

## **A Timeline**

1835 In late summer Halley's Comet returns. Princess Victoria, heir to the British throne is stricken by some strange malady and remains comatose while the comet is visible to the naked eye. It is only after the comet retreats from the Earth that she regains consciousness. Some report her personality as having "changed" somehow.

1837 Victoria becomes queen. She feels a strong empathy for many people and is renowned for her persuasive abilities. Any negotiation she personally oversees always goes in her favour. She proclaims that henceforth Britain shall rule over a Commonwealth of Nations rather than possess an Empire. Many politicians oppose this statement. When she arranges to meet with them in person they change their opinions and the Commonwealth, later Commonwealth is established with Victoria as the head of state.

1839 Molly Brant, an Iroquois from Upper Canada, daughter of Thayendanegea (Joseph Brant) and Catherine Croghan sailed to England where she asked for and received an audience with Victoria. She explained the conditions her people and other First Nations were facing in Canada. Victoria in her role of White Mother over the Sea listened intently and promised to do something.

1840 March Victoria and her new husband Albert makes a progression through the nations of the Commonwealth. She meets with the local government officials and insists that the treaties made with the indigenous peoples be honoured. Land is distributed more equally and the treatment of the original inhabitants is improved. If the partnership that ensued was somewhat less than equal that was certainly not her intent.

1857 Various groups in India revolt against the rule of the British East India Company. After much violence and death the East India Company is replaced by a government co-administered by the British crown and various local rulers. Work is commenced toward establishing a more democratic establishment. In November 1858 Victoria proclaims that each Indian would have rights similar to those enjoyed by British subjects. Parliament ratifies this into law.

1858 Victoria bans the trade of Opium to China and forges better relations between Britain and China.

1861 Civil War breaks out in the United States. Victoria declares her support for the Union and the war ends in 1863. The rights of the enslaved Blacks are reformed and improved by Abraham Lincoln on Victoria's insistence. The road to true equality is a long and rocky road.

1870 The Métis of the Red River Valley insist on their rights when the Hudson Bay Company sells Rupertsland to Canada. After some difficulties their rights are enshrined in Canadian law

and the new province of Manitoba is established with David Louis Riel as its first premier with equal rights for French, English, Protestant and Catholic settlers. The Métis and First Nations have the same rights as the other inhabitants.

1879 After a rocky start Victoria takes over the South African Congress and ensures that a confederation of states in Southern Africa is established with equal rights for all.

1886 Victoria intervenes and the Irish Home Rule bill is passed into law. Ireland remains in the Commonwealth.

1891 Victoria intervenes in the Congo Territory. She meets with a reluctant Leopold II who subsequently reins in the atrocities occurring in the territory and introduces vaccination and famine relief programs.

1901 January 22<sup>nd</sup> Victoria dies and is succeeded by her heir Edward VII. He is not half the monarch she was and does not appear to have inherited her diplomatic abilities.

1910 April 10<sup>th</sup> Halley's Comet returns. Its advent is heralded by miracles around the world. People fly, grow new limbs and exhibit strange powers.

May 6<sup>th</sup> Edward VII dies.

May 19<sup>th</sup> the Earth passes through the tail of Halley's Comet.

May 20<sup>th</sup> at Edward VII's State Funeral "the greatest assemblage of royalty and rank ever gathered in one place"<sup>1</sup> attends. During the internment service at St. George's Chapel the unthinkable happens. An enormous explosion occurs killing everyone in the chapel effectively wiping out the House of Saxe-Coburg and many other members of British and European royalty. Shaka III of Zululand, Emperor Xuantong of China, Emperor Meiji of Japan, Emperor Menelik II of Ethiopia were all victims as well.

The only survivor of the House of Saxe-Coburg is the 62 year old Louise Caroline Alberta sixth child and fourth daughter of Victoria. She had been bedridden with scarlet fever and had not been expected to live. The 90 year old Florence Nightingale visited her and almost miraculously saved her.

An inquest occurs and the blame was firmly placed on Scottish nationalists though no one was ever brought to justice.

June 18 Louise becomes Queen Louise of Britain and the Commonwealth. She has no issue so uncertainty remains as to her heir.

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<sup>1</sup> Barbara Tuchman. "The Guns of August."

During the rest of 1910 individuals possessing supernormal powers, dubbed Wonder Men and Women by Joseph Pulitzer, start to make their existence known. Governments scramble to take advantage of the situation by forcibly conscripting these Wonder Men and Women into service. Many comply, some resist and others never make their existence known.

The most visible new group of Wonder Men and Women is the guerilla group, Los campeones de la Tierra Roja<sup>2</sup> in Panama which after a short but bloody struggle eject the Americans from Panama and destroy all the work done to that point on the Panama canal. The United States abandons the canal at this point.

1912 April 15 The Titanic hits an iceberg and sinks. This is wrongly blamed on Wonders and in many countries riots occur which result in loss of life. In Assiniboia the reaction is to set aside the first North American Wonder ghetto in the Point Douglas neighbourhood now renamed Wondertown.

1912 May 15 Mark Twain who rose from his deathbed two years prior and became an advocate for Wonder rights tours the Assiniboia Wonder ghetto. On his return to Chicago he is assassinated by anarchists.

1914 Archduke Francis Ferdinand is assassinated and the Great War begins. The list of countries involved in the war is larger than it was in our world with theatres of action existing in Asia, Africa, South America and even Oceania. The horrors of war are made all the worst by the participation of Wonder Men and Women.

1918 The war ends. The carnage leads to a ban on the use of Wonder Men and Women in war and gives impetus to the formation of a global organization to end war.

1918 The Spanish Influenza begins to spread. Once again Wonders are blamed.

1919 Florence Nightingale produces her first great Work and stops the pandemic.

1919 Dr. Wilma Borotsik of the University of Kiev discovers the Wonder disrupting properties of a strange ore from northern Manitoba. She dubs it Neutralium.

1920 January 20 League of Nations formed in Geneva. They actively recruit a force of Wonder Men and Women known as Global Guardians to work for them. The Global Guardians help the league enforce peace and patrol disputed territories until a solution can be found.

1922 The United States formally joins the League of Nations and ensures that a portion of its peacekeeping force of Wonder Men and Women serve with the League.

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<sup>2</sup> The Champions of the Red Earth

1923 Sir Hamish Alexander Mackenzie MacDougall discovers a process for refining raw Neutralium ore into a more useful end product.

1929 Wall Street crashes worsening the already precarious economic situation in the world.

1932 The present.

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