

History Timeline Factoids

Useful for writing up stories re family history

Many From Concise History of the World, pb. Natl Geographic

SOURCE of other facts:

(ex) = from Extraordinary Origins of Everyday Things by Charles Panati

(sc) = from The Timetables of Science by Hellemans and Bunch

1564 sc Shakespeare born; Michelangelo dies. The horse-drawn coach is introduced into England from Holland.

1565 sc The first potatoes arrive in Spain from America.

1582 sc On the advice of astronomer Christoph Clavius (born 1537 in Germany), Pope Gregory XIII reforms the calendar, dropping the 11 days between Oct. 4 and Oct. 15; in the new Gregorian calendar, century years that are not divisible by 400 will no longer be leap years (as they were in the Julian calendar); as a result, 1582 has 354 days, making it the shortest year on record.

1586 sc Walter Raleigh imports the smoking habit into England from Virginia

1588 sc Sir Francis Drake defeats the Spanish Armada and the English become the rulers of the seas

1600 Shakespeare's Hamlet is first performed

1607 sc Jamestown (Virginia) established

1609 (sc) The first attempt is made to harness the tides in the Bay of Fundy as a source of power; small mills are successfully powered by this means

1610 (sc) French colony of Quebec established

1619 sc Pocahontas arrives in London. William Shakespeare dies in Stratford-on-Avon, Cervantes dies in Spain, both on April 23.

1618 sc The Thirty Years' War starts in Germany and spreads to other states in Europe; it is mainly a conflict between Protestant and Catholic states.

1620 sc Pilgrims land at Plymouth rock. Johannes van Helmont coins the term "gas" to describe substances that are like air; the word "gas" is his own peculiar spelling of the Flemish word for chaos.

1626 sc Francis Bacon, English philosopher, dies in London Apr 9, a month after performing his first scientific experiment – stuffing a chicken with snow to see if it would decay less rapidly; the chill he caught during this experiment is thought to have led to his death.

1627 sc Francis Bacon's "The new Atlantis," published posthumously, is a utopian tale that predicts robots, telephones, tape recorders, and the electric motor, while emphasizing the importance of experimentation over deduction.

1636 sc Harvard College is founded in Massachusetts

1644 Wikipedia End of the **Ming dynasty**, which was the [ruling dynasty](#) of [China](#) for 276 years (1368–1644) following the collapse of the [Mongol](#)-led [Yuan dynasty](#). The Ming, described by some as "one of the greatest eras of orderly government and social stability in human history," [\[5\]](#) was the last dynasty in China ruled by ethnic [Han Chinese](#). The primary

capital of [Beijing](#) fell in 1644 to a rebellion led by [Li Zicheng](#), and the Manchus soon took over China, ruling from 1644 to 1912.

1648 sc Thirty Years' War ends

1661 sc Louis XIV of France starts building Versailles

1663 sc Rene Descartes' works are placed on the Roman Catholic Church's *Index of Prohibited Books*, despite his efforts to avoid this fate

1666 sc London is ravaged by what comes to be known as the Great Fire

1669 sc Isaac Newton becomes a professor at Cambridge (which was founded in 1209)

1680 sc Clocks are equipped with hands to show minutes

1685 sc Louis XIV revokes the Edict of Nantes (originally proclaimed in 1598 by Henry IV of France), taking religious freedom from French Protestants

1688 sc The Glorious Revolution takes place in England; King James II is deposed and William and Mary of Holland are invited to become king and queen.

1689 sc Peter the Great becomes czar of Russia..

1701 sc Yale University is founded as the Collegiate School of America, becoming Yale College in 1718.

1702 sc The first daily newspaper [in the world?], London's *Daily Courant*, is started.

1746 sc Princeton Univ. is found in NJ

1749 sc Benj Franklin installs a lightning rod on his home in Philadelphia.

1752 sc Great Britain and the American colonies adopt the Gregorian calendar by having Sep. 14 directly follow Sep 3. In June, Benj Franklin performs his famous kit experience, demonstrating that lightning is a form of electricity.

1771 sc the first bound edition of the Encyclopaedia Britannica is published in three volumes.

1778 Per Maria Brower presentation, entire population of Penn. in about 1778 was only abt 270,000. James Cook discovers the Hawaiian islands on Jan. 20.

1783 by the Treaty of Paris, Britain accepts American independence.

1789- The U.S. adopts a constitution giving greater power to the federal government. George Washington becomes the first president of the U.S.A. the fall of the Bastille marks the beginning of the French Revolution.

1790s U.S. population reaches about 4 million, 20% of it black.

1792 the dollar is introduced as the currency of the U.S.

1793 – An epidemic of yellow fever in Philadelphia kills about 10 percent of the population.

1795 King Kamehameha I unites the Hawaiian islands and establishes the Kamehameha dynasty.

1799 Napoleon seizes power in France. Soldiers in his army in Egypt, digging near the Rosetta branch of the Nile, discover the Rosetta Stone, allowing historians to translate ancient Egyptian hieroglyphics.

1800 Washington D.C. becomes the home of U.S. government. William Young makes shoes specifically designed for the right and left feet.

1803- Napoleon sells all the prairie lands between the Mississippi and the Rocky Mountains to the U.S. for \$15 million; the Louisiana Purchase nearly doubles the nation's land area.

1804- Lewis and Clark begin their exploration of the Louisiana Territory.

1806 Noah Webster publishes the first American dictionary

1812- Russians build settlements as far south as Fort Ross in California. The cylinder printing press is invented; it is adopted by The Times of London. Napoleon invades Russia.

1812-1815 The War of 1812 is fought between the U.S. and Great Britain. Canned food was used to supply the British troops, but the idea did not spread to the U.S. until the Civil War.

In

1814, the British army burns down the White House in Washington, D.C.

1815- Napoleon defeated at the Battle of Waterloo.

1819- the U.S. purchases Florida from Spain. The Savannah becomes the first steamship to cross the Atlantic.

1820 The Missouri Compromise seeks to end the crisis concerning the extension of slavery in the U.S. Maine enters the Union as a free state, Missouri as a slave state.

1821 - Michael Faraday invents the electric motor and generator.

1824 Mexico becomes a republic three years after declaring independence from Spain

1828 work begins on the first steam-powered railroad engine in the U.S.

1829 typewriter invented

1830 - The first wagon trains to cross the Rocky Mountains arrive in California

1830 - Revolutions erupt in France, Germany, Poland and Italy

1830 Congress passes the Indian Removal Act

1836 -Mexican army defeats Texans at the Alamo, Davy Crockett and

182 others die; Texas gains independence later the same year after winning the Battle of San Jacinto

1837 - Samuel F. B. Morse send is first message by electronic telegraph

1838-39 The Five Civilized Tribes are forced west on the Trail of Tears

1845 - Irish potato famine begins. Texas is annexed by the U.S.

1846 - first professional baseball game played

1848 - Revolution breaks out across much of Europe. Gold discovered in California. Karl Marx publishes The Communist Manifesto.

1849 Gold Rush begins, more than 100,000 rush to California. Harriet Tubman escapes from slavery and goes on to lead more than 300 slaves to freedom n the Underground Railroad

1851- Isaac Singer patents the continuous-stitch sewing machine.

1852 - the elevator is invented, facilitating the future development of skyscrapers. Harriet Beecher Stowe publishes her anti-slavery novel Uncle Tom's Cabin. The brown paper bag is invented.

1853- Commodore Matthew Perry leads four steam-powered warships into Edo Bay in the feudal nation of Japan, causing it to realize how technologically behind their country had fallen. In March

1854, Japan signs a historic treaty agreeing to trade with the U.S.

1854-56 Russia is defeated by Britain and France in the Crimean War @

1860- the great age of the European novel produces works of Dickens, Dumas, Flaubert, Dostoyevsky and Tolstoy, Thackeray.

1860 the Pony Express begins cross-country mail delivery

1860 Gas lighting was common in homes, factories and city streets

1861 Louis Pasteur evolves the germ theory of disease, it's first formulation since ancient times (?). Lincoln becomes president of the U.S.

1861 - Civil War begins when confederates fire on Fort Sumter, and ends in

1865 when General Lee surrenders to Grant at Appomattox Courthouse, Virginia. Slavery is abolished, Lincoln is assassinated.

1862-67 The French attempt to erect a puppet empire in Mexico

(ex) the Civil War, with its need for prepared military rations, popularized the can for food preservation and distribution. By 1895, canned foods were a familiar sight on grocery store shelves.

1867- the u,s, buys Alaska from Russia for \$7.2 million, or two cents an acre. The dominion of Canada is established.

1869- The transcontinental railroad is completed in the U.S. It cuts in two the buffalo herd of the plains, breaking the economic base of Native Americans.

1870's - Cities improve their water and sewer systems for better public health.

1874 - The Impressionist school of painting emerges, featuring works by Monet, Renoir and Degas.

1876 - Custer and his men are killed by the Sioux at the Battle Big Horn. Mrk Twain publishes Tom Sawyer. Alexander Graham bell patents the telephone.

1877 - Queen Victoria is proclaimed empress of India

1878- Thomas Edison invents the incandescent light bulb. The first electric street lighting appears, in London.

1879 - F.W. Woolworth opens his first "5 and 10 cent stores."

1880's in the U.S. (ex) homeowners, hotels and restaurants began installing full-service indoor plumbing for sinks, showers and toilets. Major cities were laying down public sewer systems. Toilet paper on a roll was introduced in the U.S. by the Scott brothers.

1882 the first hydroelectric plant opens, in Wisconsin

1883 the Brooklyn Bridge is completed, at the time the world's largest bridge. German engineer Gottlieb Daimler creates a portable engine that leads to the age of the automobile.

1885 the Statue of Liberty arrives in New York from France

1886 Geronimo, apache war chief, surrenders to the U.S. Army after years as a fugitive.

1890 The U.S. Army massacres 200 Indians at Wounded Knee in South Dakota, ending the Indian wars of resistance. The superintendent of the U.S. Census observes that for the first time a single frontier line no longer exists.

1899 (ex) Aspirin introduced as a loose powder, then a tablet in 1915.

1902 (ex) Animal cookies, which originated in the 1890's in England, introduced in the U.S. in an animal-cage box design.

1905 (ex) Vicks VapoRub introduced to treat chest and head colds

1918 (ex) a flu epidemic erupted in U.S. military bases, and was carried by troops to France, then to Spain, where it earned the name Spanish Flu. It killed one half of one percent of the entire population of the U.S. and England. In one year, the pandemic killed 25 million people worldwide, whereas WWI took four years to kill 9 million.

1924 (ex) Kleenex tissue invented.

1938 (ex) Nylon bristle toothbrush invented, replacing hog hair brushes.