

1897 in the United States

Events from the year **1897 in the United States**.

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Incumbents

Federal Government

- **President:** Grover Cleveland (D-New York) (until March 4), William McKinley (R-Ohio) (starting March 4)
- **Vice President:** Adlai E. Stevenson I (D-Illinois) (until March 4), Garret Hobart (R-New Jersey) (starting March 4)
- **Chief Justice:** Melville Fuller (Illinois)
- **Speaker of the House of Representatives:** Thomas Brackett Reed (R-Maine)

- Congress: 54th (until March 4), 55th (starting March 4)

Governors and Lieutenant Governors

Governors

- Governor of Alabama: Joseph F. Johnston (Democratic)
- Governor of Arkansas: James Paul Clarke (Democratic) (until January 12), Daniel Webster Jones (Democratic) (starting January 12)
- Governor of California: James Budd (Democratic)
- Governor of Colorado: Albert Washington McIntire (Republican) (until January 12), Alva Adams (Democratic) (starting January 12)
- Governor of Connecticut: Owen Vincent Coffin (Republican) (until January 6), Lorrin A. Cooke (Republican) (starting January 6)
- Governor of Delaware: William T. Watson (Democratic) (until January 19), Ebe W. Tunnell (Democratic) (starting January 19)
- Governor of Florida: Henry L. Mitchell (Democratic) (until January 5), William D. Bloxham (Democratic) (starting January 5)
- Governor of Georgia: William Yates Atkinson (Democratic)
- Governor of Idaho: William J. McConnell (Republican) (until January 4), Frank Steunenberg (Democratic) (starting January 4)
- Governor of Illinois: John Peter Altgeld (Democratic) (until January 11), John Riley Tanner (Republican) (starting January 11)
- Governor of Indiana: Claude Matthews (Democratic) (until January 11), James A. Mount (Republican) (starting January 11)
- Governor of Iowa: Francis M. Drake (Republican)
- Governor of Kansas: Edmund N. Morrill (Republican) (until January 11), John W. Leedy (Populist) (starting January 11)
- Governor of Kentucky: William O. Bradley (Republican)
- Governor of Louisiana: Murphy James Foster, Sr. (Democratic)
- Governor of Maine: Henry B. Cleaves (Republican) (until January 2), Llewellyn Powers (Republican) (starting January 2)
- Governor of Maryland: Lloyd Lowndes, Jr. (Republican)
- Governor of Massachusetts: Roger Wolcott (Republican)
- Governor of Michigan: John T. Rich (Republican) (until January 1), Hazen S. Pingree (Republican) (starting January 1)
- Governor of Minnesota: David M. Clough (Republican)
- Governor of Mississippi: Anselm J. McLaurin (Democratic)
- Governor of Missouri: William Joel Stone (Democratic) (until January 11), Lon Vest Stephens (Democratic) (starting January 11)
- Governor of Montana:
 - until January 3: John E. Rickards (Republican)
 - January 3-January 4: vacant
 - starting January 4: Robert Burns Smith (Democratic)
- Governor of Nebraska: Silas A. Holcomb (Democratic)
- Governor of Nevada: Reinhold Sadler (Silver)
- Governor of New Hampshire: Charles A. Busiel (Republican) (until January 7), George A. Ramsdell (Republican) (starting January 7)
- Governor of New Jersey: John W. Griggs (Republican)
- Governor of New York: Frank S. Black (Republican) (starting January 1)
- Governor of North Carolina: Elias Carr (Democratic) (until January 12), Daniel Lindsay Russell (Republican) (starting January 12)

- Governor of North Dakota: Roger Allin (Republican) (until January 6), Frank A. Briggs (Republican) (starting January 6)
- Governor of Ohio: Asa S. Bushnell (Republican)
- Governor of Oregon: William Paine Lord (Republican)
- Governor of Pennsylvania: Daniel H. Hastings (Republican)
- Governor of Rhode Island: Charles W. Lippitt (Republican) (until May 25), Elisha Dyer, Jr. (Republican) (starting May 25)
- Governor of South Carolina: John Gary Evans (Democratic) (until January 18), William Haselden Ellerbe (Democratic) (starting January 18)
- Governor of South Dakota: Charles H. Sheldon (Republican) (until January 1), Andrew E. Lee (Populist) (starting January 1)
- Governor of Tennessee: Peter Turney (Democratic) (until January 21), Robert Love Taylor (Democratic) (starting January 21)
- Governor of Texas: Charles A. Culberson (Democratic)
- Governor of Utah: Heber Manning Wells (Republican)
- Governor of Vermont: Josiah Grout (Republican)
- Governor of Virginia: Charles Triplett O'Ferrall (Democratic)
- Governor of Washington: John McGraw (Republican) (until January 11), John Rankin Rogers (Populist)/(Democratic) (starting January 11)
- Governor of West Virginia: William A. MacCorkle (Democratic) (until March 4), George W. Atkinson (Republican) (starting March 4)
- Governor of Wisconsin: William H. Upham (Republican) (until January 4), Edward Scofield (Republican) (starting January 4)
- Governor of Wyoming: William A. Richards (Republican)

Lieutenant Governors

- Lieutenant Governor of California: William T. Jeter (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Colorado: Jared L. Brush (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Connecticut: Lorrin A. Cooke (Republican) (until January 6), James D. Dewell (Republican) (starting January 6)
- Lieutenant Governor of Idaho: F. J. Mills (Republican) (until January 4), George F. Moore (Democratic) (starting January 4)
- Lieutenant Governor of Illinois: Joseph B. Gill (Democratic) (until January 11), William Northcott (Republican) (starting January 11)
- Lieutenant Governor of Indiana: Mortimer Nye (Democratic) (until January 11), William S. Haggard (Republican) (starting January 11)
- Lieutenant Governor of Iowa: Matt Parrott (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Kansas: James A. Troutman (Republican) (until January 11), Alexander M. Harvey (Populist) (starting January 11)
- Lieutenant Governor of Kentucky: William Jackson Worthington (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Louisiana: Robert H. Snyder (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Massachusetts: vacant (until month and day unknown), Winthrop M. Crane (political party unknown) (starting month and day unknown)
- Lieutenant Governor of Michigan: Joseph R. McLaughlin (Republican) (until January 1), Thomas B. Dunstan (Republican) (starting January 1)
- Lieutenant Governor of Minnesota: Frank A. Day (Republican) (until January 5), John L. Gibbs (Republican) (starting January 5)
- Lieutenant Governor of Mississippi: J. H. Jones (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Missouri: John B. O'Meara (Democratic) (until January 11), August Bolte (Democratic) (starting January 11)

- Lieutenant Governor of Montana: Alexander Campbell Botkin (Republican) (until month and day unknown), Archibald E. Spriggs (political party unknown) (starting month and day unknown)
- Lieutenant Governor of Nebraska: Robert E. Moore (Democratic) (until month and day unknown), James E. Harris (Democratic) (starting month and day unknown)
- Lieutenant Governor of Nevada: vacant (until month and day unknown), James R. Judge (political party unknown) (starting month and day unknown)
- Lieutenant Governor of New York: Timothy L. Woodruff (Republican) (starting January 1)
- Lieutenant Governor of North Carolina: Rufus A. Doughton (Democratic) (until January 12), Charles A. Reynolds (Republican) (starting January 12)
- Lieutenant Governor of North Dakota: John H. Worst (Republican) (until January 6), Joseph M. Devine (Republican) (starting January 6)
- Lieutenant Governor of Ohio: Asa W. Jones (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Pennsylvania: Walter Lyon (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Rhode Island: Edwin Allen (political party unknown) (until May 25), Aram J. Pothier (Republican) (starting May 25)
- Lieutenant Governor of South Carolina: Washington H. Timmerman (Democratic) (until January 18), Miles Benjamin McSweeney (Democratic) (starting January 18)
- Lieutenant Governor of South Dakota: Charles N. Herreid (Republican) (until January 1), Daniel T. Hindman (Republican) (starting January 1)
- Lieutenant Governor of Tennessee: Ernest Pillow (Democratic) (until month and day unknown), John Thompson (Democratic) (starting month and day unknown)
- Lieutenant Governor of Texas: George Taylor Jester (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Vermont: Nelson W. Fisk (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Virginia: Robert Craig Kent (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Washington: F. H. Luce (Republican) (until January 11), Thurston Daniels (Populist) (starting January 11)
- Lieutenant Governor of Wisconsin: Emil Baensch (Republican)

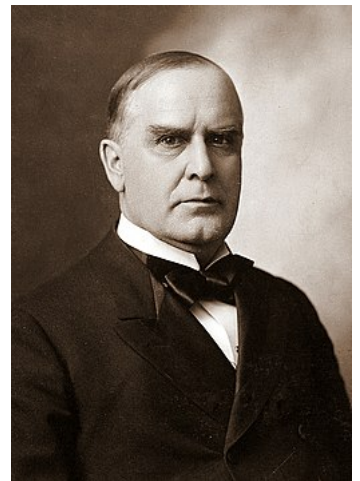
Events

January–March

- January 2 – Alpha Omicron Pi sorority is founded at Barnard College in New York City
- February 19 – United States Copyright Office established as a department in the Library of Congress.^[1]
- March 4 – William McKinley is sworn in as the 25th President of the United States.

April–June

- April 19 – The first Boston Marathon is run, with fifteen men competing, and won by John McDermott.^[2]
- April 27 – Grant's Tomb is dedicated in New York.
- May 1 – The Tennessee Centennial Exposition opens in Nashville, for 6 months, illuminated by many electric lights.
- June 1 – American miners begin a strike, which successfully establishes the United Mine Workers Union and brings about the 8-hour work day to mines.



March 4: William McKinley becomes President

- June 2 – Mark Twain, responding to rumors that he is dead, is quoted by the *New York Journal* as saying, "The report of my death was an exaggeration."

July–September

- July 17 – The Klondike Gold Rush begins when the first successful prospectors arrive in Seattle.
- July 31 – Mount Saint Elias, the second highest peak in the United States and Canada, is first ascended.
- August 21 – Oldsmobile is founded in Lansing, Michigan by Ransom E. Olds.
- August 31 – Thomas Edison is granted a patent for the Kinetoscope, a precursor of the movie projector.
- September 1 – The Boston subway opens, becoming the first underground metro in North America.
- September 10 – Lattimer Massacre: A sheriff's posse kills more than 19 unarmed immigrant miners in Pennsylvania.
- September 21 – In response to a letter written by 8-year-old Virginia O'Hanlon, *The Sun* (New York City) publishes an editorial by Francis Pharcellus Church stating, "Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus".



President McKinley as Old Mother Hubbard finds the Federal Treasury cupboard bare

October–December

- October 12 – The USS *Baltimore* (Cruiser # 3, later CM-1) is recommissioned, since 1890, for several months of duty in the Hawaiian Islands.
- October 23 – The Kappa Delta sorority is founded at State Female Normal School now Longwood University in Farmville, Virginia.
- November 1 – The Library of Congress Building in Washington, D.C., designed by Paul J. Pelz, is opened.

Undated

- Elbridge Ayer Burbank begins painting portraits of Native Americans in the United States from life.
- Women photographers Zaida Ben-Yusuf and Gertrude Käsebier open portrait studios in New York City.
- The Auburn University Marching Band is created at Auburn University (known at this date as the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Alabama) in Auburn, Alabama.

Ongoing

- Gay Nineties (1890–1899)
- Progressive Era (1890s–1920s)
- Lochner era (c. 1897–c. 1937)

Births

- January 3 – Marion Davies, film actress (died 1961)
- February 27 – Marian Anderson, African American contralto (died 1993)
- March 2 – Minor Hall, jazz drummer (died 1959)
- March 4 – Lefty O'Doul, baseball player and restaurateur (died 1969)
- March 8 – Charles W. Brooks, U.S. Senator from Illinois from 1940 to 1949 (died 1957)
- March 11 – Henry Cowell, composer (died 1965)
- April 26 – Eddie Egan, Olympic gold medal boxer and bobsledder (died 1967)
- May 6 – William A. Purtell, U.S. Senator from Connecticut in 1952 and from 1953 to 1959 (died 1978)
- June 6 – Homer E. Capehart, U.S. Senator from Indiana from 1945 to 1963 (died 1979)
- July 9 – Albert C. Wedemeyer, U.S. Army general (died 1989)
- July 10 – John Gilbert, silent film actor (died 1936)
- July 24 – Amelia Earhart, aviation pioneer and author
- September 24 – Lee Fenner, American footballer (died 1964)
- September 25 – William Faulkner, novelist, recipient of the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1949 (died 1962)
- November 2 – Richard Russell, Jr., U.S. Senator from Georgia from 1933 to 1971 (died 1971)
- November 8 – Dorothy Day, journalist and social activist (died 1980)

Deaths

- June 14 1897 Juan Domingo Montoya civil war combat veteran. Mosquero canyon, New Mexico. Valverde, glorietta pass
- April 10 – Daniel W. Voorhees, U.S. Senator from Indiana from 1877 to 1897 (born 1827)
- August 14 – James Z. George, U.S. Senator from Mississippi from 1881 to 1897 (born 1826)
- October 3 – Samuel J. R. McMillan, U.S. Senator from Minnesota from 1875 to 1887 (born 1826)
- October 11 – Charles W. Jones, Ireland-born U.S. Senator from Florida from 1875 to 1887 (born 1834)
- October 29 –
 - Henry George, writer, politician and political economist (born 1839)
 - William J. Babcock, Medal of Honor recipient (born 1841 in the United States)
- November 3 – Thomas Lanier Clingman, North Carolina congressman, senator and confederate general (born 1812)

See also

- [List of American films of the 1890s](#)
- [Timeline of United States history \(1860–1899\)](#)

References

1. "United States Copyright Office: A Brief Introduction and History" (<https://www.copyright.gov/circs/circ1a.html>). *Information Circular. Copyright.gov* (1a). ISSN 0082-9692 (<https://www.worldcat.org/issn/0082-9692>). Retrieved June 1, 2019. "Notable Dates in United States Copyright"
2. Matthews, Peter (2012). "Boston Marathon". *Historical Dictionary of Track and Field*. Scarecrow Press. p. 40.

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