

## DARK SKIES for October 2018:

M/T Oct.	1/2	8:16 p.m.	-	11:20 p.m.
T/W Oct.	2/3	8:14 p.m.	-	12:20 a.m.
W/T Oct.	3/4	8:12 p.m.	-	1:26 a.m.
T/F Oct.	4/5	8:11 p.m.	-	2:37 a.m.
F/S Oct.	5/6	8:09 p.m.	-	3:49 a.m.
S/S Oct.	6/7	8:07 p.m.	-	5:03 a.m.
<b>S/M Oct.</b>	<b>7/8</b>	<b>8:05 p.m.</b>	-	<b>5:31 a.m.</b>
<b>M/T Oct.</b>	<b>8/9</b>	<b>8:04 p.m.</b>	-	<b>5:32 a.m.</b>
<b>T/W Oct.</b>	<b>9/10</b>	<b>8:02 p.m.</b>	-	<b>5:33 a.m.</b>
<b>W/T Oct.</b>	<b>10/11</b>	<b>8:00 p.m.</b>	-	<b>5:34 a.m.</b>
T/F Oct.	11/12	8:18 p.m.	-	5:36 a.m.
F/S Oct.	12/13	8:55 p.m.	-	5:37 a.m.
S/S Oct.	13/14	9:35 p.m.	-	5:38 a.m.
S/M Oct.	14/15	10:20 p.m.	-	5:39 a.m.
M/T Oct.	15/16	11:09 p.m.	-	5:40 a.m.
T/W Oct.	16/17	12:01 a.m.	-	5:41 a.m.
W/T Oct.	17/18	12:57 a.m.	-	5:42 a.m.
T/F Oct.	18/19	1:55 a.m.	-	5:44 a.m.
F/S Oct.	19/20	2:54 a.m.	-	5:45 a.m.
S/S Oct.	20/21	3:55 a.m.	-	5:46 a.m.
S/M Oct.	21/22	4:57 a.m.	-	5:47 a.m.
M/T Oct.	22/23	none		
T/W Oct.	23/24	none		
W/T Oct.	24/25	none		
T/F Oct.	25/26	none		
F/S Oct.	26/27	7:36 p.m.	-	7:42 p.m.
S/S Oct.	27/28	7:35 p.m.	-	8:25 p.m.
S/M Oct.	28/29	7:33 p.m.	-	9:15 p.m.
M/T Oct.	29/30	7:32 p.m.	-	10:13 p.m.
T/W Oct.	30/31	7:31 p.m.	-	11:17 p.m.
W/T Oct.	31/1	7:30 p.m.	-	11:36 p.m.

Times listed are for Dodgeville, Wisconsin when

- (1) Moon is below the horizon
- (2) Sun is > 18° below the horizon  
(astronomical twilight)

Please minimize your use of outdoor lighting during these times to give everyone the best possible view of the night sky.

## Time Travel

conducted by David Oesper

*Alexander Stewart Herschel*

ASTRONOMERS in general will have heard with regret of the death of Prof. Alexander Herschel, a member of the famous family happily not yet extinct, whose traditions are being worthily sustained by its present representatives. Those who are in the habit of attending Meetings of the Royal Astronomical Society and similar gatherings will miss a familiar and striking figure, and we of this Magazine have to regret the loss of a valued contributor, whom we shall always remember for his willingness to help when called upon, for his modesty in volunteering contributions, and for his punctilious courtesy in correspondence and in affairs generally. Though apparently reserved in manner, he

appears to have made many friends in passing through life, and for this *in memoriam* article it has seemed well to ask some of these to speak in turn of our late friend in the period during which they knew him. Prof. Lebour's paragraph carries the history to the year 1886. Since that time Prof. Herschel lived in the family house at Slough, occupying himself in observing meteors, in occasional literary work of an astronomical kind, and in attending scientific meetings. The paragraph of dates and events is a copy of the Professor's own handwriting, made by his nephew, Rev. J. C. W. Herschel, to whom we are indebted for this and other help, and who writes about his uncle :—

“ He was always a most kindly man, so thoughtful for others, invariably bringing some small token on his visits to give away, especially to children, and averse to receiving any himself. Witness the legacy which someone left him, and which he at once spent anonymously on Durham University.”

HE was clever with his head and skilful with his hands, and as a boy he was fond of Natural History and such things and was clever at stuffing and setting up birds. He was athletic and active and a good swimmer. As was the case with his two brothers, he was sent to the Clapham Grammar School kept by the late Prof. Pritchard, and distinguished himself in mathematics. He then went to Trinity College, Cambridge. While at Cambridge he was always busy and active, but his interests were numerous, and his mathematical reading was of too desultory a nature and too little directed to “ paying ” subjects to permit of his taking a degree at all corresponding to his capacity and ability : he came out as 20th Wrangler in the Tripos of 1859. His taste for Natural History was exhibited by keeping for a few days loose in his College rooms a dozen Death's Head Moths, to test their habit of uttering a sharp cry when touched. His taste for models and experiments was shown in many ways : at one time he hung a box of dry sand from the ceiling of his room, the sand dropping through a hole in the bottom and tracing curves on the floor, to illustrate problems connected with the rotation of the Earth : this experiment occupied 2 or 3 days, during which time he lived in another man's rooms. He helped Prof. Maxwell very much in his well-known experiment with “ The Devil on Two Sticks ”—a double cone, which was whirled into a violent condition of rotation by means of a cord and two sticks. Herschel made the model and worked it with great effect in the Great Court. The double cone was taken off the cord, while rotating, by a short loop of string passed round a nail at one end, and the cone then stood out horizontally and turned slowly round a vertical axis in illustration of the Law of Precession. His passion for experiments and models in illustration of the meaning of equations remained with him all his life. After leaving Cambridge he was appointed a Professor at Newcastle.

W. AIRY.

*The Observatory* (1907)