

Timeline of the People in Mary Shelley's Life

People in Mary Shelley's Life	Relation-ship to Mary	Born	Died	Age	Cause of Death/Notes
Mary Shelley	self	Aug 30, 1797			
Mary Wollstonecraft	mother	Apr 27, 1759	Sep 10, 1797	38	died of retained placenta after giving birth to Mary; doctors likely caused/hurried her death by injuring and infecting (due to unwashed hands) her uterus
Clara, some say unnamed	daughter	Feb 22, 1815	Mar 6, 1815	13 days	born 2 months premature; was not expected to live; Percy left with Claire Clairmont, leaving Mary to cope with the baby and the baby's death with Percy's friend Thomas Jefferson Hogg
William	son	Jan 24, 1816			
Mary (then 18) begins writing Frankenstein as part of a ghost story competition at Lord Byron's place in Lake Geneva, Switzerland Jun 16, 1816					
Fanny Imlay	half-sister	May 14, 1794	Oct 9, 1816	22	suicide, pills, discovered she was not William Godwin's daughter, that her father was an American lover of Mary Wollstonecraft; Godwin refused to claim her body
Harriet Shelley	Percy's ex-wife	Aug 1, 1795	Dec 10, 1816	21	suicide, drowned, unhappy over a pregnancy with another man's (not Percy's) child, she had been missing since Nov 9; Mary and Percy marry in London on Dec 30, 1816
Mary (now 19) finishes writing Frankenstein May 14, 1817					
Clara Everina	daughter	Sep 2, 1817			
Frankenstein 1st edition with a preface written by Percy but anonymous author is published as a triple-decker with 500 copies; most people assume Percy is the author Jan 1, 1818					
Clara Everina	daughter	Sep 2, 1817	Sep 24, 1818	1	dysentery
William	son	Jan 24, 1816	Jun 7, 1819	3	malaria
Percy Florence	son	Nov 12, 1819			
miscarriage	unborn child		Jun 16, 1822	0	Mary nearly bled to death; the doctor credited Percy with saving her life by sitting her in a bath of ice to staunch the bleeding before he arrived
Percy Shelley	husband	Aug 4, 1792	Jul 8, 1822	29	drowned in boating accident with 2 others; Percy claimed to have seen his doppelganger shortly before he died; Mary believed his death was not accidental; theories range from suicide to pirates to murder for political reasons (Percy had recently been attacked and nearly shot twice); Percy's body was cremated on the beach where it washed ashore (due to quarantine regulations); Edward Trelawny snatched Percy's heart from the funeral pyre and gave it to Mary, who kept it for the rest of her life
Frankenstein 2nd edition is published in 2 volumes and credits Mary as author Aug 11, 1823					
Frankenstein 3rd edition is published in 1 volume—it is heavily revised and with a new, longer preface written by Mary Oct 31, 1831					
William Godwin	father	Mar 3, 1756	Apr 7, 1836	80	married Mrs. Mary Jane Clairmont when Mary was 4 years old
Mary Shelley	self	Aug 30, 1797	Feb 1, 1851	53	probably a brain tumor
Claire Clairmont	stepsister	Apr 27, 1798	Mar 19, 1879	80	had affair and daughter with Lord Byron; her chasing after Lord Byron (she was pregnant with his child) was the reason the Shelleys were at Lord Byron's in the summer of 1816
Percy Florence	son	Nov 12, 1819	Dec 5, 1889	69	