From http://www.victorianweb.org/previctorian/swift/chron.html

1667  Jonathan Swift born on November 30 in Dublin, Ireland; the son of Anglo-Irish parents. His father dies a few months before Swift is born.

1673  At the age of six, Swift begins his education at Kilkenny Grammar School, which was, at the time, the best in Ireland.

1682-1686  Swift attends, and graduates from, Trinity College, Dublin


1689  Swift becomes secretary in the household of Sir William Temple at Moor Park in Surrey. Swift reads extensively in Temple's library, and meets Esther Johnson, then 8, who will become his "Stella." He first begins to suffer from Meniere's Disease, a disturbance of the inner ear.

1690  At the advice of his doctors, Swift returns to Ireland.


1694  Swift leaves Temple's household and returns to Ireland to take holy orders.

1695  Swift ordained as a priest in the Church of Ireland, the Irish branch of the Anglican Church.

1696-1699  Swift returns to Moor Park, and composes most of A Tale of a Tub, his first great work. In 1699 Temple dies, and Swift travels to Ireland as chaplain and secretary to the Earl of Berkeley.

1700  Swift instituted Vicar of Laracor, and presented to the Prebend of Dunlavin in St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin.

1701  Swift awarded D. D. from Dublin University, and publishes his first political pamphlet, supporting the Whigs against the Tories.


1707  Swift in London as emissary of Irish clergy seeking remission of tax on Irish clerical incomes. His requests are rejected by the Whig government. He meets Esther Vanhomrigh, who will become his "Vanessa." During the next few years he is back and forth between Ireland and England, where he is involved in the highest political circles.

1708  Swift meets Addison and Steele, and publishes the Bickerstaff Papers and An Argument Against Abolishing Christianity.

1710  Swift returns to England. Publication of "A Description of a City Shower." Swift falls out
with Whigs, allies himself with the Tories, and becomes editor of the Tory newspaper The Examiner.

1710 Swift writes the series of letters which will be published as The Journal to Stella.

1713 Swift installed as Dean of St. Patrick's Cathedral in Dublin.

1714 Foundation of Scriblerus Club. Queen Anne dies, George I takes the throne, the Tories fall from power, and Swift's hopes for preferment in England come to an end: he returns to Ireland "to die," as he says, "like a poisoned rat in a hole."

1716 Swift marries? Stella (Esther Johnson).

1718 Swift begins to publish tracts on Irish problems.

1720 Swift begins work upon Gulliver's Travels, intended, as he says in a letter to Pope, "to vex the world, not to divert it."

1724 Publication of The Drapier Letters, which gain him enormous 1725 popularity in Ireland. Gullivers Travels completed.

1726 Visit to England, where he visits with Pope at Twickenham; publication of Gulliver's Travels.

1727 Swift's Last trip to England.

1727-1736 Publication of five volumes of Swift-Pope Miscellanies.

1728 Death of Stella.

1729 Publication of Swift's A Modest Proposal.

1731 Publication of Swift's "A Beautiful Young Nymph Going to Bed."

1735 Collected edition of Swift's Works published in Dublin; Swift is suffering from Meniere's Disease, resulting in periods of dizziness and nausea, and his memory is deteriorating.

1738 Swift slips gradually into senility, and suffers a paralytic stroke.

1742 Guardians appointed to care for Swift's affairs.

1745 Swift dies on October 19.