CHRONOLOGY OF MICHIGAN HISTORY

1618-1701

1618 Etienne Brulé passes through North Channel at the neck of Lake Huron; that same year (or during two following years) he lands at Sault Ste. Marie, probably the first European to look upon the Sault. The Michigan Native American population is approximately 15,000.

1621 Brulé returns, explores the Lake Superior coast, and notes copper deposits.

1634 Jean Nicolet passes through the Straits of Mackinac and travels along Lake Michigan's northern shore, seeking a route to the Orient.

1641 Fathers Isaac Jogues and Charles Raymbault conduct religious services at the Sault.

1660 Father René Mesnard establishes the first regular mission, held throughout winter at Keweenaw Bay.

1668 **Father Jacques Marquette** takes over the Sault mission and founds the first permanent settlement on Michigan soil at Sault Ste. Marie.

1669 Louis Jolliet is guided east by way of the Detroit River, Lake Erie, and Lake Ontario.

1671 Simon François, Sieur de St. Lusson, lands at the Sault, claims vast Great Lakes region, comprising most of western America, for Louis XIV.

St. Ignace is founded when Father Marquette builds a mission chapel.

First of the military outposts, Fort de Buade (later known as Fort Michilimackinac), is established at St. Ignace.

1673 Jolliet and Marquette travel down the Mississippi River.

1675 Father Marquette dies at Ludington.

1679 The ***Griffon***, the first sailing vessel on the Great Lakes, is built by René Robert Cavelier, Sieur de La Salle, and lost in a storm on Lake Michigan. ➤

La Salle erects Fort Miami at the mouth of the St. Joseph River.

1680 La Salle, with a small group, marches across the Lower Peninsula, reaching the Detroit River in ten days, the first Europeans to penetrate this territory.

1681 Earliest known use of "Michigan" on a map.

1686 French build Fort St. Joseph at Port Huron.

1690 Father Claude Aveneau explores the upper reaches of the St. Joseph River; establishes mission on the present site of Niles.

1694 Antoine de la Mothe **Cadillac** is appointed commandant of the Michilimackinac (St. Ignace) post; remains until 1697.

1697 Fort St. Joseph is built at mission on the St. Joseph River (Niles).

1701 Detroit is founded as Fort Pontchartrain by Cadillac as a permanent settlement to protect and secure the fur trade.

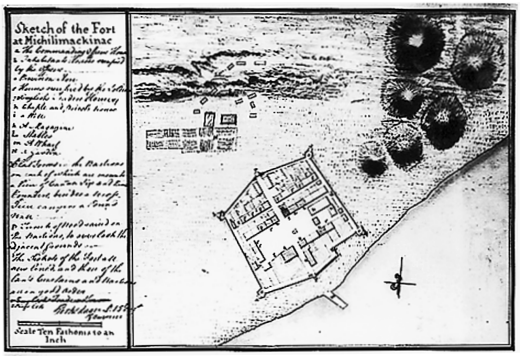
Ste. Anne's Church, a log structure, is erected by Cadillac's men and dedicated two days after the founding of Detroit. Ste. Anne's is the second oldest continuously maintained Roman Catholic parish in the United States.

In the fall, Madame Cadillac and Madam Tonty arrive at the fort as the first European women in the region.

1712-1784

1712 British-inspired Indian raids begin, including the siege of Fort Pontchartrain.

1715 **Fort Michilimackinac** is reestablished on the southern shore of the Straits of Mackinac.



1756 France and England begin the Seven Years' War (also known as the French and Indian War).

1759 The French surrender to the English at Montreal; this marks the decline of French power in Michigan.

1760 British Major Robert Rogers receives the surrender of Detroit, after taking Great Lakes fortifications. About 2,000 people are within the stockade; warehouses found to contain furs worth $500,000.

1761 The British occupy Fort Michilimackinac.

1762 Pontiac, an Ottawa chief, plans a conspiracy against British; calls for a council near Detroit in the spring.

The English take possession of the Sault.

1763 With the ratification of the Treaty of Versailles, France loses North American mainland possessions.

Pontiac and followers enter the fort at Detroit in an abortive effort to capture it from Major Henry Gladwin by surprise attack. Detroit endures a siege of several weeks.

1765 **Pontiac** signs a treaty with the British at Detroit, nearly a year after other tribes have made peace. ➤

1775 Henry Hamilton takes command at Detroit.

1777 British conduct raids from Detroit into Kentucky.

1778 Construction begins on Fort Lernoult, Detroit.

Daniel Boone brought to Detroit as a prisoner.

1779 Nearly 3,000 persons living in the Detroit area.

1781 Spanish forces from St. Louis take Fort St. Joseph (Niles); all residents are taken prisoner; the Spanish flag is raised. Raiders depart the next day and the fort reverts to British possession.

The British transfer garrison from Michilimackinac to a new fort on Mackinac Island.

1782 Moravians establish Indian mission near what is today Mount Clemens.

1783 The Treaty of Paris is signed, ending the Revolutionary War and including Michigan in the United States. The British control the Michigan area, however, for 13 more years.

1784 First ordinance passed by Congress governing the Northwest Territory.

1785-1809

1785 Congress passes first act relative to the disposal of western lands.

Michigan appears for the first time on a map as a land division of the United States.

Sloop *Otter* becomes the first vessel to navigate Lake Superior.

1786 Moravian Indian village near present-day Mount Clemens is abandoned.

1787 Congress enacts the Ordinance of 1787 (second Northwest Ordinance), outlining the government of the "Territory northwest of the Ohio River."

1788 The first stage of American territorial government is established under the Northwest Ordinance, except in British-occupied Michigan.

1791 The Americans under Arthur St. Clair suffer a major defeat at the hands of British-allied Indians in Ohio.

1792 Detroit, including settlements on both sides of the river, holds its first election, sending three representatives to the Parliament of Upper Canada.

1794 General **Anthony Wayne** decisively defeats Indians and allied British troops at the Battle of Fallen Timbers, near Toledo.

1795 The Jay Treaty is ratified by Congress. The British finally agree to relinquish all Northwest Territory lands.

The Treaty of Greenville (Ohio) is signed. The first major Indian land treaty involving Michigan, it included land on the Detroit River, the Straits of Mackinac, and Mackinac Island.

1796 The British withdraw their garrison from Detroit. The Stars and Stripes are raised for the first time on Michigan soil by Wayne's advance guard.

1798 Father Gabriel Richard comes to assist at Ste. Anne's in Detroit.

1799 The Territorial Assembly convenes at Cincinnati, Ohio. The county of Wayne (embracing all of the Michigan Territory) sends one representative, elected in the first local (Michigan) election held under United States rule.

1800 Wayne County circuit court created by act passed December 9.

1801 First post road established in Michigan.

1802 Detroit holds its first election following incorporation under an act passed January 18 by the Legislative Council at Chillicothe, Ohio.

1803 Ohio is admitted to the Union, excluding the strip of land that 30 years later will be known as the "**Toledo strip**." Michigan becomes part of the Territory of Indiana.

1804 United States land office established at Detroit.

1805 The Territory of Michigan is created, with Detroit as the capital.

Detroit is completely destroyed by fire.

General William Hull becomes the first territorial governor.

Important commercial timbering begins, when sawmills are built on the St. Clair River to aid in rebuilding Detroit.

1806 Governor and judges authorized to lay out new town of Detroit after fire had destroyed the settlement.

Bank of Detroit chartered by the governor and judges; Congress disapproves the act on March 3, 1807.

1807 The Treaty of Detroit is signed by Chippewa, Ottawa, Wyandot, and Potawatomi tribes meeting with General Hull.

Duties paid to the United States on furs at Mackinac exceed $40,000.

1808 American Fur Company founded by John Jacob Astor.

1809 The *Michigan Essay and Impartial Observer,* the state's first newspaper, is printed by James M. Miller on a press imported by Father Richard.

1810-1820

1810 The Michigan Territory's population is 4,762 and includes 32 slaves, most of whom are Native Americans.

1811 A memorial to Congress stresses the defenseless position of Michigan and begs for military aid against the Indians.

1812 The United States declares war against England. Father Richard urges the population to support the American cause.

Fort Mackinac falls to the British, who know of the declaration of war earlier than the frontier post.

Hull surrenders Detroit to General Isaac Brock without firing a shot. Hull later is court-martialed.

1813 At the Battle of River Raisin at Monroe, the main body of Americans is forced to surrender and promised protection from Indian allies of British.

The massacre of the River Raisin occurs. This proves to be a powerful factor in uniting American sentiment for expulsion of the British from the west.

Commander Oliver Perry's victory on Lake Erie and William Henry Harrison's defeat of Proctor's army in Canada (in which **Tecumseh** is slain) end hostilities on northwestern American border.

Harrison, departing for Washington, leaves Colonel (later General) Lewis Cass as the military governor at Detroit. Cass continues, under presidential appointment, as the governor of the Michigan Territory for 18 years. ➤

1814 The Americans make an unsuccessful attempt to recapture Mackinac Island.

The Treaty of Ghent ends the War of 1812; the British leave Mackinac Island.

1815 Governor Cass and judges adopt legislation reincorporating Detroit (city) and restoring a restricted municipal government.

1816 Part of Michigan Territory given to the state of Indiana.

First recorded shipwreck on Lake Superior occurs at Whitefish Point with the schooner *Invincible*.

Due to unfavorable reports on Lower Peninsula lands by the Surveyor General, Congress decides not to place military bounty lands in Michigan.

1817 The Catholepistemiad, or **University of Michigania**, is incorporated. ➤

John Jacob Astor establishes a trading post at Mackinac Island, centering his fur-trading activities there.

1818 Public land sales begin at Detroit; immigration from the East is under way.

Michigan's first Protestant church, the Methodist Episcopal, is erected along the banks of the River Rouge.

Walk-in-the-Water, the first steamboat on the Upper Great Lakes, arrives at Detroit on its maiden voyage. ➤

1819 William Woodbridge is elected as the first delegate to Congress from the Michigan Territory.

With the Treaty of Saginaw, Governor Cass obtains for the United States about 6,000,000 acres of Michigan land, marking the beginning of the Indian exodus from the territory.

1820 The population of the territory is 8,096; Detroit, Mackinac, and Sault Ste. Marie are its largest towns.

The Treaty at Sault Ste. Marie is negotiated by Cass; Indians cede a 16-square-mile tract on the St. Mary's River for a fort site, but reserve fishing rights.

1821-1834

1821 Cass negotiates a treaty at Chicago, gaining from the Chippewa, Ottawa, and Potawatomi virtually all Michigan territory south of the Grand River that had not previously been ceded.

1822 Public stagecoaches begin running from Detroit.

Fort Brady established at Sault Ste. Marie.

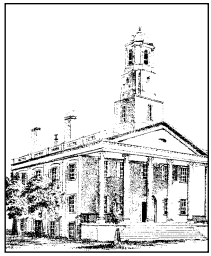
Dr. William Beaumont at Mackinac begins study of human digestive processes by observing through a hole in the stomach of Alexis St. Martin.

1823 General Hugh Brady and soldiers construct Fort Brady at the Sault, ending domination of the region by the British.

Congress advances the Territory of Michigan to the second governmental grade, authorizing the Legislative Council of 9 members presidentially appointed and 18 locally elected. Enacted laws are subject to congressional approval. The first capitol, in Detroit, is built.

Father Gabriel Richard takes office as the territorial delegate to Congress (1823-1825), the only priest to serve in Congress until 1971.

United States government opens second land office in Michigan at Monroe.



1824 On motion of Father Richard, Congress appropriates $10,000 for a survey of the Great Sauk Trail (now U.S. 12) between Detroit and Chicago and makes an additional appropriation in 1825.

1825 The opening of the Erie Canal in New York facilitates settlement of Michigan and shipping of farm products to the East.

1827 Fort Shelby, Detroit, is demolished.

1828 **First capitol** occupied in Detroit on May 5. ➤

State Library is established.

State Historical Society organized (now Historical Society of Michigan).

1829 "Cabinet Counties" are established, named after members of President Jackson's administration (Barry, Berrien, Branch, Calhoun, Eaton, Ingham, Jackson, and Van Buren).

1830 Michigan's population is 31,639.

Fur trade reaches its peak. Its subsequent decline leaves some regions without commercial activity.

Michigan issues a railway charter to the Detroit & Pontiac Railway, the first incorporated railway in the limits of old Northwest Territory.

1831 General Lewis Cass, appointed secretary of war by President Jackson in July, resigns the governorship.

Stevens T. Mason, at age 19, becomes the acting governor of the Michigan Territory. ➤

Federal government opens third land office in Michigan at White Pigeon.

1832 A seven-week cholera epidemic devastates Detroit; Belle Isle is used for quarantine.

Father Richard, priest, legislator, and educator, dies of cholera, contracted while nursing the sick.

1833 Steamboat *Michigan* launched at Detroit.

1834 The Territorial Legislature petitions Congress for permission to form a state government. Southern states protest the admission of another free state; Ohio protests the boundary Michigan claims. Congress refuses to grant its permission.

The second cholera epidemic at Detroit begins with the death of Governor George B. Porter. It wipes out one-seventh of the population.

1835-1842

1835 Pioneers in Macomb and adjoining counties discover oil.

The Ohio Legislature passes an act asserting claims to the "Toledo strip" along its northern boundary.

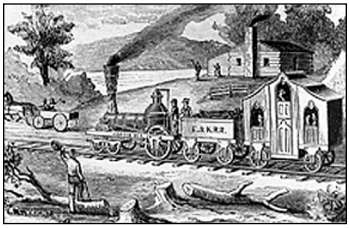
Governor Mason calls out the militia as the "Toledo War" begins with more anger than gunfire. Border incidents continue into September, and jurisdictional wrangling goes on through all of 1836.

A convention at Detroit drafts a state constitution in preparation for statehood.

Stevens T. Mason, who had been removed from office by President Jackson because of Mason's action on the Toledo question, is elected as the first governor of the state of Michigan at 23 years of age.

1836 Congress accepts Michigan's constitution. It agrees to admit the state upon condition that Michigan accept Ohio's boundary in return for four-fifths of the Upper Peninsula.

At the first convention of assent held at Ann Arbor in September, the conditions set by Congress are rejected.



The horse-powered Erie & Kalamazoo Railroad chartered in 1833 reaches Adrian from Toledo. The **first steam locomotive** in the state is put in operation on this line the following year, as the railroad is the first west of New York State to operate. ➤

Democrats call a convention on their own initiative and assent to entry into the Union. Whig opponents take no part in this "frost-bitten" convention held in Ann Arbor in December.

Daily stages from Detroit begin carrying mail and passengers to Sandusky, Chicago, and central Michigan; a railroad between Detroit and Jackson is under construction; ship-building becomes important along nearby rivers and lakeshores. During seven months of navigation, 200,000 people pass through Detroit's port.

Bituminous coal mining begins in Michigan.

A Quaker preacher employs an **underground railroad** to bring slaves into Cass County, and movement of fugitive and freed slaves into the state begins.

1837 Detroit's population is almost 10,000.

Michigan is admitted to the Union as a free state as Arkansas is admitted as a slave state.

The Panic of 1837 strikes Michigan.

Michigan experiences its first strike as journeymen carpenters parade through Detroit streets.

1838 Detroit elects Michigan's first school board under state law.

The Grand Rapids furniture industry has its beginning.

1839 Effects of the Panic of 1837 help break Democratic monopoly, and Whigs carry state election.

Michigan State Prison located at Jackson.

1841 **Dr. Douglass Houghton**, the first state geologist, reports on rich copper deposits of the Lake Superior region and makes cautious mention of the possibility of iron ore in the Marquette district. ➤

The University of Michigan, reorganized and offering college curriculum, opens at Ann Arbor.

1842 Indians cede Keweenaw Peninsula and Isle Royale, the last Indian holdings in the state.

1843-1856

1843 Former Governor Stevens T. Mason dies in New York City.

U.S.S. *Michigan*, first iron ship in the U.S. Navy, is launched.

Celebrated Ontonagon copper boulder arrives in Detroit from Lake Superior for exhibition.

Albion College opens its doors.

1844 Surveyor William A. Burt (inventor of the solar compass and other important items) accidentally makes the first iron ore discovery at Negaunee.

General Lewis Cass, former governor, former secretary of war, and ambassador to France, is elected U.S. senator from Michigan.

The first major copper operations begin in the Keweenaw district.

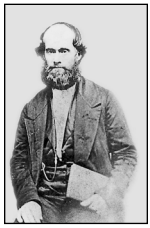
Olivet College is founded.

1845 Dr. Douglass Houghton drowns near Eagle River on October 14.

1846 Dr. A. C. Van Raalte, Dutch secessionist pastor, sails from Rotterdam with 53 Hollanders; they form the nucleus of western Michigan's large Dutch settlements begun the following winter.

The Jackson Mining Company begins operations on the site of Burt's 1844 discovery, first iron ore mining in the state.

Michigan becomes the first English-speaking jurisdiction in the world to abolish capital punishment.



1847 The old capitol in Detroit is used for the last time by the state legislature, which makes Lansing the new, permanent capital of the state.

1848 **King James Strang**, a Mormon leader, builds a tabernacle and lays out the town of St. James on Big Beaver Island. ➤

The state legislature meets for the first session in the new capitol at Lansing.

1849 The first annual statewide fair is held at Detroit.

The Cliff Mine pays a dividend of $60,000, the first sum of this magnitude distributed in North America on copper investment.

Michigan's manufactured goods are valued at more than $11,000,000. There are 558 sawmills operating in the state.

1850 Michigan's population is 397,654.

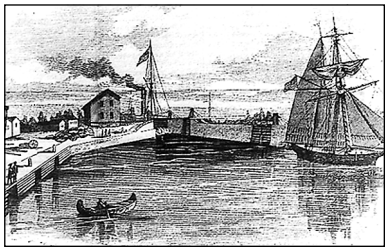
The second state constitution is approved.

1851 Lumber mill output of Saginaw amounts to 92,000,000 board feet.

Elizabeth D. Camp receives first academic degree conferred upon a woman in Michigan.

1852 The Michigan State Normal School is dedicated at Ypsilanti. It is the first teacher-training institute west of the Alleghenies.

First teacher's association in Michigan is organized.



1853 Construction begins on the Soo Canal.

1854 The Republican party is formed and named at meetings held in Jackson.

Michigan School for the Deaf created at Flint.

1855 The **Soo Ship Canal and Locks** are completed and turned over to the state. ➤

Michigan Agricultural College (Michigan State University) is established. It becomes the nation's first land grant college.

1856 **Abraham Lincoln** gives an antislavery address in Kalamazoo.

1857-1872

1857 General Lewis Cass is appointed U.S. Secretary of State and is succeeded in the U.S. Senate by Zachariah Chandler.

The Christian Reformed Church in North America is founded by Michigan's Dutch settlers, following secession from the Reformed Church.

The Agricultural College of the State of Michigan opens its doors in what is now East Lansing, the first college of its kind in the United States. ➤

1858 The Detroit & Milwaukee Railroad completes its line connecting Detroit and Grand Haven.

First elevated iron ore dock constructed at Marquette.

Grand Trunk Railroad opens line from Detroit to Port Huron.

Michigan Asylum for the Insane opens at Kalamazoo on August 24.

Classes begin at Adrian College.

1860 Michigan's population is 749,113.

Successful well drilling of salt begins in Saginaw County.

1861 Thomas A. Edison erects his first electrical battery and begins experiments at Fort Gratiot (Port Huron).

The **First Michigan Regiment** leaves Fort Wayne. It is the first western regiment to reach Washington during the Civil War, in which 90,000 Michigan soldiers see service. ➤

1862 Passes to Canada required to prevent Michigan citizens from fleeing military service.

1863 Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers (the oldest railroad labor union in the Western Hemisphere) founded in Michigan.

1864 First Michigan Colored Infantry is mustered in. Michigan's black troops number 1,673.

Bessemer steel is first manufactured in any appreciable amount in America, at Wyandotte.

The copper lode at Calumet is discovered. Michigan's production of copper has for 17 years exceeded that of any other state (holds first place until 1887).

1865 **Jefferson Davis** captured by members of the Fourth Michigan Cavalry.

1866 Michigan statesman Lewis Cass dies on June 17.

Hope College is established in Holland, Michigan.

1867 Constitutional convention convened in Lansing, voters reject proposed revision.

1869 Memorial Day first observed in Michigan.

Nation's first "university hospital" established at the University of Michigan.

1870 Michigan's population is 1,054,670.

The value of agricultural produce for the year is estimated at $88,000,000.

Annual lumber production for the state averages 3 million board feet, and is the highest in the country for a period of 20 years.

1871 Forest fires ravage the state, destroying towns and leveling thousands of acres of valuable pine, causing losses in the millions of dollars.

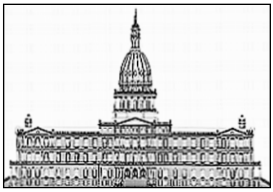
Calumet & Hecla Mining Company consolidates local (Calumet) mining interests, controlling one of world's richest copper districts. Calumet becomes a company town typical of the copper country.

Negaunee's average annual iron ore production reaches 135,000 tons.

1872 **Republic Mine** opens; the 88 percent pure iron deposits permit continuous high-level production for 55 years.

Construction begins on present state capitol building. ➤

The Michigan Grange is organized to help Michigan farmers.



1873-1886

1873 Financial panic begins early in the year.

Michigan Department of Public Health created, fifth in the nation.

The *Detroit News* begins publication.

1874 Pioneer Society of the State of Michigan organized.

The Portage Lake canal is opened across the Keweenaw Peninsula.

1875 **Mackinac Island** becomes the second national park in the United States, preceded only by Yellowstone.

1876 At the Centennial Exposition (Philadelphia), Detroit is given first place among world's stove-manufacturing centers and receives prizes for shoes. The best display of furniture from the United States credited to Grand Rapids. Michigan has the finest exhibit in forestry products and fruit.

An Ontonagon mine operator, after seeing Alexander Graham Bell's invention at the Philadelphia exposition, builds the first telephone system (20 miles) in Michigan.

1877 Active operations begin in the mines of the Menominee iron district.

1878 Eastern Michigan Asylum for the Insane opens at Pontiac on August 1.

1879 Six years after the cornerstone was laid, the new state capitol at Lansing is dedicated and occupied, several months after completion at a cost of more than $1,500,000.

1880 Michigan's population is 1,636,937.

Iron ore is discovered in large quantities at Bessemer in the Gogebic Range.

Detroit Baseball Company is organized.

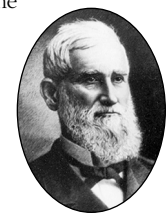
Michigan School for the Blind opens in Lansing.

1881 The Soo Ship Canal and Locks are taken over by the federal government.

Railroad ferry service connects Upper and Lower Peninsulas, making the Upper Peninsula readily accessible for the first time.

A permanent hydroelectric plant is erected at Grand Rapids — one of the earliest anywhere.

Another devastating series of fires scorch the state, with the newly established American Red Cross sending help in its first disaster relief.



1882 **Josiah W. Begole** elected governor on the Fusion ticket, interrupting an almost unbroken Republican rule that began in 1854. ➤

1883 A compulsory school attendance law is enacted.

Half of copper mined in United States since 1847 has come from Michigan.

Cherry orchards in the upper fruit belt first begin to bear.

1884 Working of iron ore deposits of the Gogebic Range begins, when transportation facilities are acquired.

John and Thomas Clegg build Michigan's first self-propelled vehicle, a four-wheeled steamer auto.

Ferris Institute is established in Big Rapids.

1885 A series of lumber strikes occur in Saginaw Valley, and the militia is called out.

The ten-hour workday law is passed.

Michigan Soldiers' Home established in Grand Rapids.

1886 Prospecting for oil and gas and first commercial production in St. Clair and Saginaw Counties begin.

Michigan Mining School is opened at Houghton.

Alma College is organized, opens in 1887.

1887-1904

1887 Ransom E. Olds' first auto steamer appears.

Iron ore shipments from the Menominee Range begin; at the end of the year, total shipments amount to 6,000,000 tons.

The Grand Hotel is completed on Mackinac Island.

1888 **Michigan's lumber boom peaks** with the production of 4,292,000,000 board feet. ➤

Shipments of iron ore from Escanaba alone reach 1,107,129 tons.

1890 Michigan's population is 2,093,889.

1891 Port Huron, Michigan, and Sarnia, Ontario, are joined by the Grand Trunk R.R. tunnel under the St. Clair River, first subaqueous railroad tunnel linking foreign countries.

1892 First railroad car ferry begins operating on the Great Lakes between Frankfort, Michigan, and Kewaunee, Wisconsin.

William W. Ferguson becomes first African-American elected to the Legislature (House). ➤

1893 Michigan Home for the Feeble Minded and Epileptic established at Lapeer.

Michigan Naval Militia is first organized.

1894 Hazen S. Pingree, mayor of Detroit, attracts national attention with his city-lot potato patches for feeding 1893 depression sufferers.

Fort on Mackinac Island is given to the state for a public park.

1895 Central Michigan University, founded as a private school, becomes a state normal school.

Mackinac Island becomes the first state park in Michigan.

1896 **Ransom E. Olds** brings out a practical four-wheeled, gasoline-powered auto in Lansing.

Henry Ford's "quadricycle" is tested in Detroit.

Rural Free Delivery mail service begins in Michigan at the town of Climax.

Suomi College opens in Hancock to serve the Finnish Community.

1897 Olds Motor Vehicle Company is organized by Ransom E. Olds in Lansing.

1898 Michigan activates 5 regiments plus its naval reserves for the Spanish-American War.

1899 Olds Motor Works in Detroit erects the first factory built in America for the manufacture of automobiles.

Northern Michigan University is founded.

1900 Michigan's population is 2,420,982.

1901 Detroit celebrates its 200th birthday.

1902 Packard Motor Car Company and Cadillac Motor Car Company are organized.

1903 The House of David (a sect founded in 1792) is established in Benton Harbor by **"King" Benjamin and "Queen" Mary Purnell**. ➤

The Ford Motor Company is incorporated in Detroit.

1904 The organization of Buick Motor Company marks the beginning of auto manufacturing in Flint on a large scale.

Western State Normal School (Western Michigan University) opens in Kalamazoo.

1905-1916

1905 State Highway Department organized.

Railroad depots in Michigan reach an all-time maximum of 1,776 buildings.

Michigan begins registering motor vehicles.

1906 Timbering of second-growth forests begins in the Upper Peninsula.

W.K. Kellogg Cereal Company is organized in Battle Creek. ➤

1907 Michigan's third constitution is drafted (approved by electorate in 1908).

The Detroit Tigers, led by Ty Cobb, win the first of three consecutive pennants.

President Theodore Roosevelt addresses joint session of legislature and visits State Agricultural College (now Michigan State University).

1908 **William C. Durant** organizes General Motors Company as Ford introduces the most famous of the early cars, the Model T.

Fisher Body Corporation is founded.

1909 Department of Labor created.

World's first mile of poured concrete road built in Detroit on Woodward Avenue.

Railroad mileage in Michigan reaches its highest point with 9,059 road miles in operation.

1910 Michigan's population is 2,810,173.

1911 Durant organizes the Chevrolet Motor Car Company, when the Chevrolet brothers complete experiments on a new auto.

Wayne County Road Commission invents the white center line for dividing two-way traffic.

Chase S. Osborn becomes first and only Governor from the Upper Peninsula.

Harriet Quimby, born near Arcadia in 1875, becomes America's first licensed female pilot. ➤

1912 Grand Rapids Board of Education establishes the state's first junior high school.

1913 The Western Federation of Miners calls a strike among 13,514 Upper Peninsula copper miners. Violence and bloodshed result from demands for an 8-hour day, a minimum daily wage of $3.50, and abolition of the "widow-maker," a one-man drill.

The legislature passes a bill providing for ten trunkline highways. There are 60,000 autos registered in Michigan.

Michigan Historical Commission is organized.

1914 **Henry Ford** announces the adoption of a $5 minimum wage for an 8-hour day.

A congressional committee arrives to investigate the copper miners strike, which terminates shortly afterward, each side claiming victory. The union fails to gain recognition.

The first Dodge auto is produced.

Following the 1913 strike, Finns initiate cooperative stores in the copper country.

1915 *Michigan Manual of Freedmen's Progress,* showing the professional, political, religious, and educational achievements of African-American citizens of the state, is published by Freedmen's Progress Commission.

Michigan issues its first stamped metal license plate.

1916 Many Michigan men join Canadian units leaving for France to fight in World War I.

Annual copper production reaches a peak of 270,000,000 pounds of refined copper, while iron ore production from the Marquette Range is 5,500,000 tons.

1917-1929

1917 The country's first War Preparedness Board is organized in Michigan. In the first year of war, Detroit builds 120 ships, spends $10,000,000 improving plants for the making of munitions. Auto manufacturers contract to deliver 19,000 engines.

Camp Custer is built near Battle Creek.

Selfridge Field is constructed near Mount Clemens.

1918 Michigan men in World War service reaches a total of 135,485.

Snow removal inaugurated on Michigan roads.

War contracts let in Detroit now total $705,000,000.

1919 Commercial airplanes are placed on sale for the first time.

The influenza epidemic strikes the country and much of the world, killing 3,814 in Detroit.

Michigan issues its first driver's license on July 1.

1920 Michigan's population is 3,668,412.

Radio station WWJ in Detroit opens as a pioneer station in the broadcasting of regular daily programs.

World's first four-way traffic signal with red, yellow and green lights appears in Detroit.

Eva Hamilton becomes first woman elected to the Michigan Senate. ➤

1921 Edwin Denby, who had enlisted at Detroit as a private in the Marine Corps in 1917, becomes secretary of the navy.

Important administrative reforms in state government are legislated. The superintendent of public instruction is given supervision of all schools, private, denominational, and public, and the departments of conservation, labor, public safety, welfare, and agriculture are created.

1922 Airline service is instituted between Detroit and Cleveland.

First practical highway snow plow developed in Munising.

1923 The **William L. Clements Library of American History** opens at Ann Arbor. ➤

State ferries begin operating at the Straits of Mackinac on July 31.

1924 Cora Anderson becomes first woman elected to the Michigan House.

Michigan High School Athletic Association is organized.

1925 Chrysler Motor Corporation organized.

The Michigan gasoline tax is adopted.

1926 The worst disaster in Michigan iron mining occurs at the Barnes-Hecker Mine, when quicksand breaks through the walls, entombing 52 men 1,000 feet below the surface. The mine is sealed and abandoned.

1927 The Cranbrook Foundation (Bloomfield Hills) is created and turned over to trustees.

1928 The first all-metal dirigible, constructed for the Navy by Detroit manufacturers, is successfully flown at Grosse Ile Airport.

Michigan develops the yellow line to indicate no-passing zones on highways.

Upper Peninsula State Fair begins.

Interlochen National Music Camp is opened near Traverse City.

1929 Some large copper mines of the Keweenaw Peninsula close; 85 percent of the Keweenaw County population goes on relief.

First Tulip Festival is held in Holland, Michigan.

Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village are dedicated.

Ambassador Bridge is opened between Detroit and Windsor.

Stock market crash begins the Great Depression. Thousands of unemployed stand in **soup lines in Detroit**. ➤

1930-1941

1930 Michigan's population is 4,842,325, an increase of more than 1,170,000 since 1920. Urban centers account for 68.2 percent of the population, almost an exact reversal of the situation in 1880.

The vehicle tunnel between Detroit and Windsor, Ontario, is opened.

1932 The "Ford Hunger March" riot occurs at the Ford plant in Dearborn.

1933 Governor William A. Comstock calls a statewide "banking holiday" to avoid bank runs, after disclosure of the condition of the Union Guardian Trust Company, Detroit.

Michigan votes to end national prohibition.

First Michigan sales tax inaugurated.

1934 Wayne University is organized in Detroit.

1935 Michigan celebrates its centennial of statehood.

One-fifth of Michigan's employables are without work; the state population has dropped 28 percent since the 1930 census.

The United Automobile Workers (UAW) is organized.

Nation's first travel information lodge opened on US-12 at New Buffalo.

The Detroit Tigers win the World Series. With championships in this era from the Lions in professional football, the Red Wings in hockey, and Joe Louis in boxing, Detroit is known as the "City of Champions."

1936 Mass organization of labor under the CIO is strengthened by the affiliation of International Union, United Automobile Workers of America, with the CIO.

With the Flint sit-down strike leading the way, General Motors shuts down, affecting 150,000 workers and closing more than 60 plants in 14 states.

1937 **Joe Louis**, who moved to Detroit at age 12, becomes world's heavyweight champion in boxing. ➤

The UAW strike reaches a peaceful conclusion as collective bargaining agreements are signed by General Motors and most other automotive and parts manufacturers, except the Ford Motor Company, which fought unionization until 1941.

Keweenaw Peninsula copper mining again turns upward, with production reaching 75,000 pounds.

Civil Service merit system introduced to Michigan government.

A wave of sit-down strikes in various industries eventually leads to a breakdown of the open-shop tradition in the state.

1938 International "Blue Water Bridge," connecting Port Huron and Sarnia, Ontario, is dedicated.

1939 Frank Murphy, former governor, takes office as Attorney General of the United States. Governor Frank D. Fitzgerald dies.

1940 Luren D. Dickinson, acting governor of Michigan, appoints Matilda R. Wilson as lieutenant governor, the first woman to serve in that capacity.

Attorney General **Frank Murphy** is appointed to the United States Supreme Court to succeed the late Associate Justice Pierce Butler. ➤

Michigan's population is 5,256,106.

1941 Auto plants are converted to the production of war materials and Michigan becomes known as the "Arsenal of Democracy."

The United States enters World War II. By the time the war ended in 1945, 673,000 Michigan men and women had served in the armed forces.

1942-1958

1942 Sidewheeler *Seeandbee* converted to the aircraft carrier U.S. *Wolverine* for training naval air pilots on Lake Michigan.

1943 Interracial riots strike Detroit, leaving 34 dead and hundreds injured.

1944 Governor Thomas E. Dewey of New York, a native of Michigan, nominated by the Republicans for President.

1945 Senator **Arthur H. Vandenberg** of Grand Rapids helps frame the United Nations Charter. ➤

Michigan Tourist Council created.

The Detroit Tigers win the World Series.

1946 Lake Superior State College is opened at Sault Ste. Marie.

1947 Walter Reuther assumes the presidency of the U.A.W.

WWJ-TV, Detroit, begins commercial television broadcasting in Michigan.

1948 G. Mennen Williams elected Governor, serves six terms.

1950 Michigan's population is 6,371,766.

Ferris Institute, founded in 1884, becomes a state institution.

The Detroit Red Wings win the Stanley Cup.

1951 Fire destroys much of the State Office Building in Lansing.

1952 The Detroit Lions win the first of three world championships in professional football in the decade (also 1953 and 1957).

1953 About 250,000 Michigan men and women see military service during the Korean War (1950-1953).

1954 American Motors Corporation is formed by the merger of Hudson Motor Car Company and Nash-Kelvinator Corporation.

The first slogan — Water Wonderland — appears on Michigan license plates.

Construction begins on the Mackinac Bridge.

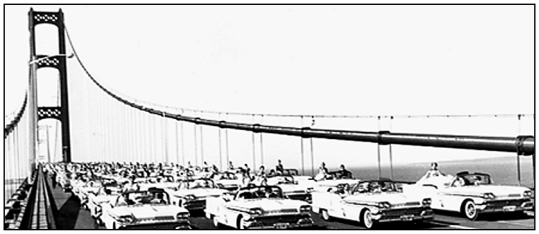
1955 During its centennial year, Michigan State College becomes a university.

1956 Wayne University in Detroit becomes a state university.

The Interstate Highway Act is passed. It provided for federal-state cooperation in highway construction.

1957 Oakland University founded.

After ages of dreams and efforts in the 1930s halted by the war, the five-mile-long **Mackinac Bridge is completed**, finally uniting Michigan's two peninsulas.



Professional basketball comes to Michigan when the Fort Wayne Pistons move to Detroit.

1958 G. Mennen Williams, a native of Detroit, is elected to an unprecedented sixth term as governor.

Computers are first used by state government.

1959-1979

1959 Detroit and the entire Great Lakes region gain access to world markets with the opening of the St. Lawrence Seaway.

First annual Labor Day Mackinac Bridge walk is held.

1960 Cobo Hall is built as the Detroit Civic Center.

Michigan becomes the first state to complete a border-to-border interstate highway (I-94).

Michigan's population is 7,823,194.

1961 Constitutional convention meets in Lansing.

Otis Smith becomes first African-American to serve on the Michigan Supreme Court.

G. Mennen Williams named Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs by President John F. Kennedy. ➤

1962 The International Bridge at the Soo is opened, connecting the U.S. and Canada.

1963 Grand Valley State College is opened.

Michigan's fourth state constitution, drafted in 1961-1962, is approved by the voters.

1964 James McDivitt of Jackson commands the Gemini IV mission and becomes Michigan's first astronaut.

1965 State Executive Organization Act passed.

Saginaw Valley State College is chartered as a state institution.

Michigan begins putting photos on driver's licenses.

1966 Last operating mine on the Gogebic Iron Range closes.

1967 The urban unrest that has been evident in several U.S. cities strikes Detroit with a riot that leaves 45 dead.

The state income tax act is enacted.

1968 The Detroit Tigers win the World Series.

1969 Governor **George Romney** resigns to become the U.S. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development in the Nixon administration. ➤

1970 Michigan's population is 8,881,826.

1971 Privately operated, nonrecreational railroad passenger service ends in Michigan as Amtrak is formed.

1,000-foot-long vessels appear on the Great Lakes.

1972 The Michigan Lottery Bureau is created.

1973 **Mary Stallings Coleman** becomes the first woman to serve on the Michigan Supreme Court. ➤

American military involvement in Vietnam ends; over 400,000 Michigan men and women serve.

An accident in which a fire retardant containing polybrominated biphenyl (PBB) is mixed with livestock feed sets off a crisis that threatens Michigan's agriculture and public health.

1974 **Gerald R. Ford**, former congressman from Grand Rapids, becomes the 38th President of the United States and first Michiganian to serve in that office. ➤

1976 Throwaway bottles are banned as the result of an initiative requiring deposits on beer and soft drink containers.

1977 The Detroit Renaissance Center is completed.

1979 The Michigan State University Basketball Team wins the NCAA championship.

1980-1993

1980 Michigan's population is 9,262,078.

A presidential convention (Republican) is held in Detroit for the first time, with Ronald Reagan becoming the nominee.

1981 **William G. Milliken** becomes the state's longest-serving governor. He serves a total of 14 years. ➤

1982 The movement to renovate Michigan's 103-year-old capitol begins with the organization of Friends of the Capitol.

1983 Martha Griffiths becomes first elected woman lieutenant governor.

1984 The Detroit Tigers win the World Series.

"Big Three" American automakers — General Motors, Ford, and Chrysler — report total profits for year of $9.8 billion, a new high.

Detroit holds its first Grand Prix automobile race.

1985 Michigan begins celebrating its sesquicentennial.

Michigan's mandatory seat belt law goes into effect (third state in nation to enact such a law).

1986 Republican William Lucas is the first black candidate to represent a major party in a gubernatorial election in Michigan.

1987 Michigan celebrates its sesquicentennial of statehood.

1989 The **Michigan Library and Historical Center** is dedicated in Lansing. ➤

The University of Michigan Men's Basketball Team wins the NCAA championship and the Detroit Pistons win the first of two consecutive National Basketball Association crowns.

1990 The restored chambers of the Senate and of the House are reopened and the lawmakers return to their traditional home after holding sessions elsewhere. The Senate becomes the first state legislative body in the nation to include microcomputers on the chamber floor.

Michigan begins the Adopt-a-Highway program.

Michigan's population is 9,295,297.

1992 The U.S. Congress passes the Michigan Scenic Rivers Act protecting over 500 miles on 14 rivers from development.

The Twenty-Seventh Amendment to the U.S. Constitution is ratified by the vote of Michigan. The text of the amendment, which provides that no law varying the compensation of Senators and Representatives shall take effect until an election of Representatives has intervened, was originally submitted to the states as part of the Bill of Rights in 1789.

The restored Michigan State Capitol is rededicated. ➤

1993 The Michigan House of Representatives operates throughout the Eighty-Seventh Legislature under a shared power agreement that reflects the 55-55 Democratic-Republican split. This arrangement, with co-speakers and co-chairs of committees rotating responsibilities each month, leads to a highly productive two years, including a major realignment of the state's public school financing.

1994-2009

1994 Governor **John M. Engler** is reelected to a second term; coupled with state legislative victories, Republicans control both houses of the legislature and the governor's office for the first time in 26 years.

Michigan State Parks celebrate 75th anniversary. ➤

Michigan accounts for 32.6% of all U.S. car production, building 2.1 million passenger cars; Lansing reclaims title as "Car Capital of North America."

1995 General Motors, Ford, and Chrysler report record earnings and auto sales.

Organized labor announces merger of U.A.W. with Steelworkers Union and International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers.

1996 Voters approve Proposal E, an initiative to permit casino gaming in qualified cities.

1997 President Bill Clinton addresses joint session of Michigan Legislature, the first U.S. President to do so since President Theodore Roosevelt visited the state capital in 1907.

Lansing celebrates its sesquicentennial as Michigan's state capital.

1998 Voters approve the Clean Michigan Initiative, authorizing $675 million in bonds for environmental and natural resources programs.

Frank J. Kelley retires as the longest-serving (1962-1998) attorney general in the nation.

1999 Casinos open in Detroit.

State welfare caseloads reach their lowest level since 1970.

2000 Michigan's resident population is 9,938,444, up 6.9% from 1990.

Michigan State University's men's basketball team wins its second national championship with an 89-76 victory over the University of Florida.

Michigan's unemployment rate drops below 3% for the first time since records kept.

2001 Detroit celebrates its tricentennial. Events include a parade of tall ships on the Detroit River, a reenactment of Antoine de la Mothe Cadillac's founding of "D'etroit" in 1701, and the dedication of the Underground Railroad Monument.

2003 **Jennifer M. Granholm** is inaugurated as the first woman governor of the state of Michigan. ➤

2004 The Detroit Pistons win their third National Basketball Championship.

2006 Michigan's **Gerald R. Ford**, our nation's 38th president, dies at the age of 93. Eulogies for this longtime Grand Rapids congressman note the impact of his integrity and character in helping the nation heal in the wake of the Watergate scandal.

2008 The Detroit Red Wings win their fourth Stanley Cup since 1997, their eleventh overall.

2009 A credit crisis that begins in the late summer and fall of the previous year triggers a severe economic downturn that results in the bankruptcy of General Motors and Chrysler and significant government ownership of both corporations.