

1915 in the United States

Events from the year **1915 in the United States**.

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Incumbents

Federal Government

- President: Woodrow Wilson (D-New Jersey)
- Vice President: Thomas R. Marshall (D-Indiana)
- Chief Justice: Edward Douglass White (Louisiana)
- Speaker of the House of Representatives: Champ Clark (D-Missouri)
- Congress: 63rd (until March 4), 64th (starting March 4)

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President Woodrow Wilson throws out the first pitch at the 1915 World Series.

Governors and Lieutenant Governors

Governors

- Governor of Alabama: Emmet O'Neal (Democratic) (until January 18), Charles Henderson (Democratic) (starting January 18)
- Governor of Arizona: George W. P. Hunt (Democratic)
- Governor of Arkansas: George Washington Hays (Democratic)
- Governor of California: Hiram Johnson (Republican)
- Governor of Colorado: Elias M. Ammons (Democratic) (until January 12), George Alfred Carlson (Republican) (starting January 12)
- Governor of Connecticut: Simeon E. Baldwin (Democratic) (until January 6), Marcus H. Holcomb (Republican) (starting January 6)
- Governor of Delaware: Charles R. Miller (Republican)
- Governor of Florida: Park Trammell (Democratic)
- Governor of Georgia: John M. Slaton (Democratic) (until June 26), Nathaniel E. Harris (Democratic) (starting June 26)
- Governor of Idaho: John M. Haines (Republican) (until January 4), Moses Alexander (Democratic) (starting January 4)
- Governor of Illinois: Edward F. Dunne (Democratic)
- Governor of Indiana: Samuel M. Ralston (Democratic)
- Governor of Iowa: George W. Clarke (Republican)
- Governor of Kansas: George H. Hodges (Democratic) (until January 11), Arthur Capper (Republican) (starting January 11)
- Governor of Kentucky: James B. McCreary (Democratic) (until December 7), Augustus O. Stanley (Democratic) (starting December 7)
- Governor of Louisiana: Luther Egbert Hall (Democratic)
- Governor of Maine: William T. Haines (Republican) (until January 6), Oakley C. Curtis (Democratic) (starting January 6)
- Governor of Maryland: Phillips Lee Goldsborough (Republican)
- Governor of Massachusetts: David I. Walsh (Democratic)
- Governor of Michigan: Woodbridge Nathan Ferris (Democratic)
- Governor of Minnesota:
 - until January 5: Adolph O. Eberhart (Republican)
 - January 5-December 30: Winfield S. Hammond (Democratic)
 - starting December 30: J. A. A. Burnquist (Republican)
- Governor of Mississippi: Earl L. Brewer (Democratic)
- Governor of Missouri: Elliot Woolfolk Major (Democratic)
- Governor of Montana: Sam V. Stewart (Democratic)
- Governor of Nebraska: John H. Morehead (Democratic)
- Governor of Nevada: Tasker L. Oddie (Republican) (until January 4), Emmet D. Boyle (Democratic) (starting January 4)
- Governor of New Hampshire: Samuel D. Felker (Democratic) (until January 1), Rolland H. Spaulding (Republican) (starting January 1)
- Governor of New Jersey: James Fairman Fielder (Democratic)
- Governor of New Mexico: William C. McDonald (Democratic)
- Governor of New York: Charles S. Whitman (Republican) (starting January 1)
- Governor of North Carolina: Locke Craig (Democratic)
- Governor of North Dakota: L. B. Hanna (Republican)

- Governor of Ohio: James M. Cox (Democratic) (until January 11), Frank B. Willis (Democratic) (starting January 11)
- Governor of Oklahoma: Lee Cruce (Democratic) (until January 11), Robert L. Williams (Democratic) (starting January 11)
- Governor of Oregon: Oswald West (Democratic) (until January 12), James Withycombe (Republican) (starting January 12)
- Governor of Pennsylvania: John K. Tener (Republican) (until January 19), Martin Grove Brumbaugh (Republican) (starting January 19)
- Governor of Rhode Island: Aram J. Pothier (Republican) (until January 5), R. Livingston Beeckman (Republican) (starting January 5)
- Governor of South Carolina:
 - until January 14: Coleman Livingston Blease (Democratic)
 - January 14-January 19: Charles Aurelius Smith (Democratic)
 - starting January 19: Richard Irvine Manning III (Democratic)
- Governor of South Dakota: Frank M. Byrne (Republican)
- Governor of Tennessee: Ben W. Hooper (Republican) (until January 17), Tom C. Rye (Democratic) (starting January 17)
- Governor of Texas: Oscar Branch Colquitt (Democratic) (until January 19), James E. Ferguson (Democratic) (starting January 19)
- Governor of Utah: William Spry (Republican)
- Governor of Vermont: Allen M. Fletcher (Republican) (until January 7), Charles W. Gates (Republican) (starting January 7)
- Governor of Virginia: Henry Carter Stuart (Democratic)
- Governor of Washington: Ernest Lister (Democratic)
- Governor of West Virginia: Henry D. Hatfield (Republican)
- Governor of Wisconsin: Francis E. McGovern (Republican) (until January 4), Emanuel L. Philipp (Republican) (starting January 4)
- Governor of Wyoming: Joseph M. Carey (Democratic) (until January 4), John B. Kendrick (Democratic) (starting January 4)

Lieutenant Governors

- Lieutenant Governor of Alabama: Walter D. Seed, Sr. (Democratic) (until January 18), Thomas E. Kilby (Democratic) (starting January 18)
- Lieutenant Governor of California: A. J. Wallace (Republican) (until January 5), John Morton Eshleman (Progressive) (starting January 5)
- Lieutenant Governor of Colorado: Stephen R. Fitzgarrald (Democratic) (until month and day unknown), Moses E. Lewis (Republican) (starting month and day unknown)
- Lieutenant Governor of Connecticut: Lyman T. Tingier (Democratic) (until January 6), Clifford B. Wilson (Republican) (starting January 6)
- Lieutenant Governor of Delaware: Colen Ferguson (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Idaho: Herman H. Taylor (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Illinois: Barratt O'Hara (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Indiana: William P. O'Neill (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Iowa: William L. Harding (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Kansas: Sheffield Ingalls (Republican) (until January 11), William Yoast Morgan (Republican) (starting January 11)
- Lieutenant Governor of Kentucky: Edward J. McDermott (Democratic) (until December 7), James D. Black (Democratic) (starting December 7)
- Lieutenant Governor of Louisiana: Thomas C. Barret (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Massachusetts: Edward P. Barry (Democratic) (until month and day unknown), Grafton D. Cushing (Republican) (starting month and day unknown)

- Lieutenant Governor of Michigan: John Q. Ross (Republican) (until month and day unknown), Luren D. Dickinson (Republican) (starting month and day unknown)
- Lieutenant Governor of Minnesota: Joseph A. A. Burnquist (Republican) (until December 30), vacant (starting December 30)
- Lieutenant Governor of Mississippi: Theodore G. Bilbo (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Missouri: William Rock Painter (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Montana: W. W. McDowell (political party unknown)
- Lieutenant Governor of Nebraska: Samuel R. McKelvie (Republican) (until month and day unknown), James Pearson (Democratic) (starting month and day unknown)
- Lieutenant Governor of Nevada: Gilbert C. Ross (political party unknown) (until January 4), Maurice J. Sullivan (Democratic) (starting January 4)
- Lieutenant Governor of New Mexico: Ezequiel Cabeza De Baca (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of New York: Edward Schoeneck (Republican) (starting January 1)
- Lieutenant Governor of North Carolina: Elijah L. Daughtridge (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of North Dakota: Anton T. Kraabel (Republican) (until month and day unknown), John H. Fraine (Republican) (starting month and day unknown)
- Lieutenant Governor of Ohio: W. A. Greenlund (Democratic) (until January 11), John H. Arnold (Republican) (starting January 11)
- Lieutenant Governor of Oklahoma: J. J. McAlester (Democratic) (until month and day unknown), Martin E. Trapp (Democratic) (starting month and day unknown)
- Lieutenant Governor of Pennsylvania: John M. Reynolds (Republican) (until January 19), Frank B. McClain (Republican) (starting January 19)
- Lieutenant Governor of Rhode Island: Rosewell Burchard (Republican) (until January 5), Emery J. San Souci (Republican) (starting January 5)
- Lieutenant Governor of South Carolina:
 - until January 14: Charles Aurelius Smith (Democratic)
 - January 14-January 19: vacant
 - starting January 19: Andrew Bethea (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of South Dakota: Edward Lincoln Abel (Republican) (until month and day unknown), Peter Norbeck (Republican) (starting month and day unknown)
- Lieutenant Governor of Tennessee:
 - until month and day unknown: Newton H. White (Democratic)
 - month and day unknown: Hugh C. Anderson (Democratic)
 - starting month and day unknown: Albert E. Hill (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Texas: vacant (until January 19), William P. Hobby (Democratic) (starting January 19)
- Lieutenant Governor of Vermont: Frank E. Howe (Republican) (until January 19), Hale K. Darling (Republican) (starting January 19)
- Lieutenant Governor of Virginia: James Taylor Ellyson (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Washington: Louis Folwell Hart (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Wisconsin: Thomas Morris (Republican) (until January 4), Edward F. Dithmar (Republican) (starting January 4)

Events

January–March

- January – While working as a cook at New York's Sloan Hospital under an assumed name, Typhoid Mary infects 25 people, and is placed in quarantine for life.
- January 12

- The Rocky Mountain National Park is established by an act of the U.S. Congress.
- The United States House of Representatives rejects a proposal to give women the right to vote.
- January 21 – Kiwanis International is founded in Detroit, Michigan.
- January 28 – An act of the U.S. Congress designates the United States Coast Guard, begun in 1790, as a military branch over 19 years.
- February 2 – Vanceboro international bridge bombing
- February 8 – The controversial film, *The Birth of a Nation*, directed by D. W. Griffith, premieres in Los Angeles.
- February 12 – In Washington, D.C. the first stone of the Lincoln Memorial is put into place.
- February 20 – In San Francisco, California the Panama-Pacific International Exposition is opened.
- March 3 – NACA, the predecessor of NASA, is founded.
- March 25 – The USS F-4 submarine sinks off Hawaii; 23 are killed.
- March 28 – The first Roman Catholic Liturgy is celebrated by Archbishop John Ireland at the newly consecrated Cathedral of Saint Paul in Saint Paul, Minnesota.



Souvenir booklet for the Panama-Pacific International Exposition

April–June

- May 6 – Babe Ruth hits his first career home run off of Jack Warhop.
- May 7 – The RMS Lusitania is sunk on passage from New York to Britain by a German U-boat, killing 1,198.
- May 22 – Lassen Peak, one of the Cascade Volcanoes in Northern California, erupts, sending an ash plume 30,000 feet in the air and devastating the nearby area with pyroclastic flows and lahars. It is the only volcano to erupt in the contiguous United States between 1900 and the 1980 eruption of Mount St. Helens.
- June 9 – U.S. Secretary of State William Jennings Bryan resigns over a disagreement regarding his nation's handling of the Lusitania sinking.
- June 21 – Guinn v. United States is decided by the Supreme Court of the United States, finding grandfather clause exemptions to literacy tests for voters to be unconstitutional.
- June 22 – The Imperial Valley earthquakes shook southeastern Southern California, causing six deaths and financial losses of \$900,000. Each shock in this doublet



Ralph DePalma (1882-1956) wins the 1915 Indianapolis 500 on May 31.

earthquake measured 5.5 M_w and had a maximum Mercalli intensity of VIII (*Severe*).

July–September

- July 24 – The steamer *Eastland* capsizes in central Chicago, with the loss of 844 lives.
- July 28 – The United States occupation of Haiti begins.
- August 5–August 23 – Hurricane Two of the 1915 Atlantic hurricane season over Galveston and New Orleans leaves 275 dead.
- August 17 – Jewish American Leo Frank is lynched for the alleged murder of a 13-year-old girl in Atlanta.
- August 31 – Jimmy Lavender of the Chicago Cubs pitches a no hitter against the New York Giants.
- September 11 – The Pennsylvania Railroad begins electrified commuter rail service between Paoli and Philadelphia, using overhead AC trolley wires for power. This type of system is later used in long-distance passenger trains between New York City, Washington, D.C., and Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

October–December

- October 2 – The 6.8 M_w Pleasant Valley earthquake shook north-central Nevada with a maximum Mercalli intensity of X (*Extreme*), causing limited damage and pronounced fault scarps along the base of the Tobin Range.
- October 19 – Mexican Revolution: The U.S. recognizes the Mexican government of Venustiano Carranza de facto (not *de jure* until 1917).
- November 18 – Release of *Inspiration*, the first mainstream movie in which a leading actress (Audrey Munson) appears nude.
- November 23 – The Triangle Film Corporation opens its new motion picture theater in Massillon, Ohio.
- November 27 (Thanksgiving Night) – Second Ku Klux Klan established in Stone Mountain, Georgia by William Joseph Simmons.

Undated

- Emory College is rechartered as Emory University, and plans to move its main campus from Oxford, Georgia to Atlanta.
- The first stop sign appears in Detroit, Michigan.
- Colonel Francis G. Ward Pumping Station in Buffalo, New York, the largest in the US at this time, begins operation.
- Woman's Peace Party organized.
- Thomas Lyle Williams produces the mascara Maybelline.

Ongoing

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

- U.S. occupation of Haiti (1915–1934)

Births

- January 2 – John Hope Franklin, historian (died 2009)
- January 3 – Sid Hudson, baseball player (died 2008)
- January 4 – Meg Mundy, English-born actress (died 2016)
- January 5 – Arthur H. Robinson, geographer and cartographer (died 2004)
- January 6 – Don Edwards, politician (died 2015)
- January 9 – Anita Louise, actress (died 1970)
- January 14 – Mark Goodson, television game show producer (died 1992)
- January 16 – Leslie H. Martinson, television and film director (died 2016)
- January 24 – Robert Motherwell, painter (died 1991)
- January 29 – John Serry, Sr., musician, composer and arranger (died 2003)
- January 30 – Ed Keats, admiral (died 2019)
- January 31
 - Alan Lomax, folklorist and musicologist (died 2002)
 - Thomas Merton, monk and author (died 1968)
- February 5 – Robert Hofstadter, physicist, Nobel Prize laureate (d. 1990)
- February 10 – Karl Winsch, baseball player and manager (died 2001)
- February 12 – Richard G. Colbert, admiral (died 1973)
- February 14 – Ray Evans, composer (died 2007)
- February 16 – Jim O'Hora, college football coach (died 2005)
- February 21 – Ann Sheridan film actress (died 1967)
- February 23 – Paul Tibbets, World War II bomber pilot (*Enola Gay*) (died 2007)
- February 26 – Preacher Roe, baseball player (died 2008)
- February 28 – Zero Mostel, born Samuel Mostel, film and stage actor (died 1977)
- March 20 – Marie M. Runyon, political activist (died 2018)
- March 29 – Helen Yglesias, novelist (died 2008)
- April 4 – Muddy Waters, born McKinley Morganfield, African-American blues musician (died 1983)
- April 7
 - Stanley Adams, actor (died 1977)
 - Albert O. Hirschman, German-born economist (died 2012)
 - Billie Holiday, born Eleanora Fagan, African-American jazz blues singer (died 1959)
- April 16 – Joan Alexander, American actress (died 2009)
- May 1 – Archie Williams, athlete (died 1993)
- May 2 – Doris Fisher, singer and songwriter (died 2003)



Woodrow Wilson House
(Washington, D.C.), built in
1915

- May 5 – Alice Faye, entertainer (died 1998)
- May 6 – Orson Welles, actor and director (died 1985)
- May 8 – Milton Meltzer, historical writer (died 2009)
- May 15 – Paul Samuelson, economist, Nobel Prize laureate (died 2009)
- May 27 – Herman Wouk, novelist (died 2019)
- June 10 – Saul Bellow, Canadian-born novelist, Nobel Prize laureate (died 2005)
- June 12 – David Rockefeller, banker and philanthropist (died 2017)
- June 15 – Thomas Huckle Weller, virologist, Nobel Prize laureate (died 2008)
- July 5 – John Woodruff, African-American middle-distance runner (died 2007)
- July 7 – Peter H. Dominick, U.S. Senator from Colorado from 1963 to 1975 (died 1981)
- July 15 – Albert Ghiorso, nuclear scientist (died 2010)
- July 17 – Fred Ball, movie studio executive, actor and brother of Lucille Ball (died 2007)
- July 28
 - Charles Townes, physicist, Nobel Prize laureate (died 2015)
 - Frankie Yankovic, accordion player (died 1998)
- July 28 – Dick Sprang, comic book artist during the golden age of comics and explorer (died 2000)
- August 4 – William Keene, actor (died 1992)
- August 12 – Michael Kidd, choreographer (died 2007)
- August 14 – Irene Hickson, baseball player (died 1995)
- August 19 – Ring Lardner Jr., film screenwriter (died 2000)
- August 25
 - Norman Foster Ramsey, Jr., physicist, Nobel Prize laureate (died 2011)
 - Walter Trampler, violist (died 1997)
- August 27 – Norman F. Ramsey, physicist, Nobel Prize laureate (died 2011)
- August 28
 - Tol Avery, actor (died 1973)
 - Simon Oakland, actor (died 1983)
 - Tasha Tudor, illustrator (died 2008)
- September 23 – Clifford Shull, physicist, Nobel Prize laureate (died 2001)
- October 1 – Jerome Bruner, developmental and educational psychologist (died 2016)
- October 4 – Beverly Loraine Greene, African-American architect (died 1957)
- October 24
 - Letitia Woods Brown, African-American academic historian (died 1976)
 - Bob Kane, author and illustrator (died 1998)
 - Roger Milliken, businessman (died 2010)
- October 6 – Ralph Tyler Smith, U.S. Senator from Illinois from 1969 to 1970 (died 1972)
- October 17 – Arthur Miller, playwright and essayist (died 2005)

- [November 9](#) – [Sargent Shriver](#), Peace Corps founder (died [2011](#))
- [November 14](#) – [Billy Bauer](#), cool jazz guitarist (died [2005](#))
- [November 19](#) – [Earl Wilbur Sutherland Jr.](#), physiologist, [Nobel Prize laureate](#) (died [1974](#))
- [November 26](#) – [Earl Wild](#), pianist (died [2010](#))
- [November 29](#) – [Billy Strayhorn](#), composer, pianist and jazz innovator (died [1967](#))
- [November 30](#) – [Brownie McGhee](#), [Piedmont blues](#) musician (died [1996](#))
- [December 12](#) – [Frank Sinatra](#), singer and actor (died [1998](#))

Deaths

- [January 19](#) – [Abram J. Buckles](#), soldier and jurist (born [1846](#))
- [February 18](#) – [Frank James](#), outlaw (born [1843](#))
- [March 5](#) – [Thomas R. Bard](#), U.S. Senator from California from 1900 until 1905 (born [1841](#))
- [April 16](#) – [Nelson W. Aldrich](#), U.S. Senator from Rhode Island from 1881 until 1911 (born [1841](#))
- [April 26](#) – [John Bunny](#), silent film comedian (born [1863](#))
- [May 7](#) – [Sinking of the RMS Lusitania](#):
 - [Justus Miles Forman](#), writer (born [1875](#))
 - [Charles Frohman](#), theater producer (born [1856](#))
 - [Elbert Hubbard](#), writer and philosopher (born [1856](#))
 - [Alice Moore Hubbard](#), wife of Elbert (born [1861](#))
 - [Charles Klein](#), playwright (born [1867](#))
 - [Alfred Gwynne Vanderbilt](#), sportsman (born [1877](#))
- [June 19](#) – [Benjamin F. Isherwood](#), admiral (born [1822](#))
- [July 16](#) – [Ellen G. White](#), co-founder of the [Seventh-day Adventist Church](#) (born [1827](#))
- [August 25](#) – [Henry Overholser](#), businessman (born [1846](#))
- [September 13](#) – [Andrew L. Harris](#), Civil War hero and Governor of Ohio (born [1835](#))
- [November 14](#) – [Booker T. Washington](#), African-American educator (born [1856](#))
- [November 16](#) – [Julius C. Burrows](#), U.S. Senator from Michigan from 1895 until 1911 (born [1837](#))
- [November 21](#) – [Dixie Haygood](#), magician (born [1861](#))

See also

- [List of American films of 1915](#)
- [Timeline of United States history \(1900–1929\)](#)

External links

-  [Media related to \[1915 in the United States\]\(#\) at Wikimedia Commons](#)

- "1915" (<https://archive.is/20141122203444/http://dp.la/timeline%231915#1915>). *Timeline*. Digital Public Library of America. Archived from the original (<http://dp.la/timeline#1915>) on November 22, 2014.
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