

DARK SKIES for November 2018:

T/F Nov.	1/2	7:28 p.m.	-	1:36 a.m.
F/S Nov.	2/3	7:27 p.m.	-	2:47 a.m.
S/S Nov.	3/4	7:26 p.m.	-	2:58 a.m.
S/M Nov.	4/5	6:25 p.m.	-	4:08 a.m.
M/T Nov.	5/6	6:24 p.m.	-	5:04 a.m.
T/W Nov.	6/7	6:23 p.m.	-	5:05 a.m.
W/T Nov.	7/8	6:22 p.m.	-	5:06 a.m.
T/F Nov.	8/9	6:21 p.m.	-	5:07 a.m.
F/S Nov.	9/10	6:27 p.m.	-	5:08 a.m.
S/S Nov.	10/11	7:10 p.m.	-	5:09 a.m.
S/M Nov.	11/12	7:58 p.m.	-	5:11 a.m.
M/T Nov.	12/13	8:50 p.m.	-	5:12 a.m.
T/W Nov.	13/14	9:45 p.m.	-	5:13 a.m.
W/T Nov.	14/15	10:42 p.m.	-	5:14 a.m.
T/F Nov.	15/16	11:40 p.m.	-	5:15 a.m.
F/S Nov.	16/17	12:40 a.m.	-	5:16 a.m.
S/S Nov.	17/18	1:41 a.m.	-	5:17 a.m.
S/M Nov.	18/19	2:43 a.m.	-	5:18 a.m.
M/T Nov.	19/20	3:47 a.m.	-	5:19 a.m.
T/W Nov.	20/21	4:54 a.m.	-	5:20 a.m.
W/T Nov.	21/22	none		
T/F Nov.	22/23	none		
F/S Nov.	23/24	none		
S/S Nov.	24/25	none		
S/M Nov.	25/26	6:10 p.m.	-	7:03 p.m.
M/T Nov.	26/27	6:09 p.m.	-	8:07 p.m.
T/W Nov.	27/28	6:09 p.m.	-	9:16 p.m.
W/T Nov.	28/29	6:09 p.m.	-	10:27 p.m.
T/F Nov.	29/30	6:08 p.m.	-	11:38 p.m.
F/S Nov.	30/1	6:08 p.m.	-	12:48 a.m.

Times listed are for Dodgeville, Wisconsin when

(1) Moon is below the horizon

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

Time Travel

conducted by David Oesper

Alexander Stewart Herschel

A very pleasant feature in Herschel's character was his readiness to help others with his knowledge and skill. A large part of his lifetime was taken up in working problems for other people out of sheer good-nature, and frequently problems in which he took no particular interest.

He took up the Meteor observations and speculations at an early date, certainly as early as 1860, for in that year I assisted him by observing Meteors on Ipswich Racecourse, and kept up his observations and speculations concerning them all the rest of his life. But he was a very modest man, and the amount of work which he gave to the Meteors as well as to Science generally is I think, very little appreciated. And in whatever he took up he helped himself most cleverly with models and simple instruments which he made for himself.

W. AIRY.

As my contribution to the notice in memory of my old friend Alexander Herschel, it will, I trust, be sufficient to refer to his extraordinary enthusiasm and tireless devotion to work during the whole of his residence at Newcastle, from the foundation of the Durham College of Science in 1871 to 1886, when he finally left for the South.

He was provided with probably the worst Physical Laboratory that any Professor of Physics has ever been asked to work in. This, however, he fitted with apparatus of all kinds, much of it of historical interest, and much of it made with his own hands—stowed away in every conceivable receptacle, for space was altogether inadequate, and here he worked all day and every day, and generally far into the night, preparing experiments for the next day's lectures and demonstrations. He was not by any means averse to society, and frequently went out to dinner, &c., but after such functions were over he usually finished the night alone in his laboratory. Indeed, nothing more strenuous than his work in those years can be imagined. He left the North before the College migrated to the new buildings, which have only recently been finished, but he left the apparatus which he had accumulated from all sources as a gift behind him, and the new Physical Laboratory of Armstrong College is named the "Herschel" after him. I can bear witness to his delight when, on the occasion of the King's visit last July, he examined the details of the Department he had founded. There was not a grain of selfishness or jealousy in Herschel, and he rejoiced in the luxurious housing of his successor, quite forgetful of the discomforts of his own times.

Besides his regular work as Professor of Physics, Prof. Herschel, whilst in the North, kept up a constant and very large correspondence with observers of meteorites all over the world, the results of which are (only partly, however) to be found in the Reports of the British Association Meteorite Committee, of which he was Secretary. He also carried out long series of experiments on fluorescence, on the conductivity for heat of many rocks, on electrical storage, on films for photography, on filaments for incandescent electric lamps, and in many other directions. Most of the above-mentioned investigations have borne fruit, but some, I am afraid, never reached publication. He spent as much time as he could spare in the late Mr. R. S. Newall's Observatory at Gateshead (and at that of the Rev. J. M. Perry at Alnwick, I believe), where the best telescopes and other astronomical appliances were always placed at his disposal by his friends.

G. A. LEBOUR.

The Observatory (1907)

"I affirme that there are very high Mountaines in the Moone. *Keplar* and *Galilæus* thinke that they are higher than any which are upon our earth. But I am not of their opinion in this, because I suppose they goe upon a false ground whilst they conceive that the highest mountaine upon the earth is not above a mile perpendicular." - John Wilkins (1638)