

# Edward Hull M.A., LL.D., F.R.S. etc.

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## Images



## Timeline

Date

Details

Born May 21st in Antrim of Irish stock. Educated at Trinity College, Dublin; took B.A. and  
1829 Engineering Diploma. Attracted to geology by Thomas Oldham, through him joined Geological Survey 1850.

First field work in North Wales under J.B. Jukes.

Then in Gloucester, Thames Valley and the coalfields of Cheshire and Lancashire.

1867 Geological Survey of Scotland formed as separate branch and Hull appointed District Surveyor and second in command.

Stationed at Glasgow, mapped Clyde coalfield.

1867 Elected to F.R.S.

1869 Appointed to succeed Jukes as Director of Geological Survey of Ireland (post held until retirement).

Prepared new general geology map of Ireland, 8 miles = 1 inch, completed 1 inch maps and descriptive memoirs.

Also held Professorship of Geology in Royal College of Science, Dublin.

1883 Sent to Palestine by Palestine Exploration Society.

1890 Murchison Medal.

1890 Retired from Survey. Lived in London, continued writing.

Member of Coal Commission of 1901-5.

1910 Published "Reminiscence of a strenuous life".

1917 Died October 18th.

## Biographies and obituaries

Harker, A. Obituary - Edward Hull, born 1829, died 1917. [In Anniversary Address.]. Proceedings of the Geological Society in Quarterly Journal of the Geological Society. v. 74 p.liv. 1918

Obituary - Professor Edward Hull, F.R.S. Born 21st May 1829, died 18th October 1917. Geologists Magazine. New Series. v. 4 p.553-555. 1917

"Reminiscences" E. Hull (1910) [View online](#)

Proceedings Royal Society XC p. xciii

Geology of Yorkshire, Kendall and Wroot (1914) p. 262.

[Edward Hull \(geologist\)](#) — Wikipedia article

Professor Edward Hull, M.A., LL.D., F.R.S., late Director Geological Survey of Ireland, and Professor of Geology Royal College of Science, Dublin DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0016756800136702>

Prof. Edward Hull, F.R.S. Nature 100, 169-170 (1917). <https://doi.org/10.1038/100169b0>

## Publications

List of writings in Appendix to Reminiscences

Memoir: Burnley Coalfield (1875, with others)

Memoir: Midland Counties (1869)

Memoir: Parts of Wiltshire and Gloucestershire (1858, with others)

Memoir: Altrincham, Cheshire (1861).

Memoir: Woodstock, Prescott, Lancs. (1882)

Memoir: Cheltenham (1857)

Memoir: Leicestershire Coalfield (1860)

Memoir: Parts of Oxfordshire and Berkshire (1861, with Whitaker)

Memoir: Oldham (1864).

[66 works listed in the BGS Library catalogue](#)

## BGS archives

Ref No	Title	Description
GSM/DC/A/C/3/238,276	E. Hull: Letters regarding the appointment of Hull.	
GSM/DC/A/C/4/318	A C Ramsay: Letters about E. Hull.	
GSM/DC/A/C/4/318	E Hull: Letter regarding a pay rise for Hull.	
GSM/DC/A/C/6/598	E Hull: Minute on promotion.	
GSM/DC/A/C/7/42,49-51	E Hull: Minute on promotion.	
GSM/DC/A/C/7/49,63	H Cole: Letters on Hull's salary.	
GSM/DC/A/C/7/49-51,63	R I Murchison: Letters. Staff. Hull's promotion.	
GSM/DC/A/C/8/107-109	E Hull: Letters on his transfer to Ireland.	
GSM/DC/A/C/8/124	E Hull: Letters on removals in Dublin.	
GSM/DC/A/C/8/131,133	R I Murchison: Letters. Ireland; Hull's position.	
GSM/DC/A/C/8/136-140	E Hull: Letters on appointment as Director and Professor in Dublin.	
GSM/DC/A/C/8/139,161,185	E Hull: Letters regarding Hull's work in Ireland.	
GSM/DC/A/C/8/153,159-162,165,249	G H Kinihan: Letter on quarrels with E. Hull.	
GSM/DC/A/C/8/156,173	E Hull: Letters on his salary.	
GSM/DC/A/C/8/185-188	E Hull: Letters on messenger for Dublin Office.	
GSM/DC/A/C/8/196,208	C Galvan: Letters from E. Hull to R.I. Murchison about illness and death of Galvan.	

GSM/DC/A/C/8/204,237	A Gager: Mentioned in letter of E. Hull.
GSM/DC/A/C/8/204,237	E Hull: Letters on custody of collections.
GSM/DC/A/C/8/213,217,219	E Hull: Letters on complement in Ireland.
GSM/DC/A/C/8/232	E Hull: Letters on dispute with Kinahan.
GSM/DC/A/C/8/276	E Hull: Letters on visit to Italy.
GSM/DC/A/C/8/393	E Hull: Letters on water supply in Cork Harbour.
GSM/DC/A/C/12/146	E Hull: Letters regarding the appointment of Hull
GSM/DC/A/C/13/37	A C Ramsay: Letters about E Hull
GSM/DC/A/C/16/101,115,120,175	E Hull: Letters regarding Hull's work in Ireland.
GSM/DC/A/C/17/56	E Hull: Letter about a visit to Italy
GSM/DC/A/C/23/2-54	E Hull: Letters on dispute with Kinahan
GSM/DC/A/C/23/2-54	G H Kinahan: Letters on a quarrel with Hull
GSM/DC/A/C/23/84,86	E Hull: Letters on employment of a commissionaire.
GSM/DC/A/C/23/88,92-94,98-99,107,127,154,157	E Hull: Letters on office cleaning and messenger in Dublin.
GSM/DC/A/C/23/163	E Hull: Letters on Civil Service Enquiry Commission.
GSM/DC/A/C/23/172-174,179	E Hull: Letters on work for Church Temporalities Commission
GSM/DC/A/C/23/201,207-208,211	E Hull: Letters on use of coast guard houses.
GSM/DC/A/C/23/216	E Hull: Letters on W.B. Leonard's behaviour.
GSM/DC/A/C/23/a3	E Hull: Memorial on his salary.
GSM/DC/A/C/24/25	E Hull: Letters on Kinahan.
GSM/DC/A/C/24/27	E Hull: Letters on W.B. Leonard's behaviour.
GSM/DC/A/C/24/152	E Hull: Letter on a payment by London University.
GSM/DC/A/C/24/247	E Hull: Letter on revision mapping in Ireland.
GSM/DC/A/C/25/80	E Hull: Letter on revision mapping in Ireland.

GSM/DC/A/C/31/31	G H Kinahan: Letters on a letter from Hull	
GSM/DC/A/C/31/50	E Hull: Letter on course of work in Ireland	
GSM/GL/Bw/29/92	E Hull: Letters on use of coast guard houses.	
GSM/GL/Bw/29/155	E Hull: Letter on progress in Ireland.	
GSM/GL/Et/1	Correspondence with Cooke and Griffin about Hull and Kinahan	
GSM/GL/Hu	Edward Hull	Hull was born in Ulster and worked for the survey between 1850 and 1890, mainly on the Irish branch of the Survey. He became Director of Ireland in 1869 and remained in this post until 1890 when the Irish Survey was closed down. During his career he was a member of the Royal Commission on Coal along with several other Survey officers.
GSM/GL/Jb/5	Copy of "Further Investigations Regarding the Submerged Terraces and River Valleys Bordering the British Isles" by Edward Hull	Jukes-Browne's copy containing notes by him. Inscribed by Hull.
GSM/GL/Jk	Joseph Beete Jukes	Jukes joined the Survey in 1846 having worked in New South Wales and Newfoundland. He was sent to Ireland in 1850 as Local Director succeeding Oldham, though much against his will. He remained there until 1869 and successfully produced maps of half of the country. He was succeeded by Edward Hull.

# Edward Hull

Hull was born in Ulster and worked for the survey between 1850 and 1890, mainly on the Irish branch of the Survey. He became Director of Ireland in 1869 and remained in this post until 1890 when the Irish Survey was closed down. During his career he was a member of the Royal Commission on Coal along with several other Survey officers.

## **Professor Edward Hull, LL.D., F.R.S., F.G.S.**

**Extract from: History of the Geological Society of Glasgow 1858-1908, with biographical notes of prominent members. Glasgow: Published by the Society, 1908. (Public domain, copied from the Internet Archive)**

Professor Hull was born in Antrim on 21st May, 1829, and was a son of the late Eev. John D. Hull, Vicar of Wickhambrook. He graduated in Trinity College, Dublin, in 1850, and received a diploma for engineering the same year. In that year also, on the recommendation of the late Professor Oldham, he was appointed on the staff of the Geological Survey, under Sir H. T. De la Beche and Professor (afterwards Sir Andrew C.) Ramsay.

After carrying out the Geological Survey of a large part of England in the Western and Midland counties, including that of the Lancashire and Cheshire coalfields, Professor Hull was promoted to the position of District Surveyor to the Survey of Scotland in 1867, under Sir Archibald Geikie, and during the two years in which he retained this position he surveyed the Lanarkshire coalfield and adjoining districts. While in Glasgow he made the acquaintance of many scientific friends, and on joining the Geological Society of Glasgow he accompanied the members in excursions to places of geological interest around the neighbourhood. Amongst the chief of his friends were the late Mr. Alexander Drew, of Blairmore, and Dr. James Bryce, of the Glasgow Academy. In 1869 Professor Hull was appointed Director of the Geological Survey of Ireland, under Sir Roderick I. Murchison, and also Professor of Geology in the Royal College of Science, Dublin. In 1873 he was elected President of the Royal Geological Society of Ireland, and at the Belfast meeting of the British Association in 1874 he presided over the Geological Section. In 1879 he received the honorary degree of LL.D. from the University of Glasgow, on the occasion of the installation of the late Duke of Buccleuch as Chancellor, an honour chiefly due to the publication of his work on "The Coalfields of Great Britain," now in its fifth edition. It was during this part of his life that he was nominated by the committee of the Palestine Exploration Fund, on the recommendation of the late Major-General Sir Charles W. Wilson, to take the command of an expedition organised for making a Geological and Topographical Survey of the Arabah Valley and the tract lying between the Sinaitic Peninsula and Southern Palestine. In this expedition he was accompanied by Captain (now General Lord) Kitchener of Khartoum, who had charge of the Topographical Survey. The expedition was completed in about four months, and the results are recorded in a "Memoir on the Geology of Arabia Petrsea and Palestine," and a narrative of the journey in "Mount Seir" is given, both published by the Palestine Exploration Society, and written by him.

In 1890 Professor Hull received the Murchison medal from the Geological Society of London in consideration of his contributions to geological literature, and his investigations regarding the physical structure of the British Islands and other countries, including that of the Holy Land. It was in the same year that, having served for forty years, he retired from the public service on his pension, and removed his residence to London, where he has since carried on professional business as consulting geologist, and has assisted by his advice in carrying out public works connected with the water supply of large towns, such as Nottingham, Lincoln, St. Helens; and, on the formation of the London Water Board, he was called in to advise regarding the supply of underground water from

the Chalk. Professor Hull was appointed a member of the Royal Commission on Coal Reserves, under the presidency of the Right Hon. Lord Allerton, in 1901, which sat for three years, and in 1905 issued an elaborate report in three large volumes dealing with the subject of our coal resources. In 1900 he was elected secretary to the Victoria Institute of London, a position which he held down to the present year, and during this period he carried on investigations regarding the extension of the river valleys of the British Isles and Western Europe under the waters of the ocean down to depths of 6000 to 7000 feet, where they open out on the ahysmal floor. Professor Hull considers this his most important work, as it opens up a wide view of great changes of level in late Tertiary times and affords an intelligible cause of the Glacial epoch. The submerged river valleys can be determined by tracing iso-bathic lines on the Admiralty charts by aid of the soundings, by means of which these grand canons can be accurately defined as traversing " the Continental platform " from their upper origin down to the base of the platform, at a depth of 6000 to 7000 fathoms. These researches were commenced in 1898, on the publication of similar ones carried out by Professor J. W. Spencer along the eastern seaboard of America, and are published in the Transactions of the Victoria Institute, of which a list is appended, as well as in other publications.

The following is a list of some of Professor Hull's more recent papers:

1. "Holy Scripture Illustrated and Confirmed by Recent Discoveries in Palestine and the East." Transactions of the Victoria Institute, vol. xxviii.
2. "On the Age of the Last Uprise of the British Isles." Ibid., vol. xxxvi.
3. "Where is Mount Sinai? " Ibid., vol. xxxi.
4. "Investigations regarding the Submerged Terraces and River Valleys bordering the British Isles." Ibid., vol. xxx.
5. "Sub-oceanic Terraces and River Valleys off the Coast of Western Europe." Ibid., vol. xxxi.
6. "Sub-oceanic River Valleys of West African Continent and of the Mediterranean Basin." Ibid., vol. xxxii.
7. "Another Possible Cause of the Glacial Epoch." Ibid., vol. xxxi.
8. "The Physical History of the Norwegian Fjords." Ibid., vol. xxxiv.
9. "The Spread of Existing Animals through Europe and to the Isles of the Atlantic." Ibid., vol. xl.

It need only be added that Professor Hull is the author of numerous works, of which, perhaps, the most important is "The Coalfields of Great Britain" referred to above, in addition to several memoirs drawn up for the Geological Survey of Great Britain and Ireland.

Professor Hull's contributions to the Transactions of our Society are as follows :

"On the Causes which seem to have regulated the Relative Distribution of the Calcareous and Sedimentary Strata of Great Britain, with Special Reference to the Carboniferous Formation." Vol. iii., pp. 33-44.

"On the Microscopical Structure of Red Quartz Porphyry from the Old Red Sandstone of Logan Water above Lesmahagow." Vol. v., pp. 25-28.

"Classification of the Carboniferous Rocks of Scotland." Vol. vi., pp. 250-254.

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