

About the 1870's

STATISTICS

United States Population.....	39,818,449
Pennsylvania Population.....	3,521,951
Estimated Farms in the United States.....	2,660,000
Estimated Farms in Pennsylvania.....	174,041

MAJOR NEWS IN AMERICAN HISTORY

- The 15th Amendment gives African Americans the right to vote (1870).
- Confederate General, Robert E. Lee, dies on October 12 (1870).
- The Standard Oil Company is founded by John D. Rockefeller (1870).
- The Great Chicago Fire (1871) occurred.
- Susan B. Anthony leads a protest for women at polling places (1872).
- Yellowstone National Park, the first national park, is established (1872).
- Ulysses S. Grant takes the oath for a second term of Presidency (1873 - 1877).
- Bellevue Hospital in New York City starts the first school of nursing, using teaching theories established by Florence Nightingale (1873).
- Yellow fever, cholera, and smallpox break out in southern states (1873).
- Gold is discovered in Sioux holy grounds and the Black Hills of South Dakota (1875).
- The first running of the Kentucky Derby occurs at Churchill Downs on May 17 (1875).
- Colorado is admitted as the 38th state to the Union on August 1 (1876).
- Custer makes his way into history at the Battle of Little Big Horn in Montana (1876).
- Alexander Graham Bell invents the telephone (1876).
- Rutherford B. Hayes takes the oath on March 4 and becomes America's 19th President (1877 - 1881).
- Thomas Alva Edison invents the phonograph (1877).
- Crazy Horse dies in a Nebraska prison from stab wounds (1877).
- The first commercial telephone exchange occurs in Boston (1877).
- Thomas Alva Edison invents the electric light (1878).
- The first electric street lighting anywhere occurs on Cleveland's Public Square (1878).

ENTERTAINMENT, SPORTS, GAMES, SONGS

- Barnum's three-ring circus, "The Greatest Show on Earth," opened in Brooklyn, New York (1871).
- The first American zoo was opened in Philadelphia (1874).
- "Uncle Tom's Cabin" was the most often performed musical play.
- Popular Games/Sports: Tag, blind man's bluff, hoop and stick, leap frog, flying kites, figure skating (on ponds), baseball, horse racing, hunting, fishing
- Popular Songs:
 - "Silver Threads among the Gold" (by Hart Pease Danks and Eben E. Rexford)
 - "Home on the Range" (author unknown)
 - "Grandfather's Clock" (by Henry C. Work)
 - "The Old Oaken Bucket" (by Lesley Nelson-Burns)

INVENTIONS AND DEVELOPMENTS

- Bag – Flat-Bottomed Paper (by Margaret Knight)
- Barbed Wire (by Joseph Glidden)
- Bicycle (first all-metal, high-wheel)
- Cash Register (by James Ritty)
- Chewing Gum – Modern (by Thomas Adams)
- Corrugated Cardboard (by Albert Jones)
- Idaho Potato (by Luther Burbank, plant breeder)
- Incandescent Light Bulb (by Thomas Alva Edison)
- Ivory Soap (by James Gamble)
- Jeans (by Levi Strauss and Jacob Davis)
- Mail-Order Catalog (by Aaron Montgomery Ward)
- Microphone (by David E. Hughes)
- Petroleum Jelly (by Robert Chesebrough)
- Phonograph (by Thomas Alva Edison)
- Telephone – Wired-Line (by Alexander Graham Bell)

PRIMARY MODES OF TRANSPORTATION

- Horse-Drawn Stagecoaches
- Horse-Drawn Carriages
- Horses
- Trains

NOTABLE ARTISTS

- James Abbott McNeill Whistler
- John Singer Sargeant (portraitist)
- Winslow Homer

BUSINESS AND ECONOMY

- Reconstruction Period (1865 - 1877): Reconstruction was a period in U.S. history during and after the American Civil War in which attempts were made to solve the political, social, and economic problems arising from the readmission to the Union of the 11 Confederate states that had seceded at or before the outbreak of war.
- The Gilded Age: The Gilded Age is a term used to describe the post-Civil War period in U.S. history. A satirical novel, *The Gilded Age* (1873), by Mark Twain and Charles Dudley Warner, gave the period its name.
- Agriculture production was the largest business in the United States.
- New companies included Remington Typewriters, B.F. Goodrich Rubber Factory, The Standard Oil Company, Montgomery Ward, Colgate Company, R. J. Reynolds Tobacco, Heinz Ketchup, Spalding (baseballs for major leagues), and Woolworth's Department Store.
- Gross Domestic Product: 98,374 (by millions of international dollars - purchasing power parity). The U.S. ranked fifth in the world.
- Typical Average *Daily Wages*, by Occupation:
 - Blacksmiths: \$2.68
 - Carpenters: \$2.64
 - Engineers: \$2.47
 - Machinists: \$2.67
 - Painters: \$2.67
 - Book and Newspaper Industry: \$2.98
 - Metals Industry: \$2.49
 - Cotton Goods Industry (male): \$1.51
 - Cotton Goods Industry (female): \$.89
 - Woolen Goods Industry: \$1.25
- Loan Interest Rates:
 - In 1869: 24% (long-term); 72% (short-term)
 - In 1880: 10% (long-term); 36% (short-term)

PRICES

1870 Prices for Food

Wheat	\$1.02/bushel
Flour	\$3/barrel
Corn	40¢/bushel
Molasses	15¢/gallon
Mess of pork	\$9/barrel
Mess of beef	\$8/barrel
Lard	6¢/pound
Butter	15¢/pound
Sugar	7¢/pound
Cheese	5¢/pound
Rice	5¢/pound
Oranges	50¢/dozen
Dried Figs	20¢/pound
Dried Apples	10¢/pound
Dried Apricots	15¢/pound
Dried Peaches	12¢/pound
Fresh Peaches	3 for 10¢
Fresh Apples	2 for 5¢
Flour	4¢/pound
Coffee	12¢/pound

1870 Prices for Horses, Cattle, and Gear

Horse (average work horse)	\$150
Horse (good saddle horse)	\$200
Saddle	\$30
Cowboy Saddle	\$60
Harness	\$50
Yoke of Two Oxen	\$150
Heifer	\$18.75
Cow	\$26
Bull	\$90
Steer (3-year-old)	\$62
Steer (2-year-old)	\$22.50
Yearlings	\$12.50
Calves	\$2.50
Buggy	\$75
Wagon	\$65

1870 Home and Farm Costs

Land (average tract - 160 acres)	\$5/acre
Homestead Filing Fee	\$14
House - 32' x 40' (4 rooms)	\$700
House - 16' x 22' (2 rooms)	\$300
Shanty - 8' x 10' (1 room, dirt floor)	\$25
Stable and Well	\$150
Plows, Cultivators, and Field Equipment	\$325
Chairs	\$1.25 each
Bed, Bureau, and Commode	\$15
Cookstove	\$25
Lantern	\$1.00
Coal	\$80/year (approx.)
Kerosene	15¢/gallon
Dry Goods	
Calicos	10¢/yard
Bleached Cotton	15¢/yard
Brown Shirtings	13¢/yard
Domestic Gingham	15¢/yard
Blankets	\$3.00 each

Prices from Montgomery Ward's First Catalog (1872)	
Gentleman's Toilet Set (includes toothbrush, nail brush, razor, razor strop, lather brush, comb, and hair brush)	\$1.00
Two Colored Undershirts	\$1.25
Two White Undershirts	\$1.00
Two Colored Drawers	\$1.25
Two White Drawers	\$1.00
Three New York Mills White Shirts	\$2.50
Six Pairs of Men's Cotton Socks	\$1.00
Six Pairs of Army Wool Socks	\$1.00
Seven Yards of Blue Denim	\$1.00
Three Yards of Plain Cassimere (cashmere)	\$1.00
One Hoop Skirt, One Bustle, and One Hair Braid	\$1.00
One Ladies Gold Locket	\$1.50
One Ladies Plain Enameled Locket	\$2.00
One Pair of Ladies Earrings and Pin Set (imported)	\$4.50
One Pair of Ladies Solid Gold Ear Drops	\$3.00
One Plain Gold Ring (all sizes)	\$2.00
One Silver-Plated Hunting Case Watch	\$6.00
One Silk Parasol	\$1.00
One Heavy Plaid Shawl	\$3.00

FARM TECHNOLOGY/MACHINERY

- Changed from hand-power to the use of horses.
- Gang and sulky plows came into use.
- Steam tractors were tried.
- Spring-tooth harrow or seedbed preparation appeared.
- Silos came into use.
- Deep-well drilling was first widely used.
- Glidden barbed wire was patented.

NOTABLE BOOKS, LITERATURE, AND AUTHORS

- "Black Beauty" by Anna Sewell
- "The First Eclectic Reader" by William Holmes McGuffey
- "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer" by Mark Twain
- Poets: Ralph Waldo Emerson; Oliver Wendell Holmes

CHURCH AND EDUCATION

Church congregations typically met in local schoolhouses.

Typical Schoolhouse: One room with multiple grade levels, taught by one teacher.

Typical Schoolhouse Furnishings: desks, benches, a potbelly stove, and a chalkboard.

Typical Supplies: Readers, primers, slates, chalk, copybooks, pencils, and workbooks.

Primary Subjects: Reading, spelling, writing, arithmetic, and history.

Typical Graduation Requirement: Extensive oral exam.

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