

SEPTEMBER

[Today in History - September 30](#)

On September 30, 1882, the first centrally located electric lighting plant using the Edison system in the West and the first hydroelectric central station in the United States began operation on the Fox River in Appleton, Wisconsin. [Continue reading.](#)

On September 30, 1847, Congressman George Perkins Marsh delivered a speech on agricultural conditions in New England to the Agricultural Society of Rutland County, Vermont. [Continue reading.](#)

[Today in History - September 29](#)

On September 29, 1789, the final day of its first session, the United States Congress passed "An act to recognize and adapt to the Constitution of the United States, the establishment of the troops raised under the resolves of the United States in Congress assembled". [Continue reading.](#)

In October 1941, John F. Kennedy was appointed an ensign in the United States Naval Reserve. [Continue reading.](#)

[Today in History - September 25](#)

Novelist William Faulkner was born in New Albany, Mississippi, on September 25, 1897. [Continue reading.](#)

[Today in History - September 24](#)

Writer F. Scott Fitzgerald, best known for his classic American novel *The Great Gatsby*, was born on September 24, 1896, in St. Paul, Minnesota. [Continue reading.](#)

Frances Ellen Watkins Harper was born free on September 24, 1825, in Baltimore, Maryland. [Continue reading.](#)

[Today in History - September 23](#)

Mary Church Terrell--educator, political activist, and first president of the National Association of Colored women--was born on September 23, 1863, in Memphis, Tennessee. [Continue reading.](#)

Today in History - September 19

The Saratoga campaign began on September 19, 1777. [Continue reading.](#)

On September 19, 1819, English poet John Keats, inspired by the beauty of the changing season, wrote *To Autumn*, a three-stanza ode to the splendor, bounty, and melancholy of fall. [Continue reading.](#)

Today in History - September 17

On September 17, 1787, members of the Constitutional Convention signed the final draft of the Constitution. [Continue reading.](#)

In the days leading up to the Battle of Antietam, Confederate General Robert E. Lee concentrated his invading army outside Sharpsburg, Maryland. At dawn on September 17, 1862, the hills of Sharpsburg thundered with artillery and musket fire as the Northern and Southern armies struggled for possession of the Miller farm cornfield. [Continue reading.](#)

Today in History - September 16

Early on the morning of September 16, 1810, Father Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla summoned the largely Indian and mestizo congregation of his small Dolores parish church and urged them to take up arms and fight for Mexico's independence from Spain. [Continue reading.](#)

On September 16, 1960, college football coach Amos Alonzo Stagg (1862-1965), then ninety-eight years old, announced his retirement after seventy years on the field. [Continue reading.](#)

Today in History - September 15

Writer, critic, and teacher, Robert Penn Warren died on September 15, 1989. [Continue reading.](#)

William Howard Taft served as both President of the United States and Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. He was born on September 15, 1857 in Cincinnati, Ohio. [Continue reading.](#)

Today in History - September 14

On September 14, 2016, Dr. Carla Hayden was sworn in by Chief Justice John G. Roberts as the 14th Librarian of Congress. [Continue reading.](#)

On September 14, 1638, John Harvard, a 31-year-old clergyman from Charlestown, Massachusetts died, leaving his library and half of his estate to a local college. [Continue reading.](#)

On Sunday, September 14 1938, members of the Russian Molokan Church held religious services in their new church building on Potrero Hill in San Francisco, California. [Continue reading.](#)

Today in History - September 13

As the evening of September 13, 1814, approached, Francis Scott Key, a young lawyer, was detained in Baltimore Harbor under guard by the British navy. [Continue reading.](#)

American writer Sherwood Anderson was born on September 13, 1876, in Camden, Ohio. [Continue reading.](#)

Today in History - September 12

On September 12, 1918, the American Expeditionary Forces under commander in chief General John J. Pershing launched its first major offensive in Europe as an independent army. [Continue reading.](#)

Writer, editor, philologist, social critic, and Baltimore native H. L. Mencken was born on September 12, 1880. [Continue reading.](#)

Today in History - September 11

Within hours of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, Library of Congress staff began to call for and collect a vast array of original materials concerning the attacks on the World Trade Center towers and the Pentagon. [Continue reading.](#)

Swedish soprano Jenny Lind, whose purity of voice and natural singing style earned her the nickname "the Swedish nightingale," made her American debut at the Castle Garden Theatre in New York City on September 11, 1850. [Continue reading.](#)

Today in History - September 10

Explorer, author, and cartographer John Smith became the leader of the Jamestown settlement when he assumed the presidency of its governing council on September 10, 1608. [Continue reading.](#)

Today in History - September 9

Early on the morning of Sunday, September 9, 1739, twenty Black Carolinians met near the Stono River, approximately twenty miles southwest of Charleston. [Continue reading.](#)

Today in History - September 8

First Lady Laura Bush and Librarian of Congress James Billington opened the first National Book Festival in a brief public ceremony on the Neptune Plaza of the Library of Congress at 9:30am on Saturday, September 8, 2001. [Continue reading.](#)

On September 8, 1900, hurricane winds estimated at speeds of up to 120 miles per hour ripped across the Texas coastline on the Gulf of Mexico, killing more than 6,000 people and decimating the city of Galveston. [Continue reading.](#)

The American Federation of Labor granted a charter to the Quarry Workers' International Union of North America, headquartered in Barre, Vermont, on September 8, 1903. [Continue reading.](#)

Today in History - September 7

President Jimmy Carter and Panamanian Chief of Government Omar Torrijos signed the Panama Canal Treaty and Neutrality Treaty on September 7, 1977. [Continue reading.](#)

Today in History - September 6

Social reformer and pacifist Jane Addams was born on September 6, 1860, in Cedarville, Illinois. [Continue reading.](#)

On September 6, 1901, President William McKinley was shot twice in the stomach while attending the Pan-American Exposition in Buffalo, New York. [Continue reading.](#)

Today in History - September 5

The infamous Jesse James was born on September 5, 1847. [Continue reading.](#)

On September 5, 1882, some 10,000 workers assembled in New York City to participate in America's first Labor Day parade. [Continue reading.](#)

Today in History - September 4

On September 4, 1781, the eleven men, eleven women, and twenty-two children recruited by Alta California Governor Felipe de Neve founded El Pueblo de la Reyna de Los Angeles (The Town of the Queen of Angels). [Continue reading.](#)

Architect and city planner Daniel Hudson Burnham was born in Henderson, New York on September 4, 1846. [Continue reading.](#)

On the afternoon of Sunday, September 4, 1949, violence broke out after renowned but controversial African American baritone Paul Robeson sang at an outdoor concert near Peekskill, New York. [Continue reading.](#)

Today in History - September 3

On September 3, 1783, the Treaty of Paris was signed, bringing the Revolutionary War to its final conclusion. [Continue reading.](#)

On September 3, 1838, abolitionist, journalist, author, and human rights advocate Frederick Douglass made his dramatic escape from slavery. [Continue reading.](#)

Architect and writer Louis Henri Sullivan was born in Boston, Massachusetts on September 3, 1856. [Continue reading.](#)

Today in History - September 2

On September 2, 1885, a mob of white coal miners attacked their Chinese co-workers (both groups were employed by the Union Pacific Coal Company) in Rock Springs, Wyoming Territory, over a dispute on who had the right to work in a particularly lucrative area of the mine. [Continue reading.](#)

On September 2, 1935, George Gershwin signed his name to the completed orchestral score of the opera, *Porgy and Bess*. [Continue reading.](#)

Today in History - September 1

On September 1, 1773, Phillis Wheatley's *Poems on Various Subjects, Religious and Moral* was published in London, England. [Continue reading](#).

On September 1, 1864, Confederate General John B. Hood evacuated Atlanta, leaving the city, a crucial supply center for the Confederacy, in Union hands. [Continue reading](#).