

1888 in the United States

Events from the year **1888 in the United States**.

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Incumbents

Federal Government

- President: Grover Cleveland (D-New York)
- Vice President: *vacant*
- Chief Justice: Morrison Waite (Ohio) (until March 23), Melville Fuller (Illinois) (starting October 8)
- Speaker of the House of Representatives: John G. Carlisle (D-Kentucky)
- Congress: 50th

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Eisenhower Executive Office Building, built in 1888 in Washington, DC



Barthrop House in Port Townsend, Washington, built in 1888

Governors and Lieutenant Governors

Governors

- Governor of Alabama: Thomas Seay (Democratic)
- Governor of Arkansas: Simon Pollard Hughes, Jr. (Democratic)
- Governor of California: Robert Waterman (Republican)
- Governor of Colorado: Alva Adams (Democratic)
- Governor of Connecticut: Phineas C. Lounsbury (Republican)
- Governor of Delaware: Benjamin T. Biggs (Democratic)
- Governor of Florida: Edward A. Perry (Democratic)
- Governor of Georgia: John B. Gordon (Democratic)
- Governor of Illinois: Richard J. Oglesby (Republican)
- Governor of Indiana: Isaac P. Gray (Democratic)
- Governor of Iowa: William Larrabee (Republican)
- Governor of Kansas: John A. Martin (Republican)
- Governor of Kentucky: Simon B. Buckner (Democratic)
- Governor of Louisiana: Samuel D. McEnery (Democratic) (until May 20), Francis T. Nicholls (Democratic) (starting May 20)
- Governor of Maine: Sebastian Streeter Marble (Republican)
- Governor of Maryland: Henry Lloyd (Democratic) (until January 11), Elihu Emory Jackson (Democratic) (starting January 11)
- Governor of Massachusetts: Oliver Ames (Republican)
- Governor of Michigan: Cyrus G. Luce (Republican)
- Governor of Minnesota: Andrew R. McGill (Republican)
- Governor of Mississippi: Robert Lowry (Democratic)
- Governor of Missouri: Albert P. Morehouse (Democratic)
- Governor of Nebraska: John Milton Thayer (Republican)
- Governor of Nevada: Charles C. Stevenson (Republican)
- Governor of New Hampshire: Charles H. Sawyer (Republican)
- Governor of New Jersey: Robert Stockton Green (Democratic)
- Governor of New York: David B. Hill (Democratic)
- Governor of North Carolina: Alfred Moore Scales (Democratic)
- Governor of Ohio: Joseph B. Foraker (Republican)
- Governor of Oregon: Sylvester Pennoyer (Democratic)
- Governor of Pennsylvania: James A. Beaver (Republican)
- Governor of Rhode Island: John W. Davis (Democratic) (until May 29), Royal C. Taft (Republican) (starting May 29)
- Governor of South Carolina: John Peter Richardson III (Democratic)
- Governor of Tennessee: Robert Love Taylor (Democratic)
- Governor of Texas: Lawrence Sullivan Ross (Democratic)
- Governor of Vermont: Ebenezer J. Ormsbee (Republican) (until October 4), William P. Dillingham (Republican) (starting October 4)
- Governor of Virginia: Fitzhugh Lee (Democratic)
- Governor of West Virginia: Emanuel Willis Wilson (Democratic)
- Governor of Wisconsin: Jeremiah McLain Rusk (Republican)

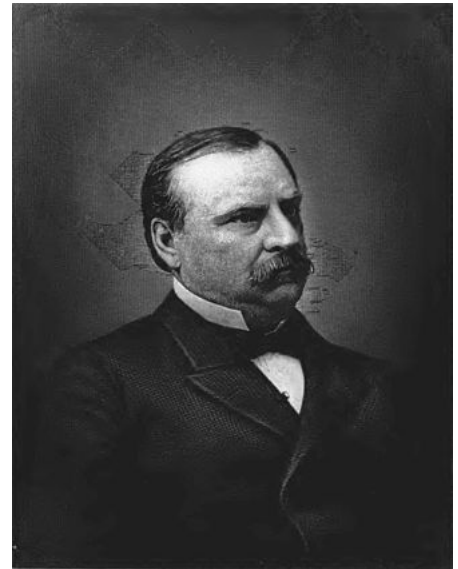
Lieutenant Governors

- Lieutenant Governor of California: Stephen M. White (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Colorado: Norman H. Meldrum (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Connecticut: James L. Howard (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Florida: Milton H. Mabry (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Illinois: John Smith (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Indiana: vacant
- Lieutenant Governor of Iowa: John A. T. Hull (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Kansas: Alexander P. Riddle (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Kentucky: James William Bryan (political party unknown)
- Lieutenant Governor of Louisiana: Clay Knobloch (Democratic) (until month and day unknown), James Jeffries (Democratic) (starting month and day unknown)
- Lieutenant Governor of Massachusetts: John Q. A. Brackett (political party unknown)
- Lieutenant Governor of Michigan: James H. MacDonald (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Minnesota: Albert E. Rice (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Mississippi: G. D. Shands (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Missouri: vacant
- Lieutenant Governor of Nebraska: Hibbard H. Shedd (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Nevada: Henry C. Davis (political party unknown) (until month and day unknown), Samuel W. Chubbuck (political party unknown) (starting month and day unknown)
- Lieutenant Governor of New York: Edward F. Jones (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of North Carolina: Charles M. Stedman (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Ohio: Silas A. Conrad (Republican) (until January 9), William C. Lyon (Republican) (starting January 9)
- Lieutenant Governor of Pennsylvania: William T. Davies (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Rhode Island: Samuel R. Honey (political party unknown) (until May 29), Enos Lapham (political party unknown) (starting May 29)
- Lieutenant Governor of South Carolina: William Mauldin (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Tennessee: Z. W. Ewing (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Texas: Thomas B. Wheeler (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Vermont: Levi K. Fuller (Republican) (until October 4), Urban A. Woodbury (Republican) (starting October 4)
- Lieutenant Governor of Virginia: John Edward "Parson" Massey (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Wisconsin: George W. Ryland (Republican)

Events

- January 12 – "Schoolhouse Blizzard": Blizzards hit Dakota Territory, the states of Montana, Minnesota, Nebraska, Kansas, and Texas, leaving 235 dead, many of whom are children on their way home from school.
- January 13 – The National Geographic Society is founded in Washington, D.C.
- February 27 – In West Orange, New Jersey, Thomas Edison meets with Eadweard Muybridge, who proposes a scheme for sound film.
- March 8 – The Agriculture College of Utah, (later Utah State University) is founded in Logan, Utah.
- March 11 – The "Great Blizzard of 1888" begins along the East Coast of the United States, shutting down commerce and killing more than 400.
- March 25 – Opening of an international *Congress for Women's Rights* organized by Susan B. Anthony in Washington, D.C., leading to formation of the International Council of Women, a key event in the international women's movement.

- May 1 – Fort Belknap Indian Reservation is established by the United States Congress.
- May 5 – The International Association of Machinists is founded in Atlanta, Georgia.
- June 3 – Ernest Thayer's baseball poem "Casey at the Bat" is first published (under the pen name "Phin") as the last of his humorous contributions to The San Francisco Examiner.
- June 19 – The Republican Convention opens at the Auditorium Building, Chicago. Benjamin Harrison and Levi Morton win the nominations for President and Vice President, respectively.
- July 25 – Frank Edward McGurkin, a court stenographer from Salt Lake City, Utah, purportedly the only person using touch typing at this time, wins a decisive victory over Louis Traub in a typing contest held in Cincinnati, Ohio. This date can be called the birthday of the touch typing method that becomes widely used.
- August 10 – Lynching of Amos Miller: 23-year-old African American farmhand Amos Miller is hanged by a mob from the balcony of Williamson County Courthouse (Franklin, Tennessee).
- August 25 – William Seward Burroughs patents the adding machine.
- September 4 – Eastman Kodak Company founded by George Eastman.
- September 8 – President of the United States Grover Cleveland declares the Chinese "impossible of assimilation with our people and dangerous to our peace and welfare" (in a letter accepting renomination for the office of President).
- October 9 – The Washington Monument officially opens to the general public in D.C.
- November 6 – 1888 United States presidential election: Democratic Party incumbent Grover Cleveland wins the popular vote, but loses the Electoral College vote to Republican challenger Benjamin Harrison, therefore losing the election.
- November 27 – The sorority Delta Delta Delta is founded at Boston University.
- November 29 – Celebration of Thanksgiving and the first day of Hanukkah coincide.



President Grover Cleveland, photo circa 1888, loses his re-election campaign this year, but is re-elected in 1892.

Undated

- The Baldwin School is founded in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania, as "Miss [Florence] Baldwin's School for Girls, Preparatory for Bryn Mawr College".
- G. D. Searle is founded as a pharmaceutical company, originally in Omaha, Nebraska.
- Katz's Delicatessen is founded in the Lower East Side of Manhattan.
- New Mexico State University is founded in Las Cruces, New Mexico.

Ongoing

- Gilded Age (1869–c. 1896)

Sport

- October 25 – The New York Giants clinch their First National League Championship series with an 11–3 win over the St. Louis Browns. The final 2 games will be played for revenue purposes with St. Louis winning both contests for an overall series result of 6 games to 4 in favor of the Giants.
- November 24 – Yale wins the Consensus College Football National Championship

Births

- January 1 – John Garand, inventor and designer of the M1 Garand (died 1974)
- c. January 20 – Huddie William Ledbetter (Lead Belly), folk and blues singer (died 1949)
- February 22 – Owen Brewster, U.S. Senator from Maine from 1941 to 1952 (died 1961)
- February 25 – John Foster Dulles, U.S. Secretary of State from 1953 to 1959 (died 1959)
- March 4 – Knute Rockne, American football player and coach (died 1931)
- March 10 – Ilo Wallace, Second Lady of the United States as wife of Henry A. Wallace (died 1981)
- March 26 – Gerald Murphy, socialite (died 1964)
- March 29 – James E. Casey, businessman and founder of UPS (died 1983)
- April 8 – Dennis Chávez, U.S. Senator from New Mexico from 1935 to 1962 (died 1962)
- April 26 – Anita Loos, writer (died 1981)
- May 11
 - Irving Berlin, composer (died 1989)
 - Willis Augustus Lee, admiral and sport shooter (died at sea 1945)
- May 15 – John E. Miller, U.S. Senator from Arkansas from 1937 to 1941 (died 1981)
- July 5 – Herbert Spencer Gasser, physiologist, winner of the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 1944 (died 1963)
- July 10 – Hazel Abel, U.S. Senator from Nebraska in 1954 (died 1966)
- July 23 – Raymond Chandler, novelist (died 1959)
- July 31 – William Warren Barbour, U.S. Senator from New Jersey from 1931 to 1937 (died 1943)
- August 5 – George W. Christians, founder of the Crusader White Shirts (died 1983)
- August 19 – Sam G. Bratton, U.S. Senator from New Mexico from 1925 to 1933 (died 1963)
- September 2 – Charles C. Gossett, U.S. Senator from Idaho from 1945 to 1946 (died 1974)
- September 6 – Joseph P. Kennedy, Sr., politician (died 1969)
- September 26
 - J. Frank Dobie, folklorist and journalist (died 1964)

- T. S. Eliot, American-born poet, winner of the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1948 (died 1965 in the United Kingdom)
- October 7 – Henry A. Wallace, 33rd Vice President of the United States from 1941 to 1945 (died 1965)
- October 16
 - Eugene O'Neill, dramatist, winner of the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1936 (died 1953)
 - Paul Popenoe, eugenicist (died 1979)
- October 30 – Alan Goodrich Kirk, admiral (died 1963)
- November 17 – J. Melville Broughton, U.S. Senator from North Carolina from 1948 to 1949 (died 1949)
- November 23 – Harpo Marx, comedian (died 1964)
- December 18 – Robert Moses, public works director (died 1981)

Deaths

- January 21 – Adolph Douai, German-American socialist and abolitionist newspaper editor, journalist and teacher (born 1819)
- February 8 – Robert H. Anderson, infantry officer in the United States Army and brigadier general in the Confederate States Army (born 1835)
- February 11 – William Kelly, inventor (born 1811)
- March 4 – Amos Bronson Alcott, educator and writer (born 1799)
- March 6 – Louisa May Alcott, author (born 1832)
- March 7 – Christopher Memminger, German-born American politician, 1st Confederate States Secretary of the Treasury (born 1803)
- March 19 – John Pendleton King, U.S. Senator from Georgia from 1833 to 1837 (born 1799)
- March 23 – Morrison Waite, 7th Chief Justice of the Supreme Court (born 1816)
- April 18 – Roscoe Conkling, leader of the Stalwart faction of the Republican Party (born 1829)
- July 23 – Williams Carter Wickham, lawyer, politician, and Confederate general (born 1820)
- August 14 – Charles Crocker, railroad executive (born 1822)
- August 16 – John Pemberton, pharmacist and inventor of Coca-Cola (born 1831)
- August 22 – Charles W. Cathcart, U.S. Senator from Indiana from 1845 to 1853 (born 1809)
- October 16 – John Wentworth, mayor of Chicago from 1857 to 1858 and 1860 to 1861 (born 1815)
- November 20 – Nathaniel Currier, illustrator (born 1813)
- December 18 – Eagle Woman, Lakota leader (born 1820)

See also

- Timeline of United States history (1860–1899)

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