



THE BRONTË SISTERS

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The origin of the Brontë family goes back to the marriage between **Patrick Prunty and Mary Branwell**



They had six children: **Maria, Elizabeth, Charlotte, Branwell, Emily and Anne**

- In 1820 they moved to Haworth (in Yorkshire Moors), but after a few year Mrs Brontë died.

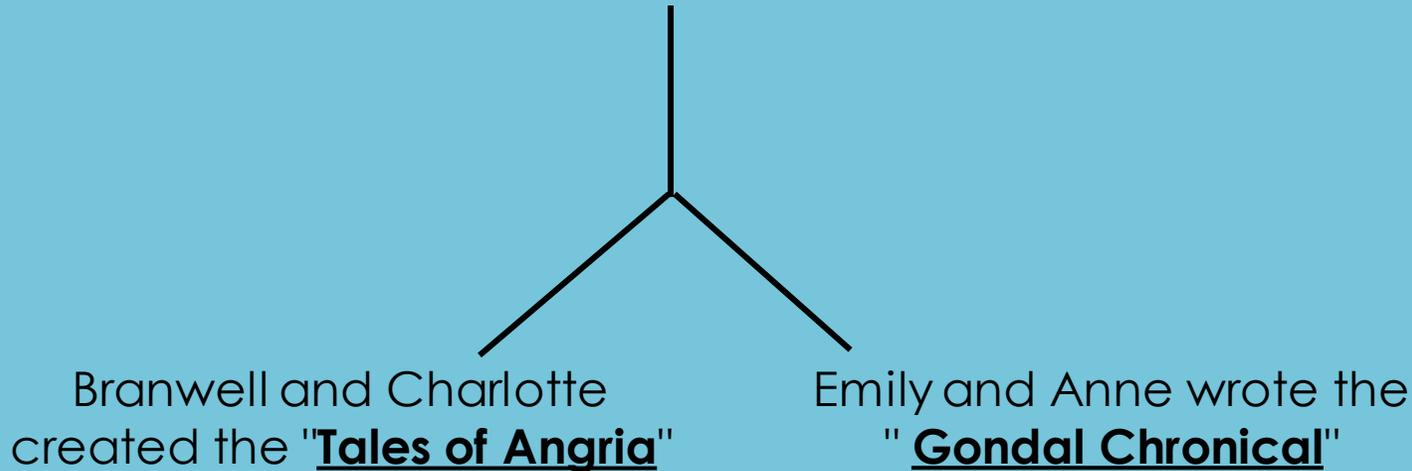
An harsh place that will inspire Jane Eyre's grim Lowood

- The father sent his four eldest daughters to **boarding school**. Here, due to poor hygiene and malnutrition, Maria and Elizabeth became ill and die. Consequently Emily and Charlotte went back home.
- From this moment on, the aunt, **Miss Branwell**, took care of the children.

THEIR ORIGINS

The siblings were very close to each other and altogether discovered their common passion for writing:

they created their own and private mythology, and their fantasy tales were written on small manuscripts with a microscopic calligraphy that only they could see.



THE COMMON
PASSION

- Charlotte and Emily both wanted to become governess. So, in 1842, they moved to **Brussels** to attend the school of Monsieur Héger. Here they complete their education and their knowledge of French and German.
- After that they went home for their aunt's funeral, but once the ceremony was over, only Charlotte returned to Brussels as a teacher.

She fell in love with **Professor Héger**, who was married with director of the institute. When she went back to Haworth, she sent him some letters, to which she did not receive the hoped-for answers. About him, she wrote a book "The Professor", which was published only after her death.

- On her return, together with Emily, Charlotte had the idea of opening a school in Haworth, but it never opened.
- During the same year Anne accepted and maintained a job as a governess.

THEIR ADOLESCENCE

BRANWELL BRONTË

- He was a painter and a poet, but he wasn't as successful as his sisters, even if many consider him the alter-ego of Emily and therefore a genius.
- Branwell abandoned himself to alcohol and opium. Consequently he became the burden of the family.
- He died of alcoholism in 1848.



The only surviving portrait of the sisters is his own work: he should also have been in that painting as well, in fact if you look closely, you can distinguish a male silhouette between the Brontë, then deleted.

THE YEARS OF WRITING

In 1845, Charlotte discovered a Emily's notebook full of poetry, and she persuaded her to publish them together with hers and Anne's. Finally, in 1846, their book "**Poems by Currer, Ellis and Acton Bell**" came out, but sold only two copies.

They couldn't use their real name, because in those years, it would never been accepted that women could write about those topics and especially in those ways

1847 was the year of success: the publisher Newby in London decided to publish the three novels of the Bell brothers:

- "Jane Eyre" by Charlotte

— THE MOST APPRECIATED NOVEL FOR BOTH THE STORY BETWEEN JANE AND MR ROCHESTER, AND FOR THE EXCELLENT WRITING.

- "Wuthering Heights" by Emily

— TOO COUNTER-CURRENT AND INNOVATIVE, IF NOT TOO MODERN. IT IS NOT A LIMITED LOVE BETWEEN PEOPLE, BUT A LOVE BETWEEN FREE AND ETERNAL SOULS.
(TOO MUCH FOR A VICTORIAN BRITAIN)

- "Agnes Grey" by Anne.

1848

Anne published her second novel "**The Tenant of Wildfell Hall**" and from there the rumor spread that Currer and Acton Bell were the same person. To prove that wasn't true, Charlotte and Anne decide to go to the London publisher together.

Emily died and Anne followed her the next year.

❖ Charlotte and her father remain alone; for years she had preferred freedom over marriage, but in **1854** she DECIDED to marry the Reverend Nicholls.

Nevertheless, after less than a year, she died pregnant with her first child.

Independence, non-conformism and an insatiable thirst for freedom flowed in the Brontë sisters' veins.
(despite the Victorian Great Britain)

CHARLOTTE'S FREEDOM:

be independent and autonomous from any male authority

EMILY'S FREEDOM:

be wild and rebellious (a moor spirit)

ANNE'S FREEDOM:

(silently) being herself, with all her frailties



THE RESEARCH SOURCES:

<https://www.bonculture.it/femmes/le-sorelle-bronte-la-liberta-delle-donne-nella-brughiera-inglese-dellottocento/>

https://lafrusta.homestead.com/pro_bronte.html

<https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2016/06/the-brontes-secret/480726/>

<https://www.bbc.com/culture/article/20161222-how-family-tragedy-inspired-the-brontes-greatest-books>