siegel, Cooper & Co.
- 1893:** Attends World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago
- 1893–1897:** Works as salesman for Pitkin and Brooks, fine china and glassware firm
- 1897:** Publishes *Mother Goose in Prose*; meets W. W. Denslow
- November 1897:** Starts journal *The Show Window*
- September 1899:** Publishes (in collaboration with Denslow) *Father Goose: His Book*
- 1900:** Decides to devote full time to writing fiction; publishes (in collaboration with Denslow) *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*
- 1901:** Publishes *The Master Key* and *American Fairy Tales*
- June 1902:** *The Wizard of Oz* stage play opens in Chicago; purchases Macatawa Park summer home
- February–March 1904:** Tours American Southwest—New Mexico, Arizona, California; discovers the Hotel del Coronado in San Diego
- 1904–1908:** Publishes three Oz sequels (*The Marvelous Land of Oz* in 1904, *Ozma of Oz* in 1907, *Dorothy and the Wizard of Oz* in 1908); publishes twenty-three books in all
- 1906:** Embarks with Maud on five-month international trip to Gibraltar, Egypt, Italy, Switzerland, France
- 1907:** Publishes Maud's letters as *Other Lands than Ours*
- 1908:** Writes and performs in *Fairylogue and Radio Plays*
- 1908–1911:** Publishes fifteen books plus articles, film and stage scripts, poetry, an opera
- 1909:** Sells properties in Chicago and Michigan; moves to rental property in Los Angeles; publishes *The Road to Oz*

- 1910:** Contracts with Selig Studios to produce four works as one-reelers; Maud buys property for Ozcot with inheritance money; publishes *The Emerald City of Oz*
- June 1911:** Declares bankruptcy
- 1913:** Publishes *The Patchwork Girl of Oz*; develops with Louis Gottschalk the musical production *The Tik-Tok Man of Oz*
- 1914:** Creates The Oz Film Manufacturing Company, which is closed down in 1915
- 1914–1918:** Publishes nineteen books, including *Tik-Tok of Oz* (1914) , *The Scarecrow of Oz* (1915) , *Rinkitink of Oz* (1916), *The Lost Princess of Oz* (1917), and *The Tin Woodman of Oz* (1918), plus movies, plays, articles, and a poem
- May 6, 1919:** Dies at home with Maud by his side, nine days before his sixty-third birthday
- June 7, 1919:** *The Magic of Oz* published posthumously
- 1920:** *Glinda of Oz* published posthumously