Charles E. Burchfield

1893  April 9: Born Charles Ephraim in Ashtabula Harbor, Ohio,

1898  September: Father died. Moved with his family to Salem, Ohio.

1911  Graduated from high school as class valedictorian. Worked at the Mullins Company, filing automobile parts until he contracted typhoid fever. After recuperating, he returned to the Mullins Company to work in the cost department.

1916  May: Graduated from the Cleveland School of Art. October-late November: Awarded scholarship at the National Academy of Design in New York City, but left after one day in life class. Exhibition of watercolors at Sunwise Turn Bookshop of Mary Mowbray-Clarke in New York and in Cleveland School of Art. Returned to Salem and job at W. H. Mullins Company. Continued to paint during lunch breaks. Mowbray-Clarke remained his dealer until 1922.

1917  Later he called this period his “Golden Year” for his inventiveness, stylistic experimentation, and prolific output.

1918  July: Inducted into U. S. Army at Camp Jackson, South Carolina; honorably discharged January 1919 with the rank of sergeant.

1921  November: Obtained position as assistant designer at M. H. Birge & Sons, a quality wallpaper company at 390 Niagara Street in Buffalo, New York and moved to the city.

1922  May 20: Married Bertha Kenreich in Greenford, Ohio. They lived briefly at 170 Mariner Street, later at 459 Franklin Street, Buffalo.

1923  May 26: Daughter Mary Alice born.

1924  June 28: Daughter Martha Elizabeth born.

1925  April: Moved to Gardenville (West Seneca), New York. July 5: Daughter Sarah Ruth (named Rebecca Anne for one day)

1926  December 31: Daughter Catherine Esther born.


1936  Commissioned by *Fortune* magazine to paint the railroad yards at Altoona and Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, and in 1937, to paint sulphur and coal mining operations in Texas and West Virginia.


1941  April-May: *Paintings by Charles Burchfield*, Cleveland School of Art, Cleveland, Ohio.

1943  Completes *The Coming of Spring*, his first “reconstruction” or composite painting.


1949  Teaches courses periodically at the Art Institute of Buffalo; Ohio University, Athens; University of 1953 Buffalo; University of Minnesota, Duluth; and Buffalo Fine Arts Academy.


1954  Elected N.A. (made full member) of the National Academy of Design.

1955  Series of health problems began.


1959  Spring: Began cortisone treatments which results in increased artistic output. Included in *Contemporary American Watercolors and Drawings*, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC, toured to eighteen venues nationally; *Twenty-five Years of American Painting*, United States Information Agency, toured internationally; *Ten Modern Masters of Art*, American Federation of Arts, New York, New York, toured to twelve venues nationally.


1966  December 9: The Charles Burchfield Center, a museum dedicated to the artist, was inaugurated at the State University College at Buffalo.

1967  January 10: Charles E. Burchfield died of a heart attack.