

# Historical Society of Michigan

## Michigan History Calendar

| Day   | Year | Events   |
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| 1 APR | 1840 | The Morris Canal and Banking Company defaulted on payments on Michigan's internal improvement bonds. Michigan's fiscal reputation was ruined when it refused to honor bonds that had been sold, but for which the state had not received payment.  |
| 1 APR | 1889 | The Moiles brothers of De Tour avoided foreclosure of their sawmill by loading all the machinery on 2 barges and taking it to Canada.  |
| 1 APR | 1901 | The last known mastodon to live in Michigan died at the John Ball Zoological Park in Grand Rapids.   |
| 1 APR | 1906 | The state's first yellow-pages directory was issued by the Michigan State Telephone Company in Detroit.  |
| 1 APR | 1963 | Voters approved Michigan's fourth state constitution. It replaced the 1908 constitution, changing the terms of the governor and state senators to 4 years.   |
| 1 APR | 1976 | Conrail, a government corporation taking over bankrupt Eastern railroads, began operations in Michigan. The state offered subsidies to private lines operating some former Penn Central and Ann Arbor Railroad lines.  |
| 2 APR | 1881 | Grand Opening of J.L. Hudson's men and boy's clothing store in the Detroit Opera House. At start of the Great Depression Hudson's with its 25 story building was the largest in Michigan and the third largest department store in the country.  |
| 2 APR | 1966 | The first of 850,000 Coho salmon were planted in the Platte River in Benzie County. Salmon stimulated fishing and helped the state deal with alewives that had entered the lakes through the Saint Lawrence Seaway.  |
| 2 APR | 1977 | A new anti-smoking law banned smoking in grocery stores and required no smoking areas in restaurants.  |
| 3 APR | 1837 | In Michigan's first strike, Carpenters left their jobs in Detroit hoping to get a ten-hour day and 2 dollars a day in pay.   |
| 3 APR | 1838 | Construction began on Michigan's first prison at Jackson. In time it became the largest walled prison in the world.  |
| 3 APR | 1853 | First issue of the <i>Daily Free Democrat</i> . This predecessor of the <i>Detroit Free Press</i> started a year earlier as a weekly anti-slavery paper.   |
| 3 APR | 1869 | The legislature authorized the governor to send an immigration commissioner to Germany to recruit immigrants to come to the state. He would be paid \$2,500 per year, a high salary for that time. By 1880, about 20% of Detroit's population had been born in Germany.  |
| 3 APR | 1869 | Tax supported, tuition-free schools were established by the legislature.   |
| 3 APR | 1871 | Nannette B. Gardner, a wealthy Detroit widow, became the first woman to vote in a Detroit election. She had convinced an alderman that she should be registered as a voter because she had no husband to protect her interests. It would be nearly half a century before another woman would be allowed to vote. |

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| <b>3 APR</b>  | <b>1933</b> | Michigan became the first state to repeal federal prohibition.   |
| <b>4 APR</b>  | <b>1825</b> | John R. Williams was elected Detroit's first mayor.  |
| <b>4 APR</b>  | <b>1971</b> | Gordie Howe played his last game as a member of the Detroit Red Wings.   |
| <b>5 APR</b>  | <b>1778</b> | Daniel Boone brought to Detroit as a prisoner of war by the Shawnee Indians.<br>Later escaped in time to warn the people of Boonseboro of a planned attack.  |
| <b>6 APR</b>  | <b>1898</b> | William Jennings Bryan delivered an address in Detroit.  |
| <b>6 APR</b>  | <b>1900</b> | James J. Jeffries won the world's first heavyweight fight in Detroit by knocking out his opponent, James Finnegan, in the first round.   |
| <b>6 APR</b>  | <b>1909</b> | General Motors bought Oakland Motors. It became part of the Pontiac Division in 1932.  |
| <b>7 APR</b>  | <b>1947</b> | Henry Ford died at the age of 83.  |
| <b>7 APR</b>  | <b>1956</b> | Last streetcar ran in Detroit.   |
| <b>7 APR</b>  | <b>1970</b> | Detroit board of education approved a plan to desegregate 11 of Detroit's 22 high schools.   |
| <b>8 APR</b>  | <b>1931</b> | The robin was designated as the state's official bird.   |
| <b>8 APR</b>  | <b>1943</b> | Detroit Red Wings won their third Stanley Cup beating Boston in 4 games.   |
| <b>9 APR</b>  | <b>1865</b> | Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia surrendered Confederate arms and battle flags to 2 Michigan Regiments. 90,000 Michigan men had fought in the Civil War and 14,000 died.                  |
| <b>9 APR</b>  | <b>1949</b> | Former governor Chase Osborn, aware that he was nearing the end of his life, had the adoption of his daughter, Stellanova annulled and on the same day he married her. Osborn died two days later. |
| <b>9 APR</b>  | <b>1997</b> | Chrysler announced plans to build 6 new factories in Michigan.   |
| <b>10 APR</b> | <b>1922</b> | Detroit's last horse drawn fire engine was retired.  |
| <b>10 APR</b> | <b>1969</b> | Auto designer Harley Earl died. He put tail fins on the Cadillac and created the Corvette.   |
| <b>11 APR</b> | <b>1803</b> | Zebulon Pike, who later discovered Pike's Peak, became commander at Detroit when John F. Hamtramck died.   |
| <b>11 APR</b> | <b>1881</b> | 5,000 German brown trout were planted in the Baldwin River near Baldwin.   |
| <b>11 APR</b> | <b>1912</b> | Conflict between Taft and Roosevelt supporters at the state Republican Convention held in Bay City became so heated that police and the state militia were called in to stop the fighting.         |
| <b>11 APR</b> | <b>1936</b> | Detroit Red Wings defeated Toronto to win their first Stanley Cup.   |
| <b>11 APR</b> | <b>1943</b> | 10,000 people attended a joint UAW and NAACP rally calling for improved race relations in Detroit.   |
| <b>11 APR</b> | <b>1965</b> | Palm Sunday tornados blew through central and southern Michigan killing 49 people.   |
| <b>11 APR</b> | <b>2000</b> | Comerica Park, the new home of the Detroit Tigers opened.  |
| <b>12 APR</b> | <b>1780</b> | British Captain Henry Bird left Detroit with 1200 Indians to attack American rebels in Kentucky.   |
| <b>12 APR</b> | <b>1858</b> | Detroit hosted the world's first international billiards tournament. Mike Phelan of New York City defeated John Seereiter of Detroit to win the \$15,000 purse.                                    |
| <b>12 APR</b> | <b>1865</b> | 4 <sup>th</sup> Michigan Cavalry led by Benjamin Pritchard of Allegan captured Jefferson Davis, president of the Confederacy.  |
| <b>12 APR</b> | <b>1955</b> | The successful field trials of the Salk polio vaccine were announced at a press conference at the University of Michigan.  |

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| <b>12 APR</b> | <b>1999</b> | Tigers lost to Minnesota in the last home opener in Tiger Stadium.  |
| <b>13 APR</b> | <b>1827</b> | Law passed requiring all Blacks in Michigan to register at county clerks office. If they did not meet requirements for residence they would have to leave the territory.  |
| <b>13 APR</b> | <b>1861</b> | News arrived about the attack on Fort Sumter.   |
| <b>13 APR</b> | <b>1925</b> | Henry Ford started a commercial airline service between Detroit and Chicago.  |
| <b>13 APR</b> | <b>1954</b> | Ernie Harwell working for the Baltimore Orioles made his first broadcast from Briggs Stadium (later Tiger Stadium).   |
| <b>14 APR</b> | <b>1931</b> | Henry Ford drove the 20,000,000 <sup>th</sup> Ford off the assembly line and to the Ford Museum and parked it next to the first Ford built in 1893.   |
| <b>14 APR</b> | <b>1933</b> | First issue of the <i>Detroit Tribune</i> , an important Black newspaper.   |
| <b>14 APR</b> | <b>1941</b> | Ford recognized the UAW after a 10-day strike.  |
| <b>14 APR</b> | <b>1960</b> | Motown Records incorporated. Made first recording in 1959.  |
| <b>14 APR</b> | <b>1977</b> | Renaissance Center opened in downtown Detroit.  |
| <b>14 APR</b> | <b>1982</b> | J.L. Hudson announced the closing of its downtown store.  |
| <b>14 APR</b> | <b>1986</b> | <i>Detroit News</i> and <i>Detroit Free Press</i> requested federal approval of a "joint operating agreement" to help both newspapers survive.  |
| <b>15 APR</b> | <b>1876</b> | Arbor Day, a tree-planting holiday, was recognized in Michigan for the first time.  |
| <b>15 APR</b> | <b>1886</b> | Edison Illuminating Company was organized in Detroit.   |
| <b>15 APR</b> | <b>1977</b> | Mayor Coleman Young and Henry Ford II dedicated the Renaissance Center on Detroit's waterfront. The structure later became home to General Motors Corporation.  |
| <b>15 APR</b> | <b>1986</b> | Detroit's two newspapers, the <i>Free Press</i> and the <i>News</i> ask the government to approve a joint operating agreement to save money and the ailing <i>Free Press</i> , Michigan's oldest newspaper.   |
| <b>15 APR</b> | <b>2003</b> | The longest win streak in history, 241 straight MIAA dual meets, was broken as Hope College defeated Kalamazoo College in a men's dual tennis match. In 68 years, from 1935 to 2003, Kalamazoo College's men's tennis record was 397-2.                     |
| <b>16 APR</b> | <b>1861</b> | Responding to President Lincoln's call to arms, Governor Austin Blair arrived in Detroit to help mobilize Michigan's first troops for service in the Civil War.   |
| <b>16 APR</b> | <b>1895</b> | Detroit's baseball club called the Tigers for the first time in an article by Phil Reed in the <i>Detroit Free Press</i> .  |
| <b>16 APR</b> | <b>1927</b> | Legislature passed a ban on the sale of fireworks.  |
| <b>16 APR</b> | <b>1996</b> | General Motors buys the Renaissance Center from Ford.   |
| <b>17 APR</b> | <b>1802</b> | The first city tax was collected in Detroit, \$150.00. Every adult was taxed 25¢.   |
| <b>17 APR</b> | <b>1861</b> | Detroit Light Guard met at armory to offer services at start of the Civil War.  |
| <b>17 APR</b> | <b>1893</b> | A 6-foot high seiche or tidal wave struck St. Joseph.   |
| <b>17 APR</b> | <b>1963</b> | In a betting scandal, Detroit Lions star Alex Karras and Green Bay Packers' Paul Horning were suspended from the NFL for betting on the Green Bay–New York Giant game. NFL commissioner, Pete Rozelle also fined 5 other Lion players and team management.. |
| <b>17 APR</b> | <b>1964</b> | The Ford Mustang was introduced. It was the brainchild of Lee Iacocca who became president of Ford Motor Company six years later. He was fired in 1978 and moved on to help lift Chrysler Motors from bankruptcy.   |
| <b>17 APR</b> | <b>1979</b> | Law signed by Governor William G. Milliken to end bounty on coyotes.  |

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| <b>18 APR</b> | <b>1815</b> | Alexander Holmes was hired to layout an east-west baseline so a survey of the state could begin. A baseline all the way across the state was not completed until 1827.  |
| <b>18 APR</b> | <b>1816</b> | Peace treaty with Indians signed ending fighting related to War of 1812. Tecumseh's brother the Prophet was present.  |
| <b>18 APR</b> | <b>1894</b> | Five Polish laborers striking against the Detroit waterworks were killed by sheriff's officers who opened fire after the sheriff was knocked down in a scuffle with strikers.   |
| <b>18 APR</b> | <b>1927</b> | Wonder Bread is introduced.   |
| <b>18 APR</b> | <b>1943</b> | Tom Lamphier of Detroit, a pilot in the U.S. navy shot down Japan's top military leader, Admiral Isoruko Yamamoto.  |
| <b>18 APR</b> | <b>1951</b> | Senator Arthur Vandenberg, former editor of the <i>Grand Rapids Herald</i> , died of cancer. When appointed to the Senate in 1928 to complete the unexpired term of former Governor Woodbridge Ferris, he was a leading isolationist and an opponent of FDR's New Deal. His positions changed dramatically after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. He helped organize the United Nations and NATO and he sponsored legislation establishing the Marshall Plan. |
| <b>19 APR</b> | <b>1851</b> | Wayne County officers took a special train to Jackson to arrest Abel Fitch and other protesters charged in the "Great Railroad Conspiracy."   |
| <b>19 APR</b> | <b>1864</b> | Rebel spy, Charles H. Cle tried to drug officers of the <i>USS Michigan</i> as part of a plot to try to free Confederate prisoners of war on Johnson's Island in Lake Erie.   |
| <b>19 APR</b> | <b>1898</b> | First Michigan soldiers leave for Cuba in Spanish-American War.   |
| <b>19 APR</b> | <b>1927</b> | Ty Tyson made the first radio broadcast of a regular season Detroit Tiger game, an 8-5 win over Cleveland Indians.  |
| <b>19 APR</b> | <b>1973</b> | Hundreds of craters and geysers mysteriously appeared around the town of Williamsburg near Traverse City. Geologists later determined they had been created by a natural gas leak.  |
| <b>20 APR</b> | <b>1769</b> | Pontiac who had been the principal leader of the Indian uprising in 1763, was killed by Peoria Indian near Cahokia in Illinois.   |
| <b>20 APR</b> | <b>1836</b> | The territory of Wisconsin was separated from Michigan in preparation for Michigan's statehood.   |
| <b>20 APR</b> | <b>1909</b> | Wayne County Road Commission began work to pave Woodward Avenue between Six and Seven Mile roads. This was the nation's first mile of concrete highway.   |
| <b>20 APR</b> | <b>1912</b> | 26,000 spectators watched the Detroit Tigers defeat the Cleveland Indians 6-5 in 11 innings in the first game played in Detroit's new ballpark, Navin Field, predecessor to Tiger Stadium.  |
| <b>20 APR</b> | <b>1940</b> | Detroit Tiger, rookie, George Vico hit a home run in the second inning of Chicago's home opener on the first pitch in his first major league at bat.  |
| <b>20 APR</b> | <b>1948</b> | Walter Reuter, president of the United Auto Workers was wounded when a would-be assassin fired a shotgun blast through the window of his home.  |
| <b>20 APR</b> | <b>1952</b> | A bloody riot began at Southern Michigan Prison in Jackson. Eleven guards were held hostage. In the struggle to regain control of the prison, one convict was killed, 10 others were wounded and 4 state policemen were injured.  |

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| <b>20 APR 1988</b> | 1200 protestors circled Tiger Stadium hoping to convince Tiger management to keep the historic ballpark.   |
| <b>21 APR 1806</b> | The territorial governing council authorized plans to create a new city plan to rebuild Detroit following the 1805 fire.   |
| <b>21 APR 1851</b> | Temple Beth El, Michigan's first Jewish Reformed Congregation was organized in Detroit.  |
| <b>21 APR 1976</b> | In order to reduce its deficit, the city of Detroit held the "world's largest garage sale" at Cobo Hall. More than 75,000 shoppers paid \$100,00 for surplus city equipment.   |
| <b>22 APR 1833</b> | The Michigan and Huron Institute, a Baptist college, was chartered. In 1855 the school changed its name to Kalamazoo College.  |
| <b>22 APR 1833</b> | Detroit city charter was amended to allow city property taxes.   |
| <b>22 APR 1938</b> | Briggs Stadium was dedicated. Later renamed Tiger Stadium.   |
| <b>22 APR 1974</b> | The first suicide on the Mackinac bridge occurred when a young man from Royal Oak stopped his vehicle at the middle of the bridge and jumped to his death.   |
| <b>23 APR 1849</b> | The Michigan Central Railroad, the first railroad to build a line across the state, opened service between Detroit and New Buffalo.  |
| <b>23 APR 1859</b> | The first patient was admitted to the Michigan Asylum for the Insane in Kalamazoo.   |
| <b>23 APR 1891</b> | Workers on the Detroit City Railway Company went on strike shutting down the city's streetcars. A riot broke out when the company attempted to run the horse drawn streetcars.   |
| <b>24 APR 1864</b> | Michigan's first draft to supply men for the Union Army was held in Detroit..  |
| <b>24 APR 1898</b> | Governor Hazen Pingree called up the Michigan national guard for service in the Spanish-American War. While only 3 Michigan men died in combat in Cuba, 698 died of diseases including malaria and yellow fever.   |
| <b>24 APR 1918</b> | Women were first hired as mail carriers in Detroit.  |
| <b>24 APR 1941</b> | The first Chrysler built M-3 General Grant Tank rolled off the assembly line. By the end of WWII Chrysler had built more than 25,000 tanks.  |
| <b>25 APR 1835</b> | A posse led by the sheriff of Lenawee County arrested surveyors from Ohio who were trying to run a line through Lenawee and Hillsdale counties in order to establish Ohio's claim to the Toledo Strip. The governor of Ohio gathered 500 militiamen to invade Michigan.                      |
| <b>25 APR 1901</b> | The Detroit Tigers defeated the Milwaukee Brewers 14-13 at Bennett Park in the first American league game ever played.   |
| <b>25 APR 1959</b> | The St. Lawrence Seaway opened. This 400-mile waterway connected Michigan to the Atlantic Ocean bringing trade and foreign marine species.   |
| <b>26 APR 1775</b> | In Michigan's first regulations on the distribution of liquor, Detroit merchants could sell no more than one glass of liquor at a time to Indians.   |
| <b>26 APR 1837</b> | Detroit Anti-Slavery Society was organized.  |
| <b>26 APR 1927</b> | In a paper presented to the Women's Literary Club in Holland, biology teacher, Lida Rogers proposed that residents of Holland plant tulips and take a day to celebrate the flower associated with the city's Dutch residents. This marked the start of Holland's annual Tulip Time festival. |
| <b>26 APR 1982</b> | The Ann Arbor Railroad ceased all carferry service.  |

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| <b>27 APR 1763</b> | At a secret council of the Ottawa, Huron, and Pottawatomie held just south of Detroit, Pontiac reminded them of their grievances against the British and won their support for a plan to seize Detroit.   |
| <b>27 APR 1764</b> | A charter for the first Masonic Lodge west of the Alleghenies, "Zion Lodge of Masons, No. 1," was granted to Masons in Detroit.   |
| <b>27 APR 1833</b> | The luxury, passenger steamboat <i>Michigan</i> was launched at Detroit.  |
| <b>27 APR 1865</b> | The steamer <i>Sultana</i> , exploded near Memphis, TN. It was carrying men recently released from Confederate prisoner of war camps. Many of the 1400 men killed were from Michigan.   |
| <b>27 APR 1907</b> | African-Americans in Detroit sought to stop the production of the play "The Clansman" based on Thomas Dixon's racist novel of the same name that promoted the Ku Klux Klan by portraying Blacks as beasts.  |
| <b>27 APR 1915</b> | The wood bridge to Detroit's Belle Isle burned stranding 1000 people. They were rescued by cross-river ferry boats.   |
| <b>27 APR 1933</b> | Being short of cash because of the Great Depression, Detroit issued \$8,000,000 in scrip to city employees.   |
| <b>28 APR 1851</b> | Trial begins in the "Great Railroad Conspiracy." Abel Fitch was accused of being the leader of a group of disenchanting farmers who destroyed railroad property.  |
| <b>28 APR 1897</b> | The apple blossom was chosen as the state's official flower.  |
| <b>28 APR 1910</b> | The Flint Police Department ordered the first "paddy wagon," a truck with a cage to hold prisoners, from the Buick Motor Company.   |
| <b>28 APR 1915</b> | Wood bridge to Detroit's Belle Isle burned stranding 1000 people on the island. Detroit & Windsor Ferry boats left their cross-river runs to aid the stranded.  |
| <b>28 APR 1941</b> | Among the 24 men found guilty of gambling, racketeering, and prostitution in Detroit were Wayne County prosecutor Duncan Mc Crea, sheriff Thomas Wilcox, and president of Gross Point Park Alfred Garska.   |
| <b>28 APR 1976</b> | The Attorney general ruled that the state did not have to pay for a sex-change operation for a prison inmate.   |
| <b>29 APR 1817</b> | The Rush-Bagot Agreement was signed between England and the United States limiting each nation to just 2 small naval vessels on the Upper Lakes. This was the first step toward creating the world's longest unfortified international border.  |
| <b>29 APR 1898</b> | The John Phillip Sousa Band played his new march, Stars and Stripes Forever at the corner of Larner and Brush streets in Detroit.   |
| <b>29 APR 1911</b> | Michigan's official state flag with the state seal on a blue field was approved by the legislature.   |
| <b>29 APR 1924</b> | Cornerstone laid for the Detroit Institute of Art.  |
| <b>29 APR 1956</b> | The <i>Aerotrain</i> , an experimental high-speed passenger train began operating between Chicago and Detroit.  |
| <b>29 APR 1959</b> | John S. Lappo an Air Force pilot, from Muskegon, with a distinguished career in World War II, Korea, and flying spy planes over Russia flew a B-47 bomber under the Mackinac Bridge at 425 miles an hour. There is 150 feet of clearance between the bridge deck and the water and the plane was 38 feet from belly to the top of the tail. The daredevil stunt went unreported at the time, but when the Air Force learned about it, Lappo lost his pilot's wings. |

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- 29 APR 2004** Workers at the General Motors plant in Lansing built the last Oldsmobile. Oldsmobile had been the oldest auto name in continuous production.
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- 30 APR 1824** Congress appropriated \$10,000 to survey a road between Detroit and Chicago. The Territorial Road or Great Sauk Trail is now US12.
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- 30 APR 1942** The first Black families moved into the hotly disputed Sojourner Truth housing project for defense workers.
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- 30 APR 1954** The first passenger flight left Detroit's Metro Airport.
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- 30 APR 1971** Passenger rail service ended in most Michigan communities as Amtrak took over passenger rail operations.
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- 30 APR 1980** The government loaned the nearly bankrupt Chrysler Corporation \$150,000,000 in an attempt to save the jobs of thousands of Chrysler workers. With union cooperation and new designs including the K-car and the minivan, Chrysler returned to profitability and repaid all its state and federal obligations.
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