OCTOBER HYMN BIO’S:

**NOEL, CAROLINE MARIA** (1817-1877) Noel be­gan her most pro­duc­tive writ­ing in mid­dle

age, af­ter a pro­longed ill­ness; she was an in­va­lid for the last quar­ter cen­tu­ry of her life. Her un­cle

was hymn­ist [Bap­tist No­el](http://www.hymntime.com/tch/bio/n/o/noel_bw.htm).

**WATTS, ISAAC** (1674-1748) was an English [hymn](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hymn)-writer, theologian and logician. He was

recognised as the "Father of English [Hymnody](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hymnody)", as he was the first prolific and popular English

hymnwriter, credited with some 750 [hymns](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hymn). Many of his hymns remain in active use today and have

been translated into many languages.

**WESLEY, CHARLES** (1707-1788) Wesley wrote over 6,000 hymns; as with most hymn­ists, his

works were fre­quent­ly al­tered. In the pre­face to the 1779 Col­lection of Hymns for the Use of the Peo­ple

called Meth­od­ists. In ad­di­tion to hymn writ­ing, Charles & John found­ed the move­ment which be­came

the Meth­od­ist de­nom­in­a­tion.

**BONAR, HORATIUS** (1808-1889) Bonar has been called “the prince of Scot­tish hymn write­rs.” After

gradu­at­ing from the Un­i­ver­si­ty of Ed­in­burgh, he was or­dained in 1838, and be­came pas­tor of the North

Par­ish, Kelso. He joined the Free Church of Scot­land af­ter the “Dis­rupt­ion” of 1843, and for a while edit­

ed the church’s The Border Watch. Bonar re­mained in Kel­so for 28 years, af­ter which he moved to the

Chal­mers Me­mor­i­al church in Edin­burgh, where he served the rest of his life. Bonar wrote more than 600

hymns.

**WEST, ROBERT A.** (1809-1865) West em­i­grat­ed to New York in 1835, then moved to Wash­ing­ton,

DC, in 1843. In 1844, he be­came the of­fi­cial re­port­er of the Gen­er­al Con­fer­ence of the Meth­od­ist Epis­co­

pal Church. He was al­so on the com­mit­tee ap­point­ed by that con­fer­ence to pre­pare a stand­ard edi­tion

of the Meth­od­ist hymn­al. That col­lect­ion ap­peared as Hymns for the Use of the Meth­od­ist Epis­co­pal

Church in 1849. He al­so ed­it­ed the Co­lum­bia Mag­a­zine (1846-1849) and the New York Com­mer­cial Ad­

ver­tis­er (from 1858).

**ATKINS, GEORGE** (eighteenth century) Meth­od­ist pastor, At­kins served in the Ohio Con­fer­ence, then

trans­ferred to Knox­ville, Ten­nes­see, in 1818. Be­sides his min­is­ter­i­al du­ties, he was al­so in­volved with

news­pap­ers. In 1826, he re­ceived an ap­point­ment to preach at Abing­don Town.

**GREENWELL, DORA** (1821-1882) Greenwell lived at Ov­ing­ham Rec­to­ry, North­um­ber­land (1848);

Gol­borne Rec­to­ry, Lan­ca­shire; Dur­ham (1854); and Clif­ton, near Bris­tol.

**WARNER, ANNA BARTLETT** (1820-1915) Anna’s fa­ther was Hen­ry War­ner, a wealthy New York

C­ity law­yer. When he lost most of his for­tune in the 1837 de­press­ion, the fam­i­ly was forced to move to

their sum­mer home (Good Craig) on Con­sti­tu­tion Island in the Hud­son Riv­er. It was then that Anna and

her sis­ter [Su­san](http://www.hymntime.com/tch/bio/w/a/r/warner_sb.htm) be­gan writ­ing to earn mon­ey. They al­so con­duct­ed Bi­ble class­es for ca­dets at the near­by

Mil­i­tary Acad­e­my at West Point. In mem­o­ry of her, the Acad­e­my’s Con­sti­tu­tion Is­land Asso­ci­a­tion man­

ag­es the War­ner’s is­land prop­er­ty as an his­tor­ic site.

**SAMMIS, JOHN H.** (1846-1919) A bus­i­ness­man and YMCA work­er in Lo­gans­port, In­di­a­na, Sam­mis

at­tend­ed Mc­Cor­mick and Lane The­o­lo­gic­al Sem­in­aries, was or­dained a Pres­by­ter­i­an min­is­ter in 1880. He

served in Glid­den, Io­wa; In­di­an­a­po­lis, In­di­a­na; Grand­ha­ven, Mi­chi­gan, Red Wing, Min­ne­so­ta; and Sull­i­

van, In­di­a­na. For the re­maind­er of his ca­reer, he taught at the Bi­ble In­sti­tute of Los An­ge­les.

**ALEXANDER, CECIL FRANCES** (1818-1895) Alex­and­er’s hus­band was Will­iam Alex­an­der, bi­shop

of Der­ry and Ra­phoe, and lat­er the An­gli­can pri­mate for Ire­land. Ce­cil and her sis­ter found­ed a school for

the deaf, and she set up the Girls’ Friend­ly So­ci­e­ty in Lon­don­der­ry. Ce­cil Al­ex­and­er wrote about 400

hymns in her life­time.

**KIPLING, RUDYARD** (1865-1936) Rudyard Kipling is the author of *The Jungle Book* and other

British-flavored tales of the Indian subcontinent. Kipling was born in India to British parents, but spent

much of his childhood at school in England before returning to India in his teens. His collection *Barrack-*

*Room Ballads* (1892) was full of colorful, dusty, sing-song poems told from the point of view of the

common British soldier, including the popular poem "Gunga Din." *The Jungle Book* (1894) was a

collection of fictional stories about the wilds of India, many of them about Mowgli, a boy raised by

wolves. It was followed by *The Second Jungle Book* in 1895 and was the basis for the popular 1967

[Disney](http://www.who2.com/waltdisney.html) animated film. At the time Kipling began writing, [Queen Victoria](http://www.who2.com/victoria.html) still held the title of "Empress

of India," and Kipling is known as a romantic imperialist: sympathetic toward the British Empire's foreign

subjects and yet proud of the British role in keeping and expanding its empire. Kipling traveled widely

and wrote hundreds of essays, poems and stories, continuing to write nearly up to his death in 1936.

**CHISHOLM, THOMAS OBADIAH** (1866-1960) Ac­cord­ing to Chis­holm, there were no spe­cial cir­cum­

stanc­es which caused the writing of “Great Is Thy Faithfulness”—just his ex­per­i­ence and Bi­ble truth. The

hymn first ap­peared in Songs of Sal­va­tion and Serv­ice, 1923, com­piled by Wil­liam Run­yan. It is the un­of­

fi­cial school hymn of Moo­dy Bi­ble In­sti­tute, Chi­ca­go, Il­li­nois, with which Run­yan was as­so­ci­at­ed for a

num­ber of years.

**POLLARD, ADELAIDE ADDISION** (1862-1934) Author of over 100 hymns and Gos­pel songs,

Poll­ard was ed­u­cat­ed in Den­mark, Io­wa; Val­pa­rai­so, In­di­ana; at the Bos­ton School of Or­a­tory; and the

Moo­dy Bi­ble In­sti­tute in Chi­ca­go, Ill­i­nois. She taught in Chi­ca­go, and at the Christ­ian and Mis­sion­ary

Al­li­ance Train­ing School in New York. She worked for a while with evang­el­ist John Al­ex­ander Dowie,

and al­so in Af­ri­ca, leav­ing for Scot­land af­ter World War I be­gan. She lat­er re­turned to New York.

**CROSBY, FANNY JANE** (1820-1915) Fanny Cros­by was prob­ab­ly the most pro­lif­ic hymn­ist in his­to­ry.

Though blind­ed by an in­com­pe­tent doc­tor at six weeks of age, she wrote over 8,000 hymns. About her

blind­ness, she said:

**It seemed in­tend­ed by the bless­ed prov­i­dence of God that I should be blind all my life, and I thank him for the dis­pen­sa­tion. If per­fect earth­ly sight were of­fered me to­mor­row I would not ac­cept it. I might not have sung hymns to the praise of God if I had been dis­tract­ed by the beau­ti­ful and in­ter­est­ing things about me.**

In her life­time, Fan­ny Cros­by was one of the best known wo­men in the Unit­ed States. To this day, the vast ma­jor­i­ty of Amer­i­can hymn­als con­tain her work.

**CLEMENT OF ALEXANDRIA** (C.170-C.220) was a [Christian theologian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christian_theologian) and the head of the noted [Catechetical School of Alexandria](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Catechetical_School_of_Alexandria). Clement is best remembered as the teacher of [Origen](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Origen). He united Greek philosophical traditions with Christian doctrine and valued [*gnosis*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gnosis) that with [communion for all people](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Catholic) could be held by common Christians specially chosen by God.

**DEXTER, HENRY MARTYN** (1821-1890) [American](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_of_America) clergyman and author, was born in [Plympton, Massachusetts](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plympton%2C_Massachusetts).

He graduated at [Yale](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yale_University) in 1840 and at the [Andover Theological Seminary](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Andover_Theological_Seminary) in 1844; was pastor of a Congregational church in [Manchester, New Hampshire](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester%2C_New_Hampshire), in 1844-1849, and of the Berkeley Street Congregational church, [Boston](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boston), in 1849-1867; was an editor of the *Congregationalist* in 1851-1866, of the *Congregational Quarterly* in 1859-1866, and of the *Congregationalist*, with which the *Recorder* was merged, from 1867 until his death in [New Bedford, Massachusetts](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Bedford%2C_Massachusetts).

He was an authority on the history of [Congregationalism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Congregational_church) and was lecturer on that subject at the Andover Theological Seminary in 1877-1879; he left his fine library on the *Puritans in America* to Yale University.

**CUSHING, WILLIAM ORCUTT** (1823-1902) Cushing’s parents were Un­i­tar­i­ans, and his ear­ly

train­ing was along these lines. Af­ter en­ter­ing the min­is­try, his first pas­tor­ate was at Sears­burg, New York.

He mar­ried in 1854, and went on to serve in Au­burn, Brook­lyn, Buf­falo, and Spar­ta, New York. Af­ter his

wife died in 1870 and his health de­clined, he re­tired from the mi­nis­try and be­gan writ­ing hymns. He com­

plet­ed over 300 in his life­time.

Cushing was an ex­emp­lary Christ­ian, ever mind­ful of the suf­fer­ing of others. Once he gave $1,000—all he had, an enor­mous sum in those days—to a blind girl so she could get an ed­u­ca­tion.

**BROWNLIE, JOHN** (1859-1925) Brownlie at­tend­ed the Un­i­ver­si­ty of Glas­gow and the Free Church Coll­ege. He was li­censed by the Pres­by­te­ry of Glas­gow in 1884, and in 1885 be­came As­sist­ant Min­is­ter of Trin­i­ty Free Church in Port­pat­rick, Wig­ton­shire; he suc­ceed­ed the the sen­ior pas­tor there up­on the latter’s death in 1890. He joined the l­ocal School Board in 1888, and be­came a gov­er­nor of Stran­raer High School in 1897, and Chair­man of the gov­er­nors in 1901. Glas­gow Un­i­ver­si­ty award­ed him an hon­o­ra­ry DD de­gree in 1908 for his work in hymn­ol­o­gy.

**BERNARD OF CLAIRVAUX** (1091-1153) Bernard’s fa­ther Te­ce­lin was a knight and vas­sal of the

Dukeof Bur­gun­dy. Ber­nard was ed­u­cat­ed at Cha­ti­llon, where he was dis­tin­guished by his stu­di­ous and

med­i­ta­tive ha­bits. He en­tered the mon­as­tery of Ci­teaux (the first Cis­ter­cian in­sti­tu­tion) in 1113. Two

years lat­er, he was sent, with 12 other monks, to found a daugh­ter mon­as­te­ry in the Val­ley of Worm­wood,

about four miles from the Ab­bey of La Ferté, on the Aube. He rose to em­i­nence in Church po­li­tics, and

be­came em­broiled in the pa­pal schis­ms of the 12th Cen­tu­ry. He was well known in Rome, and found­ed

163 mon­as­ter­ies through­out Eur­ope. The Ca­tho­lic En­cy­clo­pe­dia car­ries a large ar­ti­cle on him.

Bernard was a man of ex­cep­tion­al pi­e­ty and spir­it­u­al vi­tal­i­ty. [Mar­tin Lu­ther](http://www.hymntime.com/tch/bio/l/u/t/luther_m.htm), 400 years lat­er, called him,

the best monk that ever lived, whom I ad­mire be­yond all the rest put to­ge­ther.

**CASWALL, EDWARD** (1814-1878) Caswall was the son of Ro­bert Clarke Cas­wall, Vi­car of Yate­ley.

He at­tend­ed Chig­well Gram­mar School, Marl­bo­rough School, and Brase­nose Coll­ege, Ox­ford, where he

grad­u­at­ed with hon­ors. Be­fore leav­ing Ox­ford, he pub­lished, un­der the pseu­do­nym of Scrib­ler­us Red­i­vi­

vus, The Art of Pluck, in imi­ta­tion of Aris­to­tle, a sa­tire on the ways of the care­less col­lege stu­dent.

In 1838, Caswall was or­dained as a dea­con, and 1839 as an An­gli­can priest. In 1840 he be­came per­pe­tu­al cur­ate at Strat­ford-sub-Cas­tle near Sal­is­bury. By 1847, though, he had switched to Ro­man Ca­thol­i­cism and went to the Or­a­tory of St. Phil­ip Ne­ri at Edg­bas­ton, where he did most of his hymn work. Cas­wall is best re­mem­bered as a trans­lat­or of an­cient hymns, though he al­so wrote orig­in­al ly­rics.

**AMBROSE OF MILAN** (340-397) Ambrose was a Rom­an cit­i­zen, son of a Ro­man pre­fect in Gal­lia Nar­bo­nen­sis. At age 34, he was ap­point­ed gov­er­nor of north­ern It­a­ly. In 374, Am­brose was se­lect­ed as bi­shop of Mi­lan by pop­u­lar ac­claim. His hymns first came to wide­spread no­tice in a stand­off be­tween him and Em­press Just­in­a, who had sent sol­diers to ar­rest him. Am­brose and his faith­ful flock stayed in the sanc­tu­ary of the church for days, sing­ing and pray­ing. The em­press lost the test of wills, and Ambrose’s hymns have lived for mil­len­nia.

**BRIDGES, ROBERT SEYMOUR** (1844-1930) Bridges at­tend­ed Eton and Cor­pus Christi Coll­ege, Ox­ford (BA 1867, MA 1874), plan­ning to be a doc­tor, but even­tu­al­ly dis­cov­ered his lit­er­ary gifts—he wrote three vol­umes of lyr­ics, sev­er­al plays, lit­er­ary cri­ti­cism, and other works. He was named Bri­tish Po­et Lau­re­ate in 1913.

**CONDER, JOSIAH** (1789-1855) Son of an en­grav­er and book­sell­er, Con­der lost his right eye at age five, due to a bad small­pox vac­cin­a­tion. How­ever, his na­tive talents led him to be a suc­cess­ful au­thor, ed­i­tor and pub­lish­er. He ed­it­ed The Ec­lec­tic Re­pub­lic and The Pa­tri­ot, and wrote books on a wide va­ri­e­ty of sec­u­lar and re­li­gious sub­jects. A mem­ber of the Con­gre­ga­tion­al­ist de­nom­in­a­tion, his Con­gre­ga­tion­al Hymn-Book sold 90,000 co­pies in its first se­ven years.

**SCOTT, CLARA** (1841-1897) Daughter of Abel Fiske and Sar­ah Rock­well Jones, Cla­ra at­tend­ed, in 1856, the first Mu­sic In­sti­tute held in Chi­ca­go, Il­li­nois by C. M. Ca­dy. She went on to teach mu­sic at the La­dies Sem­in­a­ry, Ly­ons, Io­wa (1859). She mar­ried Hen­ry Clay Scott in 1861. Scott met and was great­ly en­cour­aged by [Ho­ra­tio Palm­er](http://www.hymntime.com/tch/bio/p/a/l/palmer_hr.htm), who helped pub­lish ma­ny of her songs.

**DECK, JAMES G.**(1802-1884) Oldest son of John Deck of Bu­ry St. Ed­munds, James was ed­u­cat­ed for the ar­my, and be­came an of­fi­cer in the In­di­an ser­vice. Re­tir­ing from the ar­my, and hav­ing joined the Ply­mouth Breth­ren, he un­der­took, in 1843, the charge of a con­gre­ga­tion of that bo­dy at Well­ing­ton, Som­er­set. In 1852, he went abroad and set­tled in New Zea­land. His sis­ter was hymn­ist [Ma­ry Walk­er](http://www.hymntime.com/tch/bio/w/a/l/walker_mjd.htm).

**FABER, WILLIAM FREDERICK** (1814-1863) Son of an Ang­li­can cler­gy­man, Fa­ber grad­u­at­ed from Bal­li­ol Coll­ege, Ox­ford, was or­dained an An­gli­can min­is­ter, and be­came Rec­tor of Elton in 1843. Three years la­ter, he switched to Ro­man Ca­thol­i­cism and found­ed the Bro­ther­hood of St. Phil­ip Ne­ri, in King Wil­liam Street, Strand. He la­ter moved to the Bromp­ton Ora­tory. Faber pub­lished a num­ber of prose works, and three vol­umes of hymns. It was in Je­sus and Ma­ry that ma­ny of his best hymns first ap­peared.

**SCHEFFLER, JOHANN** (1624-1677) Johann’s fa­ther, Stan­is­laus Scheff­ler, was a mem­ber of the Pol­ish no­bil­i­ty, but was forced to leave his home­land be­cause of his ad­her­ence to Lu­ther­an­ism. Jo­hann at­tend­ed Eliz­a­beth’s Gym­na­si­um in Bres­lau, than en­rolled as a med­ic­al stu­dent at the Un­i­ver­si­ty of Strass­burg in 1643. The next year, he went to Ley­den, and in 1647, to Pa­dua (PhD & MD 1648). He then re­turned to Si­le­sia, where in 1649 he be­came the pri­vate phy­si­cian of Syl­vi­us Nim­rod of Würt­tem­burg-Oels.

**LUTHER, MARTIN** (1483-1546) Luther be­gan the Pro­test­ant Re­for­ma­tion in 1517, and the Lu­ther­an

de­nom­in­a­tion bears his name to this day. In ad­di­tion to be­ing a re­form­er, he was ac­tive in church mu­sic.

**HEDGE, FREDERIC H.** (1805-1890) Hedge at­tend­ed Har­vard Un­i­ver­si­ty and Di­vin­i­ty School, then

pas­tored in Ar­ling­ton, Mas­sa­chu­setts (1829-1835); Bang­or, Maine (1835-1850); Prov­i­dence, Rhode Is­

land (1850-1856); and Brook­line, Mas­sa­chu­setts (1856-1872). He ed­it­ed The Christ­ian Ex­am­in­er (1857-

1861), and served as pre­si­dent of the Amer­i­can Un­i­tar­i­an As­so­ci­a­tion (1859-1862). He went on to teach

ec­cles­i­as­ti­cal his­to­ry (1857-1878) and Ger­man lit­er­a­ture (1872-1882) at Har­vard.