

1870

John D. Rockefeller incorporates Standard Oil on January 10. The 15th Amendment to the United States Constitution, guaranteeing African American men the right to vote, is passed on February 3 and ratified on March 30. Congress establishes the United States Department of Justice on June 22.



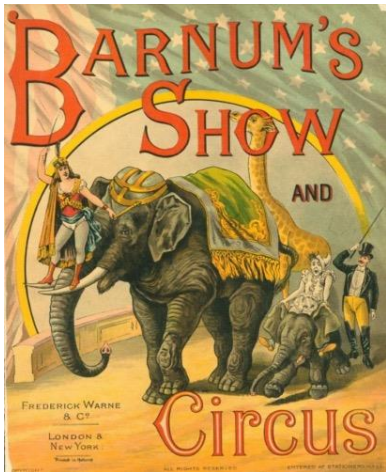
John Singer Sargent – *John D. Rockefeller*, 1917

Oil on canvas

Kykuit: The Rockefeller Estate, Pocantico Hills, New York;
courtesy of the National Trust for Historic Preservation

1871

President Ulysses S. Grant signs the first American civil service reform legislation into law, creating the United States Civil Service commission on March 3. John Maynard Woodworth is appointed as the first Surgeon General of the United States on March 29. P.T. Barnum and William Cameron Coup open the traveling exhibition *P.T. Barnum's Museum, Menagerie and Circus* on April 10, hailing it as “*The Greatest Show on Earth.*”



Barnum's Show and Circus,
published by Frederick Warne and Co., 1871
Lithograph on paper

1872

Yellowstone National Park is established as the world's first national park on March 1. Victoria Woodhull becomes the first woman nominated for President of the United States on May 10, although she is a year too young to qualify and does not appear on the ballot. Virginia Agricultural and Medical College, later renamed Virginia Tech, begins its first academic session on October 1.



Matthew Brady – *Cabinet Photograph of Victoria Woodhull*,
between 1866 and 1873
Albumen silver print on card
Harvard Art Museums, Historical Photographs and Special Visual
Collections Department, Fine Arts Library,
Cambridge, Massachusetts

1873

On March 3, Congress enacts the Comstock Law, making it illegal to send any “obscene, lewd, or lascivious” books through the mail. On May 20, German immigrant Levi Strauss and Latvian immigrant Jacob Davis receive a patent for using copper rivets for strengthening the pockets of denim work pants. With this patent, Levi Strauss & Co. begins manufacturing the famous Levi’s brand of jeans. The first Preakness Stakes horse race runs in Baltimore, Maryland on May 27; the horse Survivor wins.



U.S. Patent #139,121: Using copper rivets for strengthening denim work pant pockets, May 20, 1873.

Source: United States Patent and Trademark Office.

1874

John D. Rockefeller Jr. is born on January 29. Telecommunications tycoon Clarence Mackay is born on April 17. The Sholes and Glidden typewriter, with cylindrical platen and QWERTY keyboard, is first marketed on July 1. On November 7, *Harper's Weekly* publishes a political cartoon by Thomas Nast considered the first important use of an elephant as the symbol of the Republican Party.



Bain News Service – *Clarence Mackay*, 1900
Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division,
Washington, DC

1875

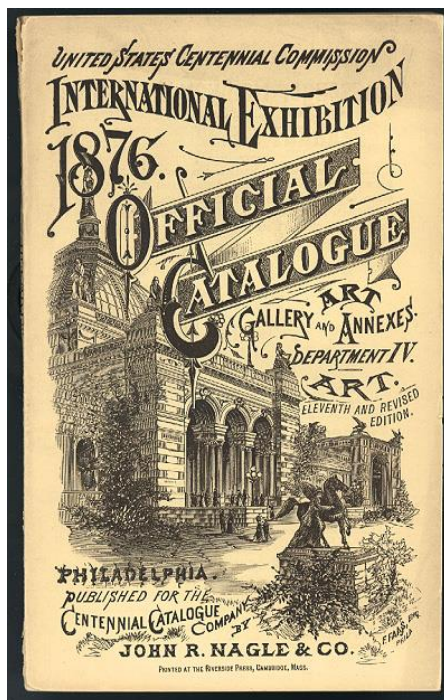
Gertrude Vanderbilt (later Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney) is born on January 9. The first Kentucky Derby is held on May 17; the racehorse Aristides is the winner. Brigham Young University is founded in Provo, Utah on October 16.



Raimundo de Madrazo y Garreta – *Gertrude Vanderbilt*, ca. 1880
Oil on canvas
Private collection

1876

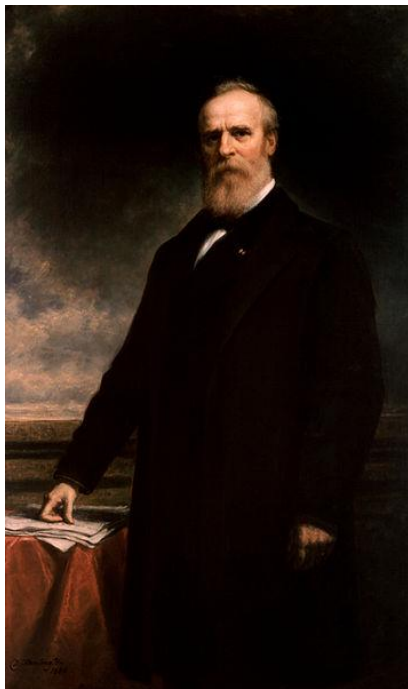
On June 25, the Battle of the Little Bighorn takes place in Big Horn County, Montana, with 1,500 to 2,000 Lakota, Cheyenne and Arapaho defeating an army led by Lieutenant Colonel George Armstrong Custer. The United States celebrates its Centennial on July 4 with the Centennial International Exposition in Philadelphia. Heinz Tomato Ketchup is first introduced as “Catsup” in Pittsburgh.



Official Catalogue of the 1876 International Exposition
The University of Delaware Library, Special Collections Department,
Newark, Delaware

1877

On March 2, the Compromise of 1877 is resolved, declaring Rutherford B. Hayes the winner of the 1876 presidential election, even though Samuel J. Tilden had won the popular vote. Hayes is sworn in as President on March 4. Thomas Edison announces his invention of the phonograph on November 21 and first demonstrates it on November 29. *The Washington Post* is first published on December 6.



Daniel Huntington – *Rutherford Birchard Hayes*, 1884
Oil on canvas
The White House, Washington, DC

1878

The Yale News becomes the first daily college newspaper in the United States on January 28. Soprano Marie Selika Williams becomes the first African American artist to perform at the White House on November 18. The Remington No. 2 typewriter, the first with a shift key enabling the production of lower-case and upper-case letters, is introduced.



Marie Selika Williams in an undated photo
Courtesy of the White House Historical Association

1879

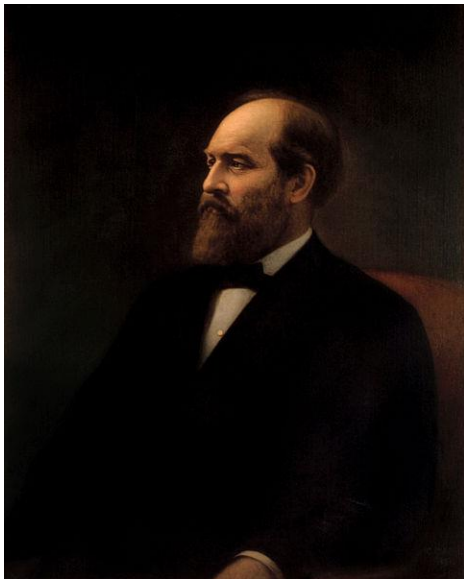
Frank Woolworth opens his first Woolworth Five and Dime store in Utica, New York on February 22. On May 31, Lloyd Stephens Bryce marries Edith Cooper, daughter of New York City Mayor Edward Cooper and granddaughter of railroad industrialist Peter Cooper, in New York. Edison demonstrates incandescent lightbulbs for the first time on December 31; his patent would be granted on January 27, 1880.



Woolworth Brothers store, Scranton, Pennsylvania, ca. 1880-82

1880

Wabash, Indiana becomes the first electrically lighted city in the world on March 31, with the first electric streetlight having been installed there on February 2. Edith Claire Bryce, the first child of Lloyd and Edith Bryce, is born on May 6. James Garfield is elected President on November 2, defeating Winfield S. Hancock. James and John Ritty patent the first cash register in Dayton, Ohio on November 4.



Calvin Curtis – *James Garfield*, 1881
Oil on canvas
The White House, Washington, DC

1881

Clara Barton establishes the American Red Cross on May 21. James Garfield is sworn in as President on March 4. President Garfield is shot by Charles J. Guiteau on July 2 and dies on September 19. Chester A. Arthur becomes President. Cornelia Elizabeth Bryce, the second child of Lloyd and Edith Bryce, is born on August 20. *The Los Angeles Times* is first published on December 4.



Daniel Huntington – *Chester Alan Arthur*, 1885
Oil on canvas
The White House, Washington, DC

1882

The Standard Oil Trust is secretly created to control multiple corporations by John D. Rockefeller and his associates on January 2. The Chinese Exclusion Act, the first significant law that restricts immigration into the United States, is signed on May 6. The first United States Labor Day parade is held in New York City on September 5.



Bain News Service – *Labor Day Parade, Marchers, New York, 1882*
Black-and-white glass negative
Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division,
Washington, DC

1883

Alabama becomes the first U.S. state to enact an antitrust law on February 23. Childs Frick is born on March 12. On April 30, New York Governor Grover Cleveland signs a bill authorizing the protection of land for Niagara Falls State Park, eventually leading to the establishment of the Niagara Reservation in 1885. After thirteen years of construction, the Brooklyn Bridge opens to traffic on May 24.



The Falk Studio – *Portrait of Childs Frick*, 1901
Photographic print
Courtesy of the Frick Collection/
Frick Art Reference Library Archives, New York

1884

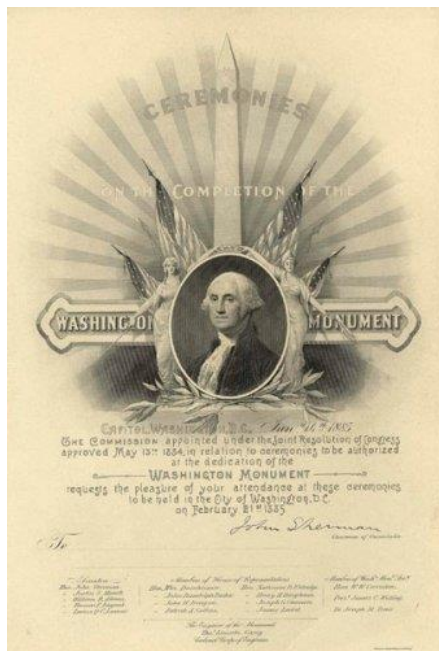
The eight-hour workday is first proclaimed by the Federation of Organized Trades and Labor Unions on May 1; this date, May Day, would become a holiday recognized in almost every industrialized nation. Grover Cleveland is elected President on November 4, defeating James G. Blaine in a very close contest and becoming the first Democrat to be elected after the Civil War. The Washington Monument is completed on December 6.



Eastman Johnson – *Grover Cleveland*, 1891
Oil on canvas
The White House, Washington, DC

1885

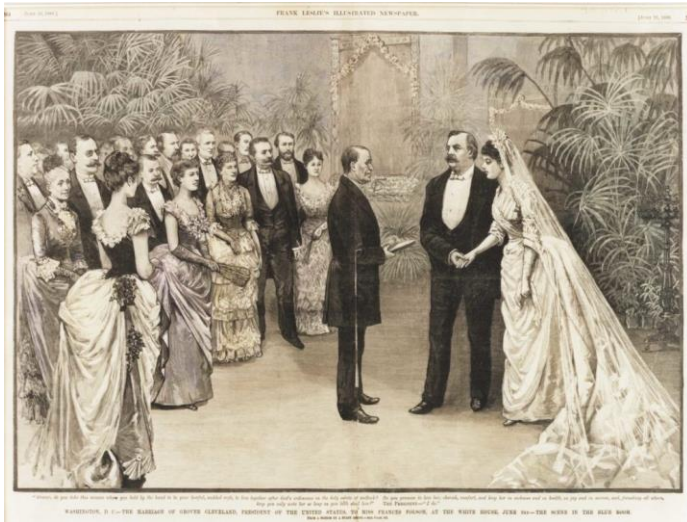
Charles Dow publishes the first edition of the Dow Jones Industrial Average on February 16. President Arthur dedicates the Washington Monument on February 21. Grover Cleveland is sworn in as President on March 4. Ulysses S. Grant dies on July 23 in Mount McGregor, New York.



Washington Monument Dedication Ceremonies Invitation, 1885

1886

On May 8, Pharmacist Dr. John Stith Pemberton invents a carbonated beverage that will become known as Coca-Cola. President Grover Cleveland marries Frances Folsom, 27 years his junior, at the White House on June 2, becoming the only president to wed in the executive mansion. The Statue of Liberty, designed by Frédéric Auguste Bartholdi and constructed by Bartholdi and Gustave Eiffel, is dedicated in New York Harbor by President Cleveland on October 28, resulting in the first ticker tape parade in New York City.



Grover Cleveland and Frances Folsom are Married in the Blue Room, 1886

Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division,
Washington, DC

1887

The first Groundhog Day is observed in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania on February 2. The Interstate Commerce Act is signed into law on February 4, with intention of regulating the railroad industry. Anne Sullivan begins teaching Helen Keller on March 3. Lloyd Bryce begins his first and only term as United States Congressman on March 4, serving until March 3, 1889.



Albert Shaw - *Lloyd Stephens Bryce*, 1891

Source: *Review of Reviews and World's Work* vol. 3 (May 1891)

1888

The National Geographic Society is founded in Washington, DC on January 13. Led by Susan B. Anthony, the International *Congress for Women's Rights*, which leads to the International Council of Women, opens on March 25. Despite winning the popular vote, President Grover Cleveland loses re-election to Benjamin Harrison on November 6.



Eastman Johnson – *Benjamin Harrison*, 1895
Oil on canvas
The White House, Washington, DC

1889

Lloyd Bryce becomes editor of *The North American Review*. In June, Bryce publishes an article for *Lippincott's Monthly Magazine* titled "Dream of Conquest"; the article contains profuse anti-Asian bias. Benjamin Harrison is sworn in as President on March 4. Jane Addams and Ellen Gates Starr establish Hull House, a settlement house with innovative social, educational and artistic programs, on September 18. Peter Cooper Bryce, the third child of Lloyd and Edith Bryce, is born on October 20.



V.O. Hammon Publishing CO. – *The Hull House*, early 1900s
Postcard

1890

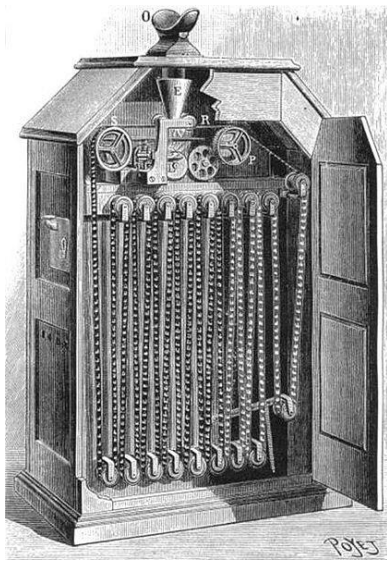
The Sherman Antitrust Act, which prescribes the rule of free market competition, becomes United States law on July 2. Yosemite National Park is established on October 1. The Wounded Knee Massacre, a domestic massacre of nearly 300 Lakota people by United States Army soldiers, occurs on December 29.



Albert Bierstadt – *Valley of the Yosemite*, 1864
Oil on paperboard
Museum of Fine Arts, Boston

1891

Congress passes the International Copyright Act on March 3. Shoshone National Forest in Wyoming is established as the first United States National Forest on March 30. William Kennedy-Laurie Dickson, under Edison's supervision, first displays the prototype Kinetoscope moving picture system on May 20.

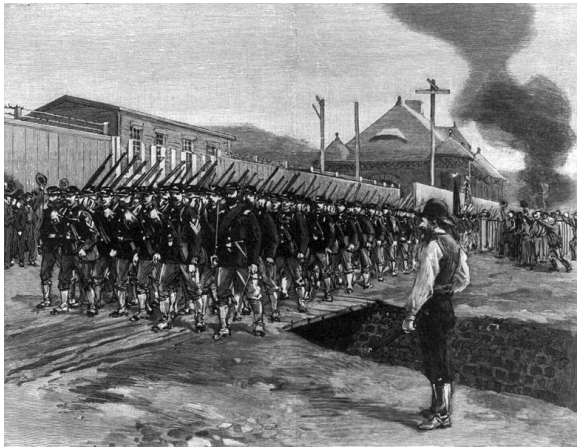


Albert Tissandier – Illustration of the rear interior of a Kinetoscope machine, 1894

Source: Gaston Tissandier, "Le Kinétoscope d'Edison", *La Nature: Revue des sciences et de leurs applications aux arts et à l'industrie*, October 1894; Vingt-deuxième année, deuxième semestre : n. 1096 à 1121, pp. 325-26

1892

Ellis Island begins accommodating immigrants to the United States on January 1. From June 30 to July 6, the Homestead Strike occurs in Homestead, Pennsylvania, culminating in a battle between striking steel workers and Pinkerton guards that leaves ten men killed. Henry Clay Frick, partner of Carnegie Steel Company, is largely held responsible; Russian anarchist Alexander Berkman attempts to assassinate Frick on July 23. Grover Cleveland defeats President Benjamin Harrison on November 8 to win the second of his non-consecutive terms.



Thure de Thulstrup, after F. Cresson Schell - *The First Troops in Homestead. The Eighteenth Regiment passing the Office and Works of the Carnegie Company.*

Wood engraving after drawing

Illustrated in *Harper's Weekly*, July 23, 1892

Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division,
Washington, DC

1893

Thomas Edison finishes construction of the first motion picture studio in West Orange, New Jersey on February 1. A stock market crash at the New York Stock Exchange on May 5 starts a depression known as the Panic of 1893, which lasts until 1897.



"The recent panic scene in the New York Stock Exchange on the morning of Friday, May 5th."

Illustrated in *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper*,
May 18, 1893, p. 322

Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division,
Washington, DC

1894

Milton S. Hershey establishes the Hershey Chocolate Company in Lancaster, Pennsylvania on February 9. A protest march by unemployed workers led by Jacob Coxey, known as Coxey's Army, marches from Massillon, Ohio to Washington, DC from March 25 through April 30. The march is notable as the first protest march in Washington. From May 11 to July 20, in an event known as the Pullman Railroad Strike, three-thousand Pullman Palace Car Company Workers go on strike in Chicago, without union approval, to protest lowered wages. The strike, which is unsuccessful, leads to a clash between union workers and Illinois National Guard troops that leaves approximately 70 workers dead.



Pullman Strikers Outside Arcade Building in Pullman, Chicago, 1894

Source: Northern Illinois University Library, DeKalb, Illinois

1895

In February, J. Pierpont Morgan and the Rothschild family loan \$65 million worth of gold to the United States government, saving the gold reserve of the U.S. Treasury. Mintonette, known today as volleyball, is created by William G. Morgan in Holyoke, Massachusetts on February 9. George Washington Vanderbilt II officially opens his Biltmore Estate in Asheville, North Carolina on December 24.



Biltmore House, with reflecting pool in the Biltmore Gardens Esplanade, 1900.
Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division,
Washington, DC.

1896

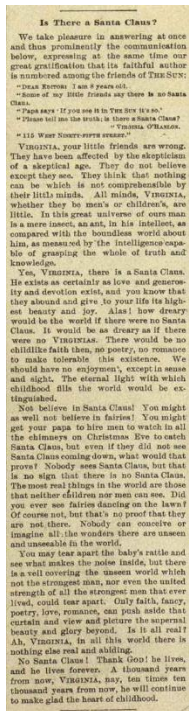
On March 23, the New York State Legislature passes the Raines Law, restricting Sunday alcoholic beverage sales to hotels. The United States Supreme Court establishes the separate but equal doctrine, upholding racial segregation with their 7-1 *Plessy v. Ferguson* ruling on May 18. On November 3, William McKinley is elected President, defeating William Jennings Bryan.



Harriet Anderson Stubbs Murphy – *William McKinley*, 1902
Oil on canvas
The White House, Washington, DC

1897

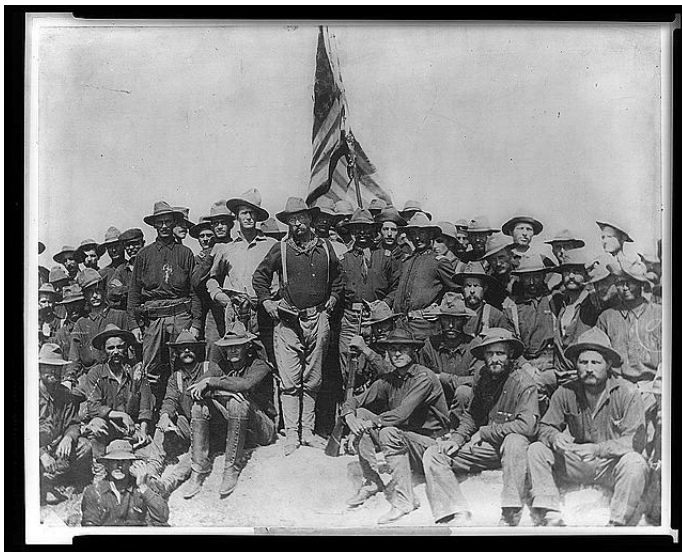
William McKinley is sworn in as President on March 4. The Boston Marathon, the world's oldest annual marathon, is first held on April 19. On September 10, a sheriff's posse kills more than nineteen unarmed immigrant miners in Pennsylvania in what would become known as the Lattimer Massacre. On September 21, the New York newspaper *The Sun* publishes the now-famous editorial by Francis Pharcellus Church in response to a letter written by eight-year-old Virginia O'Hanlon, stating, "Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus."



Francis Pharcellus Church, "Is There a Santa Claus?"
The Sun, September 21, 1897
Library of Congress, Washington, DC

1898

On February 15, the USS *Maine* explodes and sinks in Havana Harbor, Cuba, resulting in the Spanish-American War, which lasts from April 20 to the signing of the Treaty of Paris between Spain and the United States on December 10. Spain cedes Cuba, the Philippines, Guam, and Puerto Rico to the United States. Clarence Mackay marries Katherine Alexander Duer on May 17. The Mackays are gifted Harbor Hill, an estate of over 500 acres in Roslyn, New York, as a wedding present; construction begins the following year.



William Dinwiddie – *Colonel Theodore Roosevelt and his Rough Riders at the top of the hill which they captured, Battle of San Juan, July 1898*
Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division,
Washington, DC

1899

The William Cullen Bryant Library in Roslyn is refurbished, with help from Katherine Mackay. The Newsboys Strike takes place in New York City from July 19 through August 2, when the Newsies of New York City go on strike.



Lewis Wickes Hine – *Hartford Newsboys*, 1909
Gelatin silver print
National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC

1900

Katherine Mackay, the first child of Clarence and Katherine Mackay, is born on February 25. The Bryces purchase Upland Farm, land that was previously part of William Cullen Bryant's Cedarmere Estate in Roslyn, on August 23; they commission Ogden Codman Jr. to design a Georgian Revival mansion (known as "Bryce House") that is now the Nassau County Museum of Art. President William McKinley is re-elected on November 6, defeating William Jennings Bryan on a record turnout of 73.7%.



Unknown Photographer – *The House of Lloyd Bryce, Esq. – The Garden Front, ca. 1901*

1901

Bryce House is completed. Members of the Amalgamated Association of Iron and Steel Workers begin a strike against U.S. Steel Corporation on August 10, with 14,000 employees walking off the job. President William McKinley is shot by Leon Czolgosz at the Pan-American Exposition in Buffalo, New York, on September 6; McKinley dies eight days later. Theodore Roosevelt becomes President, becoming the youngest president in United States history at the age of 42. Roosevelt's presidency ushers in a new period of reforms and regulations in the United States, which would become known as the Progressive Era.



John Singer Sargent – *Theodore Roosevelt*, 1903
Oil on canvas
The White House, Washington, DC

1902

With a \$10 million gift from Andrew Carnegie, the Carnegie Institution, which promotes scientific research, is founded in Washington, DC, on January 28. The Electric Theatre, the first movie theater in the United States, opens in Los Angeles on April 2. The retailer J.C. Penney is founded in Kemmerer, Wyoming on April 14. The store chain Target is founded on June 24.



First J.C. Penney store in Kemmerer, Wyoming. Originally called The Golden Rule Store, 1902.

Source: National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior

1903

Ellin Mackay, the second child of Clarence and Katherine Mackay, is born on March 22; she is later disinherited by her father when she falls in love with Irving Berlin and marries him. New York's Queensboro Bridge, also known as the 59th Street Bridge (now the Ed Koch Queensboro Bridge), opens on March 30. On July 7, "Mother" Mary Harris Jones starts an anti-child-labor "Children's Crusade" (the "March of the Mill Children"), which marches from Philadelphia to Oyster Bay, New York, the hometown of President Roosevelt.



The Queensboro Bridge (Blackwell's Island Bridge) as seen from Manhattan, ca. 1908
Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division,
Washington, DC

1904

Helen MacGregor Byrne begins purchasing and commissioning garden work on the property that is now Planting Fields Arboretum in Upper Brookville, New York. The United States gains control of the Panama Canal Zone for \$10 million on February 23; construction begins on May 4. Cy Young, pitching for the Boston Americans, throws the first perfect game in the history of baseball on May 5 in a game against the Philadelphia Athletics. The first underground line of the New York City Subway opens on October 27. President Roosevelt is re-elected on November 8, defeating Alton B. Parker.



H.C. White Co. - *Where the work is being pushed with greatest energy - the famous Culebra Cut, Panama Canal, April 8, 1907*
Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division,
Washington, DC

1905

Katherine Mackay begins her tenure as the first female board member of the Roslyn Union Free School District, serving until 1910; she is instrumental in the removal of corporal punishment from the Roslyn public schools. On July 11, W.E.B. Du Bois and William Monroe Trotter establish the Niagara Movement, a predecessor to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).



Portrait of W.E.B. Du Bois, 1903

Source: Booker T. Washington, ed., *The Negro Problem* (New York: James Pott and Company, 1903)

1906

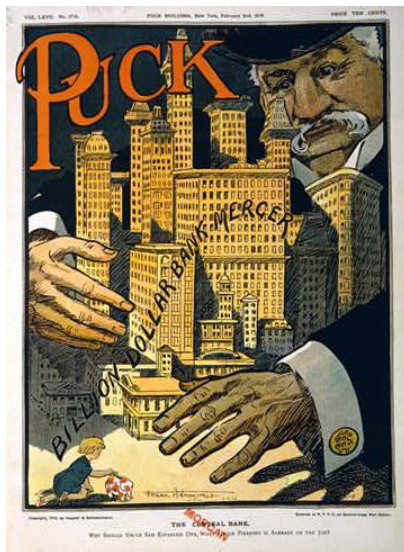
On April 18, an estimated magnitude 7.8 earthquake hits San Francisco, California and devastates much of the city, killing at least 3,000 people and leaving 225,000 to 300,000 people homeless. Harry K. Thaw fatally shoots architect Stanford White at the roof garden theater of New York's Madison Square Garden (designed by White) on June 25. President Roosevelt signs the Pure Food and Drug Act of 1906 on June 30, establishing the Food and Drug Administration in the United States.



Arnold Genthe – *San Francisco: April 18, 1906.*
Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division,
Washington, DC

1907

Charles Curtis from Kansas becomes the first Native American United States Senator on January 23. John William Mackay III, the third child of Clarence and Katherine Mackay, is born on January 28. United Parcel Service (UPS) is founded by James E. Casey in Seattle, Washington on August 28. From October 22 to 24, the Panic of 1907 occurs; a major financial crisis is averted when such industrialists as Henry Clay Frick and J. Pierpont Morgan invest \$25 million in the shares of the plunging New York Stock Exchange. This move ultimately leads to the establishment of the Federal Reserve System.



Frank Arthur Nankivell - *"The Central Bank--Why should Uncle Sam establish one, when Uncle Pierpont is already on the job?"*
Puck Magazine, February 2, 1910

1908

Katherine Mackay founds the women's suffrage group Equal Franchise Society, serving as the organization's president until 1911. Mother's Day is observed for the first time, at Andrew's Methodist Church in Grafton, West Virginia, on May 10. Henry Ford's Model T automobile is officially launched on October 1. William Kissam Vanderbilt II opens the limited-access Long Island Motor Parkway on October 10. William Howard Taft is elected President on November 3, defeating William Jennings Bryan.



Anders Zorn – *William Howard Taft*, 1911
Oil on canvas
The White House, Washington, DC

1909

The NAACP is founded in New York on February 12. William Howard Taft is sworn in as President on March 4. The Indianapolis Motor Speedway opens on August 12. In September, Sigmund Freud gives his only lectures in the United States at Clark University in Worcester, Massachusetts, giving public recognition to the subject of psychoanalysis in the English-speaking world.



Otis Lithograph Co. – Advertisement for the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, 1909
Color lithograph
Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division,
Washington, DC

1910

Clarence and Katherine Mackay separate, eventually divorcing in 1914; the separation is prompted by an affair between Katherine and the family physician, Dr. Joseph A. Blake. Congress establishes Glacier National Park in Montana on May 11. The first unofficial Father's Day is observed on June 19. On July 4, African-American boxer Jack Johnson defeats the White boxer James J. Jeffries in a heavyweight boxing match, sparking race riots across the United States.



Going-to-the-Sun Road in Glacier National Park,
under construction in 1932

Source: National Park Service, United States Department of the
Interior

1911

The Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire in New York kills over 146 people, many of them young immigrant women and girls, on March 25. On May 15, the United States Supreme Court declares Standard Oil to be an “unreasonable” monopoly under the Sherman Antitrust Act and orders it dissolved. The main branch of the New York Public Library (now the Stephen A. Schwarzman Building) opens on May 23. Lloyd Bryce is appointed United States Minister to the Netherlands and Luxembourg on August 12, serving until September 10, 1913.



New York Public Library, Main Branch,
Rose Main Reading Room, 1911

1912

On her maiden voyage, the RMS Titanic strikes an iceberg and sinks in the northern Atlantic Ocean on April 14; over 1,500 lives are lost. Fenway Park, home to the Boston Red Sox, opens on April 20. Woodrow Wilson is elected President on November 5, defeating incumbent President William Howard Taft. Taft's base is weakened by the third-party campaign of Theodore Roosevelt, who finishes ahead of Taft.



Frank Graham Cootes – *Woodrow Wilson*, 1936
Oil on canvas
The White House, Washington, DC

1913

On February 3, the 16th Amendment to the United States Constitution is ratified, authorizing the Federal government to impose and collect income taxes. Woodrow Wilson is sworn in as President on March 4. In Highland Park, Michigan, the Ford Motor Company's plant becomes the first automobile production facility in the world to implement the moving assembly line on October 7. William Robertson Coe purchases Planting Fields, a neighboring Gilded Age estate, on December 1 and commissions Lowell and Sargent to create a mansion on the property; the building is destroyed by fire in 1918 but is rebuilt by Walker and Gillette in 1921 as Coe Hall.



Workers on the first moving assembly line put together magnetos and flywheels for 1913 Ford autos, Highland Park, Michigan, 1913

1914

On January 5, the Ford Motor Company announces an eight-hour workday and a minimum wage of \$5 for a day's labor. Weeghman Park, later known as Wrigley Field, now home to the Chicago Cubs, opens on April 23. Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria and his wife are assassinated by the Serbian nationalist Gavrilo Princip in Sarajevo on June 28, triggering the advent of World War I; the United States does not enter the war until 1917. Cornelia Bryce marries Gifford Pinchot, the first Chief of the United States Forest Service, at Bryce House on August 15. Childs Frick marries Frances Shoemaker Dixon in Baltimore on October 14.



Weeghman Park, May 1914