

This day in history: May 13

- 1607** Colonists found Jamestown, the first permanent English settlement in what is now the United States.
- 1846** Congress declares a state of war exists between the United States and Mexico.
- 1864** The first military burial takes place in Arlington National Cemetery.
- 1865** The last land battle of the Civil War is fought at Palmito Ranch in south Texas.
- 1954** President Eisenhower signs the St. Lawrence Seaway Development Act to construct a system of canals between Montreal and Lake Erie.

This day in history: May 14

- 1787** Delegates begin gathering in Philadelphia for the Constitutional Convention.
- 1897** In Philadelphia, John Philip Sousa's march "The Stars and Stripes Forever" is performed for the first time.
- 1904** The first Olympic Games held in the United States opens in St. Louis.
- 1973** *Skylab*, the first U.S. space station, is launched from Cap Canaveral, FL.

This day in history: May 15

- 1602** English explorer Bartholomew Gosnold leads the first European exploration of Cape Cod, MA.
- 1756** England declares war on France in America, beginning the Seven Years' War.
- 1911** The Supreme Court upholds an order for the dissolution of the Standard Oil Company, ruling that it is a monopoly.
- 1940** Crowds of shoppers scramble to buy nylon stockings the first day they go on sale in selected stores.
- 1951** AT&T announces that it is the first U.S. corporation to have a million stockholders.

This day in history: May 16

- 1836** The first steamboat on the Pacific Coast, the *Beaver*, is tested at Vancouver, WA.
- 1942** One of the first wagon trains sets out for the Northwest on the Oregon Trail.
- 1868** The Senate fails by one vote to convict President Andrew Johnson in his impeachment trial: he is later acquitted of all charges.
- 1885** In Philadelphia, German immigrant Emile Berliner demonstrates the first modern phonograph record.
- 1929** Emil Jannings (Best Actor) and Janet Garner (Best Actress) are among the winners of the first Oscars presented at a Hollywood banquet.
- 1991** Queen Elizabeth II becomes the first British monarch to address Congress.

This day in history: May 17

- 1792** The New York Stock Exchange is founded by 24 brokers meeting under a buttonwood tree on what today is Wall Street.
- 1875** Aristides, ridden by Oliver Lewis, wins the first Kentucky Derby at Churchill Downs in Louisville.
- 1877** Alexander Graham Bell answers the first interstate phone call, made from New Brunswick, NJ to New York City.
- 1954** In *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka*, the Supreme Court rules that racial segregation in public schools is unconstitutional.
- 1973** The Senate Watergate Committee begins national televised hearings.

This day in history: May 18

- 1860** Republicans nominate Abraham Lincoln for president.
- 1863** Ulysses S. Grant begins the siege of Vicksburg, MS.
- 1896** The Supreme Court upholds “separate but equal” racial segregation in *Plessy vs Ferguson*.
- 1908** Congress requires the motto *In God We Trust* on certain coins.
- 1980** Mount St. Helens in Washington erupts, leaving 57 people dead or missing.

This day in history: May 19

- 1749** King George II grants the Ohio Company a large expanse of land to promote settlement of the Ohio River Valley.
- 1828** President John Quincy Adams signs a protective tariff considered unfair in the South which labels it the “tariff of abominations.”
- 1864** A Confederate attack against Union forces ends several days of horrific fighting at the Battle of Spotsylvania Court House in Virginia.
- 1921** Congress places quotas on the number of immigrants entering the United States.