

Historical Society of Michigan

Michigan History Calendar

Day	Year	Events
1 JUL	1805	Territorial governor William Hull arrived at Detroit and was shocked to find only ashes where he expected the capital to be. Detroit had burned 11 JUN 1805.
1 JUL	1863	At the start of the battle at Gettysburg, the Twenty-Fourth Infantry made up of volunteers from Wayne County suffered heavy casualties as it held up the Confederate advance until George Meade's Army of the Potomac could get into position.
1 JUL	1885	Members of the Knights of Labor went on strike against lumber mills in the Saginaw Valley. They mistakenly thought a new ten-hour a day law went into effect that day. Governor Russell A. Alger sent in the militia to work with the Pinkerton Guards hired by the operators. This was the first time state troops were used against striking workmen. After three months the men got their ten-hour day.
1 JUL	1917	Selfridge Field near Mt. Clemens began operations. It was named for Lt. Thomas E. Selfridge, the first military man to die in an aircraft mishap.
1 JUL	1971	For the first time, Michigan drivers could use a personal check to pay for license plates.
1 JUL	2001	Michigan's law went into effect allowing anyone who hadn't been caught for a crime to carry a concealed weapon. Within a year, over 50,000 permits were granted nearly doubling the number of citizens carrying guns.
1 JUL	2002	The state's early retirement program went into effect. Within 4 months over 12% of the state's civil servants retired saving the state money, but with the loss of a lot of institutional memory.
2 JUL	1831	Alexis de Tocqueville arrived in Detroit for a 3-day visit. His observations about America, its people and their attitudes were recorded in his classic study, <i>Democracy in America</i> .
2 JUL	1917	The first Ford truck was manufactured.
2 JUL	1942	Max Stephan of Detroit was found guilty of treason for helping a Nazi prisoner of war escape. He was the first American to be convicted and sentenced to be executed since the Whiskey Rebellion during George Washington's administration. President Franklin Roosevelt commuted his sentenced to life imprisonment.
2 JUL	1972	The first state lottery was established.
3 JUL	1882	The Grand Rapids & Indiana Railroad reached Mackinac City.
3 JUL	1919	The first veterans of the Polar Bear Expedition return to Michigan. The 339th Infantry Regiment made up of men from Michigan and the Midwest returned after serving on the Murmask front in Russia.
3 JUL	1936	The Wright brothers' bicycle shop was purchased by Henry Ford to add to his collection of significant buildings at Greenfield Village.
3 JUL	1973	Detroit Tiger pitcher, Jim Perry started against the Indians in Cleveland. The Cleveland Indian starter was his brother Gaylord Perry. This was the first time in American League history that brothers started against each.

4 JUL	1779	British officials held a meeting at the Ottawa village at L'Arbre Croche to rally the Indians to resist the movements by George Rogers Clark and the American rebels. Arent Schuyler de Peyster, commander at Michilimackinac recorded his remarks as a poem, "Speech to the Western Indians," and published it in his <i>Miscellanies of an Officer</i> .
4 JUL	1803	Militiamen from Detroit began the construction of Fort Dearborn (Chicago) under orders from Secretary of War Henry Dearborn.
4 JUL	1832	A boat carrying troops to fight in the Black Hawk War landed at Detroit to unload sick 11 soldiers. They had cholera. The disease spread throughout Detroit and the state.
4 JUL	1833	Black Hawk, who had led an unsuccessful uprising against the United States that led to a smallpox epidemic in Michigan and to Abraham Lincoln's only active military experience, visited Detroit while returning from a trip East where government officials tried to impress him with the futility of any further resistance.
4 JUL	1837	<i>Adrian</i> the first steam locomotive in the state began operating on the Erie & Kalamazoo Railroad.
4 JUL	1843	The Detroit & Pontiac Railroad began service between Detroit and Pontiac.
4 JUL	1858	Scheduled passenger service to Grand Rapids started on the Detroit & Milwaukee Railroad.
4 JUL	1863	As the Confederate cavalry force led by Jeb Stuart withdrew from the battlefield at Gettysburg, the Fifth and Sixth Michigan Cavalry led by Brigadier General Russell A. Alger captured his supply wagons and 1500 Confederate prisoners. In 1884, Alger later elected governor of Michigan and in 1867 he became Secretary of War in the William McKinley administration.
4 JUL	1865	The first parade of union workmen was held in Detroit led by Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, Iron Molders, Machinists and Blacksmiths, Cigarmakers, Carpenters, and Plasterers.
4 JUL	1866	Civil War soldiers from Michigan rallied in Detroit for one last march. They presented their flags to Governor Henry Crapo.
4 JUL	1876	To help celebrate the nation's centennial, Muskegon madam, "Big Delia" and her employees built a huge pavilion and threw a party with free beer for 1000 lumberjacks.
4 JUL	1894	Five companies of the Fifth Regiment, Michigan National Guard, sent by Governor John H. Rich, arrived in Gogebic County to break a strike by iron miners. They protected scabs and arrested union leaders. They remained on the scene until 30 JUL.
4 JUL	2002	Winifred Quick Van Tongerloo of East Lansing died. She was Michigan's last survivor of the sinking of the <i>Titanic</i> . She was eight years old when the ship sank 10 April 1912 and she was the last survivor who could remember the tragedy for the remaining three survivors were too young to recall what happened.
5 JUL	1812	General William Hull arrived in Detroit with American troops for an invasion of Canada.
6 JUL	1834	Territorial governor, George B. Porter died for Asiatic cholera and young Stevens T. Mason became acting governor until removed in 1835 by President Jackson because of the dispute over the "Toledo Strip."
6 JUL	1954	1,500 Whigs, Democrats, and Free-Soilers opposed to the Kansas-Nebraska Act and the extension of slavery met in an oak grove near Jackson. They organized themselves into the Michigan Republican Party. Although at an earlier meeting in Ripon, WI a group called themselves Republicans, at Jackson, this gathering was the first to approve a platform and nominate candidates.

7 JUL	1845	The first issue of the <i>Detroit Daily News</i> was published.
7 JUL	1916	The Detroit Light Guard, part of the Michigan National Guard arrived in El Paso, Texas to join the expedition against Pancho Villa.
7 JUL	1927	Henry Ford apologized to American Jews, admitting that anti-Semitic articles published in the <i>Dearborn Independent</i> , which he controlled, were false.
7 JUL	1933	Governor William A. Comstock signed the Old Age Assistance Act. Individuals over 70 who had lived in the state for 10 years could receive a pension of \$30 per month.
8 JUL	1850	James J. Strang who settled on Beaver Island with a group of Mormon followers was crowned King James in his capital, St. James.
8 JUL	1909	The first regularly scheduled night game in baseball was played in Grand Rapids between Grand Rapids and Zanesville of the Central Baseball league.
8 JUL	1938	Anthony Chebatoris was hung at the Federal Correctional Institution in Milan for killing a bystander during a failed bank robbery in Midland. He was the last person executed in Michigan and the first person to be executed under the National Bank Robbery Act of 1934.
8 JUL	1975	Grand Rapids native, President Gerald R. Ford announced that he would seek the Republican nomination for the presidency in 1976.
9 JUL	1755	800 Indians including many Ottawa from Michigan defeated Major General Edward Braddock's 3000-man British army near Fort Duquesne (Pittsburgh). Braddock and 1,200 of his men were killed. His aide-de-camp, George Washington, escaped.
9 JUL	1805	Michigan territory's first law, an act adopting a state seal was passed by a legislative council made up of the territorial governor and three judges.
9 JUL	1906	Timothy Murphy, priest at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in St. Joseph issued a directive that women had to wear hats to church. His ultimatum started a statewide campaign to stop a trend in which women were entering church without hats.
10 JUL	1887	The Grand Hotel with the world's longest wood porch, opened on Mackinac Island.
10 JUL	1889	A seventy-pound meteorite landed on a street in Allegan burying itself a foot and a half into the ground.
10 JUL	1967	The state chartered the Southeastern Michigan Transportation Authority (SEMTA) to improve commuter service between Detroit and Pontiac. SEMTA operated commuter trains on Grand Trunk Western tracks until October 1983.
11 JUL	1796	Captain Moses Porter led a party of American troops into Detroit. The United States flag flew over Detroit for the first time as the British gave up control of Michigan as agreed to in Jay's Treaty.
12 JUL	1812	The Michigan militia led by territorial governor William Hull crossed the Detroit River to invade Canada. Hull failed to attack Fort Malden and when the Canadians resisted his advance he withdrew back to Detroit on 7 AUG 1812.
12 JUL	1812	Governor William Hull led United States forces into Canada hoping to gain control of that British colony. He retreated back to Detroit on 7 August.
12 JUL	1831	Nineteen-year-old Stevens T. Mason is named secretary of the territory of Michigan when the former secretary, his father John Mason, is sent on a mission to Mexico by President Andrew Jackson.
12 JUL	1974	Four Flint-area women joined a Michigan National Guard infantry unit. They became the first females to join a guard combat unit.
13 JUL	1787	The Northwest Ordinance was passed by Congress under the Articles of Confederation providing for government in the territories and eventual statehood for Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin, and Illinois.

13 JUL	1796	Lieutenant Colonel John Francis Hamtramck arrived in Detroit taking command of the fort and providing American civil government.
13 JUL	1885	Governor Russell A. Alger, who was a lumberman, sent in three militia companies to break a strike of sawmill workers in Bay City.
13 JUL	1971	One of the most memorable hits at Tiger Stadium came during the 1971 All-Star Game when Reggie Jackson smashed a Doc Ellis pitch into the light stand above the right field bleachers.
13 JUL	1977	The Tigers sold Tiger Stadium to the City of Detroit then signed a 30 years lease. The city renovated the stadium using a grant from the federal government.
13 JUL	1978	Lee Iacocca, who had developed the Mustang, was fired as President of the Ford Motor Company by Chairman Henry Ford II. Iacocca went on to become president of Chrysler Corporation.
14 JUL	1968	For the first time since prohibition, liquor could be served on Sunday..
14 JUL	1980	The 32nd Republican National Convention opened in Detroit. Ronald Reagan was nominated as the Republican candidate for the presidency.
14 JUL	2003	Former member of University of Michigan's "Fab Five" pled guilty to charge of criminal contempt to avoid trial on obstruction of justice charges. He admitted he did not tell the truth regarding loans given to him by booster Ed Martin.
15 JUL	1862	A patriotic rally in Detroit to help raise troops was broken up by a mob opposed to the Civil War
15 JUL	1914	Ford Motor Company acquired property for the River Rouge Plant.
15 JUL	1917	Construction began on Camp Custer, later Fort Custer, near Battle Creek. Camp Custer became an induction and training facility for World War I troops.
15 JUL	1936	<i>The Mercury</i> , Michigan's first streamlined passenger train began service on the New York Central between Detroit and Cleveland. By November 1938, <i>The Mercury</i> was also operating between Detroit and Chicago.
15 JUL	1975	The state attorney general ruled that when a woman married she did not have to adopt her husband's last name.
16 JUL	1792	Michigan residents voted for representatives to the Provincial Assembly of Upper Canada. Michigan was made part of the United States in the 1783 Treaty of Paris, but Britain refused to give up control of their posts in Michigan until Jay's Treaty was signed in 1796.
16 JUL	1835	Joseph Wood, a Monroe County deputy sheriff, became the only casualty of the Toledo War. While trying to arrest Two Stickney (that was his name—his father expected to have many sons) for resisting Michigan officers, he received a minor stab wound in the left side.
17 JUL	1777	Lieutenant Governor Henry Hamilton sent 15 war parties into Kentucky to attack frontier settlements. They brought back over 500 prisoners. Hamilton paid for the prisoners but he also paid for scalps so became known as the "Hair Buyer."
17 JUL	1812	A British force landed on Mackinac Island to the surprise of the American troops at Fort Mackinac who had not been told the United States had declared war on Great Britain. The English retained control of the fort until the war ended.
17 JUL	1914	Dodge Motor Company was incorporated.
17 JUL	1980	Anna Howard Shaw from Alma became the first woman to be named bishop of a major Christian denomination when the United Methodist Church selected her as Bishop of Wisconsin.

17 JUL 1983 The Michigan Panthers defeated the Philadelphia Stars to win the championship of the United States Football League. This was the first professional football championship for a Michigan team since the Detroit Lions won the NFL championship in 1957.

18 JUL 1927 Detroit Tiger star Ty Cobb collected his 4000th hit. At the end of his career he had hit safely 4,187 times.
