

Ancestral Timelines: [Compare The Good Olde Years with Yours of Today?](#)

If you think things are better yesteryear, such as 1906 to 2020 without the coronavirus pandemic, think again within a span of just 114 years. My grandmother was born in 1891 in rural Poland and immigrated to the USA at the age of 14 by herself. And here's what her life faced at such a tender age without any family support with minimal education, employment skills and/or probably with no English language skills. She died in 1989 and excelled beyond the statistics of her generation as did my parents who also had minimal education and/or employment skills. She married my grandfather in 1910 and my mother was born in 1911. Try comparing yourself to your ancestors of 1906?

Outline of The Year 1906: [Value of 1906 dollars today | Inflation Calculator](#). There are some very significant differences to note. These U.S. statistics from over a hundred years ago may surprise you and perhaps provide some gratitude and appreciation for all that has been done to make our lives today more prosperous and comfortable because of the efforts and sacrifices of our ancestors.

- **The average life expectancy in the U.S. was 47 years.** My father was born in 1903 and died in 1985. My mother was born in 1911 and died in 1999.
- **Only 14% of the homes in the U.S. had a bathtub.**
- A 3-minute call from Denver cost \$11.
- There were only 8,000 cars in the U.S. and only 144 miles of paved roads. **The maximum speed limit in most cities was 10 mph.**
- Alabama, Mississippi, Iowa & Tennessee each had more population than California.
- The tallest structure in the world was the Eiffel Tower!
- **The average wage in the U.S. was 22 cents per hour!** The average U.S. worker made between \$200 and \$400 per year.
- **A competent accountant could expect to earn \$2,000 per year.** A dentist could make \$2,500 per year.
- **A veterinarian could make between \$1,500 and \$4,000 per year.** A mechanical engineer could make about \$5,000 per year.
- **More than 95% of all births in the U.S. took place at HOME.** 90% of all U.S. doctors had NO COLLEGE EDUCATION! Instead, medical students attended so-called "medical schools", many of which were condemned in newspapers and the government as 'substandard.'
- **Sugar cost 4 cents a pound.** Eggs cost 14 cents a dozen. **Coffee was 15 cents a pound.**
- Most women only washed their hair once a month. **Shampoo consisted of borax or egg yolks.**
- Canadian law prohibited poor people from entering into their country for any reason.
- **The American flag had 45 stars.** Arizona, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Hawaii & Alaska were not yet states in the Union.
- **The population of Las Vegas, Nevada was only 30 people!**
- Crossword puzzles, canned beer and ice tea had not yet been invented.
- **There was no Mother's Day or Father's Day.**
- 2 out of every 10 U.S. adults could not read. **Only 6% of all Americans had graduated from high school.**
- 18% of U.S. households had at least one full-time servant or domestic help
- **There were about 230 reported murders in the ENTIRE U.S.A!**
- Five leading causes of death in the U.S. were:
 1. Pneumonia and influenza
 2. Tuberculosis
 3. Diarrhea
 4. Heart disease
 5. Stroke

For a more detailed timeline of 1906, go to <http://www.fsmitha.com/time/1906.htm>

Closing Comments

Knowing, understanding and appreciating the different time periods of your ancestors is important. Every generation had their own challenges and uniqueness. Here's a neat article entitled: [Inside the Guide: Creating Ancestor Timelines](#) to help you create individual timelines for your ancestors to bring their uniqueness to their lives. Below are the component parts of this creative article for your consideration in supporting the importance of constructing timelines for your ancestors.

- Creating a timeline of your ancestor's life to note discrepancies.
- Creating a timeline to sort identities.
- Creating a timeline to put your ancestor's life in historical context.
- Creating a timeline to track immigration and migration.
- Creating a timeline as a visual for events in your ancestor's life.

San Francisco Earthquake Painting of 1906



1906 University of Michigan "Wolverine" Football team photo.



1906 \$.25 Cent Quarter Coin



1906 Horseless - Model K Ford and Wealthy Fashions of the Day



April 1906 Front Page Newspaper Headlines

