

Some Highlights of the Life of **George Ide Butler** (1834-1918) (www.APLib.org)
 See "George Ide Butler, a Man of Influence," *Lest We Forget*, Vol. 7, No. 3, pp. 4-7

<i>Date</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Event</i>
1834/11/12	0	Born son of Ezra Pitt Butler, Jr, veteran of War of 1812, reform causes supporter; grandfather a American Revolution veteran, governor of Vermont, councilman, judge, university trustee and pastor of the Waterbury, Vermont Baptist Church
1839	5	His family joined the Millerite Advent Movement; father very zealous
1844	10	The Great Disappointment
1848	14	Butler's mother began keeping the Seventh-day Sabbath after studying with Bates
1850 Autumn	16	His father accepted the Sabbath message, after studying with Bates; was ordained
1852	18	Self-confessed "proud, stiff, stubborn infidel, passionate, hotheaded, with little reverence for God or man ... a shy, skeptical, proud-spirited youth."
1855	21	He began courting Lentha Lockwood
1856	22	He decided to trust in God; baptized by J. N. Andrews; became a school teacher
1859/03/10	25	Married Lentha Lockwood
1861	27	Daughter Anna was born
1864	30	Twin sons, William Pitt and Hiland George, were born
1865	31	Elected President of the Iowa Conference; Snook and Brinkerhoff rebellion
1867	33	Ordained; moved to Mount Pleasant, Iowa
1871	37	Reported a two-fold increase in membership in Iowa
1872	38	Elected President of the General Conference; task to turn Bell's school to college
1873	39	A 12-acre site was bought for the new Battle Creek College (rather than 50, 120)
1874/08/24	40	Battle Creek College opened its doors in Review building; 1/4/1875 new one
1874/08	40	Butler resigned, feeling unjustly criticized (leadership essay); White replaced him
1875	41	Sent to California, helped raise \$22,000 to establish Pacific Press
1876	42	Elected president, Iowa-Nebraska Conference; extended into Missouri, Kansas
1880	46	Re-elected President of the General Conference after EGW encouraged him
1881	47	Became President of the Review and Herald Publishing Association (to 1889)
1882	48	Battle Creek College closed temporarily
1883	49	Moved to Battle Creek; made first trip to Europe (Italy, Romania, Germany, Scandinavian countries, Switzerland); college reopened, W. Littlejohn as Director
1885	51	Visited Australia and New Zealand; W. W. Prescott new head of the College
1886	52	Wrote EGW four times lamenting what E. J. Waggoner was sharing on the law in Galatians, and asking for her opinion; opposed Waggoner at GC Session
1887/04/05	53	EGW wrote to him and Uriah Smith

I do not wish the letters that I have sent to you should be used in a way that you will take it for granted that your ideas are all correct and Dr. Waggoner's and Elder Jones's are all wrong. {1888 32.3}

1888/10/01	54	Dictated 41-page letter from his sick bed to EGW
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I have never had any doubt myself but what it was sadness of heart brought upon me by the position you took that gave me that four month's sickness. {1988 EGWE, MMM 80.2} I have not, Sister White, been able to see the justice of your letter of April 5, 1887, and never expect to. {1988 EGWE, MMM 82.1}

1888/10/14	54	EGW replied to his letter, while she was at the Minneapolis Conference
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[Angel guide took her to the 1886 GC Session Conference:] He stretched out his arms toward Dr. Waggoner, and to you, Elder Butler, and said in substance as follows: "Neither have all the light upon the law, neither position is perfect." {1888 96.3}

If my letter caused so great consequences to you as five months' illness, I shall not be held accountable for it; for if you had received it in the right spirit, it would have had no such results. {1888 96.3}

1888/12/11	54	EGW letter to him and his wife, addressing Mrs. Butler: "in suggesting doubts, criticizing, in evil speaking, in suspicioning evil, in gathering up that which appears to you to be faults and errors in others, and talking of these"; Elder
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		Butler: "the spirit of warfare you have had on health reform"; "a pride of soul that has not been crucified"; "a large amount of self that is holding you away from God." {1888 190.3; 192.3; 194.1}
1888	54	At the Minneapolis General Conference, Jones and Waggoner presented Righteousness by Faith; Olsen replaced Butler as GC President
1889	55	Moved to Bowling Green, Florida; Lenth had a stroke, "a monument of God's displeasure" {1888 1207.1}
1890	56	EGW described his spiritual condition in letters

[October 7 to O. A. Olsen:] Elder Smith is ensnared by the enemy and cannot in his present state give the trumpet a certain sound. Elder Butler is in the same condition. They are both unable to help just where the help is needed. They have by their course made of none effect, with a large number of others, the messages of communication which the Lord has been giving his people the last forty-five years. {1888 714.2} These men are and have been for years counteracting the work the Lord would have done to keep clear eyesight in the church and purge them from wrongs. {1888 715.1}

[December 6 to W. C. White, J. E. White and wife:] I have felt the cruel course of these men toward the work of God He has given me to do, more keenly than the death of my husband. {1888 741.2}

1893/01/09	59	EGW wrote of his eternal loss, even if saved at last
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But if such men as Elder Smith, Elder Van Horn, and Elder Butler shall stand aloof, not blending with the elements God sees essential to carry forward the work in these perilous times, they will be left behind.... The work will go forward; but these brethren, who might have received the richest blessings, will meet with eternal loss, for 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 1128.1&2}

1893/06/13	59	Had article published in <i>Review</i> regarding message: "I thought I believed in all of these before. I never, for a moment since my conversion, supposed I could be saved by my own good works"; showed some openness to the "additional light"
1895/07/15	61	EGW letter to J. H. Kellogg explaining Butler's current situation

If Elder Butler had heeded the warning, the entreaties of the Spirit of God, if he had walked in the counsel given him of God, he would now have been walking in strength and efficiency. {1888 1412.1}

1898	64	EGW directed that one of first copies of <i>Desire of Ages</i> be sent to him; he was surprised and heartened, and wrote her of his appreciation; she replied
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You misapprehend me when you suppose I have lost all hope of you. This has never been the case. I have had a great desire to see you, and to converse and pray with you. I would be pleased to see you take hold of the work again and move forward, drinking in the rich truths which God has given us. I desire to see you stand on vantage ground and realize the blessing of God in your own heart and life. {4BIO 406.6}

1901/11	67	Lenth died after a second stroke
1902	68	President, Florida Conference (to 1904), then Southern Union (to 1907)

[February 5 to Elder and Mrs. S. N. Haskell] It is with feelings of satisfaction and of gratitude to God that we see Elder Butler again in active service. His gray hairs testify that he understands what trials are. We welcome him into our ranks once more, and regard him as one of our most valuable laborers. {20MR 220.4}

1903	69	Opposed publication of <i>The Living Temple</i>
1904	70	Corresponded with J. H. Kellogg, beyond this year, but to no avail
1906	72	Southern Publishing Association moved to Nashville, Tennessee
1907/10/08	73	Married Elizabeth Work Grainger, moved back to Bowling Green, Florida
1908	74	Retired, but continued speaking for camp meetings about Advent history
1912	78	Received autographed copy of <i>Acts of the Apostles</i> from Ellen White
1913	79	Elizabeth treated for tuberculosis at the Orlando Sanitarium
1915	81	Ellen White died
1916/09	82	Elizabeth left Florida on a trip to battle tuberculosis
1918	84	Met Elizabeth in March at the General Conference in San Francisco; diagnosed with cancer in June; died July 25