### Historical Dates in Michigan’s History

**April**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1901</td>
<td>The last known mastodon to live in Michigan died at the John Ball Zoological Park in Grand Rapids. (Happy April Fool’s Day!)</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>1906</td>
<td>The state’s first yellow-pages directory was issued by the Michigan State Telephone Company in Detroit.</td>
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<td>1963</td>
<td>Voters approved Michigan’s fourth state constitution. It replaced the 1908 constitution, changing the terms of the governor and state senators to 4 years.</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>1976</td>
<td>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.</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>1881</td>
<td>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 third largest department store in the country.</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>1966</td>
<td>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.</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>1977</td>
<td>A new anti-smoking law banned smoking in grocery stores and required no smoking areas in restaurants.</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>1837</td>
<td>Carpenters went on strike in Detroit hoping to get a ten-hour day and 2 dollars a day in pay.</td>
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<td>1838</td>
<td>Construction began on Michigan’s first prison at Jackson. In time it became the largest walled prison in the world.</td>
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<td>1853</td>
<td>First issue of the <em>Daily Free Democrat</em>. This predecessor of the <em>Detroit Free Press</em> started a year earlier as a weekly anti-slavery paper.</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>1869</td>
<td>Tax supported, tuition-free schools were established by the legislature.</td>
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<td>1871</td>
<td>Nannette B. Gardner, a wealthy Detroit widow, became the first woman to vote in a Detroit election. It would be nearly half a century before another woman would be allowed to vote.</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>1933</td>
<td>Michigan became the first state to repeal federal prohibition.</td>
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<td>1825</td>
<td>John R. Williams was elected Detroit’s first mayor.</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>1971</td>
<td>Gordie Howe played his last game as a member of the Detroit Red Wings.</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>1778</td>
<td>Daniel Boone brought to Detroit as a prisoner of war by the Shawnee Indians. Later escaped in time to warn the people of Boonseboro of a planned attack.</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>1947</td>
<td>Henry Ford dies at the age of 83.</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>1956</td>
<td>Last streetcar run in Detroit.</td>
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| 7   | 1970 | Detroit board of education approves a plan to desegregate 11 of Detroit’s 22 high
schools.

The robin is designated as the state’s official bird.

Detroit Red Wings win their third Stanley Cup beating Boston in 4 games.

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.

Chrysler announces plans to build 6 new factories in Michigan.

Detroit’s last horse drawn fire engine was retired.

Auto designer Harley Earl died. He put tail fins on the Cadillac and created the Corvette.

Zebulon Pike who later discovered Pike’s Peak became commander at Detroit when John F. Hamtramck died.

5,000 German brown trout are dumped into the Baldwin River near Baldwin.

Detroit Red Wings defeat Toronto to win their first Stanley Cup.

10,000 people attend joint UAW and NAACP rally calling for improved race relations in Detroit.

Palm Sunday tornados blew through central and southern Michigan killing 49 people.

British Captain Henry Bird left Detroit with 1200 Indians to attack American rebels in Kentucky.

4th Michigan Cavalry led by Benjamin Pritchard of Allegan captured Jefferson Davis, president of the Confederacy.

The successful field trials of the Salk polio vaccine were announced at a press conference at the University of Michigan.

Tigers lose to Minnesota in the last home opener in Tiger Stadium.

Law passed requiring all Blacks in Michigan to register at county clerks office and if they did not meet requirements for residence they would have to leave the territory.

News arrives about attack on Fort Sumter.

Henry Ford started a commercial airline service between Detroit and Chicago.

Ernie Harwell working for the Baltimore Orioles made his first broadcast from Briggs Stadium (later Tiger Stadium).

Henry Ford drove the 20,000,000th Ford off the assembly line and to the Ford Museum and parked it next to the first Ford built in 1893.

First issue of the Detroit Tribune, an important Black newspaper.

Ford recognized the UAW after a 10-day strike.


Renaissance Center opened in downtown Detroit.

Law signed by Governor William G. Milliken to end bounty on coyotes.

A 6-foot high seiche or tidal wave struck St. Joseph.

Peace treaty with Indians signed ending fighting related to War of 1812. Tecumseh’s
brother the Prophet was present.

18 1927 Wonder Bread is introduced.
18 1943 Tom Lamphier of Detroit, a pilot in the U.S. navy shot down Japan’s top military leader, Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto.
19 1851 Wayne County officers took a special train to Jackson to arrest Abel Fitch and other protesters charged in the “Great Railroad Conspiracy.”
19 1864 Rebel spy, Charles H. Cle tried to drug officers of the USS Michigan as part of a plot to try to free Confederate prisoners of war on Johnsn’s Island in Lake Erie.
19 1898 First Michigan soldiers leave for Cuba in Spanish-American War.
19 1927 Ty Tyson made the first radio broadcast of a regular season Detroit Tiger game, a 8-5 win over Cleveland Indians.
19 1973 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.
20 1909 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.
20 1940 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.
20 1948 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.
20 1952 A bloody riot began at Southern Michigan Prison in Jackson. Nine 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.
20 1988 1200 protestors circled Tiger Stadium hoping to convince Tiger management to keep the historic ballpark.
21 1806 The territorial governing council authorized plans to create a new city plan to rebuild Detroit following the 1805 fire.
21 1851 Temple Beth El, Michigan’s first Jewish Reformed Congregation was organized.
21 1976 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.
22 1974 The first suicide occurred on the Mackinac bridge when a young man from Royal Oak stopped his vehicle at the middle of the bridge and jumped to his death.
22 1833 The Michigan and Huron Institute, a Baptist college, was chartered. In 1855 the school changed its name to Kalamazoo College.
22 1833 Detroit city charter was amended to allow city property taxes.
22 1938 Briggs Stadium was dedicated. Later renamed Tiger Stadium.
23 1849 The Michigan Central Railroad, the first railroad to build a line across the state, opened service between Detroit and New Buffalo.
23 1859 The first patient was admitted to the Michigan Asylum for the Insane in Kalamazoo.
24 1864 In Detroit, the first draft was held to supply men for the Union Army.
24 1898 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.
24 1918 Women were hired as mail carriers in Detroit.
24 1941 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.
25 1901 The Detroit Tigers defeated the Milwaukee Brewers 14-13 at Bennett Park in the first American league game ever played.
25 1959 The St. Lawrence Seaway opened. This 400-mile waterway connected Michigan to the Atlantic Ocean bringing trade and foreign marine species.
26 1775 In Michigan’s first regulations on the distribution of liquor, Detroit merchants could sell
no more than one glass at a time to Indians.

26 1837 Detroit Anti-Slavery Society was organized.
27 1764 A charter for the first Masonic Lodge west of the Alleghenies, “Zion Lodge of Masons, No. 1,” was granted to Masons in Detroit.
27 1833 The luxury, passenger steamboat Michigan was launched at Detroit.
27 1933 Being short of cash because of the Great Depression, Detroit issued $8,000,000 in script to city employees.
28 1851 Trial begins in the “Great Railroad Conspiracy.” Abel Fitch was accused of being the leader of a group of disenchanted farmers who destroyed railroad property.
28 1897 The apple blossom was chosen as the state’s official flower.
28 1910 The Flint Police Department ordered the first “paddy wagon,” a truck with a cage to hold prisoners, from the Buick Motor Company.
28 1976 The Attorney general ruled that the state did not have to pay for a sex-change operation for a prison inmate.
29 1898 The John Phillip Sousa Band played his new march, Stars and Stripes Forever at the corner of Larner and Brush streets in Detroit.
29 1911 Michigan’s official state flag with the state seal on a blue field was approved by the legislature.
29 1924 Cornerstone laid for the Detroit Institute of Art.
29 1956 The Aerotrain, an experimental high speed passenger train began operating between Chicago and Detroit.
30 1980 The state 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.
30 1954 The first passenger flight left Detroit’s Metro Airport.
30 1824 Congress appropriated $10,000 to survey a road between Detroit and Chicago. The Territorial Road or Great Sauk Trail is now US12.
30 1942 The first Black families moved into the hotly disputed Sojourner Truth housing project for defense workers.
30 1971 Passenger rail service ends in most Michigan communities as Amtrak took over passenger rail operations.

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