

## **Today in History - May 20**

President Abraham Lincoln signed the Homestead Act on May 20, 1862. [Continue reading.](#)

## **Today in History - May 19**

Johns Hopkins was born on May, 19, 1795, in Anne Arundel County, Maryland, to a Quaker family. [Continue reading.](#)

On May 19, 1863, General Ulysses S. Grant attempted to take the Confederate stronghold at Vicksburg, Mississippi. [Continue reading.](#)

## **Today in History - May 18**

Educator and political leader Mary McLeod Bethune died at the age of eighty on May 18, 1955, in Daytona Beach, Florida. [Continue reading.](#)

On May 18, 1896, the Supreme Court ruled separate-but-equal facilities constitutional on intrastate railroads. [Continue reading.](#)

## **Today in History - May 17**

Popular rider Oliver Lewis rode H.P. McGrath's thoroughbred Aristides to victory in the first Kentucky Derby on May 17, 1875, at the Louisville Jockey Club. [Continue reading.](#)

May 17 is Norwegian Constitution Day, a commemoration of the adoption of Norway's Constitution in 1814. [Continue reading.](#)

## **Today in History - May 16**

On May 16, 1868, the U.S. Senate voted 35 to 19, one vote short of the two-thirds majority needed to convict President Andrew Johnson of "high crimes and misdemeanors". [Continue reading.](#)

Elizabeth Palmer Peabody (1804-1894), the educator who opened the first English-language kindergarten in the United States, was born on May 16, 1804, in Billerica, Massachusetts. [Continue reading.](#)

## **Today in History - May 15**

Lyman Frank Baum, author of The Wonderful Wizard of Oz, was born on May 15, 1856, in Chittenango, New York. [Continue reading.](#)

On May 15, 1856, residents of San Francisco organized a Committee of Vigilance to combat crime in their rapidly growing town. [Continue reading.](#)

When in May of 1916, the much-loved Yiddish author and humorist Sholem Aleichem died at his home in the Bronx, the collective outpouring of grief was immediate. [Continue reading.](#)

## **Today in History - May 14**

On May 14, 1607, English settlers, arriving under the authority of the Virginia Company of London chartered by King James I, established the first permanent English settlement in North America at a place they named Jamestown, Virginia. [Continue reading.](#)

On Mother's Day, May 14, 1961, an interracial group of Freedom Riders riding buses through the South was attacked and firebombed by an angry white mob outside of Anniston, Alabama. [Continue reading.](#)

## **Today in History - May 13**

On May 13, 1864, the first military interment occurred on the grounds of Arlington House. [Continue reading.](#)

On May 13, 1908, President Theodore Roosevelt delivered the opening address, "Conservation as a National Duty," at the outset of a three-day meeting billed as the Governors' Conference on the Conservation of Natural Resources. [Continue reading](#)

## **Today in History - May 12**

On May 12, 1850, Republican statesman and noted historian Henry Cabot Lodge was born in Boston, Massachusetts. [Continue reading.](#)

On Tuesday, May 12, 1903, President Theodore Roosevelt paid an official visit to San Francisco. [Continue reading.](#)

## **Today in History - May 11**

On May 11, 1858, Minnesota became the 32nd state admitted into the Union. [Continue reading.](#)

## **Today in History - May 10**

On May 10, 1869, officials and workers of the Union Pacific and the Central Pacific railways held a ceremony on Promontory Summit, in Utah Territory, to drive in the Golden Spike symbolizing completion of the first transcontinental railroad. [Continue reading.](#)

Union troops captured Confederate President Jefferson Davis near Irwinville, Georgia on May 10, 1865. [Continue reading.](#)

## **Today in History - May 9**

President Woodrow Wilson issued a proclamation on May 9, 1914, asking Americans to give a public expression of reverence to mothers through the celebration of Mother's Day. [Continue reading.](#)

On May 9, 1754, "Join, or Die", considered to be the first American political cartoon, was printed in The Pennsylvania Gazette. [Continue reading.](#)

On May 9, 1813, General William Henry Harrison turned back a siege of Fort Meigs by Shawnee military leader, Tecumseh and British general Henry A. Proctor. [Continue reading.](#)

## **Today in History - May 8**

On May 8, 1846, General Zachary Taylor defeated a detachment of the Mexican army in a two-day battle at Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma. [Continue reading.](#)

Dr. John S. Pemberton, a pharmacist and inventor of patent medicines, sold the first Coca-Cola on May 8, 1886, at Jacob's Pharmacy in Atlanta, Georgia. [Continue reading.](#)

## **Today in History - May 7**

Archibald MacLeish, poet, dramatist, and ninth Librarian of Congress was born on May 7, 1892, in Glencoe, Illinois. [Continue reading.](#)

On May 7, 1915, the German submarine (U-boat) U-20 sank the British ocean liner, Lusitania. [Continue reading.](#)

## **Today in History - May 6**

On May 6, 1856, Robert E. Peary, who claimed discovery of the North Pole, was born in Cresson, Pennsylvania. [Continue reading.](#)

On May 6, 1864, Confederate General James E. Longstreet was seriously wounded, caught in the fire of his own troops at the Battle of the Wilderness. [Continue reading.](#)

### **Today in History - May 5**

Mexican troops under General Ignacio Zaragoza successfully defended the town of Puebla on May 5, 1862, temporarily halting France's efforts to establish a puppet regime in Mexico. [Continue reading.](#)

On May 5, 1925, high school science teacher John Scopes was arrested for teaching evolution in one of Tennessee's public schools. [Continue reading.](#)

### **Today in History - May 4**

On May 4, 1626, Dutch colonist Peter Minuit arrived on the wooded island of Manhattan in present-day New York. [Continue reading.](#)

On May 4, 1894, Bird Day was first observed at the initiative of Charles Almanzo Babcock, superintendent of schools in Oil City, Pennsylvania. [Continue reading.](#)

### **Today in History - May 3**

On May 3, 1464, Christopher Columbus sighted the island of Jamaica. [Continue reading.](#)

Playwright William M. Inge was born in Independence, Kansas, on May 3, 1913. [Continue reading.](#)

### **Today in History - May 2**

James F. Byrnes was born in Charleston, South Carolina, on May 2, 1882. [Continue reading.](#)

Good Housekeeping made its debut on May 2, 1885. [Continue reading.](#)

### **Today in History - May 1**

On May 1, 1916, employees of the Puritan Underwear Company participated in the May Day worker's parade in New York City. [Continue reading.](#)

On May, 1, 1931, with the press of a ceremonial button in Washington, D. C., President Herbert Hoover turned on the lights of the Empire State Building, officially opening the world's tallest

building located at the corner of Fifth Avenue and 34th Street in downtown Manhattan.

[Continue reading.](#)

On May 1, 1764, Benjamin Henry Latrobe, considered to be the first professional architect in America, was born at Fulneck, a settlement of the Moravian Church near Leeds in Yorkshire, England. [Continue reading.](#)