

# 1871

## Historical Happenings

- April 1 Boston, Massachusetts  
Alexander Graham Bell begins using his father's system of "visible speech" to teach deaf.
- April 10 Brooklyn, New York  
Barnum opens great travelling menagerie.  
Phineas T. Barnum, the self-proclaimed "Prince of Humbug" has opened the Great Travelling Museum, Menagerie, Caravan, and Hippodrome. Barnum seems unperturbed by the 1868 loss of his American Museum. Fire killed dozens of exotic animals that took years of effort to acquire.
- April 12 Minneapolis, Minnesota  
Charles Pillsbury receives full title to flour mill, C.A. Pillsbury & Co.
- April 30 Camp Grant, Arizona Territory  
Mob kills more than 100 Apaches, who are supposed to be under federal protection.
- July 12 New York City  
Rioting between Scotch-Irish Presbyterians and Irish Catholics during Scotch-Irish Parade leaves 31 civilians and two policemen dead.
- August New Bedford, Massachusetts  
United states Arctic Whaling fleet trapped by earliest winter in memory; 32 of 39 vessels frozen in ice.
- October 8 Great Chicago Fire  
The great fire rages from October 8<sup>th</sup> through the 9<sup>th</sup>, leaving a path of destruction. As many as 300 people are believed dead, some 90,000 are without homes and the damage is estimated at nearly \$200 million. Rumors abound as to how the conflagration got started: the religious see it as God's judgment; the political see it as the work of communists, and the common people blame a cow in Mrs. O'Leary's barn for knocking over a lantern. Mrs. O'Leary, who lives on DeKoven Street on the West Side, says this is an out-and-out lie.
- October 23 American yacht Columbia wins America's cup.
- Washington, D. C.  
National Rifle Association founded.

