

U.S. - Wisconsin, Geneva Lake and Williams Bay Historic Events

1829-1837 Andrew Jackson

1830 Indian Removal Act

1831 Electron Microscope

1831 Kinzie Party comes upon Big Foot Lake

1832 Black Hawk War

1833 Land treaty with Indians clear

Southern Wisconsin land titles.

1834 Refrigerator Invented

1834 Combine Harvester

1834 John Brink surveys and renames Big Foot Lake Geneva Lake

1835 Morse code

1836 Creation of Wisconsin Territory

1836 Israel Williams Jr. and brother Moses arrives on South shore of Geneva Lake and builds cabins

1836 Potawatomi relocated to Kansas

1836 Wisconsin Territory Established

1836 Walworth County organized population was 200

1837 Panic of 1837, Banks Fail

1837-1841 Martin Van Buren

1837 Captain Israel Williams family arrives on July 4 living with sons Israel Jr. and Moses on the South shore of Geneva Lake

1838 Daguerreotype Photography

1838 Electric Telegraph

1838 Israel Williams makes a land claim on North shore of Geneva Lake

1839 Vulcanization of Rubber

1840 Israel Williams erects the first framed building

1840 Dam built on White River outlet of Geneva Lake

1840 Stage coach route passes through Williams Bay

1841-Williams Henry Harrison

1841-1845 John Tyler

1842 Anesthesia

1844 First Blacksmith in what was to become Williams Bay

1844 Israel Williams first postmaster to Geneva Bay

1845 Malaria Outbreak

1845 Moses and Austin Williams die in September from typhoid fever

1846-1849 James Polk

1846 Mexican American War

1846 Sewing Machine

1846 Rotary printing press

1846 Israel Williams Dies of typhoid fever

1847 Chloroform

1848 Large Scale Immigration begins Germans and Norwegian

1849-Bay Hill Post Office, Kiah Bailey

1849-1850 Zachary Taylor

1849-California Gold Rush

1850-1853 Millard Fillmore

1851 Lavina Joy Williams dies

1852 Jonas Southwick settles on the hillside north of the Bay

1853-Reinforced Concrete

1853-1857 Franklin Pierce

1856-1860 First steam-locomotive service from Chicago to Geneva

1857-1861 James Buchanan

1858 First steam boat on Geneva Lake

1859 The Geneva Independent militia company organized

1861-1865 Abraham Lincoln

1861-1865-American Civil War

1862 Mechanical submarine

1862 Company C of the 22nd Wisconsin Infantry Formed

1864 Black Plague

1864 Pasteurization Process

1865-1869 Andrew Johnson

1866 Dynamite

1867 Typewriter

1869-1877 Ulysses S. Grant

1871 Chicago & North Western rail from Chicago to Geneva arrived on the restored railroad line.

1871 Great Chicago Fire

1873 Camp Collie Open

1873-Lady of the Lake Launched

1873-Ice boats first appear on Geneva Lake

1873 Kaye's Park opened

1873 Whiting House Open
1874 First Large commercial ice house,
Gross & Briggs, Geneva.
1874 General Sherman and General
Sheridan visit Geneva
1874 Lake Geneva Yacht Club Founded
1875 Steamer Lucious Newberry Built
1875 The first Sheridan Regatta was held.
1876 Telephone
1877-1881 Rutherford B. Hayes
1879 Light bulb
1880 Gramophone
1880 Pishcotoqua Hotel opened on the north
shore
1880 Three passenger trains and two freight
trains arrived and departed from Geneva
daily
1881- James Garfield
1881-1885 - Chester Arthur
1882-Congress Club
1883 Nineteen steam powered boats were
operating on Geneva Lake
1883 The Lake Geneva chapter of the YMCA
founded
1884 Machine Gun
1884 Steam Turbine
1884 Village of Lake Geneva becomes a city
1885 Construction of Snake Road on the
north side of the lake completed.
1885 Population of Lake Geneva 2,281
1885 Motorcycle
1885-1889 Grover Cleveland
1885 Oakwood Sanitarium on "Catholic Hill"
opened
1885 Hook and ladder Fire Company
organized in Lake Geneva
1886 Gas Powered Automobile
1886 YMCA George Williams College
1886 Young Men's Christian Association
1886 Royal Joy Williams Dies
1887 Holiday Home founded
1887 Wind Turbine for Grid Electricity
1888 Ball Point Pen
1888 Chicago Northwestern Railroad arrives
in Williams Bay
1888 Rockford Camp

1889-1893 Benjamin Harrison
1889 Water, Street light, Waterworks, Water
Tower, Fire Hydrants Lake Geneva
1890 Crane Farm
1890 21 Stream Yachts on Geneva Lake
1890 Telephone Line from Lake Geneva to
Chicago Complete
1891 Geneva Lake Ice Co.
1891 Lake Geneva Railroad Depot Opened
1891 Scandinavian Free Lutheran Church
1891 Steamer Lucius Newberry Destroyed by
Fire
1892 Williams Bay Post Office established by
Marie R. (Barnhardt) Williams
1891 Zipper
1893-1897 Grover Cleveland
1893 World Columbian Exposition in Chicago
1893 Wireless communication
1893 CM Williams opens a general store.
1893-1897 Financial Panic
1894 First U.S. Film - Fred Ott's Sneeze
1894 W.A. Lackey establishes Livery Service
1894 Whiting House Hotel in Lake Geneva
burns to the ground
1895 H.G. Wells - Time Machine
1895 Diesel Engine
1895 Radio signals
1895 Lake Vista Hotel built
1895 L.E. Francis establishes general
merchandise store
1895 Population of Lake Geneva 2,452
1895 Charter Boat Dispatch Sinks in Storm
off Cedar Point
1897 Dr. Alice Bunker Stockham. New
Thought School opens in Williams Bay
1897 J.P. Smith Ice Co.
1897 Yerkes Observatory Complete
1897-1901 Williams McKinley
1898 Spanish American War
1898 Remote control
1899-1913 Philippine-American War
1900 AM Radio
1900 Zeppelin
1901-1909 Theodore Roosevelt
1902 Albert W. Harris purchases farm from
Festus Williams established Kemah Farm

1902 Henry Granzow purchased grocery store from W.H. Howe
1903 First Motorized Aircraft Flies
1903 Gas Turbine
1903 Lake Vista House burns down on a cold winter night
1903 Mahanaim formally opened on the west shore of Williams Bay by George Chaney
1906 Lake Geneva Yacht Club on Cedar Point
1907 Bakelite invented
1907 Barrett Library Established
1907 Radio amplifier
1909 Olivet Camp founded
1909-1913 Williams Taft
1913-1921 Woodrow Wilson
1915 Lake Geneva Yacht Club lease terminated by Kellogg Fairbank
1916 Williams Bay Joint District 1 - New Brick School built
1914-1918 World War I
1919 Circuit Court Judge Grimm grants Williams Bay's incorporation petition
1919 Village of Williams Bay Incorporated
1920 Village budget passed with a tax rate of \$4.20 per \$1,000
1920-1923 Prohibition
1920 Water Safety Patrol Established
1920 Williams Bay Population 436
1921-1923 Warren Harding
1921 Albert Einstein visits Yerkes Observatory
1922 Old Williams Bay Elementary burns down
1922 Loch Vista Subdivision
1922 The Cedar Point plat plan
1923-1929 Calvin Coolidge
1923 Sound film
Electro Mechanical television system
1925 Cedar Point Park Subdivision
1927 Quartz Clock
1928 Antibiotics
1929-1933 Herbert Hoover
1930 Williams Bay Population 630
1932 Geneva Lake Centennial Celebration
1929-1939 The Great Depression

1831 Iconoscope
1933-1934 Century of Progress, Chicago
1933 FM Radio
1935 The Hollyhock is named the official flower of Williams Bay, beating out the Blue Morning Glory by one vote
1935 Hitchcock movie The 39 Steps
1936 Williams Bay resident, Paul B. Jenkins, outdoors man, historian, author and pastor dies
1937 Jet Engine
1937 The Bay Oil Company is robbed at gunpoint
1939 France and Great Britain declare war on Germany
1940 - France surrenders to Germany
1940 Selective Service Act establishing the first peacetime draft in U. S. history
1940 "George Williams Clean Up the Bay Day" is officially declared. George Williams was the grandson of Israel Williams
1940 Oldsmobile offers the first fully automatic transmission
1940 Bugs Bunny, Tom and Jerry, and Woody Woodpecker make their cartoon debut
1941 Franklin Roosevelt sworn in as President for a 3rd term
1941 Class of 1941 is the 25th graduating class at Williams Bay High School and the last before U.S. enters World War II
1941 - Japanese forces attack the United States naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii
1941 The United States declares war on Japan
1941 Germany and Italy declare war on the United States
1944 D-Day Allied forces invade Normandy
1945 American forces liberate the Philippines
1945 Franklin Roosevelt sworn in as President for a 4th term
1945 Harry Truman is sworn in as the 33rd President
1945 American forces take Okinawa
1945 United States drops atomic bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki Japan

1945 Japan unconditionally surrenders, ending World War II
1949 Williams Bay Lutheran Church founded
1950 The Korean War officially starts as North Korea invades South Korea
1952 Lion's Field House is dedicated
1952 Reports of UFOs spotted in the Geneva Lakes area skyrocket!
1953 Dwight Eisenhower is sworn in as the 34th President
1953 Cornerstone laid at Williams Bay Lutheran Church
1954 Former Williams Bay Village President Colonel John E. Atkins dies
1959 Alaska is the 49th state admitted to the Union
1959 Hawaii is the 50th state admitted to the Union
1959 The first foreign exchange student, Patricia Laird, arrives in Williams Bay from New Zealand
1961 John F. Kennedy is sworn in as the 35th President
1963 President Kennedy assassinated in Dallas
1963 Lyndon Johnson is sworn in as the 36th President
1964 The United States begins military presence in Vietnam
1964 Harrison Ford performs in Night of the Iguana at the Belfry Theatre
1965 F1 Tornado cuts a path through Williams Bay
1965 the last Chicago & North Western train arrives in Williams Bay on December 31
1968 Controlled burn of former boarding house for ice workers
1969 Richard Nixon is sworn in as the 37th President
1969 Neil Armstrong is the first man to walk on the Moon
1973 The United States and Vietnam sign a peace treaty, ending the Vietnam War
1974 Gerald Ford is sworn in as the 38th President

1977 Jimmy Carter is sworn in as the 39th President
1978 The Great Blizzard drops 26 inches of snow on Williams Bay in 24 hours
1979 Iranians seize the American Embassy in Tehran
1981 Ronald Reagan is sworn in as the 40th President
1981 The hostages from the American Embassy are freed
1989 George Bush is sworn in as the 41st President
1991 A U.N. air strike is launched on Iraq
1991 A cease fire is signed between the United Nations and Iraq
1992 The United States and Russia sign a treaty officially ending the Cold War
1993 Bill Clinton is sworn in as the 42nd President
1994 a decision was made by the voters of Williams Bay to construct a new separate Junior/Senior High School, and the Blakeley farm property was purchased
1996 Scenes for Chain Reaction filmed in Williams Bay
1996 First day of school at new Junior/Senior High School
1998 American forces launch the 1st of 3 air strikes at targets in Iraq
1999 Panama gains control of the Panama Canal from the United States
2001 George W. Bush sworn in as 43rd President
2001 Terrorists attack U.S. in New York and Washington DC
2003 Second Gulf War
2005 Hurricane Katrina
2007 Economic downturn
2007 Illegal immigration hits 11 million
2008 Ferro Pavilion at George Williams College opens for Music by the Lake
2009 Barack Obama sworn in as 44th President
2010 President Obama signs Health Reform into law

2011 U.S. Navy SEALs take down Osama Bin Laden

2013 "The History of Williams Bay" exhibit at Barrett Memorial Library

2013 Williams Bay Historical Society is formed

2014 Fracking pushes America towards energy independence

2014 The Village of Williams Bay names the Northern Cardinal as the Official Bird of Williams Bay

2014 Rise of ISIS presents new foreign policy challenges

2014 Village voters approve referendum to build a new Elementary School

2015 U.S. Supreme Court allows same-sex marriage

2015-2017 disruptors in American politics, economics and cyber security change America more quickly than two world wars and the Industrial Age

2016 NFL announces \$100 million concussion initiative

2016 Old school closes after 100 years of educating Williams Bay children

2016 Lonnie Bunch opens National Museum of African American History and Culture

2016 First day of school at new Elementary School

2017 Donald J. Trump sworn in as 45th President

2018 Yerkes Observatory closes ending 100 years of history

2019 Centennial of Village Incorporation

2020 Covid-19 pandemic

2021 Joseph Biden sworn in as 46th President