

Historical Society of Michigan

Michigan History Calendar

Day	Year	Events
1 FEB	1813	After Detroit was captured in War of 1812, Colonel Henry Proctor, the British commander, declared martial law and ordered prominent Americans to leave Detroit.
1 FEB	1832	The Western Immigrant, an Ann Arbor newspaper, printed the first published proposal for a transcontinental railroad.
1 FEB	1967	Michigan became the first state to have a border-to-border interstate freeway when the last link of I-94 was completed.
2 FEB	1704	The Marie Therese Cadillac was the first child to be baptized in Detroit.
2 FEB	1846	The first regular train service between Kalamazoo and Detroit began on the Michigan Central Railroad.
2 FEB	1870	Elizabeth Stockwell from Kalamazoo was the first female to attend the University of Michigan. She graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in June 1872.
2 FEB	1921	Electric streetcars began operation in Detroit.
2 FEB	1936	The first players selected to the newly formed Baseball Hall of Fame included former Detroit Tiger Ty Cobb as well as Babe Ruth and Honus Wagner.
3 FEB	1838	Passengers rode the Michigan Central Railroad for the first time, Detroit to Ypsilanti.
3 FEB	1862	Thomas Edison began selling a one-page newspaper, the Weekly Herald, on a train between Port Huron and Detroit.
3 FEB	1889	Michigan's first skyscraper the 10-story Hammond Building in Detroit was completed.
3 FEB	1956	Highway speed limits of 65 miles per hour by day and 55 by night went into effect. Prior to this motorists could determine what was safe and reasonable.
4 FEB	1813	Colonel Henry Procter, British commander of Detroit after surrender of the town in the War of 1812, ordered a number of leading citizens to leave Detroit because of their criticism of his rule and his failure to control his Indian allies especially after the Raisin River Massacre 23 JAN 1813
4 FEB.	1902	Charles Lindberg, the first pilot to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean, was born in Detroit.
4 FEB	1922	Ford Motor Company purchases the Lincoln brand.
4 FEB	1948	Vincent Furnier was born in Detroit. He became better known as rock star, Alice Cooper.
5 FEB	1838	Detroit's militia company, the Brady guards, was mustered into service during the Patriot War in Canada.
6 FEB	1924	The first highway signs were installed on Michigan roads.
7 FEB	1812	An earthquake shook Michigan.
8 FEB	1880	The Chicago & Grand Trunk Railway completed its line between Port Huron and Chicago.
8 FEB	1985	The Stroh Brewery announced it was closing its Detroit plant.
8 FEB	2004	Senator John Kerry won the Democratic presidential nominating caucus, the first to allow online (internet) voting. More than 46,000 Democrats took advantage of this new way to record their choices.
9 FEB	1847	Dutch immigrants fleeing religious persecution and economic distress followed their leader Rev. Albertus Van Raalte to West Michigan and founded Holland.

9 FEB	1864	Elizabeth "Libbie" Bacon married Brigadier General George Armstrong Custer in Monroe's First Presbyterian Church. Custer was born in Ohio but came to consider Monroe his hometown.
9 FEB	1934	Record for coldest temperature (-51°) the in state was set at Vanderbilt.
9 FEB	1942	Production of automobiles for civilians ceased for the duration of World War II. Michigan became known as the "Arsenal of Democracy."
9 FEB	1951	A state employee, fearing he would be drafted to fight in Korea set a fire in the Lewis Cass Building in Lansing. He went to prison but much of the state library and archival collection was destroyed.
10 FEB	1763	As part of Treaty of Paris, 1763, ending the French and Indian War, France ceded Canada to the British thus giving England formal control of Michigan.
10 FEB	1922	The Detroit Symphony was the first orchestra to have a concert broadcast on the radio.
11 FEB	1937	After a three-month sit down strike, General Motors recognized the United Auto Workers Union.
12 FEB	1781	A party of Spanish, French, and Indians, seeking revenge for an earlier British attack on a Spanish post at St. Louis, captured Fort St. Joseph (Niles) giving the community its nickname, "City of Four Flags"— French, English, Spanish, and American.
12 FEB	1835	The Michigan territorial legislature passed a law making it unlawful for anyone who was not a citizen of Michigan to carryout any official functions within the territory. The law was aimed at Ohio engineers building locks for the Maumee Canal within the disputed Toledo Strip.
12 FEB	1855	A new state law required that workers on passenger trains wear a badge on their hat or cap to indicate their title or office.
12 FEB	1966	Well-known scholar, Rabbi Morris Adler was shot trying to protect a young boy during a Bar Mitzvah service at Shaarey Zedek synagogue in Southfield. He died a month later.
13 FEB	1855	Reacting to the passage of the Fugitive Slave law, the Michigan legislature prohibited using county jails to hold escaped slaves.
13 FEB	1926	The first dial telephones became available for residential use.
14 FEB	1933	In the midst of the Great Depression, it appeared the Union Guardian Trust Company would default and that would lead to a rush on Michigan's banks. After meeting with banking officials, Governor William A. Comstock declared a two-week banking holiday. The holiday was extended and Michigan's banks were still closed when President Roosevelt declared an indefinite federal bank holiday in March.
15 FEB	1921	25 citizens of Michigan were deported to Russia in the Red Scare.
16 FEB	1819	Residents in the Territory of Michigan voted in a congressional election for the first time electing William Woodbridge as a non-voting member of the US House of Representatives.
16 FEB	1897	<i>Pere Marquette 15</i> , the first all steel carferry, made it's first crossing between Ludington and Manitowoc, Wisconsin.
16 FEB	1926	The first ski jumping competition was held at Ishpeming Ski Club's Suicide Hill.
16 FEB	1940	Sonny Bono, songwriter, actor, and Congressman, was born in Detroit.
17 FEB	1863	The First Michigan Colored Infantry was mustered into service against the Confederacy.
18 FEB	1839	The Detroit Boat Club, the oldest continuously operating yacht club in the country, was organized.
18 FEB	1842	The legislature approved the organization of a public school system in Detroit.

18 FEB	1895	George Gipp was born at Laurim on the Keweenaw Peninsula. He became a football star at Notre Dame was immortalized in a 1940 movie about Knute Rockne, "Win one for the Gipper."
19 FEB	1970	Baseball's last thirty game winner, Detroit Tiger pitcher, Denny McLain, was suspended because of his involvement with gamblers. He was later sent to prison for racketeering.
20 FEB	1763	With the signing of the Treaty of Paris, 1763, Britain gained formal control of all lands in the Northwest Territory including Michigan's two peninsulas.
20 FEB	1852	The Michigan Southern Railroad reached Chicago.
21 FEB	1904	National Ski Association was organized at Ishpeming, now home of the National Ski Hall of Fame.
21 FEB	1965	Black nationalist leader, Malcolm X who had been raised in Lansing was assassinated.
21 FEB	1965	Black spiritual leader and civil rights activist, Malcolm X, was assassinated in New York by rival Black Muslims. He was born in Nebraska, but raised in Lansing and Mason as Malcolm Little. His father was murdered in Lansing.
22 FEB	1855	The first common carrier railroad in the Upper Peninsula, the Iron Mountain Railroad, was chartered by the state legislature.
22 FEB	1973	Hermus Millsaps became Michigan's first winner of a million dollars in the state lottery.
23 FEB	1973	The ex-wife of Hermus Millsaps sued for a share of his winnings as the first lottery millionaire. She lost.
24 FEB	1844	Olivet, Michigan's first co-educational college was established. It was chartered 15 years later.
24 FEB	1906	Detroit's Tommy Burns became the first heavyweight champion.
24 FEB	1928	The use of marijuana was outlawed in Detroit. There were no state or federal restrictions at that time.
25 FEB	1779	American Revolutionary War leader, George Rogers Clark tricked Detroit's Lieutenant Governor, Henry "Hair Buyer" Hamilton, into surrendering himself and Vincennes by making him think the Rebels had a much larger military force.
25 FEB	1976	State attorney general ruled that State Corrections Department could not make a profit through manufacture of automobile license plates.
26 FEB	1809	Judge James Witherell drew up an education bill for the Territory of Michigan.
26 FEB	1906	The nation's first Shrine Circus opened in Detroit.
26 FEB	2004	James Minder resigned as CEO of Smith & Wesson, the country's second-biggest handgun maker, when it was revealed he worked his way through the University of Michigan as a stick-up man. Minder spent 15 years in Michigan prisons for armed robberies and an attempted prison escape.
27 FEB	1702	A large white comet frightened Indians and French traders.
27 FEB	1902	The first Detroit automobile show was held in the Detroit Light Guard Armory.
27 FEB	1942	A KKK cross was burned near the Sojourner Truth Housing Project one day before the families of Black war industry workers were to move in.
28 FEB	1832	Congress established the Detroit Arsenal in Dearbornville.
28 FEB	1908	The electric locomotives made their first trip through the St. Clair Tunnel. Steam locomotives proved to be too dangerous in the confined space of a tunnel.
28 FEB	1952	Coleman Young took on the House Un-American Activities Committee in Detroit, charging southern members with racism and defending his efforts to secure equality for African-Americans. Young was elected mayor in 1973.

29 FEB 1948 In a number of cities, policemen began experimenting with radar as a way to catch speeders.

29 FEB 2000 Former Detroit Tiger manager, Sparky Anderson was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame.

29 FEB 2000 Six-year-old, Kayla Rolland was shot to death by a fellow first grader at Buell Elementary School in Mount Morris Township near Flint.
