

## ALFRED TENNYSON

1809. August 6, born at Somersby in Lincolnshire; his father, a man of much learning and warm devotion to natural beauty, was rector (having been required to take holy orders and so earn his living when his own father settled the family fortune on a younger brother)  
Educated at home, in private schools, and at Louth Grammar School.
- 1827 *Poems by Two Brothers* (anonymous), in collaboration with his brother Charles,
- 1828—31 At Trinity College, Cambridge.
- 1828 Meets with Arthur Henry Hallam.
- 1830 *Poems, Chiefly Lyrical*. Journey to Spain with Hallam
- 1831 Father dies; suffered for years from physical and mental illness and alcoholism.  
Tennyson returns to Somersby without taking his degree at Cambridge
- 1832 *Poems* (dated 1833). Some reviews were negative.
- 1833 Hallam dies at Vienna. He had been engaged to T's sister Emily.
- 1842 *Poems* (2 volumes). Many revised versions of 1832 poems. The 1842 volume is a landmark in English poetry.
- 1845 Pension of £200 awarded by the Government of Sir Robert Peel in recognition of his distinction as a poet.
- 1847 *The Princess*.
- 1850 *In Memoriam* (at first anonymous). Appointed Poet Laureate, succeeding Wordsworth who died this year. His prospects now allowed his marriage to Emily Sellwood, after a delay of almost twenty years.
- 1852 *Ode on the Death of the Duke of Wellington*. Moves family to the Isle of Wight
- 1855 *Maud*. Tennyson's brilliant, experimental "monodrama" about devastated love, madness, and murder; much of it based on the generational conflict in his father's family, and on his own early relationship with Rosa Baring, daughter of a wealthy Somersby neighbor.
- 1857 The great Moxon edition of *Poems* [London: Edward Moxon] with numerous engravings after illustrations by D.G. Rossetti, J.E. Millais, Holman Hunt, etc.
- 1859 *Idylls of the King* (four idylls: "Enid" [later "Geraint and Enid"], "Vivien" [later "Merlin and Vivien"], "Elaine" [later "Lancelot and Elaine"], "Guinivere"). Enormously popular and influential revival of the Arthurian romances, largely forgotten until Tennyson retrieved them from their archival slump. The first written was the "Morte d'Arthur" in the 1832 *Poems*. The sequence eventually included twelve idylls, and was completed in 1885.
- 1864 *Enoch Arden and Other Poems*.
- 1869 *The Holy Grail and Other Poems* (including four poems later incorporated in the *Idylls*)
- 1870 first collected edition of Tennyson's poems (10 volumes)
- 1875 *Queen Mary*. The first of his never successful plays (performed in 1876).
- 1880 *Ballads and Other Poems*.
- 1883 Elevated to the peerage in recognition of his achievement (and, indeed, of his close identification with his epoch and the nation whose public events he often celebrated); known thereafter as Alfred, Lord Tennyson.
- 1885 *Tiresias and Other Poems*
- 1886 *Locksley Hall Sixty Years After and Other Poems*.
- 1889 *Demeter and Other Poems*.
- 1892 Tennyson dies October 6, at Aldworth near Haslemere, Surrey. He is buried in Westminster Abbey. *The Death of Ænone and Other Poems* was published six weeks later.

The Tennyson Research Centre was established in the Lincoln Central Library in 1964 following a deposit from Lord Tennyson (the poet's grandson) and the Tennyson Trustees. Since 1983 the collection has been owned and administered by Lincolnshire County Council as part of the Library Service. New material is constantly being added to the Centre so that the collection is probably the most significant on Tennyson in the world. It is of unique value not only to students of Tennyson but also to students of the Victorian era. Somersby Rectory, Tennyson's birthplace