

Historical Society of Michigan

Michigan History Calendar

Day	Year	Events
1 JUN	1838	Governor Stevens T. Mason made an unfortunate agreement with the Morris Canal and Banking Company to sell state bonds for internal improvements. \$1,500,000 in bonds was sold, but the company went out of business without sending the money to the state. Michigan's credit was damaged when the state repudiated those bonds.
1 JUN	1879	Michigan women were employed as telephone operators for the first time in Grand Rapids. They replaced boys who had neglected the switchboards in order to play marbles.
1 JUN	1933	In an attempt to reduce to state debt, the Michigan legislature eliminated the state property tax and instituted a 3% sales tax. Many state residents blamed Governor William Comstock and accused him of profiting from the tax.
1 JUN	1967	There were demonstrations of fear and distrust as the first Soviet freighter entered the Detroit River.
2 JUN	1763	Chippewa and Sac Indians attacked and massacred most of the garrison at Michilimackinac in the general Indian uprising popularly known as Pontiac's Conspiracy. They had suggested playing a game of baggitaway (lacrosse) in honor of the king's birthday. When the ball flew over the stockade wall, the Indians rushed into the fort and seized control.
2 JUN	1853	Led by the Ship Canal Company organized by Charles T. Harvey, work began on the first Soo Locks at Saulte Ste. Marie. The first vessels passed through the locks in 1855.
3 JUN	1850	A convention convened in Lansing to write a new constitution. Work on the state's second constitution was completed on 15 August.
3 JUN	1856	Congress approves giving 19 million acres of land to 8 states including Michigan to promote railroad construction.
3 JUN	1895	Central Michigan Normal School (Now Central Michigan University) was taken over by the state. It had been established as a private institution.
3 JUN	1964	Governor George Romney signed into law a bill requiring that Michigan operator's licenses include driver's photos.
3 JUN	1965	Astronaut James McDivitt from Jackson became the first Michigianian to orbit the earth in outer space.
4 JUN	1853	Construction began at Saulte Ste. Marie on the canal and locks that would allow ships to pass between Lake Superior and Lake Huron.
4 JUN	1896	Henry Ford test drove his quadricycle around the streets of Detroit.
4 JUN	1910	President William Howard Taft dedicated a boulder honoring the formation of the Republican Party under the oaks in Jackson fifty years earlier.
4 JUN	1982	Mike Ilitch, owner of Little Ceasers Pizza, purchased the Detroit Red Wings.
4 JUN	1990	Dr. Jack Kevorkian helped Janet E. Adkins commit suicide at a campsite in Oakland County. This was the first of a series of suicides that involved Kevorkian who became known to many as "Dr. Death."
5 JUN	1866	About 100 doctors met in Detroit to adopt a code of ethics and organize the Michigan State Medical Society.
5 JUN	1885	A state law was passed requiring automatic couplers on all railroad cars.

5 JUN	1998	<i>Muslim American</i> , a free monthly newspaper for the Detroit area's large Islamic community, began publication.
6 JUN	1822	Alexis Ste. Martin, a fur trapper was accidentally shot in the stomach on Mackinac Island. Army doctor William Beaumont treated him. The wound failed to heal allowing Beaumont to observe and conduct experiments on the process of digestion.
6 JUN	1925	Chrysler Corporation was incorporated.
6 JUN	1944	The first glider to land in France on D-Day was built in Greenville by the Gibson Refrigerator Company.
6 JUN	1947	The Pere Marquette Railroad was consolidated into the Chesapeake & Ohio Railway.
6 JUN	1953	The Ford Motor Company and UAW Local 1250 reached the earliest agreement dealing with issues related to automated production lines in the automobile industry.
6 JUN	1975	A convicted hog thief and bad check writer escaped from Jackson Prison in a hijacked helicopter. A friend forced the pilot to land in the prison yard where the prisoner was hiding. He was arrested the next day at a bar in Leslie.
7 JUN	1824	The first legislative council met in Detroit for its first session. Under provisions of the Northwest Ordinance, Michigianians could elect a legislative council when 5,000 free male residents lived in the territory.
7 JUN	1978	In a carefully planned sting operation, federal agents and Flint police told thieves who had fenced stolen goods with a fictitious Stewart Fine that Fine had died and his funeral procession would be an opportunity to move stolen cars to Detroit. As suspects lined-up cars behind the hearse they were arrested.
8 JUN	1677	Père Marquette was reburied in St. Ignace by Indians who had located his grave along the eastern shore of Lake Michigan.
8 JUN	1953	A tornado hit Beecher, north of Flint killing 116 people and injuring hundreds. More than 500 homes and businesses were damaged or destroyed.
9 JUN	1845	St. Vincent's, the first hospital in Michigan, was opened in a log building by the Sister's of Charity. It was later renamed St. Mary's Hospital.
9 JUN	1913	14,000 residents of northeastern Michigan turned out for a "good roads bee" and completed improvements to open a passable road along the northern shore of Lake Huron. Route is now part of US23.
10 JUN	1919	Michigan became the first state to ratify the 19th Amendment that gave women the right to vote.
11 JUN	1805	Detroit was completely destroyed by a fire that reportedly was started by sparks from a smoker's pipe. Detroit was rebuilt on a plan developed by territorial judge Augustus Woodward and patterned after Pierre L'Enfant's layout of Washington, DC.
11 JUN	1888	The Minneapolis, Saulte Ste. Marie & Atlantic and 3 other railroads merged to form the Minneapolis, St. Paul & Saulte Ste. Marie Railway. It is popularly known as the Soo Line and is now controlled by the Canadian Pacific Railway..
11 JUN	1961	Norm Cash, in a game against the Washington Senators, became the first Detroit Tiger to hit a ball out of Tiger Stadium. Ted Williams and Mickey Mantle had hit balls out of the park for visiting teams.
12 JUN	1973	US Court of Appeals in Cincinnati ruled that students should be bussed between Detroit and its suburbs in order to achieve racial integration.

13 JUN 1903	The Ford Motor Company was formed by nine investors who put up \$28,000 in cash and promised to invest another \$21,000. Henry Ford was vice president and general manager. He had failed in other car making ventures, but this time he had the capable assistance of James Cousins who deserves much of the credit for the company's success.
13 JUN 1920	The first Baltimore & Ohio passenger train to serve Michigan left Detroit's Fort Street Station for a run to Washington, DC.
13 JUN 1923	1000 men joined the Ku Klux Klan in a cross burning ceremony held in Oakland County. About 8,000 Michigan Klan members attended the rally.
13 JUN 1929	"Belly Bombers" became available when Detroit's first White Castle opened on East Jefferson.
13 JUN 1943	The <i>Escanaba</i> , a Coast Guard cutter stationed in Grand Haven but serving in the Atlantic to protect convoys, was torpedoed by a German submarine off the coast of Greenland. It sank in 3 minutes with a loss of 101 lives. The only two survivors were picked-up by a Coast Guard tug, the <i>Raritan</i> , which was later stationed in Grand Haven, the "Coast Guard City."
13 JUN 2002	The Detroit Red Wings won their 3rd Stanley Cup in 6 years. In his last game as coach, Scotty Bowman won more Stanley Cups than any hockey coach in history.
14 JUN 1671	French officer, Simon Francois, Sieur de St. Luson, raised a cross at the mission at Saulte Ste. Marie and claimed most of North America for France.
14 JUN 1833	A riot kept slave catchers from returning Thornton Blackburn, a runaway slave, to Kentucky. He was helped to escape to Canada.
14 JUN 1923	The <i>Detroit Free Press</i> offered a \$1,000 reward for anyone who would give information on the whereabouts of "King" Benjamin Purnell of the House of David. Purnell was sought by state authorities on a charge of statutory rape.
15 JUN 1836	President Andrew Jackson signed a bill to admit Michigan and Arkansas, its paired slave state, into the Union. Statehood was delayed until 1837 because Michigan rejected the proposed border with Ohio.
15 JUN 1905	The Michigan branch of the National Red Cross was organized. The first significant activity was to collect donations for victims of the 1906 San Francisco earthquake.
15 JUN 1948	In the first night baseball game in Detroit the Tigers beat the Philadelphia Athletics (4-1) under the lights at Briggs Stadium (later Tiger Stadium).
16 JUN 1820	Territorial Governor Lewis Cass lowered a British flag flying over Sault Ste. Marie. It was the last foreign flag to assert sovereignty over any part of Michigan.
16 JUN 1856	James Jesse Strang, the Mormon king on Beaver Island, was assassinated by two former followers after being drawn into a trap by the commander of the US Navy ship, <i>Michigan</i> . The murderers escaped to Mackinac Island on the <i>Michigan</i> .
16 JUN 1903	The Ford Motor Company was organized.
17 JUN 1866	Lewis Cass died at Detroit. Cass had served as governor of Michigan Territory, US Senator, Secretary of War under Andrew Jackson and as Secretary of State under James Buchanan. He ran for the presidency of the United States in 1848. Cass helped organize the Historical Society of Michigan in 1828.
17 JUN 1940	The Nancy Brown Peace Carillon was dedicated on Belle Isle. She wrote an advice column in <i>The Detroit News</i> and her readers provided most of the money for the tower.
17 JUN 1958	Ozzie Virgil, the first Black player on the Detroit Tigers, played his first home game.

18 JUN	1812	Congress declared war on England with the hopes of invading Canada through Michigan.
18 JUN	1855	The steamship <i>Illinois</i> became the first ship to sail through the newly completed Soo Locks.
18 JUN	1898	The Detroit, Belle Isle and Windsor Ferry Company opened Bob-lo Island Amusement park.
18 JUN	1977	Joan Heneveld was ordained as the first woman priest in the Episcopal Church. In 1983 she become the first full time female chaplain in the Veterans Administration and in 1992 she was the first woman canon (priest serving a cathedral) at Detroit's Cathedral Church of St. Paul.
19 JUN	1879	Speaking to 7 graduating cadets of the Michigan Military Academy in Orchard Lake, General William Tecumseh Sherman declared, "War is Hell."
19 JUN	1982	Chinese-American, Vincent Chin, was beaten to death by two unemployed autoworkers using a baseball bat. They thought he was Japanese and that they had lost their jobs because of Japanese successes in automobile production.
20 JUN	1945	A race riot erupted on the bridge to Detroit's Belle Isle in which 34 people, 25 of them Black, died and 700 were injured during three days of conflict. A force of 4,000 National Guardsmen was called in to restore order.
21 JUN	1752	Charles Langlade led a party of 240 Ottawa from the Grand River Valley to attack the Miami at Pickawillany (Picqua, Ohio). The Miami led by La Demoiselle threatened French control of the Ohio River Valley by switching their loyalty to the British. The village was destroyed and La Demoiselle was killed and eaten. This attack started the French and Indian War.
21 JUN	1972	Pinball machines were allowed in bars for the first time.
22 JUN	1774	British Parliament passed the Quebec Act which made Michigan part of Quebec. American opposition to this act, its lack of democratic government, and protection of Roman Catholics, became a cause of the American Revolution.
22 JUN	1835	The official Michigan state seal was adopted.
22 JUN	1903	The carferry <i>Grand Haven</i> was christened. It was built for E.G. Crosby to carry Grand Trunk railroad cars between Grand Haven and Milwaukee.
22 JUN	1933	Greenfield Village allowed visits by the general public for the first time.
22 JUN	1937	Joe Louis, the "Brown Bomber," won the title as heavyweight champion of the world by knocking out James Braddock. Louis remained undefeated and retained his title until 1949
22 JUN	1938	Heavyweight champion Joe Louis knocked out Nazi hero and supposed symbol of Aryan superiority, Max Schmeling in the first round of their rematch in Yankee Stadium. Louis floored the German champion 3 times in 2:04 minutes.
22 JUN	1943	The destroyer <i>Rich</i> was launched at a shipyard in Bay City. This was one of the largest warships built on the Great Lakes.
23 JUN	1828	The Historical Society of Michigan was organized.
23 JUN	1903	Henry Ford sold his first automobile.