Time line with literature references
Robert Owen 1771-1858

"In retrospect, my life appears to have been a mission to point out the cause of sin and misery, and how to attain a new existence of universal goodness, wisdom and happiness. By teaching the influence of surroundings, the earth will gradually be made a paradise and its inhabitants angels."

References in the table are as follows:- Chal: Challoner, HNL: Historic New Lanark, Life: by Robert Owen himself, Pod: Podmore, RMP: Revolution in Mind and Practice

May	1771	Born in Newtown on 14th May, over his father's saddler's shop.	Life 1
June	1781	Apprenticed to James McGuffog, Stamford draper – for **4** years	Life 12, RMP166
Sept	1785	Draper's assistant, Flint & Palmer, London Bridge.	Life 18
July	1786	Draper's assistant, St Anne's Square, Manchester.	Life 20
Jan	1791	With Jones, making spinning mules in Dolefield, Manchester.	Chal 80
Aug	1791	Alone, with spinning business in Ancoats Lane, Manchester.	Chal 81
May	1792	Manager of Bank Top Mill, Piccadilly, Manchester.	Chal 82
Nov	1793	Elected to Manchester Literary and Philosophical Society.	Pod 58
	1794/5	Managing partner, Chorlton Mills, Manchester.	Chal 98-99
July	1799	Partnership buys New Lanark from David Dale.	HNL 62
Sept	1799	Married Caroline Dale. They have 4 sons and 3 daughters.	Life 54
Jan	1800	Manager of New Lanark, improves workers' conditions and surroundings.	Life 56
	1806	Paid full wages during stoppage, gaining workers' support.	Life 63, HNL 72

Late	1809	Formed new partnership after dispute over new schools.	Life 85, HNL 77
June	1812	Resigned as Manager after dispute over new schools.	HNL 79
	1813-14	Published 'A New View of Society', urging universal education.	
Dec	1813	With new partners, bought back New Lanark, Manager again.	Pod 99
Mar	1815	Drafted Factory Bill, Sir Robert Peel promoting it in Parliament.	Pod 185,190,192
Jan	1816	Opened Institution for the Formation of Character with infant school.	Life 85
Mar	1817	Put forward Plan for Villages for Poor and Unemployed.	Pod 217 etc
Aug	1817	Urged Villages of Co-operation for all classes.	Pod 245 etc
	1821	Published 'Report to the County of Lanark', detailing communities.	
Apr	1825	Bought New Harmony, Indiana, for community experiment.	
	1825-32	Over 400 co-operative societies, inspired by Owen's writings.	
	1828	Returned to Britain after Community failed, cut New Lanark links.	
	1832-34	Conducted 'The Crisis' – Owenite journal.	
	1832	Opened National Equitable Labour Exchange – for exchange of goods.	
	1834	Headed Grand National Consolidated Trades Union – first mass union.	
	1834	After collapse of Union, formed Socialist society – the Owenites.	
	1834-46	Conducted 'The New Moral World' – Owenite weekly.	
	1839	Owenites establish Queenwood Community, Stockbridge, Hants.	

	1845	Community fails, Owen continues his mission on his own.	
	1844	Formation of Rochdale Pioneers – start of Co-operative Movement.	
	1857	Published 'The Life of Robert Owen'.	
Nov	1858	Returned to Newtown, and died on 17th November.	

Suggested Further Reading

Frank Podmore: **Robert Owen***: a biography;* London, 1906

G.D.H. Cole: **Robert Owen***;* London, 1925

Margaret Cole: **Robert Owen of New Lanark***;* London, 1953

J.F.C. Harrison: **Quest for the New Moral World: Robert Owen and the Owenites in Britain and America;** London, 1969

John Butt (ed.): **Robert Owen, Prince of Cotton Spinners***;* David & Charles, 1971

Pollard & Salter (eds.*)*: **Robert Owen – Prophet of the Poor***;* Macmillan, 1971.

Barbara Taylor: **Eve and the New Jerusalem: Socialism and Feminism in the Nineteenth Century**; Virago, 1983

Stephen Yeo (ed.) **New Views of Co-operation**; Routledge, 1988

Ian Donnachie: **Robert Owen – Social Visionary***;* John Donald, 2005. (First published: Tuckwell Press, 2000.)

Thompson & Williams (eds.) **Robert Owen and his Legacy**; University of Wales Press, 2011

The Open University have produced a FREE course on **Robert Owen and New Lanark** you can access it and register here https://www.open.edu/openlearn/history-the-arts/history/history-art/robert-owen-and-new-lanark/content-section-0?active-tab=description-tab