

Today in History - November 30

Samuel Langhorne Clemens, popularly known as Mark Twain, was born November 30, 1835 in Florida, Missouri and spent his childhood in nearby Hannibal. [Continue reading.](#)

Today in History - November 29

On November 29, 1832, Amos Bronson Alcott wrote his mother of his joy in "the birth of a second daughter on my own birth-day" -- Louisa May Alcott. [Continue reading.](#)

On November 29, 1799, Amos Bronson Alcott, educator, philosopher of American Transcendentalism, and father of the original "Little Women" -- Anna, Louisa, Elizabeth, and May Alcott--was born in Wolcott, Connecticut. [Continue reading.](#)

Today in History - November 28

Three ships under the command of Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan entered "The Sea of the South" on November 28, 1520. [Continue reading.](#)

At 8:55a.m. on November 28, 1895, six "motocycles" left Chicago's Jackson Park for a 54-mile race to Evanston, Illinois and back--through the snow. [Continue reading.](#)

Today in History - November 27

November 27, 1746, marks the birth of Robert R. Livingston, jurist and statesman. [Continue reading.](#)

James De Lancey, lawyer, jurist, and eventual acting governor of New York, was born in New York City on November 27, 1703. [Continue reading.](#)

Today in History - November 26

In his first presidential proclamation, George Washington designated November 26, 1789 as a Day of National Thanksgiving. [Continue reading.](#)

Preacher, abolitionist, and women's rights advocate Sojourner Truth died in Battle Creek, Michigan on November 26, 1883. [Continue reading.](#)

The film *Casablanca* opened in New York City on November 26, 1942, as Allied Expeditionary Forces (AEF) secured their hold on North Africa during World War II. [Continue reading.](#)

Today in History - November 25

“I have not come 20,000 miles,” Yankee trader Franklin A. Buck wrote to his sister Mary on November 25, 1849, “to turn around and go right back again like some persons who have been here and gotten homesick.” Buck was one of 40,000 people who traveled to California by sea during the gold rush of 1849. [Continue reading.](#)

Today in History - November 24

On November 24, 1602, the eve of St. Catherine’s Day, Spanish explorer Sebastián Vizcaíno sighted three islands. He renamed Pimu, the largest island, Santa Catalina. [Continue reading.](#)

On November 24, 1963, Dallas nightclub owner Jack Ruby shot and killed President John F. Kennedy’s accused assassin, Lee Harvey Oswald, in a Dallas police station. [Continue reading.](#)

Today in History - November 23

Franklin Pierce, fourteenth president of the United States, was born on November 23, 1804, in Hillsboro, New Hampshire. [Continue reading.](#)

On November 23, 1863, the Battle of Chattanooga began. [Continue reading.](#)

Today in History - November 22

On Friday, November 22, 1963, President John F. Kennedy was shot as he rode in a motorcade through the streets of Dallas, Texas; he died shortly thereafter. [Continue reading.](#)

On November 22, 1880, “Lillian Russell” made her debut at Tony Pastor’s Theatre in New York City. [Continue reading.](#)

On the evening of November, 22, 1909, a young woman named Clara Lemlich rose to address a crowd assembled in the Great Hall of New York's Cooper Union. [Continue reading.](#)

Today in History - November 21

On November 21, 1789, North Carolina ratified the Constitution to become the twelfth state in the Union. [Continue reading](#).

Today in History - November 20

On November 20, 1866, ten members of the First Congregational Society of Washington, D.C. gathered in the home of Deacon Henry Brewster for a missionary meeting. [Continue reading](#).

On November 20, 1942, U.S. Army engineers, working closely with partners in U.S. civilian agencies and Canada, officially opened the Alaska Highway. [Continue reading](#).

Today in History - November 18

On November 18, 1883, precisely at noon, North American railroads switched to a new standard time system for rail operations, which they called Standard Railway Time (SRT). [Continue reading](#).

Louis-Jacques-Mandé Daguerre, inventor of the first practical process of photography, was born near Paris, France, on November 18, 1789. [Continue reading](#).

Today in History - November 17

After ten years of construction and costs more than double the original estimate, the Suez Canal opened on November 17, 1869. [Continue reading](#).

Progressive Era reformer Grace Abbott was born in Grand Island, Nebraska, on November 17, 1878. [Continue reading](#).

Today in History - November 16

On November 16, 1889, the Oahu Railway and Land Company (OR&L) began operating on Hawai'i's third largest island, Oahu. [Continue reading](#).

Oklahoma entered the Union as the forty-sixth state on November 16, 1907. [Continue reading](#).

Today in History - November 15

On November 15, 1777, the Second Continental Congress adopted the Articles of Confederation. [Continue reading](#).

On November 15, 1855 Elizabeth Hobbs Keckley's emancipation deed was signed. [Continue reading.](#)

Today in History - November 14

On November 14, 1732, the Library Company of Philadelphia signed a contract with its first librarian. [Continue reading.](#)

American composer Aaron Copland was born on November 14, 1900, in Brooklyn, New York. [Continue reading.](#)

Today in History - November 13

General Richard Montgomery led American troops in the capture of Montreal on November 13, 1775. [Continue reading.](#)

Today in History - November 12

On November 12, 1815, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, spokesperson for the rights of women, was born in Johnstown, New York. [Continue reading.](#)

Pioneering panoramic map artist Albert Ruger died on November 12, 1899, in Akron, Ohio. [Continue reading.](#)

Today in History - November 11

The Allied powers signed a ceasefire agreement with Germany at Compi gne, France, at 11:00 a.m. on November 11, 1918, bringing the war later known as World War I to a close. [Continue reading.](#)

On November 11, 1889, President Benjamin Harrison declared Washington the forty-second state in the Union. [Continue reading.](#)

Today in History - November 10

Henry Wirz, commander of the infamous Confederate prison at Andersonville, Georgia, was hanged on November 10, 1865, in Washington, D.C., the only Confederate officer executed as a war criminal. [Continue reading.](#)

Today in History - November 9

Mathematician and astronomer Benjamin Banneker was born on November 9, 1731, in Ellicott's Mills, Maryland. [Continue reading.](#)

Today in History - November 8

On November 8, 1906, cameraman Fred A. Dobson began filming The Skyscrapers of New York atop an uncompleted skyscraper at Broadway and 12th Street. [Continue reading.](#)

On November 8, 1861, U.S. Navy Captain Charles Wilkes commanded the crew of the U.S.S. San Jacinto to intercept the British mail steamer Trent and arrest Confederate commissioners James M. Mason and John Slidell. [Continue reading.](#)

Today in History - November 7

On November 7, 1837, Elijah Parish Lovejoy was killed by a pro-slavery mob while defending the site of his anti-slavery newspaper The Saint Louis Observer. [Continue reading.](#)

Hawai'i officially joined the Union as the fiftieth state on August 21, 1959, although voters in the United States Hawai'i Territory had ratified a state constitution on November 7, 1950. [Continue reading.](#)

Today in History - November 6

On November 6, 1861, Jefferson Davis, who had been elected president of the Provisional Government of the Confederacy on February 9, 1861—as a compromise between moderates and radicals—was confirmed by the voters for a full six-year term. [Continue reading.](#)

Today in History - November 5

On November 5, 1844, Democratic candidate James K. Polk defeated Whig Party candidate Henry Clay to become the eleventh president of the United States. [Continue reading.](#)

Today in History - November 4

On November 4, 1884, Democrat Grover Cleveland defeated Republican James G. Blaine ending a particularly acrimonious campaign. [Continue reading.](#)

Today in History - November 3

The experimental Provincetown Players opened their first New York season on November 3, 1916, at 139 MacDougal Street in Greenwich Village. [Continue reading](#).

Today in History - November 2

Mary Todd Lincoln corresponded with her husband on November 2, 1862, advising him of popular sentiment against the cautious command of General of the Army of the Potomac George B. McClellan. [Continue reading](#).

On November 2, 1889, North Dakota and South Dakota were admitted to the Union as the 39th and 40th states, respectively. [Continue reading](#).

Today in History - November 1

On November 1, 1897, the new Library of Congress building opened its doors to the public. [Continue reading](#).

Charles Eliot was born into a family of distinguished Bostonians in Cambridge, Massachusetts, on November 1, 1859. [Continue reading](#).