

Historical Society of Michigan

Michigan History Calendar

Day	Year	Events
1 AUG	1809	<i>The Childs Spelling Book or Michigan Instructor</i> , a 12 page booklet was issued it was the first book published in Michigan.
1 AUG	1833	Territorial secretary, 19-year old Stevens T. Mason became acting governor after Lewis Cass left the state to serve as Secretary of War under Andrew Jackson. The "Boy Governor" served until the new territorial governor, George B. Porter arrived on 17 September 1833.
1 AUG	1861	Michigan's first prison facility for women opens as a wing of the Detroit House of Correction. Women had been held at Jackson, a facility designed for men. The state built its first prison for women at Ypsilanti in 1977.
1 AUG	1878	The Pontiac State Hospital for the Insane opened.
1 AUG	1888	<i>Attikumaig</i> or <i>Whitefish</i> , the first fish car, a railroad car to haul young fish stock, was commissioned by the state's Fish Commission. Fish cars were used by the state until 1935.
1 AUG	1926	Stout Air Services starts the nation's first scheduled air passenger service with daily round-trips between Grand Rapids and Detroit.
1 AUG	1928	The Detroit Zoological Park, with its barless exhibits opened.
1 AUG	1929	Eight Eagle Scouts boarded a Detroit & Cleveland Navigation Company boat for a trip to Mackinac Island. They were the first of thousands of scouts to serve as guides and honor guards at Fort Mackinac. S
2 AUG	1861	After completing their three-month enlistment, the First Michigan Infantry returned to a heroes welcome at the Detroit & Milwaukee depot in Detroit. They had distinguished themselves in the First Battle of Bull Run.
3 AUG	1795	In the Treaty of Greenville, negotiated between Anthony Wayne and tribes defeated a year earlier at Fallen Timbers, in addition to most of Ohio, the United States gained control of Mackinac Island and a strip of land along the Detroit River.
3 AUG	1863	Streetcars drawn by horses began to operate on Jefferson and Woodward Avenues in Detroit.
3 AUG	1937	Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Detroit is created.
3 AUG	1960	The Detroit Tigers traded their manager, Jimmy Dykes, to Cleveland for the Indians' manager, Joe Gordon. This was the only time two major-league managers were traded.
4 AUG	1814	American forces attempted to recapture Fort Mackinac Island. The attack was repulsed and Major Andrew Holmes was killed. The British held the fort until it was returned in the Treaty of Ghent.
4 AUG	1841	Congress appropriated \$50,000 for the construction of Fort Wayne.
4 AUG	1928	The De Soto automobile, named for Spanish explorer Hernando De Soto who discovered the Mississippi River. The name was said to symbolize "travel, pioneering and adventure."
4 AUG	1929	The <i>Water Lily</i> , a small passenger ferry started operating from Copper Harbor to Isle Royale. This was the first regular service from Michigan. Prior to this visitors came from Minnesota or Ontario. Isle Royal National Park was authorized in 1931.

5 AUG	1812	Tecumseh and 24 Indians ambushed 200 Michigan militia led by Major Thomas B. Van Horne. The Michigianians panicked, fleeing with the first shots. The first Michigan casualties of the War of 1812 included 18 dead and 12 wounded.
5 AUG	1899	The Detroit Automobile Company was incorporated to build delivery wagons designed by a mechanic working at the Edison Illuminating Company, Henry Ford. The company lasted a little more than a year dissolving in January 1901.
5 AUG	1917	The Michigan National guard was drafted into the United States Army for service in World War I.
6 AUG	1831	George B. Porter, a gentleman farmer, was named governor of the territory of Michigan. He spent little time in Michigan so 19-year-old territorial secretary, Stevens T. Mason, was left in charge as acting governor.
6 AUG	1845	In the first recorded University of Michigan graduation ceremony, 11 men received bachelor-of-arts degrees at the Ann Arbor Presbyterian Church.
7 AUG	1903	Two sections of the Wallace Brothers Circus train collided at Durand killing 23 members of the circus troupe.
7 AUG	1904	American diplomat, Ralph Bunche was born in Detroit. Bunch helped found the United Nations and in 1950 he became the first African-American to win the Noble Peace Prize.
7 AUG	1926	Grand River Avenue was opened to traffic as the first paved road across the state. Much of the work between Lansing and Farmington was done with prison labor.
8 AUG	1933	Colleges of the City of Detroit, later Wayne State University, was organized.
8 AUG	1970	200,000 rock fans gather at Goose Lake in Michigan's "Woodstock." Many of the young attendees went hungry when the free food tent ran out of food.
8 AUG	1978	Former President Gerald Ford dedicated the Ford Freeway, a 79-mile segment of I-196 between St. Joseph and Grand Rapids. When Ford an alumni of the University of Michigan lifted the U of M flag covering the road sign, he found that a green and white Michigan State flag still covered the sign.
9 AUG	1757	After the surrender of Fort William Henry, Indians including those from Michigan massacred unarmed prisoners including the sick in a hospital. The Indians contacted small-pox creating an epidemic that kept them out of the fighting in 1758 when the British were able to advance against the French.
9 AUG	1945	The Kaiser-Frazer Corporation was organized to build automobiles.
9 AUG	1975	Grand Rapids resident Gerald R. Ford became President of the United States when Richard Nixon resigned to avoid being impeached for his role in trying to cover-up the Watergate burglary. Ford had been appointed vice-president when Spiro Agnew resigned in a bribery scandal so he was the only person to become president without being elected to a national office.
9 AUG	2000	Bridgestone/Firestone announced a recall of six and one-half million tires that were prone to failure. Ford sales were hurt and litigation costs increased as many of these tires were mounted on the popular Ford Explorer.
10 AUG	1679	The <i>Griffin</i> , built by Robert de La Salle, became the first sailing ship to reach Michigan when emerged from Lake Erie and entered the Detroit River. It disappeared a little over a month later.
10 AUG	1918	A riot broke out when the Detroit United Railway increased in streetcar fares from 5 to 6 cents.
10 AUG	1946	The <i>Pere Marquette</i> , first new streamlined passenger train to enter service after World War II, began operation between Grand Rapids and Detroit with a scheduled running time of 160 minutes.

11 AUG	1971	In an operation at Detroit's Mount Sinai Hospital, Haskell Shanks became the first American to receive a mechanical heart pump.
12 AUG	1863	Henry Barnes, editor of the <i>Detroit Tribune and Advisor</i> , was authorized to raise and command a regiment of Black soldiers, the First Michigan Colored Infantry.
13 AUG	1796	General Anthony Wayne arrived in Detroit where he received a warm welcome from Native Americans and a formal military review by American troops led by Colonel John Hamtramck. Wayne remained in Detroit until November when he sought to return to Philadelphia, the nation's capital. Wayne was unable to complete the trip and died at Presque Isle (Erie, PA) in December.
13 AUG	1817	President James Monroe became the first president of the United States to visit Michigan. He stayed in Detroit for 5 days.
13 AUG	1867	The Detroit Baseball Club hosted the "World's Tournament of Baseball." The tournament lasted eight days and drew teams from Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Canada. The Jackson Unknowns defeated the Allegheny Club of Pennsylvania to win the title.
13 AUG	1988	The Palace of Auburn Hills opened.
14 AUG	1881	The Wabash Railroad began operating in Detroit with through service between Detroit and St. Louis.
14 AUG	1919	For the first time, operators of cars and trucks were required have driver's licenses. No written or road tests were required.
15 AUG	1796	Michigan's oldest county, Wayne County was established by acting governor Winthrop Sargent. At that time Wayne County included all of Michigan as well as parts of Ohio, Indiana, Wisconsin, and Illinois.
15 AUG	1900	8 people were killed in a head-on collision north of Pierson on the Grand Rapids & Indiana Railroad.
15 AUG	1940	Chrysler Corporation began construction of a plant to manufacture large military tanks as the nation made preparations to enter World War II.
15 AUG	1960	Cobo Hall in Detroit was officially opened.
15 AUG	1976	200 gang members forced their way into Cobo Hall rock concert and beat and robbed members of the audience.
16 AUG	1812	General William Hull surrendered Detroit to the British led by Isaac Brock. He was court-martialed, found guilty, and sentenced to be executed. President James Madison commuted the sentence because of Hull's heroic record in the Revolutionary War.
16 AUG	1965	George Grady was named Chief of Police for the city of Dowagiac. He was the first African-American to head a municipal police department in Michigan.
16 AUG	1987	Northwest Airlines Flight #255 crashed at Detroit's Metropolitan Airport killing 156 people.
17 AUG	1765	Pontiac formally signed a peace treaty with the British.
17 AUG	1923	Henry Ford's yacht, <i>Sailia</i> , arrived at Escanaba carrying Ford, Harvey Firestone, and Thomas Edison for a camping trip in the Upper Peninsula. During the trip Firestone tested the first balloon tires.
17 AUG	1980	Al Kaline became the first Detroit Tiger to have his uniform number (#6) retired.
18 AUG	1922	Michigan's first educational radio station, WKAR, went on the air from East Lansing. It is now the public broadcasting voice of Michigan State University.
18 AUG	1967	Jack Hall was sworn in as Michigan's first Black state police officer.

18 AUG	1976	After struggle with Ronald Reagan, President Gerald Ford was named the Republican Party candidate for the presidency. The bitter fight for the nomination helped lead to the defeat of Ford and running -mate Senator Robert Dole by Jimmy Carter in the November election.
19 AUG	1951	Owner of the St. Louis Browns, baseball entrepreneur, Bill Veeck sent a midget, 3' 7" Eddie Gaedell, in to bat against the Detroit Tigers. He walked on 4 pitches. Major league baseball quickly passed a rule that all players had to be at least 4' 8" tall.
19 AUG	1959	Kalamazoo closed several downtown blocks to traffic to create the first pedestrian shopping mall in America.
19 AUG	1970	John Collins was convicted for the murder of 18 year old Karen Sue Beineman, one of seven young women killed in a crime spree in the university towns of Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti.
20 AUG	1794	General Anthony Wayne defeated a British supported Indian force led by Blue Jacket at the Battle of the Fallen Timbers. This ended most Indian armed resistance to the American advance toward Michigan.
20 AUG	1911	Cadillac announced the introduction of a self-starting motor, an engine with an electric starter.
21 AUG	1955	Detroit's Mayor Cobo urged the city council to sell 184 used Detroit street cars to Mexico City for one million dollars.
21 AUG	1984	Railroad carferry service between the Upper and Lower Peninsulas was terminated. The <i>Chief Wawatam</i> was the last hand-fired coal burning boat on the Great Lakes.
21 AUG	2003	A massive power failure starting in Ohio struck much of the eastern United States and Canada. Parts of Michigan including Detroit were without electrical power for three days.
22 AUG	1902	The Cadillac Automobile Company was organized.
22 AUG	1942	The only aircraft carrier to serve on the Great Lakes, the <i>U.S.S. Wolverine</i> was commissioned at Chicago. It was used to train World War II pilots for carrier takeoffs and landings.
23 AUG	1873	James Edmund Scripps published the first issue of <i>The Evening News</i> , predecessor of the <i>Detroit News</i> ..
23 AUG	1975	62,094 football fans watched the Detroit Lions beat the Kansas City Chiefs in the first game played in the Pontiac Silverdome.
24 AUG	1915	The state began paying a bounty of 5 cents apiece for dead rats.
25 AUG	1840	Joseph Gibbons of Adrian patented the first practical machine for seeding. His grain drill delivered seed at a controlled volume.
26 AUG	1817	The territorial legislature created the Catholepistemiad, now the University of Michigan. It appropriated \$300 for a building and agreed to pay professors \$12.50 per year.