

# GEORGE IDE BUTLER

<b>1830</b>	<p>1834 Born in Vermont; Grandfather Ezra Pitt Butler, Sr. had been a town organizer of Waterbury, Vermont, later councilman, judge, governor (1826-1828); Baptists</p> <p>1839 Family joined the Advent Movement William Miller visited their home in Waterbury twice.</p>
<b>1840</b>	<p>1844 Passing of the time</p> <p>1848 Joseph Bates visited Waterbury to present Sabbath and Sanctuary; Mrs. Butler accepted the Sabbath after Bates studied with her in her kitchen.</p> <p>1850 James and Ellen White spent several days in Butler home (LS133-135). George's self-description of his adolescence: "proud, stiff, stubborn infidel, passionate, hot headed, with little reverence for God or man" "shy, skeptical"</p>
<b>1850</b>	<p>1853 Butlers moved to Waukon, Iowa.</p> <p>1856 Converted and baptized by J. N. Andrews; became school teacher</p> <p>1859 Married Lenetha Lockwood</p> <p>1861 Daughter Annie born.</p>
<b>1860</b>	<p>1864 Twin sons William Pitt and Highland George born.</p> <p>1865 Elected president of Iowa Conference of SDA</p> <p>1867 Ordained; Moved to Mount Pleasant, Iowa</p>
<b>1870</b>	<p>1872 Elected president of General Conference of SDA to relieve James White</p> <p>1873 Wrote essay <i>Leadership</i> attempting to rally others around James White</p> <p>1874 Helped get Battle Creek College started; resigned when EGW wrote him an 18-page letter opposing his view on leadership (see 3T493ff.)</p> <p>1875 Worked in California, raising money to help start Pacific Press</p> <p>1876 Elected president of Iowa-Nebraska Conference of SDA</p> <p>1880 Very reluctantly re-elected General Conference President</p>
<b>1880</b>	<p>1881 James White died; Butler wept.</p> <p>1883 Trip to Europe (Italy, Romania, Germany, Switzerland, Scandinavian countries)</p> <p>1884 Wrote 10 articles on "Inspiration" in <i>Review</i>; EGW rejected in 1889 (<i>1888</i>, p. 257)</p> <p>1885 Visited Australia and New Zealand</p> <p>1886 Wrote EGW at least four times lamenting what E. J. Waggoner was teaching</p> <p>1887 EGW wrote Butler and Smith not to use her letters to conclude "that your ideas are all correct and Dr. Waggoner's and Elder Jones's are all wrong." (<i>1888</i>, p. 32) Butler was sick for four months, attributing it to Ellen White's letter.</p> <p>1888 To ill to attend General Conference Session at Minneapolis in October-November, but sent telegram, wrote 41-page letter to EGW; spoke of injustice of 1887 letter EGW replied: "If you had received it in the right spirit, it would have had no such results." Her angel guide said there was "much light yet to shine forth from the law of God and the gospel of righteousness. This message, understood in its true character, and proclaimed in the Spirit, will lighten the earth with its glory." (<i>1888</i>, pp. 96, 93) EGW wrote in December to Butler and his wife: "The leaven of suspicion has made you both unkind in thoughts, and uncharitable in feelings." "You have stood directly in the way of the work of God in health reform." "You have a large amount of self that is holding you away from God." (<i>1888</i>, p. 190-194)</p> <p>1889 Butler and wife moved to Florida; wife had a stroke, became an invalid.</p>

- 1890** — 1890 EGW wrote that Smith and Butler were “ensnared by the enemy” and “unfaithful.” (1888, pp. 714, 715)
- 1891 EGW stated that Smith and Butler “were not only despising the message, but the messengers. But the blindness of mind has come by warring against the light which the Lord designed to come to his people. (1888, p. 846)  
Smith made confession; Butler did not. (1888, pp. 862, 1005)  
Butler wrote EGW: “What you charge me with . . . I cannot make it seem to me to be so, and really it seems otherwise.” (MMM, p. 210)
- 1893 EGW observed regarding Butler and Smith, that “though they should repent and be saved at last, they can never regain that which they have lost through their wrong course of action.” (1888, p. 1128)  
Butler wrote an article in the Review acknowledging “that additional light of great importance has been shining upon these subjects” of justification by faith, but contended, “I never, for a moment since my conversion, supposed I could be saved by my own good works.” (MMM, p. 260)
- 1900** — 1899 EGW wrote him, “Have faith in God. Trust in Him, for He knoweth all things. He is true and patient with all His erring children.” (4Bio, p. 407)
- 1901 His wife died after another stroke.
- 1902 Elected president of Florida Conference of SDA; then of Southern Union  
EGW wrote: “We welcome him into our ranks once more, and regard him as one of our most valuable workers.” (20MR220) “The Lord has proved and tested and tried him. . . . I see in Elder Butler one who has humbled his soul before God. He has another spirit than the Elder Butler of younger years. . . . (RY117)
- 1903 EGW wrote him: “God desires the gray-haired pioneers . . . to stand in their place in His work today.” (1888, p. 1801)  
He opposed Kellogg’s book *The Living Temple*.
- 1904 EGW wrote him: “At this crisis all are called upon to take their positions. . . . Not a stone is to be moved in the foundation of this truth. . . .” (19MR311)
- 1910** — 1906 Helped Southern Publishing Association get established in Nashville
- 1915 Gave a speech at the Autumn Council at Loma Linda that helped to save the new medical school
- 1918 Spoke in March at the General Conference Session on “The Work of Mrs. E. G. White.” Died in July of brain tumor.

Taken from *Lest We Forget*, Vol. 7, No. 3  
Additional details can be found in *Rugged Heart, The Story of George I. Butler*, by Emmett K. Vande Vere, Southern Publishing Association, Nashville, 1979

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