

1891 in the United States

Events from the year **1891 in the United States**.

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Incumbents

Federal Government

- President: Benjamin Harrison (R-Indiana)
- Vice President: Levi P. Morton (R-New York)
- Chief Justice: Melville Fuller (Illinois)
- Speaker of the House of Representatives: Thomas Brackett Reed (R-Maine) (until March 4), Charles Frederick Crisp (D-Georgia) (starting December 8)
- Congress: 51st (until March 4), 52nd (starting March 4)

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First Baptist Church in Lake City, Colorado, built in 1891



Santa Fe Railroad Depot, Orange, California in 1891

Governors and Lieutenant Governors

Governors

- Governor of Alabama: Thomas G. Jones (Democratic)
- Governor of Arkansas: James Philip Eagle (Democratic)
- Governor of California: Robert Waterman (Republican) (until January 8), Henry Markham (Republican) (starting January 8)
- Governor of Colorado: Job Adams Cooper (Republican) (until January 13), John Long Routt (Republican) (starting January 13)
- Governor of Connecticut: Morgan G. Bulkeley (Republican)
- Governor of Delaware: Benjamin T. Biggs (Democratic) (until January 20), Robert J. Reynolds (Democratic) (starting January 20)
- Governor of Florida: Francis P. Fleming (Democratic)
- Governor of Georgia: William J. Northen (Democratic)
- Governor of Idaho: N. B. Willey (Republican)
- Governor of Illinois: Joseph W. Fifer (Republican)
- Governor of Indiana: Alvin P. Hovey (Republican) (until November 23), Ira Joy Chase (Republican) (starting November 23)
- Governor of Iowa: Horace Boies (Democratic)
- Governor of Kansas: Lyman U. Humphrey (Republican)
- Governor of Kentucky: Simon B. Buckner (Democratic) (until September 2), John Y. Brown (Democratic) (starting September 2)
- Governor of Louisiana: Francis T. Nicholls (Democratic)
- Governor of Maine: Edwin C. Burleigh (Republican)
- Governor of Maryland: Elihu Emory Jackson (Democratic)
- Governor of Massachusetts: John Q. A. Brackett (Republican) (until January 8), William E. Russell (Democratic) (starting January 8)
- Governor of Michigan: Cyrus G. Luce (Republican) (until January 1), Edwin B. Winans (Democratic) (starting January 1)
- Governor of Minnesota: William R. Merriam (Republican)
- Governor of Mississippi: John M. Stone (Democratic)
- Governor of Missouri: David R. Francis (Democratic)
- Governor of Montana: Joseph Toole (Democratic)
- Governor of Nebraska: John Milton Thayer (Republican)
- Governor of Nevada: Frank Bell (Republican) (until January 5), Roswell K. Colcord (Republican) (starting January 5)
- Governor of New Hampshire: David H. Goodell (Republican) (until January 8), Hiram A. Tuttle (Republican) (starting January 8)
- Governor of New Jersey: Leon Abbett (Democratic)
- Governor of New York: David B. Hill (Democratic) (until end of December 31)
- Governor of North Carolina: Daniel Gould Fowle (Democratic) (until April 7), Thomas Michael Holt (Democratic) (starting April 7)



Adams Memorial by Augustus Saint-Gaudens, built in 1891, Washington, D.C.

- Governor of North Dakota: John Miller (Republican) (until January 7), Andrew H. Burke (Republican) (starting January 7)
- Governor of Ohio: James E. Campbell (Democratic)
- Governor of Oregon: Sylvester Pennoyer (Democratic)
- Governor of Pennsylvania: James A. Beaver (Republican) (until January 20), Robert E. Pattison (Democratic) (starting January 20)
- Governor of Rhode Island: John W. Davis (Democratic) (until May 26), Herbert W. Ladd (Republican) (starting May 26)
- Governor of South Carolina: Benjamin Ryan Tillman (Democratic)
- Governor of South Dakota: Arthur C. Mellette (Republican)
- Governor of Tennessee: Robert Love Taylor (Democratic) (until January 19), John P. Buchanan (Farm-Labor) (starting January 19)
- Governor of Texas: Lawrence Sullivan Ross (Democratic) (until January 20), James Stephen Hogg (Democratic) (starting January 20)
- Governor of Vermont: Carroll S. Page (Republican)
- Governor of Virginia: Philip W. McKinney (Democratic)
- Governor of Washington: Elisha Peyre Ferry (Republican)
- Governor of West Virginia: Aretas B. Fleming (Democratic)
- Governor of Wisconsin: William D. Hoard (Republican) (until January 5), George W. Peck (Democratic) (starting January 5)
- Governor of Wyoming: Amos W. Barber (Republican)

Lieutenant Governors

- Lieutenant Governor of California: Stephen M. White (Democratic) (until January 8), John B. Reddick (Republican) (starting January 8)
- Lieutenant Governor of Colorado: William Grover Smith (Republican) (until January 13), William Story (Republican) (starting January 13)
- Lieutenant Governor of Connecticut: Samuel E. Merwin (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Idaho: John S. Gray (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Illinois: Lyman Ray (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Indiana: Ira Joy Chase (Republican) (until November 24), Francis M. Griffith (Republican) (starting November 23)
- Lieutenant Governor of Iowa: Alfred N. Poyneer (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Kansas: Andrew J. Felt (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Kentucky: James William Bryan (Democratic) (until September 2), Mitchell Cary Alford (Democratic) (starting September 2)
- Lieutenant Governor of Louisiana: James Jeffries (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Massachusetts: William H. Haile (political party unknown)
- Lieutenant Governor of Michigan: vacant (until January 1), John Strong (Democratic) (starting January 1)

- Lieutenant Governor of Minnesota: Albert E. Rice (Republican) (until January 5), Gideon S. Ives (Republican) (starting January 5)
- Lieutenant Governor of Mississippi: M. M. Evans (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Missouri: Stephen H. Claycomb (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Montana: John E. Rickards (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Nebraska: George D. Meiklejohn (Republican) (until month and day unknown), Thomas J. Majors (Republican) (starting month and day unknown)
- Lieutenant Governor of Nevada: Frank Bell (Republican) (until month and day unknown), Joseph Poujade (political party unknown) (starting month and day unknown)
- Lieutenant Governor of New York: Edward F. Jones (Democratic) (until end of December 31)
- Lieutenant Governor of North Carolina: Thomas M. Holt (Democratic) (until April 7), vacant (starting April 7)
- Lieutenant Governor of North Dakota: Alfred Dickey (Republican) (until January 7), Roger Allin (Republican) (starting January 7)
- Lieutenant Governor of Ohio: William V. Marquis (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Pennsylvania: William T. Davies (Republican) (until January 20), Louis Arthur Watres (Republican) (starting January 20)
- Lieutenant Governor of Rhode Island: William T. C. Wardwell (political party unknown) (until May 26), Henry A. Stearns (political party unknown) (starting May 26)
- Lieutenant Governor of South Carolina: Eugene Gary (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of South Dakota: James H. Fletcher (Republican) (until month and day unknown), George H. Hoffman (Republican) (starting month and day unknown)
- Lieutenant Governor of Tennessee: Benjamin J. Lea (Democratic) (until month and day unknown), William C. Dismukes (Democratic) (starting month and day unknown)
- Lieutenant Governor of Texas: Thomas B. Wheeler (Democratic) (until January 19), George Cassety Pendleton (Democratic) (starting January 19)
- Lieutenant Governor of Vermont: Henry A. Fletcher (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Virginia: James Hoge Tyler (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Washington: Charles E. Laughton (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Wisconsin: George W. Ryland (Republican) (until January 5), Charles Jonas (Democratic) (starting January 5)

Events

- January 20 – Jim Hogg becomes the first native Texan to be governor of that state.
- January 29 – Liliuokalani is proclaimed Queen of Hawaii.

- March 3 – The International Copyright Act of 1891 is passed by the Fifty-first United States Congress.
- March 14 – In New Orleans, a lynch mob storms the Old Parish Prison and lynches 11 Italians who had been found not guilty of the murder of Police Chief David Hennessy.
- April 1 – The Wrigley Company is founded in Chicago.
- May 5 – The Music Hall in New York (later known as Carnegie Hall) has its grand opening and first public performance, with Tchaikovsky as guest conductor.
- May 20 – Thomas Edison's prototype kinetoscope is first displayed at Edison's Laboratory, for a convention of the National Federation of Women's Clubs.
- June 1 – The Johnstown Inclined Plane opens in Johnstown, Pennsylvania.
- June 21 – First long-distance transmission of alternating current by the Ames power plant near Telluride, Colorado by Lucien and Paul Nunn.
- October 1 – Stanford University in California opens its doors.
- November 28 – The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers is organized in St. Louis, Missouri.
- December 17 – Drexel University is inaugurated as the Drexel Institute of Art, Science and Industry in Philadelphia.

Undated

- Seattle University is established as the Immaculate Conception school.
- Jesse W. Reno Invents the first Working escalator used at the Old Iron Pier, Coney Island , New York City.

Ongoing

- Gilded Age (1869–c. 1896)
- Gay Nineties (1890–1899)
- Progressive Era (1890s–1920s)
- Garza Revolution in Texas and Mexico (1891–1893)

Births

January–June

- January 1 – Charles Bickford, actor (died 1967)
- January 2 – Charles P. Thompson, actor (died 1979)
- January 7 – Zora Neale Hurston, Harlem Renaissance writer (died 1960)
- January 25 – Wellman Braud, jazz bassist (died 1966)
- January 28 – Bill Doak, baseball player (died 1954)
- February 10 – Elliot Paul, writer (died 1958)
- February 12 – Eugene Millikin, U.S. Senator from Colorado from 1941 to 1957 (died 1958)
- February 13 – Grant Wood, painter (died 1942)

- February 15 – Henry J. Knauf, politician (died 1950)
- March 10 – Sam Jaffe, actor (died 1984)
- March 19 – Earl Warren, Chief Justice of the United States (died 1974)
- March 26 – Will Wright, actor (died 1962)
- April 13 – Nella Larsen, novelist (died 1964)
- April 15 – Wallace Reid, actor (died 1923)
- April 19 – W. Alton Jones, industrialist and philanthropist (died 1962)
- May 21 – John Peale Bishop, writer (died 1944)
- May 22 – Eddie Edwards, jazz trombonist (died 1963)
- May 24 – William F. Albright, archeologist and Biblical scholar (died 1971)
- May 26 – Mamie Smith, African American blues singer (died 1946)
- May 30 – Ben Bernie, bandleader (died 1943)
- June 3 – Jim Tully, vagabond, pugilist and writer (died 1947)
- June 8 – Audrey Munson, actress (died 1996)
- June 9 – Cole Porter, composer and songwriter (died 1964)
- June 28 – Esther Forbes, writer (died 1967)
- June 30 – Man Mountain Dean, wrestler (died 1953)

July–December

- July 5 – John Howard Northrop, biochemist, winner of the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1946 (suicide 1987)
- July 16 – Blossom Seeley, singer and vaudeville performer (died 1974)
- July 26 – William J. Connors, politician (died 1961)
- August 1 – Edward Streeter, humorist (died 1976)
- September 3 – Bessie Delany, African American physician and author (died 1995)
- September 28 – Myrtle Gonzalez, silent film actress (died 1918)
- October 7 – Charles R. Chickering, illustrator (died 1970)
- October 25 – Charles Coughlin, antisemitic radio host and Catholic priest (died 1979)
- October 29 – Fanny Brice, actress, comedian and singer (died 1951)
- November 2 – David Townsend, art director (1935)
- November 7 – Miriam Cooper, silent film actress (died 1976)
- November 10 – Carl Stalling, cartoon film composer (died 1972)
- November 15 – Vincent Astor, philanthropist (died 1959)
- December 14 – Katherine MacDonald, silent film actress (died 1956)
- December 26 – Henry Miller, novelist (died 1980)

Deaths

- January 5 – Emma Abbott, operatic soprano (born 1850)
- January 17 – George Bancroft, historian (born 1800)
- January 29 – William Windom, U.S. Senator from Minnesota from 1870 to 1881 and from 1881 to 1883 (born 1827)


- February 14 – William Tecumseh Sherman, Civil War general (born 1820)
- February 21 – James Timberlake, law enforcement officer (born 1846)
- February 28 – George Hearst, U.S. Senator from California from 1887 to 1891 (born 1820)
- March 6
 - George M. Chilcott, U.S. Senator from Colorado from 1882 to 1883 (born 1828)
 - Joshua Hill, U.S. Senator from Georgia from 1871 to 1873 (born 1812)
- March 21 – Joseph E. Johnston, Confederate Army general (born 1807)
- April 2 – Albert Pike, Confederate military officer, attorney, writer and Freemason (born 1809)
- April 14 – Annie Nowlin Savery, suffragist (born 1831 in the United Kingdom)
- June 9 – Henry Edwards, entomologist and actor (born 1827 in the United Kingdom)
- June 17 – Harrison Ludington, 13th Governor of Wisconsin from 1876 to 1878 (born 1812)
- June 21 – Joseph E. McDonald, U.S. Senator from Indiana from 1875 to 1881 (born 1819)
- July 4 – Hannibal Hamlin, 15th Vice President of the United States from 1861 to 1865 (born 1809)
- August 5 – Thomas S. Bocock, U.S. Congressman, Speaker of the Confederate States House of Representatives (born 1815)
- August 12 – James Russell Lowell, Romantic poet, critic, satirist, writer, diplomat and abolitionist (born 1819)
- August 14
 - John Henry Hopkins Jr., clergyman and hymnist (born 1820)
 - Sarah Childress Polk, First Lady of the U.S. (born 1803)
- August 27 – Samuel C. Pomeroy, U.S. Senator from Kansas from 1861 to 1873 (born 1816)
- September 10 – Charles B. Clark, politician and entrepreneur (born 1844)
- September 28 – Herman Melville, novelist, short story writer and poet (born 1819)
- October 16 – Sarah Winnemucca, Northern Paiute author, activist and educator (born 1844)
- November 6 – J. Gregory Smith, Vermont governor (born 1818)
- November 17 – George H. Cooper, admiral (born 1821)
- December 7 – Mary Crane, activist; mother of writer Stephen Crane (born 1827)
- December 12 – Julia A. Ames, reformer (born 1861)
- December 20 – Preston B. Plumb, U.S. Senator from Kansas from 1877 to 1891 (born 1837)
- December 29 – Marion McKinley Bovard, academic administrator, 1st President of the University of Southern California (born 1847)

See also

- List of American films of the 1890s

- [Timeline of United States history \(1860–1899\)](#)

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