Timeline
Selected events from the life of Charles Dickens

1812: Born Feb. 7 to John and Elizabeth Dickens in Portsmouth
1817: Family moves to Chatham, in Kent
1822: Family moves to Camden Town outside London
1824: John Dickens imprisoned for debt; young Charles goes to work in boot blacking factory
1825: John Dickens imprisoned for debt; young Charles goes to work in boot blacking factory
1827: Family evicted for non-payment of rents; Charles leaves school to become a clerk in a solicitor’s office
1834: Becomes a reporter for The Morning Chronicle
1837: Serialization of “Oliver Twist” begins
1842: First visit to America
1843: “A Christmas Carol” is published in December
1849: Serialization of “David Copperfield”
1856: Purchases Gad’s Hill, near Rochester in Kent
1858: Gives first public readings for profit. Legal separation from Catherine (the couple has 10 children)
1860: “Great Expectations” is serialized
1867: American reading tour
1870: Dies on June 9 at Gad’s Hill of a cerebral hemorrhage

Sources: Richard Wilkins; “A Christmas Carol”; The Dickens Project at University of California; New York Public Library; David Perdue’s Charles Dickens Page (www.fidnet.com/~dap1955/dickens.carol.html)