

1881

On May 21, the United States Lawn Tennis Association is established.

1900

First Davis Cup tie held; U.S. team defeats Britain for inaugural title.

1913

Women tennis players are ranked for the first time.

1915

U.S. National Chps. moves from Newport, R.I. to Forest Hills, N.Y.

1918

Junior boys and girls ranked for the first time.

ON MAY 21, 1881, A HISTORIC MEETING AT THE Fifth Avenue Hotel in New York City formed the “United States Lawn Tennis Association.” Over the following 125 years, while the name has been shortened, the breadth, depth and influence of the organization expanded greatly.

That first meeting set about adopting rules for tennis and standardizing a tennis ball. Back then, there were no nationwide tennis leagues, professional tournaments, school programs, nor the dozens of other community and professional programs that the USTA offers today.

A lot has changed over the years, and through the efforts of thousands, the USTA—now the largest tennis organization in the world—has brought tennis to millions of players and fans. And while there's been change at every level of tennis during the last 125 years, the fundamental purpose of the USTA is reflected in its mission statement: To promote and develop the growth of tennis.

*As the U.S. Tennis Association celebrates its 125th anniversary, much has evolved in the world—and the world of tennis*

# Then & Now

## THE CALL FOR THE FIRST MEETING

### LAWN TENNIS

It is proposed to hold a lawn tennis convention in New York about the middle of May, for the purpose of adopting a code of rules and designating a standard ball, to govern and be used in all tennis matches or tournaments throughout the United States, with a view of enabling all clubs or individual players to meet under equal advantages.

A permanent organization will be formed under the name of the “United States Lawn Tennis Association,” in which name the rules adopted at the convention will be issued. All regularly organized tennis clubs, or other clubs which number tennis among their games, are invited to send representatives to the convention. Clubs may send from one to three representatives, but no club shall have more than three, and each club shall be entitled to one vote only. Representatives must bring credentials, signed by the secretary of the club which they represent. The undersigned clubs have organized this movement at the urgent request of the most prominent players in their respective districts, and the necessity of such action will be appreciated by

all who take an interest in inter-club, inter-State, or international matches.

It is hoped, therefore, that all clubs will come forward and co-operate in this movement, so that it may be as universal as possible and insure the adoption of one code of rules and one ball to govern the game of tennis throughout the whole of the United States. Clubs wishing to co-operate and be represented at the convention will please notify the representatives of either of the three organizing clubs, whose addresses are given below, and regular forms of application, together with further particulars, will be forwarded to them.

All-Philadelphia Lawn Tennis Committee:  
Clarence M. Clark, Chairman, Germantown, Pa.

Staten Island Cricket and Base Ball Club:  
E.H. Outerbridge, Secretary, No. 23 South Street, New York.

Beacon Park Athletic Association:  
James Dwight, Representative, Boston, Mass.

GETTY IMAGES; INTERNATIONAL TENNIS HALL OF FAME

1927

Junior Development program instituted.

1957

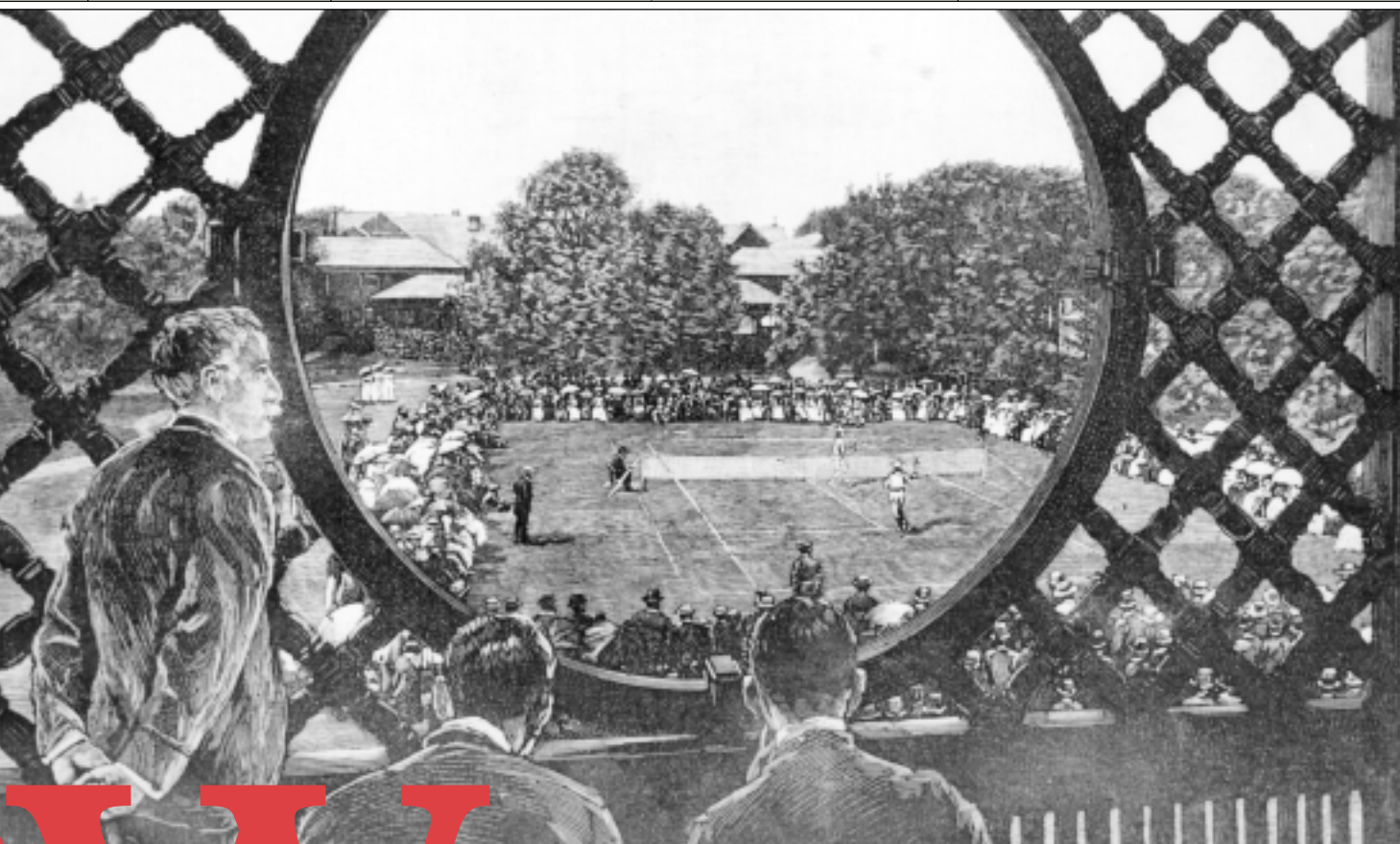
Althea Gibson becomes first African-American to win U.S. National Championships.

1958

USLTA begins registering all tournament players, creating a "membership."

1968

Tennis' Open Era begins; Arthur Ashe and Virginia Wade become first US Open champions.



W



1973	First year men and women receive equal prize money at the US Open.	1978	Dedication of USTA National Tennis Center in Flushing, N.Y.	1993	USTA membership reaches 500,000 for the first time.
1994	USTA Tennis & Education Foundation established.	1997	Opening of Arthur Ashe Stadium at the USTA National Tennis Center.		

1881	2006
50.2 million	281.5 million
U.S. Population	
Rutherford B. Hayes James A. Garfield Chester A. Arthur	George W. Bush
President	
	
Fashion Statement	
0	670,000
Number of USTA Members	
38	50
Number of U.S. States	
	
Typical Tennis Fans	
Horse	Horsepower
Transportation	
Telegraph	Email
Communication	
Richard Sears	Roger Federer
Dominant Player	
Clarence Clark-Fred Taylor	Bob Bryan-Mike Bryan
No. 1 Doubles Team	

1999	Julia A. Levering takes office as the first woman president of the USTA.	2002	USOC designates the USTA as the national governing body for the Paralympic sport of wheelchair tennis.	2004	US Open Series debuts.
2005	USTA League Tennis celebrates its 25th anniversary.	2006	Over 1 million new players increase U.S. tennis participation to 24.7 million.		