

Marion Lucy Mahony Griffin – Timeline

Version 1.1 – Revised November 2007

A listing of important dates and events in her life and career. Dates have been drawn from a variety of sources, some of which conflict with one another.

Conventions:

with spans of dates which start at the same time - the shorter span precedes the longer one
within a given year - unknown or less exact dates generally precede precise dates

Abbreviations:

MLM = Marion Lucy Mahony
MMG = Marion Mahony Griffin
WBG = Walter Burley Griffin
FLW = Frank Lloyd Wright

1871

MLM born in Chicago; Feb. 14
parents: Jeremiah and Clara (Perkins) Mahony
siblings: Georgine, Gerald, Jerome, Leslie
cousin: Dwight H. Perkins
later lives in Lakeside/Hubbard Woods ("paradise") and then Chicago
Great Chicago Fire; Oct. 8

1875

MLM's sister, Georgine ("Gene," "Genie") born

1876

WBG born in Maywood, Illinois; Nov. 24
parents: George and Estelle (Burley) Griffin
siblings: Genevieve (later marries Roy Lippincott), Gertrude, Ralph

ca. 1880

MLM spends a year with Aunt Myra Perkins at maternal grandparents in Tremont, Illinois

1883

MLM's father dies

1890

MLM graduates from West Division High School
passes "Boston Tech" (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) entrance examination

1893

World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago

1894

MLM graduates from "Boston Tech" (Massachusetts Institute of Technology)

1895

MLM works at office of cousin Dwight H. Perkins (1867-1941)
later works for Myron Hunt

1895/6-1909

MLM works in FLW's office

1897

MLM becomes a charter member of the Arts and Crafts Society; Oct. 2

1898

MLM receives Illinois architect's license; Jan.
FLW moves to Oak Park

1899

WBG graduates with B.S. in Architecture from the University of Illinois
member: Architects' Club, Le Cercle Francaise, Tau Beta Pi

1900

WBG hears Louis Sullivan's talk, "The Young Man in Architecture"

1901

WBG joins FLW's office after working with Dwight Perkins, Robert Spencer, and
H. Webster Tomlinson

1902-03

MLM works as a teacher
works on Church of All Souls [Unitarian], Evanston, Illinois

1904

Church of All Souls completed [demolished 1960s]
MLM's niece and Georgine's) daughter, Clarmyra [Smith] born

1906

MLM's distinctive delineation style emerges
Gerald Mahony House addition, Elkhart, Indiana [for MLM's brother]
WBG leaves FLW's office, establishes own practice
Ralph Griffin House, Edwardsville, Illinois [WBG; plans; built 1909-10]

1907

"Interlocking Squares" (William Tempel) House, Winnetka, Illinois [WBG; project]
Mary Bovee Two-Flat, Evanston, Illinois [WBG]

1908

Gilbert Cooley House, Monroe, Louisiana [WBG; plans; built 1925]
John Gauler House, Chicago, Illinois [WBG]
F.W. Itte House and Philip Itte Two-Flat, Chicago, Illinois [WBG; demolished 1923]
J. Benjamin Moulton House, Chicago, Illinois [WBG]
William Orth Houses, Winnetka, Illinois [WBG]

1909

MLM works in WBG's office
Ralph Griffin House, Edwardsville, Illinois [WBG]
FLW leaves Oak Park for Europe; Sept.
Harry Gunn House, Chicago, Illinois [WBG; demolished 1960s]

1909-10

MLM works with Herman von Holst (1874-1955), who has taken over FLW's practice
David Amberg House, Grand Rapids, Michigan [MLM and von Holst]

1910

MLM begins placing perspective, plan, and section on one sheet
Frederick Carter House, Evanston, Illinois [WBG]
E.W. Clark Memorial Fountain, Grinnell, Iowa [WBG; demolished, 1960s]
F.P. Marshall House, Winnetka, Illinois [WBG]
Millikin Place, Decatur, Illinois [MLM, von Holst, WBG, and FLW]
[Irving and Mueller houses]

1911

Allen Ravines, Decatur, Illinois [WBG; project]
H(arvey) B. Hurd Comstock Houses, Evanston, Illinois [WBG]
MLM becomes a member of WBG's office
"Solid Rock" (William Tempel) House, Winnetka, Illinois [WBG]
Canberra design competition announced; May 11
first mention in Chicago; Jul.
MLM and WBG married in Michigan City, Indiana; Jun. 29
Canberra renderings; Nov. and Dec.

1912

"Own House", Winnetka, Illinois [project]
Harry Mess House, Winnetka, Illinois
WBG office moves to Monroe Building, Chicago; May
WBG wins Canberra design competition; May

1912-13

Trier Center Neighborhood, Winnetka, Illinois [project]

1912-15

Rock Crest/Rock Glen, Mason City, Iowa
[Blythe, Page, Melson, Rule, Schneider houses]

1913

Stinson Memorial Library, Anna, Illinois
 Newton Center / Newton Quarter Section plan submitted to City Club of Chicago competition
 MMG and WBG in Europe; Mar.-Apr.
 Andrew Fisher government; O'Mally, Minister of Home Affairs replaced by Joseph Cook government: W.H. Kelly, Acting Minister of Home Affairs; Jun.
 WBG in Australia; Aug.-Nov.
 WBG asked to become chairman of the architecture department of University of Illinois; Sept.
 WBG named Director of Design and Construction at Canberra for 3 years revises plan for Canberra; Oct.
 WBG leaves Sydney for US; Nov.

1913-1915

planning for Mossmain (Montana), University of New Mexico (Albuquerque) [projects]

1914

Henry Ford House [project; MMG and von Holst]
 MMG and WBG in Europe; Feb.
 MMG and WBG in Australia, move to Melbourne; Apr.
 WBG assumes duties as Director; May
 architectural offices established in Sydney and Melbourne (1914-37)
 WBG shuttles between Canberra and Melbourne
 MMG's "Democratic Architecture" in *Building* magazine; Jun., Aug.
 MMG and WBG join Naturalists' Society of New South Wales; Aug., Sept.
 Andrew Fisher government: Archibald, Minister of Home Affairs; Sept.

1914-17

Barry Byrne runs WBG's Chicago office

1914-18

First World War

1915

planning for Vanderhoof (British Columbia), Leeton (New South Wales), and Griffith (New South Wales) [projects]
 WBG submits amended plan for Canberra; Mar.
 Standing Parliamentary Committee on Public Works rejects some of WBG's proposals; Mar.
 end of architectural partnership with J. Burcham Clamp; Mar.[?]
 William Morris Hughes government: O'Mally, Minister of Home Affairs; Oct.
 WBG's lake scheme for Canberra rejected; Nov.

1915-16

Cafe Australia, Melbourne [demolished 1938]

1915-18

Newman College (formerly Catholic College, University of Melbourne)

1916

WBG's appointment renewed for another 3 years; Apr.
Royal Commissioner's (Wilfred Blacket) inquiry into capital planning; Jun./Jul.
William Morris Hughes government; Nov.
MMG moves from Sydney to Melbourne

ca. 1917

MMG begins "Forest Portraits"

1917

WBG dissolves his Chicago office
first Australian town planning conference
William Morris Hughes government; Feb.
Royal Commissioner's reports; Mar.-Apr.

1917-18

WBG designs and patents prefabricated "knit-lock" building system

1918

WBG submits final plan for Canberra
William Morris Hughes government; Jan.

1918-19

MMG visits Tasmania; Dec.-Jan.

1919

WBG's appointment as Director continued on a monthly basis

1920

WBG declines to join the Federal Capital Advisory Committee (John Sulman, chair)
WBG's appointment not renewed and position abolished; Dec.

1921

Griffins purchase 650 acres at Castlecrag
formation of Greater Sydney Development Association (GSDA)

1921-24

Capitol House/Capitol Theatre (opens 8 Nov. 1924)

1921-36

Eric M(ilton) Nicholls (1902-65) joins (later partner in) WBG's office

1922

Cheong, Grant, Johnson, and Moon Houses, Castlecrag
Koumintang Club, Melbourne

1922-23

Leonard House, Melbourne [demolished 1976]

1923

MMG's mother dies
O'Malley House, Castlecrag

1924

Felstead House, Castlecrag
Paling House, Toorak (Malvern), Victoria [demolished 1969]

1924-25

Griffins visit US for a short time

1925

WBG and MMG move to Castlecrag
Gilbert Cooley House, Monroe, Louisiana [first plan 1908]
Guy House, Castlecrag
independent Federal Capital Commission appointed under John Henry Butters
Castlecrag Progress Association formed; Nov. 10

1926

Creswick and Mower Houses, Castlecrag
Griffins' first contact with Theosophy; Jun.

1927

WBG's mother dies

1929

Fishwick and Wilson Houses, Castlecrag

1929-30

beginning of Griffins' involvement with Anthroposophy

1929-37

Reverbatory Incinerator & Engineering Co. (RIECo.) incinerator designs

1929-39

Great Depression

1930

Haven Valley Scenic Theatre, Castlecrag
MMG joins Sydney Anthroposophical Society (St. John's Group); Sept. 30

1930-32

MMG "runs away" to US [see **IV.175**]; Nov.

1930-37

firm of Griffin & Nicholls

1931

MMG's George B. Armstrong School murals, Rogers Park (Chicago), Illinois; Jun.
WBG joins Sydney Anthroposophical Society; Sept. 31

1932

WBG visits US; Jul.
MMG and WBG return to Australia; Sept.

1934-35

Eric and David Pratten Houses, Pymble (New South Wales)
Eric Nicholls and his wife, Mary Adeline, join Sydney Anthroposophical Society

1934-36

MMG involved in theater productions at Castlecrag

1935

WBG to India; Oct.-Nov.
Lucknow University Library [plans]; Dec.

1935-36

Pymont Incinerator, Sydney [demolished 1986, 1992]

1936

Lucknow University Student Union [project]
MMG to India; May
Library and Museum for Raja of Mahmudabad [project]; Sept.

1936-37

United Provinces Industrial and Agricultural Exhibition, Lucknow; 5 Dec. 1936 –
24 Feb. 1937
Pioneer Press building, Lucknow [demolished 1991]

1937

WBG dies (buried in Lucknow); Feb. 11
MMG leaves India for Australia; ca. Apr.

1938

MMG returns to US; after June
lives with sister Georgine [Smith] and niece Clarmyra [Hayes] (and her children) at
1946 Estes, Rogers Park (Chicago), Illinois

1939-45

Second World War

1940

MMG speaks at Cliff Dwellers Club, Chicago
speaks to the Illinois Society of Architects; Jun.

1942

World Fellowship Center, Chocorua (Conway), New Hampshire [project]

1943

Hill Crystals-Rosary Crystals, Boerne, Texas [project]; Jan.
MMG deeds Castlecrag's Haven Scenic Theatre to community

1945

Entry for Better Chicago Contest, sponsored by the "Chicago Herald American"
Entry for Chicagoland Prize Homes Competition, sponsored by the "Chicago Tribune"

1949

death of MMG's sister, Georgine

1949-50

MMG donates items to the Art Institute of Chicago, New-York Historical Society,
Columbia University, and Northwestern University

1961

MMG dies; Aug. 10

1987

memorial marker for WBG's grave in Lucknow, India

1997

memorial marker for MMG's grave in Graceland Cemetery, Chicago, Illinois