

# 1899 in the United States

Events from the year **1899 in the United States**.

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## Incumbents

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1898		<b>in the</b>	1900
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<b>Decades:</b>	1870s <span> </span> <span>•</span> <span> </span> 1880s <span> </span> <span>•</span> <span> </span> <b>1890s</b> <span> </span> <span>•</span> <span> </span> 1900s <span> </span> <span>•</span> <span> </span> 1910s		
<b>See also:</b>	History of the United States (1865–1918) <span> </span> <span>•</span> <span> </span> Timeline of United States history (1860–1899) <span> </span> <span>•</span> <span> </span> List of years in the United States		



1899 US \$5 silver certificate



"The beautiful Indian maidens", promotional poster, ca. 1899

## **Federal Government**

- President: William McKinley (R-Ohio)
- Vice President: Garret Hobart (R-New Jersey) (until November 21), *vacant* (starting November 21)
- Chief Justice: Melville Fuller (Illinois)
- Speaker of the House of Representatives: Thomas Brackett Reed (R-Maine) (until March 4), David B. Henderson (R-Iowa) (starting December 4)
- Congress: 55th (until March 4), 56th (starting March 4)



W. H. Shipman House, Hilo, Hawaii, built in 1899

## Governors and Lieutenant Governors

### **Governors**

- Governor of Alabama: Joseph F. Johnston (Democratic)
- Governor of Arkansas: Daniel Webster Jones (Democratic)
- Governor of California: James Budd (Democratic) (until January 4), Henry Gage (Republican) (starting January 4)
- Governor of Colorado: Alva Adams (Democratic) (until January 10), Charles Spalding Thomas (Democratic) (starting January 10)
- Governor of Connecticut: Lorrin A. Cooke (Republican) (until January 4), George E. Lounsbury (Republican) (starting January 4)
- Governor of Delaware: Ebe W. Tunnell (Democratic)
- Governor of Florida: William D. Bloxham (Democratic)
- Governor of Georgia: Allen D. Candler (Democratic)
- Governor of Idaho: Frank Steunenberg (Democratic)
- Governor of Illinois: John Riley Tanner (Republican)
- Governor of Indiana: James A. Mount (Republican)
- Governor of Iowa: Leslie M. Shaw (Republican)
- Governor of Kansas: John W. Leedy (Populist) (until January 9), William E. Stanley (Republican) (starting January 9)
- Governor of Kentucky: William O. Bradley (Republican) (until December 12), William S. Taylor (Republican) (starting December 12)
- Governor of Louisiana: Murphy James Foster, Sr. (Democratic)
- Governor of Maine: Llewellyn Powers (Republican)
- Governor of Maryland: Lloyd Lowndes, Jr. (Republican)
- Governor of Massachusetts: Roger Wolcott (Republican)
- Governor of Michigan: Hazen S. Pingree (Republican)
- Governor of Minnesota: David M. Clough (Republican) (until January 2), John Lind (Democratic) (starting January 2)
- Governor of Mississippi: Anselm J. McLaurin (Democratic)
- Governor of Missouri: Lon Vest Stephens (Democratic)
- Governor of Montana: Robert Burns Smith (Democratic)
- Governor of Nebraska: Silas A. Holcomb (Democratic) (until January 5), William A. Poynter (Democratic) (starting January 5)
- Governor of Nevada: Reinhold Sadler (Silver)
- Governor of New Hampshire: George A. Ramsdell (Republican) (until January 5), Frank W. Rollins (Republican) (starting January 5)
- Governor of New Jersey: David Ogden Watkins (Republican) (until January 17), Foster MacGowan Voorhees (Republican) (starting January 17)
- Governor of New York: Theodore Roosevelt (Republican) (starting January 1)
- Governor of North Carolina: Daniel Lindsay Russell (Republican)
- Governor of North Dakota: Joseph M. Devine (Republican) (until January 3), Frederick B. Fancher (Republican) (starting January 3)
- Governor of Ohio: Asa S. Bushnell (Republican)
- Governor of Oregon: William Paine Lord (Republican) (until January 9), T. T. Geer (Republican) (starting January 9)
- Governor of Pennsylvania: Daniel H. Hastings (Republican) (until January 17), William A. Stone (Republican) (starting January 17)
- Governor of Rhode Island: Elisha Dyer, Jr. (Republican)

- Governor of South Carolina: William Haselden Ellerbe (Democratic) (until June 2), Miles Benjamin McSweeney (Democratic) (starting June 2)
- Governor of South Dakota: Andrew E. Lee (Populist)
- Governor of Tennessee: Robert Love Taylor (Democratic) (until January 16), Benton McMillin (Democratic) (starting January 16)
- Governor of Texas: Charles A. Culberson (Democratic) (until January 17), Joseph D. Sayers (Democratic) (starting January 17)
- Governor of Utah: Heber Manning Wells (Republican)
- Governor of Vermont: Edward Curtis Smith (Republican)
- Governor of Virginia: James Hoge Tyler (Democratic)
- Governor of Washington: John Rankin Rogers (Populist)/(Democratic)
- Governor of West Virginia: George W. Atkinson (Republican)
- Governor of Wisconsin: Edward Scofield (Republican)
- Governor of Wyoming: William A. Richards (Republican) (until January 2), DeForest Richards (Republican) (starting January 2)

## **Lieutenant Governors**

- Lieutenant Governor of California: William T. Jeter (Democratic) (until January 3), Jacob H. Neff (Republican) (starting January 3)
- Lieutenant Governor of Colorado: Jared L. Brush (Republican) (until January 10), Francis Patrick Carney (Populist) (starting January 10)
- Lieutenant Governor of Connecticut: James D. Dewell (Republican) (until January 4), Lyman A. Mills (Republican) (starting January 4)
- Lieutenant Governor of Idaho: George F. Moore (Democratic) (until January 2), J. H. Hutchinson (Democratic) (starting January 2)
- Lieutenant Governor of Illinois: William Northcott (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Indiana: William S. Haggard (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Iowa: James C. Milliman (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Kansas: Alexander M. Harvey (Populist) (until January 9), Harry E. Richter (Republican) (starting January 9)
- Lieutenant Governor of Kentucky: William Jackson Worthington (Republican) (until December 12), John Marshall (Republican) (starting December 12)
- Lieutenant Governor of Louisiana: Robert H. Snyder (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Massachusetts: Winthrop M. Crane (political party unknown)
- Lieutenant Governor of Michigan: Thomas B. Dunstan (Republican) (until month and day unknown), Orrin W. Robinson (Republican) (starting month and day unknown)
- Lieutenant Governor of Minnesota: John L. Gibbs (Republican) (until January 3), Lyndon A. Smith (Republican) (starting January 3)
- Lieutenant Governor of Mississippi: J. H. Jones (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Missouri: August Bolte (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Montana: Archibald E. Spriggs (political party unknown)
- Lieutenant Governor of Nebraska: James E. Harris (Democratic) (until January 5), Edward A. Gilbert (Republican) (starting January 5)
- Lieutenant Governor of Nevada: James R. Judge (political party unknown)
- Lieutenant Governor of New York: Timothy L. Woodruff (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of North Carolina: Charles A. Reynolds (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of North Dakota: vacant
- Lieutenant Governor of Ohio: Asa W. Jones (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Pennsylvania: Walter Lyon (Republican) (until January 17), John P. S. Gobin (Republican) (starting January 17)

- Lieutenant Governor of Rhode Island: William Gregory (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of South Carolina: Miles Benjamin McSweeney (Democratic) (until June 2), Robert B. Scarborough (Democratic) (starting June 2)
- Lieutenant Governor of South Dakota: Daniel T. Hindman (Republican) (until month and day unknown), John T. Kean (Republican) (starting month and day unknown)
- Lieutenant Governor of Tennessee: John Thompson (Democratic) (until month and day unknown), Seid Waddell (Democratic) (starting month and day unknown)
- Lieutenant Governor of Texas: George Taylor Jester (Democratic) (until January 17), James Browning (Democratic) (starting January 17)
- Lieutenant Governor of Vermont: Henry C. Bates (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Virginia: Edward Echols (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Washington: Thurston Daniels (Populist)
- Lieutenant Governor of Wisconsin: Emil Baensch (Republican) (until January 2), Jesse Stone (Republican) (starting January 2)

## Events

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### January

- January 1 – Queens and Staten Island merge with New York City.
- January 10 – The Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity is founded at Illinois Wesleyan University in Bloomington, Illinois.
- January 17 – The United States takes possession of Wake Island.

### February

- February 4 – The Philippine–American War begins as hostilities break out in Manila.
- February 6 – Spanish–American War: A peace treaty between the United States and Spain is ratified by the United States Senate.
- February 10 – Spanish–American War: The U.S. receives the Philippines, Samoa, Guam, and Puerto Rico as a result of the Treaty of Paris.
- February 12–14 – Great Blizzard of 1899: Freezing temperatures and snow extend well south into North America, including southern Florida. It is the latest in a series of disasters to Florida's citrus industry.
- February 14 – Voting machines are approved by the U.S. Congress for use in federal elections.

### March

- March 2 – In Washington State, USA, Mount Rainier National Park is established.
- March 24 – George Dewey is made Admiral of the US Navy.

### April

- April 15 – Students at the University of California, Berkeley steal the Stanford Axe from Stanford University yell leaders following a baseball game, thus establishing the

Axe as a symbol of the rivalry between the schools.

## May

- May 31 – The launch of the Harriman Alaska Expedition.

## June

- June 7 – Temperance movement crusader Carrie Nation enters a saloon in Kiowa, Kansas, and proceeds to destroy all the alcoholic beverages with rocks.
- June 12 – New Richmond Tornado: A tornado completely destroys the town of New Richmond, Wisconsin, killing 117 people and injuring more than 200.
- June 25 – Three Denver, Colorado newspapers publish a story (later proved to be a fabrication) that the Chinese government under the Guangxu Emperor is going to demolish the Great Wall of China.
- June 30 – Mile-a-Minute Murphy earns his famous nickname this day, after he becomes the first man to ride a bicycle for one mile in under a minute on Long Island.

## July

- July 17 – America's first juvenile court is established in Chicago.
- July 19 – The Newsboys Strike takes place when the Newsies of New York City go on strike (strike lasts until August 2).
- July 30 – The Harriman Alaska Expedition ends successfully.

## August

- August 3 – The John Marshall Law School is founded in Chicago, Illinois.
- August 10 – Major Taylor wins the world 1-mile professional cycling championship in Montreal, securing his place as the first African American world champion in any sport.<sup>[1]</sup>
- August 17 – A hurricane makes landfall in North Carolina's Outer Banks, completely destroying the town of Diamond City.

## September

- September 6 – Open Door Policy is a term in foreign affairs initially used to refer to the United States policy established in the late-nineteenth century and the early-twentieth century, as enunciated in Secretary of State John Hay's Open Door Note,
- September 14 – Henry H. Bliss becomes the first person to be killed by a motor vehicle in the United States. Upon disembarking from a streetcar in New York City, an electric-powered taxicab strikes and crushes him and he dies from his injuries the following morning.

## October

- October 30 – The Augusta High School Building is completed in Augusta, Kentucky; Augusta Methodist College shuts down.

## November

- November 4 – The Alpha Sigma Tau Sorority is founded in Ypsilanti, Michigan.
- November 8 – The Bronx Zoo opens in New York City.
- November 21 – Vice President Garret Hobart dies in office.

## December

- December 2 – Philippine–American War – Battle of Tirad Pass: ("The Filipino Thermopylae") General Gregorio del Pilar and his troops are able to guard the retreat of Philippine President Emilio Aguinaldo before being wiped out.
- December 25 – The 6.7  $M_w$  San Jacinto earthquake shook the Inland Empire area of Southern California with a maximum Mercalli intensity of IX (*Violent*), causing six deaths and \$50,000 in damage.



1899 snowstorm in Washington, DC

## Undated

- The North Carolina General Assembly incorporates the town of Manteo, which was originally laid out as the Dare county seat in 1870.
- Gold is discovered in Nome, Alaska.
- Public Archives Commission established.<sup>[2]</sup>

## Ongoing

- Gay Nineties (1890–1899)
- Progressive Era (1890s–1920s)
- Lochner era (c. 1897–c. 1937)
- Philippine–American War (1899–1902)
- Boxer Rebellion (1899-1901) Boxer Rebellion#Allied intervention.2C the Boxer War.2C and the aftermath

## Births

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- January 9 – John A. Danaher, U.S. Senator from Connecticut 1939–1945 (died 1990).
- January 17 – Al Capone, gangster and crime boss (died 1947).

- February 4 – Virginia M. Alexander, African American physician (died 1949)<sup>[3]</sup>
- February 22
  - Dwight Frye, actor (died 1943).
  - George O'Hara, silent film actor and screenwriter (died 1966).
- February 27 – Charles H. Best, medical scientist (died 1978 in Canada).
- April 11 – Percy Lavon Julian, African American research chemist (died 1975).
- April 28 – Mary Loveless, née Hewitt, immunologist (died 1991).
- April 29 – Duke Ellington, jazz musician and composer (died 1974).
- May 10 – Fred Astaire, né Austerlitz, dancer and singer (died 1987).
- May 15 – Leonard B. Jordan, U.S. Senator from Idaho 1962–1973 (died 1983).
- June 4 – Arthur Barker, son of Ma Barker and a member of the Barker-Karpis gang (died 1939)
- July 7
  - Anna Baetjer, toxicologist (died 1984).
  - Claude P. Dettloff, photographer (died 1978 in Canada).
- July 6 – Susannah Mushatt Jones, African American supercentenarian, oldest (confirmed) living person 2015–2016 (died 2016).
- July 17 – James Cagney, film actor (died 1986).
- July 21
  - Hart Crane, poet (died 1932).
  - Ernest Hemingway, fiction writer and journalist (died 1961).
- July 23 – Carl G. Fenner, botanist (died 1991).
- September 9 – Neil Hamilton, actor (died 1984).
- September 11 – Jimmie Davis, country and gospel singer-songwriter and politician (died 2000).
- November 5 – Margaret Atwood Judson, historian and author (died 1991).
- November 22 – Hoagy Carmichael, composer and singer (died 1981).
- December 20 – John Sparkman, U.S. Senator from Alabama 1946–1979 (died 1985).
- December 25 – Humphrey Bogart, film actor (died 1957).
- Caroline F. Ware, historian and New Deal activist (died 1990).

## Deaths

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- January 26 – Augustus Hill Garland, U.S. Senator from Arkansas 1885–1889 (born 1832).
- March 1 – Philip W. McKinney, 41st Governor of Virginia (born 1832).
- March 18 – Othniel Charles Marsh, paleontologist (born 1831).
- March 19 – Patrick Walsh, Irish-born U.S. Senator from Georgia 1894–1895 (born 1840).
- April 10 – Horace Tabor, U.S. Senator from Colorado in 1883 (born 1830).
- April 22 – Meriwether Lewis Clark Jr., founder of the Kentucky Derby (born 1846)
- April 24 – Richard J. Oglesby, U.S. Senator from Illinois 1873–1878 (born 1824).



- June 7 – [Augustin Daly](#), dramatist and theater manager (born [1838](#)).
- July 18 – [Horatio Alger, Jr.](#), Unitarian minister and author (born [1832](#)).
- August 8 – [Lucy Pickens](#), socialite, known during and after her lifetime as the "Queen of the [Confederacy](#)" (born [1832](#)).
- August 22 – [Caspar Buberl](#), Bohemian-born sculptor (born [1834](#)).
- September 9 – [James B. Eustis](#), U.S. Senator from Louisiana 1876–1879 and 1885–1891 (born [1834](#)).
- September 12 – [Cornelius Vanderbilt II](#), businessman (born [1843](#)).
- October 5 – [James Harlan](#), U.S. Senator from Iowa 1865–1866 (born [1820](#)).
- October 18 – [Gussie Davis](#), African American songwriter (born [1863](#)).
- October 28 – [Ottmar Mergenthaler](#), German-born inventor (born [1854](#)).
- October 30 – [William H. Webb](#), shipbuilder and philanthropist (born [1816](#)).
- November 21 – [Garret Hobart](#), 24th [Vice President of the United States](#) from 1897 to 1899 (born [1844](#)).
- November 25 – [Robert Lowry](#), Baptist minister and hymn writer (born [1826](#)).
- December 22 – [Dwight L. Moody](#), preacher and publisher (born [1837](#)).

## See also

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

## References

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1. "Professional Information" (<http://www.majortaylor.com/page3.html>). The Major Taylor Society. Retrieved 2012-01-23.
2. "Milestones of the U.S. Archival Profession and the National Archives, 1800-2011" (<https://www.archives.gov/about/history/milestones.html>). U.S. National Archives and Records Administration. Retrieved 22 August 2016.
3. "Dr. Virginia M. Alexander" ([https://cfmedicine.nlm.nih.gov/physicians/biography\\_5.html](https://cfmedicine.nlm.nih.gov/physicians/biography_5.html)). *U.S. National Library of Medicine*. Retrieved October 18, 2017.

## Further reading

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- "[Domestic Chronology](http://hdl.handle.net/2027/uc1.b3142275?urlappend=%3Bseq=239)" (<http://hdl.handle.net/2027/uc1.b3142275?urlappend=%3Bseq=239>), *Statistician and Economist*, San Francisco: Louis P. McCarty, 1905, pp. 227–347 – via HathiTrust. (Covers events May 1898-June 1905)

## External links

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