

1880 in the United States

Events from the year **1880 in the United States**.

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Incumbents

Federal Government

- President: Rutherford B. Hayes (R-Ohio)
- Vice President: William A. Wheeler (R-New York)
- Chief Justice: Morrison Waite (Ohio)
- Speaker of the House of Representatives: Samuel J. Randall (D-Pennsylvania)
- Congress: 46th

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Governors and Lieutenant Governors

Governors

- Governor of Alabama: Rufus W. Cobb (Democratic)
- Governor of Arkansas: William Read Miller (Democratic)
- Governor of California: William Irwin (Democratic) (until January 8), George Clement Perkins (Republican) (starting January 8)
- Governor of Colorado: Frederick Walker Pitkin (Republican)
- Governor of Connecticut: Charles B. Andrews (Republican)
- Governor of Delaware: John W. Hall (Democratic)
- Governor of Florida: George Franklin Drew (Democratic)
- Governor of Georgia: Alfred H. Colquitt (Democratic)
- Governor of Illinois: Shelby Moore Cullom (Republican)
- Governor of Indiana: James D. Williams (Democratic) (until November 20), Isaac P. Gray (Democratic) (starting November 20)
- Governor of Iowa: John H. Gear (Republican)
- Governor of Kansas: John P. St. John (Republican)
- Governor of Kentucky: Luke P. Blackburn (Democratic)
- Governor of Louisiana: Francis T. Nicholls (Democratic) (until January 14), Louis A. Wiltz (Democratic) (starting January 14)
- Governor of Maine: Alonzo Garcelon (Democratic) (until January 17), Daniel F. Davis (Republican) (starting January 17)
- Governor of Maryland: John Lee Carroll (Democratic) (until January 14), William T. Hamilton (Democratic) (starting January 14)
- Governor of Massachusetts: Thomas Talbot (Republican) (until January 8), John Davis Long (Republican) (starting January 8)
- Governor of Michigan: Charles Croswell (Republican)
- Governor of Minnesota: John S. Pillsbury (Republican)
- Governor of Mississippi: John M. Stone (Democratic)
- Governor of Missouri: John Smith Phelps (Democratic)
- Governor of Nebraska: Albinus Nance (Republican)
- Governor of Nevada: John Henry Kinkead (Republican)
- Governor of New Hampshire: Natt Head (Republican)
- Governor of New Jersey: George B. McClellan (Democratic)
- Governor of New York: Alonzo B. Cornell (Republican) (starting January 1)
- Governor of North Carolina: Thomas Jordan Jarvis (Democratic)
- Governor of Ohio: Richard M. Bishop (Democratic) (until January 12), Charles Foster (Republican) (starting January 12)
- Governor of Oregon: W. W. Thayer (Democratic)
- Governor of Pennsylvania: Henry M. Hoyt (Republican)
- Governor of Rhode Island: Charles C. Van Zandt (Republican) (until May 25), Alfred H. Littlefield (Republican) (starting May 25)
- Governor of South Carolina:
 - until September 1: William Dunlap Simpson (Democratic)
 - September 1-November 30: Thomas Bothwell Jeter (Democratic)
 - starting November 30: Johnson Hagood (Democratic)
- Governor of Tennessee: Albert S. Marks (Democratic)
- Governor of Texas: Oran M. Roberts (Democratic)

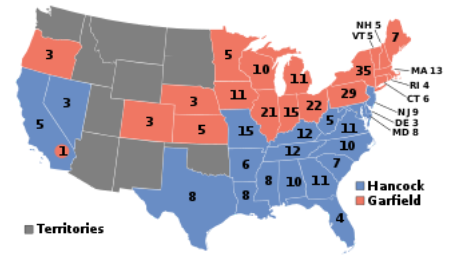
- Governor of Vermont: Redfield Proctor (Republican) (until October 7), Roswell Farnham (Republican) (starting October 7)
- Governor of Virginia: Frederick W. M. Holliday (Democratic)
- Governor of West Virginia: Henry M. Mathews (Democratic)
- Governor of Wisconsin: William E. Smith (Republican)

Lieutenant Governors

- Lieutenant Governor of California: James A. Johnson (Democratic) (until January 8), John Mansfield (Republican) (starting January 8)
- Lieutenant Governor of Colorado: Horace Austin Warner Tabor (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Connecticut: David Gallup (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Florida: vacant
- Lieutenant Governor of Illinois: Andrew Shuman (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Indiana:
 - until November 2: Isaac P. Gray (Democratic)
 - November 2-November 20: vacant
 - starting November 20: Fredrick Vieche (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Iowa: Frank T. Campbell (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Kansas: Lyman U. Humphrey (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Kentucky: James E. Cantrill (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Louisiana: Louis A. Wiltz (Democratic) (until January 14), Samuel D. McEnery (Democratic) (starting January 14)
- Lieutenant Governor of Massachusetts: John D. Long (Republican) (until January 8), Byron Weston (Republican) (starting January 8)
- Lieutenant Governor of Michigan: Alonzo Sessions (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Minnesota: James Wakefield (Republican) (until January 10), Charles A. Gilman (Republican) (starting January 10)
- Lieutenant Governor of Mississippi: William H. Sims (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Missouri: Henry Clay Brockmeyer (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Nebraska: Edmund C. Carns (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Nevada: Jewett W. Adams (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of New York: George Gilbert Hoskins (Republican) (starting January 1)
- Lieutenant Governor of North Carolina: vacant
- Lieutenant Governor of Ohio: Jabez W. Fitch (Democratic) (until January 12), Andrew Hickenlooper (Republican) (starting month and day unknown)
- Lieutenant Governor of Pennsylvania: Charles Warren Stone (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Rhode Island: Albert Howard (political party unknown) (until May 25), Henry Fay (political party unknown) (starting May 25)
- Lieutenant Governor of South Carolina: vacant (until November 30), John D. Kennedy (Democratic) (starting November 30)
- Lieutenant Governor of Tennessee: John R. Neal (Democratic) (starting month and day unknown)
- Lieutenant Governor of Texas: Joseph Draper Sayers (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Vermont: Eben Pomeroy Colton (Republican) (until October 7), John L. Barstow (Republican) (starting October 7)
- Lieutenant Governor of Virginia: James A. Walker (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Wisconsin: James M. Bingham (Republican)

Events

- February – The journal Science is first published, with financial backing from Thomas Edison.
- February 2 – The first electric streetlight is installed in Wabash, Indiana.
- March 31 – Wabash, Indiana becomes the first electrically lighted city in the world.
- May 13 – In Menlo Park, New Jersey, Thomas Edison performs the first test of his electric railway.
- May 30 – League of American Wheelmen is founded in Newport, Rhode Island.
- June 1 – United States Census is 50,155,783.
- September 30; Amateur astronomer Henry Draper takes the first ever photograph of the Orion Nebula.
- October 6 – The University of Southern California opens its doors to 53 students and 10 faculty.
- October 15 – The first blizzard mentioned in Laura Ingalls Wilder's *The Long Winter* sweeps over the prairie in Dakota Territory.
- November 2 – U.S. presidential election, 1880: James Garfield defeats Winfield S. Hancock.
- November 4 – The first cash register is patented by James and John Ritty of Dayton, Ohio.
- November 22 – Vaudeville actress Lillian Russell makes her debut at Tony Pastor's Theatre in New York City.



November 2: James Garfield elected president

Undated

- The Department of Scientific Temperance Instruction of the Women's Christian Temperance Union is established.
- Charles Wesley Emerson founds the Boston Conservatory of Elocution, Oratory, and Dramatic Art, predecessor of Emerson College.
- More than 100,000 Chinese men and 3,000 Chinese women are living in the western United States.

Ongoing

- Gilded Age (1869–c. 1896)

Sport

- September 15 – The Chicago White Stockings clinch their Second National League pennant with a 5–2 win over the Cincinnati Reds.

Births

January–June

- January 6 – Tom Mix, Western film actor (d. 1940)
- January 14 – Joseph Warren Beach, poet, novelist, critic and literary scholar (d. 1957)
- January 20 – Walter W. Bacon, accountant and politician, 60th Governor of Delaware (d. 1962)
- January 26
 - Sylvia Ashton, silent film actress (d. 1940)
 - Douglas MacArthur, general (d. 1964)
- January 28 – Dorothy Donnelly, actress and lyricist (d. 1928)
- January 29 – W. C. Fields, born William Claude Dukenfield, comic actor (d. 1946)
- February – Maud E. Craig Sampson Williams, African American suffragist (d. 1958)
- February 12 – John L. Lewis, labor union leader (d. 1969)
- February 14 – Frederick J. Horne, admiral (d. 1959)
- February 16 – Frank Burke, baseball player (d. 1946)
- February 19 – Arthur Shepherd, composer (d. 1958)
- February 2 – Angelina Weld Grimke, African American lesbian journalist and poet (d. 1958)
- March 4 – Channing Pollock, playwright and critic (d. 1946)
- March 10 – Broncho Billy Anderson, Western film actor (d. 1971)
- March 11 – Harry H. Laughlin, eugenicist (d. 1943)
- March 28 – Louis Wolheim, character actor (d. 1931)
- April 18 – Sam Crawford, baseball player (d. 1968)
- May 6 – William Joseph Simmons, founder of the second Ku Klux Klan in 1915 (d. 1945)
- June 4 – Clara Blandick, actress (d. 1962)
- June 9 – William S. Pye, admiral (d. 1959)
- June 11 – Jeannette Pickering Rankin, first woman elected to U.S. Congress (d. 1973)
- June 17 – Carl Van Vechten, writer and photographer (d. 1964)
- June 21 – Arnold Gesell, developmental psychologist (d. 1961)
- June 24 – Oswald Veblen, mathematician (d. 1960)
- June 27 – Helen Keller, campaigner for the deaf and blind (d. 1968)

July–December

- July 10 – Grege La Spina, born Fanny Grege Bragg, fiction writer (d. 1969)
- July 12 – Tod Browning, motion picture director, horror film pioneer (d. 1962)
- August 2 – Arthur Dove, abstract painter (d. 1946)
- August 10 – Robert L. Thornton, businessman, philanthropist and mayor of Dallas, Texas (d. 1964)
- August 12 – Christy Mathewson, baseball player (d. 1925)
- August 22 – George Herriman, cartoonist (d. 1944)

- September 14 – Archie Hahn, sprinter (d. 1955)
- September 12 – H. L. Mencken, journalist (d. 1956)
- September 24 – Sarah Knauss, supercentenarian, the longest lived American ever (d. 1999)
- October 4 – Damon Runyon, writer (d. 1946)
- November 1 – Grantland Rice, sportswriter (d. 1954)
- November 10 – Jacob Epstein, sculptor (d. 1959 in the United Kingdom)
- November 12 – Harold Rainsford Stark, admiral (d. 1972)
- December 4 – Garfield Wood, motorboat racer (d. 1971)
- December 24 – Johnny Gruelle, cartoonist and children's book author (d. 1938)
- December 31 – George Marshall, United States Secretary of State, recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1953 (d. 1959)

Deaths

- January 1 – Morris Ketchum, financier (b. 1796)
- January 8 – "Emperor Norton", eccentric (b. c.1818 in the United Kingdom)
- January 12 – Ellen Lewis Herndon Arthur, wife of future President Chester A. Arthur (b. 1837)
- January 19 – James Westcott, U.S. Senator from Florida from 1845 to 1849, died in Montréal, Québec, Canada (b. 1802)
- February 14 – Samuel G. Arnold, U.S. Senator from Rhode Island from 1862 to 1863 (b. 1821)
- February 17 – James Lenox, bibliophile (b. 1800)
- May 4 – Edward Clark, Confederate Governor of Texas (b. 1815)
- May 8 – Jones Very, Transcendentalist essayist, poet, clergyman and mystic (born 1813)
- June 12 – Albert G. Brown, U.S. Senator from Mississippi from 1854 to 1861 (b. 1813)
- June 13 – James A. Bayard, Jr., U.S. Senator from Delaware from 1851 to 1864 (b. 1799)
- June 17 – James B. Howell, U.S. Senator from Iowa from 1870 to 1871 (b. 1816)
- June 28 – Texas Jack Omohundro, frontier scout, actor and cowboy (b. 1846)
- July 7 – Lydia Maria Child, novelist and abolitionist (b. 1802)
- July 21 – Hiram Walden, politician (b. 1800)
- August 9 – William Bigler, U.S. Senator from Pennsylvania from 1856 to 1861 (born 1814)
- August 16 – Herschel Vespasian Johnson, United States Senator from Georgia from 1863 till 1865. (born 1812)
- August 19 – James Seddon, 4th Confederate States Secretary of War (born 1815)
- August 24 – Ouray, Ute leader (b. c. 1833)
- September 19 – Lafayette S. Foster, U.S. Senator from Connecticut from 1855 to 1867 (born 1806)
- October – Victorio, Chiricahua Apache chief (b. c.1825)

- November 9 – Edwin Drake, first American to successfully drill for oil (b. 1819)
- December 20 – Gaspar Tochman, lawyer and Confederate colonel (b. 1797 in Poland)
- December 30 – Epes Sargent, editor, poet and playwright (b. 1813)

See also

- Timeline of United States history (1860–1899)

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