



Background on Time Travel in the CHRONOS Universe

The many-worlds theory is a concept in quantum physics. It postulates that there is an immense, possibly infinite, number of universes, because each time we choose a course of action, it spins off two realities—one in which we took path A and one in which we took path B. Both realities exist, but they do not interact. Within the Timebound universe, historians within a CHRONOS field can't jump between timelines, but they retain memories of the other timelines.

There are variations on the many-worlds concept. Some theoretical physicists argue that **all** changes spin off a new universe—for example, they'd say the fact that I dropped an Earl Grey teabag into the cup instead of Tazo chai produced a split, with additional splits when I decided how much sugar, how much milk, and whether to stir it two times or three. That's difficult to wrap your head around, however, and in the case of those within a CHRONOS field, would quickly reduce them to gibbering idiots, because they'd be remembering infinite realities at the same time.

Like most sci-fi writers who've dealt with this topic, I'm taking the less drastic middle point—significant changes that affect many people spin off a new reality, while smaller changes do not. My choice of tea bags, therefore, wouldn't cause a split. (It wouldn't cause a split even if I went back in time and told myself to change from Earl Grey to chai.) On the other hand, the decision to dump tea into Boston Harbor and the Revolution that followed would result in a new timeline—and so would creating a major new world religion. Prudence's signing the Declaration of Sentiments in 1848 doesn't trigger a new universe, saving Katherine's life in 1893 doesn't trigger a new universe—these things only affect a small group of people, not the course of history.

A Brief History of CHRONOS

The scientific principles of time-travel were discovered in the mid-22nd century by a small team of researchers, headed by Ian Alexander, Ryan Jefferson and Madison Grace. Funded primarily by the U.S. government, the activities of these researchers have never been fully revealed to the

public, although a flurry of exposes published in 2161 claimed that government operatives were manipulating the timeline to benefit U.S. and European interests.

The most prominent of those media outlets, *The Hourly Intrepid*, mysteriously disappeared from the historical record. The masthead suggests that the journal was in circulation for more than sixty years, but the only record that we have of their investigation, or of their very existence, is contained in a small file of government records that were protected from chronological tampering and released to the public over a century later.

It is still not clear exactly how much history was altered in those early decades of time travel. Strong pressure from advocates of government transparency and accountability both within the United States and abroad resulted in the creation of an international society known as the Chrono-Historical Research Institute (CHRI) in 2231. CHRI was initially tasked with the challenge of creating a code of ethics for historical researchers, including strict prohibitions against any sort of timeline manipulation. In an effort to ensure that the timeline was not altered, the first academic research did not involve human interaction of any sort, but relied instead on input from small transmitters that recorded activity at various locations and historical junctures.

While CHRI recordings of daily interactions provided historians with a great deal of raw data, it left many questions unanswered. The Natural Observation Society (NOS) lobbied for greater freedom of researching, stating that it was very difficult to put historical events into their proper context when forced to rely solely on recorded information. Analysts often misinterpreted events because they were viewing them through the lens of their own time and culture. The only way to fully understand history, they argued, was to become immersed in the language, customs, and technology of that era. In 2242, the NOS devised a series of protocols that aimed to minimize, if not entirely negate, corruption of the timeline by genetically encoding historical researchers.

Time travel would thus be restricted to a very small number of carefully trained historians who would travel to a set destination and return directly to their point of origin.

The two organizations merged in 2247 to form the Chrono-Historical Research and Natural Observation Society (CHRONOS), and they moved quickly to develop a system that would ensure optimal safety for both the timeline and the historians involved.

As with any scientific endeavor, those who participated in the earliest efforts were a rare breed — willing to risk their lives in search of greater knowledge. Seven researchers were killed within the first five years, and three others were institutionalized due to complications with the genetic encoding. These pioneers paved the way for future generations of researchers, however, whose historical trips were safe and hazard free.

Over the next five decades, CHRONOS historians had the opportunity to observe previous generations in their natural habitat. Headquartered in Washington, DC, the organization gathered a massive amount of data.

In 2305, a terrorist attack destroyed CHRONOS headquarters, killing 153 staff members and stranding twenty-four historians at various points in time. Although there were proposals to rebuild the research facility, funding was never approved. Fortunately for historians, however,

the records of these expeditions were housed not only at the CHRONOS campus, but at a variety of universities throughout the world.

Today, all that remains of CHRONOS is a small group of international researchers who maintain the archives and organize the data for educational purposes. While some files remain classified, the reports available in this archive have been cleared for public access.

CHRONOS Fields, Keys, and Diaries

CHRONOS Fields: When a time shift occurs, those under the protection of a CHRONOS field are shielded. They remember the previous timeline. It's unclear whether that timeline ceases to exist or continues. Katherine says that there were still arguments about that in 2305.

CHRONOS Keys: Described by Kate as "wafer-thin, about three inches in diameter, and emitted a glow that seemed unusually bright in the dim room...In the very center of the circle was an hourglass. The sand still flowed from one side to the other, even though the medallion was lying flat on the table."

People without the CHRONOS gene see it as an ordinary bronze-colored pendant. To those with the gene, it emits a bright light, which is a different shade depending on the viewer. The casing detects the genetic makeup of the wearer and can be activated only by those with the expressed CHRONOS gene. For Kate and the others who inherit the gene, touching the top of the medallion initially brings up a "static-filled, black void" which they believe is the remains of CHRONOS HQ at the time that the original historians were scheduled to return. (See *Timebound*, p. 20-21.) The key has a holographic control system that pops up above the unit and is operated through finger and eye movements.

The key is powered by a plasma battery, and is housed inside two disks made of trinium, "a super-strong alloy that hasn't been invented yet." (If you recognize the name, Connor would say you just failed a geek test.) While there is no way to destroy the disk itself in the twenty-first century, it is possible (albeit difficult) to pry the disks open and destroy the inside with sulfuric acid.

Each key contains a basic set of the most popular "stable points" with details on the time-period they're usable. Historians can transfer other stable points to the key from a Log of Stable Points, and can also use the key to manually set local points. The local coordinates are riskier, however, because there's no guarantee for the time period they are considered safe. Before jumping in to the location, the historian can visually scan the area (no audio) for a moment when he or she can blink in—literally a distinct blink of about a second—without being observed. Losing eye

contact with the medallion when pulling up a location means the historian has to have to pull it up again.

CHRONOS Diaries: Described by Kate as a computer disguised to look like an old book. See *Timebound* (pp. 27-28, 32-4) for a full description. For details on the mechanism allowing historians to send inquiries back to HQ, see *Timebound*, pp. 146-147. Kate's description of using the diaries to view video entries is in *Timebound*, pp. 120-124. To see/hear video entries, one has to wear a small clear disc (similar in size and appearance to a contact lens) in the hollow behind the ear.

Timeshifts

BASELINE: Our timeline. The world as we know it, if the events in the CHRONOS stories had never occurred.

TIMESHIFT 1:

The first time shift (which neither Kate nor Katherine felt) occurred when Prudence went back to 1478, printed copies of the Book of Cyrus and the Book of Prophecy, and deposited them in various libraries and archives around the world, where they sat in obscurity, waiting to be noticed and to have their age verified. It might have been a branch, not a full timeline, were it not for the fact that a religious leader in 16th century Italy embraced the book and used some of the prophecies to propel himself into control of one of the Italian city-states, and ended up in a war that altered the course of Roman Catholicism and meant that Machiavelli's works were never published.

Katherine doesn't remember this shift because she wasn't under a medallion—Prudence knocked her out and took her key in 1969, replacing it after the shift. She was supposed to kill her, but she knew that her mother was pregnant.

By this time, Saul has about a dozen people who can use the key due to their takeover of the Koreshans as a base in the early 1900s. (This is why the Koreshans, introduced in *Time's Edge*, are important.) Most are Prudence's offspring, carried by surrogates. A few are descendants of stranded CHRONOS historians.

They all have tasks to do when preparing for a timeline adjustment—setting up the dominos that will be triggered by a key event. As part of the very first timeline adjustment, Prudence was tasked with eliminating Katherine in 1969. Saul assumed that Prudence would kill Katherine—

and he built up enough anger and resentment in her as a teen that this is a reasonable assumption. But she doesn't, partly because there is still a conscience in there and partly because she understands that killing Katherine would mean that she doesn't exist in the new timeline and therefore will pop out of existence if someone yanks her CHRONOS key.

Simon was supposed to erase Kate from this timeline (referred to in the books as “Other-Kate” or sometimes “Alter-Kate” during this time shift. He didn't—ostensibly because he decided it would be nice to have a spare Sister Prudence since the real one was getting very flaky due to crossing her own timeline too often. His goal was also to, eventually, return Other-Kate to Kiernan, and also to use her as leverage to keep Kiernan on the Cyrists' side.

TIMESHIFT 2

The first timeline shift that Kate felt (in Iowa). This was the real "birth" of Cyrist International—they arrange for people to "discover" the book in the 1500s and connect it to a string of reported miracles and prophecies in the 1800s, all performed by Saul in his Brother Cyrus guise prior to his sabotage of CHRONOS. Kate was not under a key, so she has no memory of the prior timeline. All she remembers is the sense of disorientation.

TIMESHIFT 3

The second timeline shift that Kate felt, just after she'd started school at Briar Hill, was the creation of Cyrist International—regional temples, measures to increase followers and subsume several smaller sects. Again, she was not under a key, so she has no memory of the prior timeline.

TIMESHIFT 4

The third shift was more economic in nature—shifting resources to line up a stronger financial and political base for the institution. (Some of this is covered in passing in the Kiernan novella, *Time's Echo*.)

This is the timeline in which most of the series occurs, up until ¼ of the way through Time's Divide.

TIMESHIFT 5

Occurs when the virus is unleashed in *Time's Divide*. Those under a CHRONOS key felt the ripple when the actual triggering event—the dissemination of the vials—occurred. In this timeline, a large chunk of the world dies. The Cyrists set things on a different path where CHRONOS isn't created.

TIMESHIFT 6

Final shift in *Time's Divide*. Restore things to TIMESHIFT 4, but also sets in motion a major scandal to weaken Cyrist International. CHRONOS exists in this timeline's future...in fact, the epilogue suggests that its development might be sped up a bit.

Settings (Organized by work)

Timebound

- Washington DC area, present day (Bethesda location, Lincoln Memorial. Briar Hill School, which is fictional, is in same physical location as Georgetown Prep.)
- Finger Lakes, NY (seen only through the key, but is a plot point later)
- Chicago World's Fair, October 1893. (This one recurs in several works.)
- Washington, DC. 2092. (mentioned as cataclysmic event throughout the series...but Kate is never told what happened.)

Time's Echo (Kiernan novella)

- Boston. July 1905, This was home base for Kiernan for several years, so it's in many of the works. Also Norumbega Park, an amusement park outside Boston.
- Estero, Florida. May 2030. A business meeting of Cyrist International at the Koreshan Unity compound, aka "The Farm." (Saul named it Nuevo Reino, but no one else called it that.)
- New York City. July 1929, September, 1930 (Two time-tourist jaunts with Simon, mixing business for the Cyrists with club hopping and baseball.)
- Washington DC Area. Present day

Time's Edge

- Bethesda, MD. Present day.
- Dallas, 11/22/63
- Boston, July, 1905 (City, and also Norumbega Park)
- Estero, FL – April 1902 (Other-Kate, via diary), December 1901 (Kate & Kiernan)
- Copenhagen, 1955 (Kiernan only, but Kate sees it through the key)
- Bogart, GA, October 1905, August 1938
- Six Bridges (aka God's Hollow), GA <fictional setting, based on amalgamation of several rural ghost towns. Greene County, GA.> September 1911.
- Athens, GA. August 1938 (also nearby Watkinsville and Oconee County)
- (Port Darwin, Australia. 1942. This jump was cut in the final version, but that chapter was distributed to readers who signed up for my newsletter.)

Time's Mirror (Prudence novella)

- Arlington, VA September, 1984.
- Washington, DC. October, 2305-July, 2306.
- Fort Myers, FL. June, 2024.
- Estero, FL. April, 2030.
- Akana, Africa (Niger, in our timeline). 2074.
- Miami Beach. June, 2024.
- Estero, FL. May, 1908.
- Estero, FL. May, 2030.

Time's Divide

- Washington DC Area. Present day. (Bethesda, Georgetown University, Silver Spring, Damascus, MD, Laurel, MD, Burtonsville, MD)
- County Hall, London. Present day.
- Eastbourne, Great Britain. (about fifty miles south of London). April 1905. (at a hotel and at the Hippodrome Theatre where Houdini performed.)
- Bogart, GA. September, 1911, December, 1911, March 1, 1913.
- Rio De Janeiro, Brazil. Present day.

- New York City. May 10, 1872 (Apollo Hall), and November 2, 1872 (City Hall Park & Offices of Claflin & Woodhull Weekly.)
- New York City. November 9, 1926. (Houdini's House.)
- Washington, DC. September 2308 and October, 2308.
- Boston, May 1912.
- Miami, July 2030.
- Estero, Fl. July 2030.
- Addis Ababa. Present day.
- Washington DC 2141. (Epilogue.)

Simon Says (Simon novella)

- Estero, FL. 1898, also April 1901,
- Miami, 2026.
- Miami, 2027.
- Chicago World's Fair, 1893.
- New York, October 1951. (World Series, also Broadway.)
- Brentwood, CA. August 1962. (Marilyn Monroe's house.)

Time Trial (Graphic Novel)

Adventures of Clio Dunne, Kiernan and Other-Kate's daughter.

- Chicago, October 1931. (Al Capone Trial)
- Aboard the Lusitania. May 1915.
- Gettysburg, July 1863.
- Hollywood, 1939. (Set of Gone With the Wind)
- Chicago World's Fair, October, 1893.
- Chicago, Jackson Park. 2092.
- Skaneateles, NY. 1931 (Kiernan & Other-Kate's house, where Clio grew up.)

Short Stories

The Gambit (Short Story – Saul Rand)

Historical event: New England's "Dark Day" and the ministry of Jemima Wilkerson.

- Washington, DC. May & December 2304.
- Little Rest, Rhode Island. May 18-19, 1780.

Whack Job (Short Story – Simon Rand)

Historical event: Lizzie Borden murders.

- Miami, February 2027.
- Fall River, MA. August 4, 1892.
- Estero, FL. March 1902.

2092 (Short Story)

Most of this takes place on another planet or in a small space shuttle, but some scenes occur in 2092 Washington, DC, along with other scattered locations that are hit in an attack.

Splinter (Short Story – Kiernan Dunne)

Full story of how Kiernan—or rather, several of him—saved Kate in Timebound.

- Boston, MA. July 1905.
- Chicago World's Fair (Wooded Island), November 1893.
- Chicago. (World's Fair Hotel) October 1893.

The-Circle-That-Whines

In which the dog sets the events of the second CHRONOS series in motion.

- Bethesda, MD. Present day.

Full Circle

In which one of the protagonists for the 2nd series finds what the dog buried.

- Bethesda, MD. 2136.
- Estero, FL. October 1906.

Possible Story Realms for KW Authors

Realm #1: The Historians

At the turn of the 24th century, all parents are allowed to choose, from a list of government-sanctioned options, a single genetic manipulation before birth—a "Chosen Gift" to help their child excel at his or her career. This is the result of an international accord reached after a century of widespread, on-demand genetic modification created a deeply divided world, where children of the elite were guaranteed a higher IQ, greater physical strength, and even a longer life span. The unaltered masses, frustrated at having to compete equipped with only what nature provided, eventually rebelled. The International Genetic Alteration Accords of 2218 was a compromise, still controversial decades later: "one alteration per child, chosen at random, based on the needs of the nation." This is soon interpreted as "one alteration per child, chosen with parental input and perhaps a bribe on the side." By the time the story opens, it's pretty close to "one alteration per child (or possibly one bundle of alterations) determined by how much you can pay."

One of the more sought-after alterations is known as the CHRONOS gene (although it's really one of those aforementioned "bundles" of genetic alterations) that allows the child to be trained as part of a select group of thirty-six historians who travel through time and space to observe historical events as they happen.

The larger world in which CHRONOS exists is a United States (which now includes Canada, Australia, and New Zealand) and an international community that is still struggling with the impact of genetic modifications and the governmental controls that were enacted to limit their extent and distribution. They are also dealing with the ongoing economic changes of a world where much of the labor is accomplished by androids and other machines and your career path can be determined at birth.

The historians of CHRONOS are expected to observe key historical events, but not alter them in any way. Agents are to limit their interactions and stay at the periphery, observing events and trying to understand them from the perspective of those who lived during that era. Lurking in the background, however, is the reality that at least one of their members—Saul Rand—is working toward a very different agenda. Why just watch history unfold when you can harness the power to reshape the world to your own purposes?

A central point for stories could be the fact that it is difficult to simply observe and not have an impact on your surroundings once the boots hit the ground. This opens the door for a wide array of storylines where a minor error (or intentional action) on the part of a historian results in a change to the timeline that they must repair in order to keep the historical record on the proper track. There are also many possibilities for the reverse—how do you deal with emotional impact of being *unable* to intervene when you see a slave being beaten? A child being sent to war or killed at Auschwitz?

CHRONOS Characters

All of the characters below are mentioned specifically in the series. Those highlighted in **blue** are historians who will be stranded in the past when Saul destroys CHRONOS.

Katherine Shaw: After eight years of training, eighteen year old Katherine Shaw is now an agent, embarking on her first field missions. Her family sacrificed to buy her a spot at CHRONOS. Blonde, blue eyes, petite. Intelligent and adapts easily to new surroundings, but then the genetic manipulation helps in that regard. Katherine is, however, rather naïve when it comes to interpersonal relationships, and is instantly smitten with her colleague **Saul Rand**. Historical specialty: rights movements of the 18th-20th century. When CHRONOS is destroyed, she will end up in 1969, near the Woodstock festival, due to a last minute change with **Richard**. Tie to the books: An older version of Katherine appears in all three books, as **Kate Pierce-Keller's** grandmother. Mother of **Prudence Rand** and **Deborah Pierce**. Her younger self is in *Timebound*, through the diaries and the segment that is set in 1893. See additional information under [Realm 2](#).

Saul Rand: Tall, thin, and handsome, with dark hair and pale skin. Eight years older than **Katherine**, Saul comes from a family that staunchly opposed the International Genetic Alteration Accords (IGAA) of 2218, believing that those who have the resources should be allowed to purchase any advantages they choose for their children. Unbeknownst to CHRONOS, his family did exactly that, purchasing an illegal second alteration before Saul was born. It's possible that this second procedure is the cause of Saul's psychopathic personality, but there was a pretty solid streak of crazy on his mother's side to begin with. Charming on the surface, hints of his real personality tend to rise to the forefront when he gets into arguments, especially with the members of his social club, the Objectivist Society. Historical specialty: religious history—but he's not the slightest bit devout. He sees religion as a source of power. Saul will destroy CHRONOS in 2305, having carefully laid the groundwork in the previous year and a half...minor miracles, bits of prophecy, a mass killing in a remote village. Saul is also writing two books during this period—the Book of Cyrus and the Book of Prophecy. He makes a bit of a game of it with his friend Tate, deciding which bits of history and religious quips should be in the books. The destruction of CHRONOS will strand him in 2024. Father of **Prudence Rand**, **Deborah Pierce**, and grandfather of **Kate Pierce-Keller**. Saul appears in all three books and both novellas. See additional information under [Cyrists](#).

Richard Vier: Comes into CHRONOS the same year as **Katherine**. He clearly has a crush on her, but realizes that he stands no chance once she meets **Saul**, so he settles for friendship. The relationship between Saul and Katherine worries him, but even Richard isn't certain whether it's because Saul is really dangerous or jealousy. Cute, slightly geeky, his specialty is music history. The destruction of CHRONOS will leave Richard stranded in 1853 Boston, rather than his intended destination at the Woodstock festival, due to a last minute decision to swap places with Katherine. He is discussed in *Timebound* and to a lesser extent in *Time's Edge*. An older version of him—mid-forties--may appear either in the last book or the Prudence novella.

Tate Poulsen: CHRONOS historian who was not on the jump schedule the day of the sabotage, since his studies are in the early and medieval era. **Saul's** roommate at CHRONOS before Saul and Katherine are a couple. Tate is in his early twenties and studies Nordic history, mostly the Viking era, but also took some trips to observe modern Nordic culture and a neo-Viking group of the mid-2200s. He will not be among those stranded by **Saul's** sabotage, but the end of CHRONOS means he's going to be horribly bored after all that time hanging around with the Vikings. He's also a member of the Objectivist Club, because **Saul** nominated him, and he's **Saul's** cohort in putting together the Book of Cyrus and Book of Prophecy. Tate saw it mostly as a shared joke—like **Katherine**, he was fairly oblivious to Saul's dangerous side. But he will start to worry once he realizes that the changes Saul has planned could result in CHRONOS—and quite possibly, his own self—never existing. Eventually, Tate will be revealed as **Simon's** dad, and also the biological father of several more of **Prudence's** offspring. He will be the one who helps deliver the CHRONOS keys to the Cyrists, via **Prudence**. His character will be in the Prudence novella and in *Time's Divide*.

Note: There were eleven other CHRONOS historians not on the schedule that day. They are not mentioned by name in the books, so they're wide open for other characters. Katherine does note that one of them was studying Mayan history—otherwise, they aren't discussed.

Morgen Campbell: He's in his eighties, but people live to 120 on average in 2305, and those, like Campbell, who were very liberally genetically modified, often live a good deal longer than average. Leader of the Objectivist Club, a club in the true Edwardian sense of the word—a place where gentlemen (and ladies) of a certain economic and social class, along with their guests, can go to relax, eat a good meal, gamble, or socialize.

Campbell is obnoxious to those he thinks are beneath him and he likes to argue, especially with **Saul**, whose grandfather is one of Campbell's cronies. Ravidly opposed to the Genetic Accords, Campbell argues that these laws keep the strongest and most intelligent from rising to the top, and doesn't much care for anyone who points out that his strength and longevity aren't natural attributes, but were purchased for him. Has an old, gassy Doberman named Cyrus. It will gradually emerge that Saul's key motivation for building the Cyrists is a wager with Campbell. He will be a character in the Prudence novella and in the final book.

Angelo Colletti: One of two CHRONOS supervisors, Angelo is Katherine and Richard's mentor. Saul's too, although their relationship is a bit more strained—Angelo isn't quite sure how to take Saul. Short, pudgy and bit on the gruff side, Angelo is in his mid-fifties. He discourages romance between the historians, but knows it's inevitable, because he did the same thing. And time-jumping tends to age you very quickly. You might have two or three week-long jumps to the past in a single work-week, so you'd end up much older than a non-time-traveling partner. Killed by Saul just prior to sabotage of CHRONOS HQ, body is discovered by

Katherine. He is mentioned in both *Timebound* and *Time's Edge* as Katherine's mentor. No longer an active agent.

Shaila (no last name specified): Islamic studies. Arabic. She will die in the destruction of CHRONOS in 2305 when Saul takes her place in the jump, straps explosives to her chest, and uses her to destroy the launch platform and most of CHRONOS headquarters. Tie to the books: Mentioned by Katherine in *Timebound*.

Adrienne Wilson: World War historian. Strawberry-blond hair, attractive, but not exactly pretty. **Saul** tends to flirt with her, probably because she thinks he's a jerk and he likes a challenge. Friendly to others, but tends to overstep personal boundaries on occasion—like borrowing **Katherine's** tea mug. She will be stranded in 1942 Port Darwin Australia. **Adrienne** is mentioned in *Time's Edge*. She will survive the bombing and go on to become international journalist, Margaret Mary Jones.

Timothy Winslow: Dark hair, below average height. Main research focus is the Kennedy assassination, but also does pop culture of the last half of the 20th century. Vegan, but cheats. He will be stranded in 1963 Dallas Texas. **He is Harry Keller's father, Kate Pierce Keller's grandfather, and the source of their green eyes.** He's mentioned in *Timebound* and will appear in the first chapter of *Time's Edge*.

Evelyn Perry: Auburn hair. Married to **Timothy Winslow**, most of their jumps are partnered, so she's also focused on the Kennedy assassination, with side interests in conspiracy theories of the 20th century. Vegan, doesn't cheat. The destruction of CHRONOS will also leave Evelyn in 1963 Dallas Texas. **Tie to the books: Harry Keller's mom, Kate's grandmother.** Mentioned in *Timebound* and will appear in the first chapter of *Time's Edge*.

Padraic Dunne: European historian, with a focus on environmental history. He'll be mentioned in the books only in relation to the fact that he's **Kiernan Dunne's** grandfather. His final jump when CHRONOS is sabotaged will strand him in Ireland at the time of the Potato Famine. He'll be stranded in a rural Irish village in 1851. Mentioned in *Time's Echo*.

Wallace Moehler: At thirty-four, Moehler is one of the oldest jumpers, and would probably be a trainer if not for the fact that he doesn't like to work in groups. He is the epitome of non-descript—thinning hair, average build, average height. As Kate says in *Time's Edge*: "...he's just really average looking. Three different versions of him could be standing in a group and you probably wouldn't realize that it was the same guy." A nuclear historian, Wallace looks like he was born to wear a pocket protector. Saul's sabotage will leave him stranded in 1955 Copenhagen studying the International Geophysical Year. Kate will observe him through the CHRONOS key in *Time's Edge*. He's shot a few minutes after the landing in 1955.

Grant Oakley: He completes his trainee jumps in 2305, during the months prior to Saul's sabotage of CHRONOS. One of his training jumps (covered in *Time's Edge*) is with **Saul**, who

has a side agenda—testing the biological weapon that he plans to use in the Culling, after he destroys CHRONOS and builds the Cyrists. Sandy hair, kind of short. Gay. He is a legal historian. He will be stranded in 1938 Athens Georgia with **Delia Morrell** and **Abel Waters**. Major character in *Time's Edge*. Mentioned in *Time's Divide*.

Delia Morrell: Early thirties, dark hair, very pretty, striking figure—Kate will comment that she seems like a bad choice for a CHRONOS historian, because she would attract too much attention and it would be hard for her to blend in with the crowd. Along with her husband, Abel Waters, Delia is one of the primary trainers for the agents who focus on American history. They frequently train in the 1930s, posing as historians with the Federal Writer's Project. Saul's sabotage will leave her stranded in 1938 Athens Georgia. Major character in *Time's Edge*. Will also appear in *Time's Divide* as an elderly woman.

Abel Waters: African-American, tall, muscular build. Early thirties. Both he and Delia are described as having "strong personalities." Abel is very good, however, at making himself seem less imposing when he is in the field, which is a good thing—his specialty is the history of slavery and Jim Crow eras. Saul's sabotage will leave him stranded in 1938 Athens Georgia—not the best spot for an interracial couple, and he'll be killed a few days after the sabotage occurs unless Kate can stop it. Major character in *Time's Edge*. Mentioned in *Time's Divide*.

Esther (no last name specified): African history specialist. Stranded while studying a matrilineal society, possibly the Akan, between 1100 and 1300. Mentioned in *Time's Edge*. Daughter **Edna** is a Cyrist.

Marcus (no last name specified): Stranded in Nazi-era Germany. He'll destroy his key rather than risk the possibility of it being reverse engineered by the Nazis. Mentioned in *Timebound* and *Time's Edge*.

Realm #2: CHRONOS: The "Next Generation"

A second possible avenue for writing stories within the *CHRONOS Files* world is to pick up on untold stories that pertain to primary characters featured in the books and novellas. (One example of this is the Australia story posted on the CHRONOS Files site.) Please note: some information below will be spoilers for those who have not read *Timebound*, *Time's Echo*, or *Time's Edge*. Additional information and characters will be added after the publication of the final novella (from Prudence's POV, due out late Spring 2015) and the third, still untitled, book in the series, which is scheduled to debut Fall 2015.

Some Major Characters:

Kate Pierce-Keller - Protagonist of all three books and appears in *Time's Echo* novella. Full name: Prudence Katherine Pierce-Keller. Green eyes, curly dark hair, 16-17 yrs. Above average intelligence. Brown belt in karate. Loves *The Princess Bride*, onion rings, coffee, and Diet Dr. Pepper. Would much rather wear shorts and tank top than a corset and heels. Her boyfriend says she has a "golden retriever" personality—she's affectionate and tends to trust people, although recent events have tempered the latter trait somewhat. Very adept with the CHRONOS key, which appears bright blue to her. In love with Trey Coleman, but cannot deny a very strong physical and emotional attachment to Kiernan Dunne. A different version of Kate that we see at age 18 via video diary and in the *Time's Echo* novella vanished after time shift #1. She failed to stop the Cyrists in that timeline, and really, really hopes to avoid a repeat.

Kiernan Dunne - In all three books and protagonist of *Time's Echo* novella. Tall, dark eyes and hair, Connor's great-grandfather. Born 1885 to Kiernan Dunne, Sr. and Cliona Dunne. Spent most of childhood on Cyrist Farm in Chicago and later in Florida. Has had relationships with both Prudence and Kate. Married the earlier version of Kate about a month prior to her disappearance. Some difficulties with the CHRONOS key and often needs a break in between jumps, especially those to times or places distant from his native 1905. The key is green for him—his eight year old self compared it to Kate's eyes. [See also description and information under [Cyrists](#).]

Trey Coleman - In all three books. Full name: Lawrence Alma Coleman III. Attends Briar Hill Academy. Blond hair, gray eyes, 17 to 18 yrs. Kate's boyfriend, although he doesn't remember that at the beginning of *Time's Edge* due to the time shift. Joins Fifth Column in *Time's Divide*, remains under protection of a CHRONOS key, even though there's some risk to his mental health. He views the fight against the Cyrists as the equivalent of a war, given the number of lives on the line, so he's willing to accept that risk. The fact that not being under a key might cause him to forget Kate yet again is another huge incentive.

Katherine Shaw - In all three books and *Time's Mirror* novella. Kate's grandmother, gray very short hair, blue eyes, one of Kate's namesakes, b. 2282. Terminally ill in this timeline, with a brain tumor. Occasional mood swings due to illness and medications. Widowed twice. Currently in a relationship with Connor Dunne. With his help, she maintains a library under a CHRONOS field that shows the pre-Cyrist history. The key appears orange to her—like a creamsicle. [See also description and information under [CHRONOS Historians](#).]

Connor Dunne - In all three books. Tall, red-haired, late fifties, Kiernan's great-grandson. He doesn't exist in this timeline, so must remain under a CHRONOS field. The first time shift erased his two college-age children, Andrea (Andi) and Christopher. Somewhat gruff at the beginning, he lets down his guard over time. Champion snacker.

Harry Keller- In all three books. Kate's dad and the source of her green eyes. Early forties. Son of **Evelyn Perry** and **Timothy Winslow** who were killed in an accident when he was five.

Adopted by John and Theresa Keller and grew up in Delaware. Math teacher at Briar Hill. Likes to cook and make bad jokes. He is amicably divorced from Kate's mom and they share custody of Kate. His girlfriend Sara is an art historian. An alternate version of Harry in *Timebound* was a teacher at a private school in Delaware with a wife and two small sons. He cannot use the CHRONOS equipment, but the key has a faint pinkish hue for him.

Deborah Pierce - In all three books and mentioned in both novellas. Kate's mom. Daughter of **Katherine Shaw** and **Saul Rand**, although she's unaware of the latter's existence. Did not inherit expressed version of CHRONOS gene. Estranged from her mother, partially due to the events that surrounded the death of her stepfather and disappearance of twin sister, **Prudence Rand**, at age fourteen.

Charlayne Singleton - In all three books and seen briefly in *Time's Echo* novella. Kate's best friend in the original timeline. Her brother was engaged to a Cyrist. After shift in *Timebound*, Charlayne's entire family is Cyrist, and she does not remember Kate. There are hints in *Time's Edge* that she's not in full agreement with hard-line Cyrist views.

Prudence (Pierce) Rand - In all three books and both novellas. [See description and information under [Cyrists](#).]

Saul Rand - In all three books and both novellas. [See description and information under [Cyrists](#) and [CHRONOS Historians](#).]

Simon Rand - In all three books and both novellas. [See description and information under [Cyrists](#).]

Realm #3: The Cyrists

The Cyrists also have a lot of untold stories, and a very odd family tree. Those highlighted in **purple** can use the key to travel with varying degrees of ability; **Blue** denotes CHRONOS historian. An asterisk (*) denotes offspring of Prudence; ^ denotes Fifth Column.

Most of the Cyrists, aside from Saul, are Prudence's offspring. The only exceptions are Kiernan, Patrick and Eve Conwell, and Edna. Surrogate children are born to female followers at the Cyrist Farm between 1900 and 1920. Many of those women originally joined the group when it was the Koreshan Unity under Cyrus Teed, as discussed in *Time's Echo* and *Time's Edge*. Prudence's first-generation offspring were raised and educated communally in that same time period, then tested at age seven and again at age ten with the CHRONOS equipment. Those who showed ability moved to the next level of training, and were eventually assigned as Templars or in other capacities within Cyrist International. Non-jumpers remain within the group as support

personnel for their generation. See more on Cyrist family connections in *Time's Edge* (Ch 18) and *Time's Echo* (locations 1008, 1070).

See *Timebound* for details on Cyrist beliefs (pp. 144-5, 174-6, 183-191), The Book of Cyrus and The Book of Prophecy (pp 171-2). See *Time's Edge* (Chapter 6) for the Cyrist connection to the Koreshan Unity. See *Timebound* (pp 340) and *Time's Edge* (Ch 6) for details on the Culling.

Saul Rand – In all three books and both novellas. Sabotaged CHRONOS headquarters and is stranded in 2024, unable to use the CHRONOS key that he was counting on to establish his empire. He is able to retrieve an identity and some cash from a safe deposit box, but he's blown a good deal of the money on booze, etc.. His prospects for putting his plan into motion are looking a little bleak a year later, when his fifteen year old daughter shows up on his doorstep, able to use the key. [See also description and information under [CHRONOS Historians.](#)]

Prudence (Pierce) Rand – In all three books and both novellas. Kate's aunt, Deborah's twin. Strong physical similarity to Kate when younger, except for eye color. Appears at ages between 14 and late thirties. Increasingly unstable as she ages due to dual memories. Described as female "demigod" in the Cyrist religion, often appears in religious imagery as a mother figure and this is accurate, since she is the mother of most of the Cyrists who can time travel, including Simon. Saul's increasing reluctance to share power causes her to break away from the Cyrist fold. Strong attachment to her sister Deborah, unwilling to harm Kate for that reason. Relationship with **Tate Poulsen** in mid-teens, with Kiernan afterward, mostly at the urging of her older self and to spite Saul, who doesn't see Kiernan (with his limited CHRONOS capabilities) as being a suitable genetic match.

Kiernan Dunne – Born 1885 to Kiernan Dunne, Sr. and Cliona Dunne. Spent most of childhood on Cyrist Farm in Chicago and later in Florida. Major character appears in all three books and both novellas. Has been under a CHRONOS key since age eight. See also description and information under [CHRONOS "Next Generation."](#)

Patrick Conwell – Son of Tate Poulsen with a woman on the Vinland journey led by Freydís Eiríksdóttir?? (Tate might help her escape??) Patrick didn't know he could time travel until Simon recruited him and took him back to the Farm. In all three books and *Time's Echo* novella.

Eve Conwell – Daughter of Patrick Conwell. Mother is unnamed granddaughter of Edna (see below). Eve's ability with the key is minimal, despite her bragging to Kate in Book 1. In all three books and *Time's Echo* novella.

Edna – Daughter of Esther, the woman that was stranded in Africa studying the Akan. Saul knew Esther better than Katherine did, so he knew exactly when and where Simon would need to intercept her. Regional Templar for Africa. Mentioned in *Time's Edge* and *Time's Divide*.

***Simon Rand** – son of **Prudence** & **Tate Poulsen**. (Simon doesn't know Tate is his father.) Born 1910, raised communally with other offspring. Spent most of his childhood in decades between 1890-1910 at Estero (aka Cyst Farm). Pru knows he's her biological offspring, but doesn't realize he's the one she actually carried to term. Saul's right hand man and Prudence's main rival for effective control of Cyst International. Tends to "live large" and likes to flaunt the key. Considers Kiernan a brother—and Kiernan is the only person toward whom he feels any real affection. Pivotal character in all books and novellas. Protagonist of *Simon Says* and short story, "Whack Job." Main antagonist in the graphic novel, *Time Trial*. Simon has been under protection of a CHRONOS key since age ten.

***June** – Cyst physician. One of the few born and raised in modern era, but spent most of her life on house calls to various eras at the Cyst Farm. Character in *Time's Echo*; mentioned in *Time's Edge*, plays a more central role in *Time's Divide*. She's also mentioned in *Time Trial*, and is a character in "Full Circle," the short story that introduces a key character in the second CHRONOS series.

***Leo** – Part of Pru's faction. Seen briefly in *Time's Edge*.

***Philippa** – Part of Pru's faction. Seen briefly in *Time's Edge*.

***Jeanine** – Regional Templar for Asia. Mother of Paula Patterson. Seen briefly in *Time's Echo*.

***Paula Patterson** – US President in the timeline Kate is trying to restore. Seen briefly in *Timebound* and *Time's Divide*. Mentioned in *Time's Edge*.

Kiernan Dunne, Sr. – Son of **Padraic Dunne**. Recruited by Prudence to come to the U.S. with his wife and family. Later she'll try to recruit him to as a genetic donor to create more Cysts. She'd have been happy to do it the old-fashioned way, but he wasn't interested in either method. Dies in 1893 during the run of the World's Fair when the Ice House catches fire. Prudence arranged his death.

Cliona Dunne – **Kiernan's** mom, **Kiernan Sr's.**, wife. Also served as a surrogate for three of Pru's offspring after the death of Kiernan, Sr. Friends with **June**, helped at the surrogacy clinic. Devout Cyst—as Kiernan notes, she convinced her husband to trust Prudence so if she accepts that the Cysts are a sham, then she has to accept some responsibility for his death and she can't do that.

Additions after *Time's Edge*:

Fifth Column: group dedicated to bringing down the Cysts from within. Most, however, aren't keen on destroying Cysts altogether—it's their religion. Want to keep the good, but eradicate Saul's group. This section will be added to after *Time's Echo*.

^Abel Waters - Major character in *Time's Edge*. Mentioned in *Time's Divide*. Joined Cyrists after the events in *Time's Edge* in order to work from within to bring them down. [See also description and information under [CHRONOS Historians](#).]

^Delia Morrell - Major character in *Time's Edge*. Appears as elderly woman in *Time's Divide*. Joined Cyrists after the events in *Time's Edge* in order to work from within to bring them down. Leaves a video for Kate prior to her death. [See also description and information under [CHRONOS Historians](#).]

^Julia Morrell Waters – Daughter of Abel Waters and Delia Morrell. Leader of the Fifth Column.

^Max – Grandson of Julia. Can use the equipment sporadically.

^Charlayne Singleton - In all three books and *Time's Echo* novella. Kate's best friend in the original timeline. Her brother was engaged to a Cyrist. After shift in *Timebound*, Charlayne's entire family is Cyrist, and she does not remember Kate. There are hints in *Time's Edge* that she's not in full agreement with hard-line Cyrist views, "New Cyrist" in *Time's Divide*.

^Bensen Raji – Charlayne's friend, who would like to be more. In *Time's Edge* and *Time's Divide*. Very smart, computer-savvy. Initially joined the Cyrists in order to get a better education, definitely not devout.

Harvey Tilson –Elderly, retired Briar Hill science teacher. Detests the Cyrists. The only active member of the Fifth Column who is not Cyrist. In *Time's Edge* and *Time's Divide*. In a wheelchair in *Time's Edge*, but his work with the Fifth Column in the slightly altered timeline of Bk 3 kept him more active and gave him purpose. Now walks with help of forearm crutches.

Realm #4: Alternate Timelines for Realms 1-3

There have been four major time shifts as of the end of *Time's Edge*, and several minor rifts or ripples. (See [Theoretical Background on Time Travel](#)) A major shift appears to spin off a new reality and only those under a CHRONOS field can remember events in the previous timeline. Minor or localized rifts occur more frequently, when a time traveler changes something that doesn't impact a major historical event or a large number of lives. CHRONOS was less concerned about these smaller ripples because, in their experience, they did not result in long term changes to the historical record.

Alternate histories could involve *Timebound* characters in these various timelines that are described, CHRONOS historians in different timelines, etc.

