

# Historical Society of Michigan

## Michigan History Calendar

Day	Year	Events
1 OCT	1721	Charles-Ange Collet was born at St. Joseph. He was the first person born in Michigan to become a priest.
1 OCT	1836	Michigan's first operating railroad, the Erie & Kalamazoo, began operation between Adrian and Toledo using horse-drawn passenger cars.
1 OCT	1859	The University of Michigan law school opened.
1 OCT	1908	The Ford Model T went on the market.
1 OCT	1917	Production of the Fordson, the world's first mass-produced tractor begins in Dearborn.
1 OCT	1967	Michigan's first state income tax went into effect. Individual incomes were taxed at the rate of 2.6%.
1 OCT	1971	Contracts with the Big Three automakers allowed UAW employees to retire after 30 years of service.
1 OCT	1973	Michigan's "no-fault" auto insurance went into effect requiring all drivers to have insurance and insurance companies to pay medical claims without waiting to determine blame.
2 OCT	1853	The <i>Detroit Free Press</i> became the first Michigan newspaper to publish a regular Sunday edition.
2 OCT	1873	Cornerstone was laid for capitol building in Lansing. Building was completed in 1879 at cost of \$1,510,000.
2 OCT	1900	United States Lifesaving Service station in Charlevoix was formally opened although the crew had been on hand as early as August when they rescued a floundering swimmer.
2 OCT	1975	The fabric roof on the Pontiac Silverdome was inflated for the first time. At the time, it was the world's largest air-supported roof.
3 OCT	1937	The state's first railroad enthusiast group, the Michigan Railroad Club, was formed.
3 OCT	1939	The state health department started a campaign in the public schools to encourage parents to use iodized salt to reduce the risk of developing goiters.
4 OCT	1641	The first Christian religious services in Michigan were held by French missionaries Fathers Isaac Jogues and Charles Raymbault at Saulte Ste. Marie.
4 OCT	1818	Michigan's first Protestant Sunday School began at Detroit. It was supported by various denominations.
4 OCT	1931	Chester Gould's comic strip, "Dick Tracy," first appears in the <i>Detroit Daily Mirror</i> .
5 OCT	1813	The two-day Battle of the Thames began. In the battle Tecumseh was reportedly killed by Richard Johnson. Johnson went on to become elected vice president of the United States.
5 OCT	1835	Voters approved Michigan's first state constitution. It would be two years before Congress would accept Michigan statehood and its constitution primarily because of the dispute over the Toledo Strip.
5 OCT	1852	The first college to train teachers, Michigan Normal School at Ypsilanti, was dedicated. Today it is Eastern Michigan University.
6 OCT	1833	Michigan's first Roman Catholic diocese became a reality when Frederick Rese was consecrated as the first bishop of the Diocese of Detroit.

<b>6 OCT</b>	<b>1975</b>	80,642 people watched the Detroit Lions lose to Dallas, 36–10, in the first game played in the Pontiac Silverdome.
<b>6 OCT</b>	<b>2001</b>	Over 72,000 spectators watched Michigan State and the University of Michigan skate to a 3-3 tie in Spartan Stadium. This was the largest crowd to ever watch a hockey game.
<b>7 OCT</b>	<b>1763</b>	The Proclamation of 1763 closed the western frontier including Michigan to keep settlers from interfering with the Indians. It became one of the causes of the American Revolution.
<b>7 OCT</b>	<b>1917</b>	Henry Ford revolutionized the production of automobiles as the first moving production line started operation at Ford's Highland Park plant.
<b>7 OCT</b>	<b>1935</b>	The Detroit Tigers won their first World Series Championship by beating the Chicago Cubs, 7–3, in the sixth game at Briggs Stadium.
<b>8 OCT</b>	<b>1805</b>	The territorial legislature passed Michigan's first welfare law directing justices of the peace to arrange support for the poor at a cost not to exceed 25 cents per day.
<b>8 OCT</b>	<b>1871</b>	Holland, Manistee, and 90% of the homes in Michigan's thumb were destroyed by fire on the same day Chicago burned.
<b>8 OCT</b>	<b>1925</b>	The first of 125 Ford Tri-Motor Airplanes is completed. This all-metal-three engine plane was used by America's first commercial airlines.
<b>8 OCT</b>	<b>1938</b>	The Blue Water Bridge over the St. Clair River at Port Huron was dedicated.
<b>9 OCT</b>	<b>1917</b>	In the first attempt at traffic regulation in Michigan a tower was built at the intersection of Woodward Avenue and Grand Boulevard so a policeman could see and direct traffic. Michigan's first traffic light was installed at this intersection three years later.
<b>9 OCT</b>	<b>1935</b>	Ionia Reformatory was wired so every inmate could listen to radio broadcasts using earphones they could rent. It was the first prison in the world to make radio available to all prisoners.
<b>9 OCT</b>	<b>1971</b>	An ex-convict from Pontiac used a pistol to hijack an Eastern Airlines plane and force it to fly to Cuba. Four years later he was arrested in South Haven for killing a police officer. How he returned from Cuba remained a mystery.
<b>10 OCT</b>	<b>1879</b>	At Jackson, the wreck of Michigan Central Railroad's "Pacific Express" killed 18 passengers.
<b>10 OCT</b>	<b>1881</b>	Three railroads, the Detroit, Mackinac & Marquette, the Michigan Central, and the Grand Rapids & Indiana formed the Mackinac Transportation Company to operate railroad carferry service across the Straits of Mackinac.
<b>10 OCT</b>	<b>1901</b>	Henry Ford driving a car he had built without brakes defeated Alexander Winton in the first automobile race ever held in Detroit.
<b>10 OCT</b>	<b>1945</b>	The Detroit Tigers won their second World Series Championship beating the Chicago Cubs, 9–3, in the deciding seventh game in Chicago. This was the last time the Cubbies played in a World Series.
<b>10 OCT</b>	<b>1968</b>	The Detroit Tigers won their third World Series as Mickey Lolich pitched three complete games and hit a key home run to help defeat the St. Louis Cardinals in a seven game series.
<b>11 OCT</b>	<b>1869</b>	"Colored" children were admitted into Detroit's schools for the first time.
<b>11 OCT</b>	<b>1973</b>	The first "vanity" automobile license plates were issued.
<b>11 OCT</b>	<b>1997</b>	U-M basketball coach Steve Fischer is fired as allegations begin to surface regarding loans given to student athletes by booster Ed Martin. In May 2003 the NCAA levied sanctions against the school's basketball program.

<b>12 OCT</b>	<b>1852</b>	The Michigan State Teacher's Association was organized. It was the forerunner of the Michigan Education Association.
<b>12 OCT</b>	<b>1973</b>	President Nixon named U.S. Representative, Gerald R. Ford, to replace Spiro T. Agnew as Vice-President of the United States. Agnew had been forced to resign because of charges of corruption and tax evasion.
<b>13 OCT</b>	<b>1921</b>	Detroit's WWJ became Michigan's first licensed radio station.
<b>13 OCT</b>	<b>1960</b>	Cobo Hall was dedicated. At the time it was the world's largest exhibition hall.
<b>14 OCT</b>	<b>1845</b>	Douglass Houghton, the state geologist who mapped much of Michigan, drowned in a storm on Lake Superior near Eagle River.
<b>14 OCT</b>	<b>1960</b>	Presidential candidate John F. Kennedy proposes formation of the Peace Corps during a speech on the steps of the University of Michigan student union.
<b>14 OCT</b>	<b>1968</b>	Dr. John W. Porter became the first African-American to be named as a state superintendent of schools.
<b>14 OCT</b>	<b>1984</b>	The Tigers, led by Kirk Gibson, defeat the San Diego Padres in five games to win their 4th World Series.
<b>15 OCT</b>	<b>1730</b>	Founder of Detroit, Antoine de la Mothe Cadillac, died at Castelsarrasin, France.
<b>15 OCT</b>	<b>1880</b>	After leaving Grand Haven, the passenger steamer <i>Alpena</i> sank near Holland en route to Chicago.
<b>15 OCT</b>	<b>1966</b>	Congress authorized Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore protecting cliffs, beaches, sand dunes, waterfalls, and forest along the Lakes Superior shoreline.
<b>16 OCT</b>	<b>1946</b>	Eighteen-year old Detroit Red Wing rookie, Gordie Howe scored a goal in his first appearance at Olympia Stadium. Howe played for 32 seasons in the National Hockey League and in the World Hockey League where he played with his sons.
<b>17 OCT</b>	<b>1899</b>	President William McKinley came to Three Oaks to dedicate a cannon captured by Admiral Dewey in the Battle of Manila during the Spanish American War. The cannon was awarded to Three Oaks as a trophy for its efforts at raising the largest per-capita contribution for a memorial to the men of the <i>Maine</i> , which sank in Havana Harbor.
<b>17 OCT</b>	<b>1983</b>	The last commuter train ran in Michigan. The Southeastern Michigan Transportation Authority (SEMTA) ended rail operations between Detroit and Pontiac on the Grand Trunk Western.
<b>18 OCT</b>	<b>1979</b>	NBA history was made during the Detroit Pistons versus the New York Knicks game at the Pontiac Silverdome. It was the first time two teams composed entirely of African-American players played each other.
<b>19 OCT</b>	<b>1875</b>	Zachariah Chandler, former Senator and leader of the Radical Republicans was named Secretary of the Interior by President Ulysses S. Grant. Chandler had been defeated in his attempt at reelection to the Senate and used this appointment to rebuild his political base.
<b>20 OCT</b>	<b>1983</b>	Former slave and women's rights advocate, Sojourner Truth of Battle Creek, became the first individual inducted into the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame.
<b>20 OCT</b>	<b>2003</b>	Kirk Jones from Canton Township became the first person survive a plunge over Niagara Falls without a safety device. He later joined the Toby Tyler Circus.
<b>21 OCT</b>	<b>1842</b>	The state's official poet, Will Carleton, author of "Over the Hill to the Poorhouse" was born near Hudson in Lenawee County. His birthday was decreed a state holiday that is to be commemorated by appropriate activities in every school.
<b>21 OCT</b>	<b>1929</b>	The Edison Institute (Greenfield Village and the Ford Museum) was dedicated by President Herbert Hoover and Henry Ford's friend, Thomas Edison.

<b>21 OCT</b>	<b>1977</b>	Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore including massive coastal sand dunes on the Lake Michigan shore and North and South Manitou Islands was established.
<b>22 OCT</b>	<b>1929</b>	Grand Trunk Western carferry <i>Milwaukee</i> was lost in a violent storm with the loss of all hands, at least 42 lives.
<b>22 OCT</b>	<b>1955</b>	The state's first official historic marker was dedicated on the campus of Michigan State University. It commemorated the founding of the first state supported agricultural college in the country.
<b>23 OCT</b>	<b>1965</b>	The last steam locomotive used in regular service dropped its fire in Detroit after a run from Durand. It had been used by the Grand Trunk Western.
<b>24 OCT</b>	<b>1889</b>	Detroit won its first baseball championship defeating the St. Louis Browns to take the American Association title.
<b>24 OCT</b>	<b>1901</b>	A Bay City schoolteacher, Annie Edson Taylor, became the first woman to go over the Niagara Falls in a barrel and live to tell about her adventure.
<b>24 OCT</b>	<b>1998</b>	Michigan's largest department store, Detroit's J.L. Hudson store, was imploded.
<b>25 OCT</b>	<b>1825</b>	The Erie Canal was officially opened. This water connection between the Great Lakes and the Hudson River led to a population explosion. Michigan sought statehood within a decade.
<b>25 OCT</b>	<b>1889</b>	An underwater telephone cable across the Straits of Mackinac made the first permanent connection between Michigan's two peninsulas.
<b>25 OCT</b>	<b>1902</b>	Bicycle racer Barney Oldfield started his auto-racing career after having taken just one week's lessons in driving a motor vehicle. He raced Henry Ford's "999" covering five miles in just five minutes and twenty-eight seconds.
<b>25 OCT</b>	<b>1924</b>	Ty Tyson of WWJ radio in Detroit made the first play-by-play broadcast of a University of Michigan football game.