

## **On This Day – November 29<sup>th</sup> 1818**

George Brown, Canadian politician, born in Alloa

George Brown was born in Alloa where his father Peter brought him up to believe strongly in civil and religious liberty, a political belief that would motivate George for much of the rest of his life.

After education in Edinburgh, the Browns moved to New York, where they founded the British Chronicle newspaper, before moving to Canada and publishing The Globe, which quickly became the most influential newspaper in Canadian political circles, and still survives to this day under the name The Globe and Mail.

The Globe was a staunchly abolitionist paper, and he also helped found The Anti-Slavery Society of Canada. It was after this that he began a political career, his Reform party having significant electoral success in the 1850s (he also received support from the excellently named 'Clear Grit Party'), and Brown himself ultimately playing an important role at the Charlottetown and Quebec conferences, which ultimately led to the unification of the separate Canadian provinces into a single nation.

Brown retired from frontline politics in 1867 to concentrate on running The Globe, where he worked until 1880, when a disgruntled former employee of the paper attacked and shot Brown during an argument in his office. He died the same year in Ontario. He is considered one of the 'Fathers of Confederation', one of the 36 men who drove forward the cause of Canadian unification.

### **More information:**

[The Canadian Encyclopedia on George Brown](#)

[Background to the Canadian Federation](#)