

Milton Hershey Timeline

1857

Milton Hershey was born September 13th in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. As a child, his family moved a lot as his father started several businesses across the United States. In eight years, he attended seven different schools.

Source: <https://www.biography.com/people/milton-hershey-9337133>

1871

At this time, young boys were often trained to develop skills for a particular job or trade called an apprenticeship. A young boy would learn the trade and then move into that job for the rest of his life. Hershey was apprenticed to a local printer who published a German-English newspaper. It became quickly apparent that the printing business was not a good match for Hershey given his likes, skills, and passions.

Hershey's mother helped him find another apprenticeship. It was with a local confectioner or candy maker, named Joseph Royer. It became obvious that he had a natural talent for candy making, and he liked what he was learning.

Source: <https://hersheystory.org/wp.../Milton-Hershey-The-Man-Behind-The-Chocolate.pdf>

1876

When Milton Hershey turned 18, he took a risk and started his first candy business in Philadelphia called Crystal A. Caramels. As an entrepreneur, there are many costs and risks involved in starting a business. Entrepreneurs work long hours to cover payroll and often need much financial funding from others. In addition, they must stay aware of consumers' changing preferences. After six years of hard work, his first business failed.

Source: <http://mentalfloss.com/article/67616/15-sweet-facts-about-hersheys>

1882

He moved to Denver, Colorado, and took a job with a Denver candy maker to learn more about the candy making business. This time, in addition to developing his skills and receiving great training, he developed a new skill making caramels with fresh milk.

Source: <https://hersheystory.org/wp.../Milton-Hershey-The-Man-Behind-The-Chocolate.pdf>

1883

After a few months of working in Colorado, he traveled to New York City.

New York City was the largest candy market in the world at this time. People from all over the world traveled to and from New York. Hershey decided to start another business in this large market. Even though he tried hard and invested many hours, his business failed.

Source: http://www.softschools.com/timelines/milton_hershey_timeline/390/

1886

Milton returned to Lancaster, Pennsylvania. He was 28 years old, penniless, but still his entrepreneurial spirit remained.

Milton Hershey took another risk by starting a company to manufacture caramels using the methods he had learned in Denver. He needed more tools and equipment to make this business a success, so he looked for financing. It was difficult given his past failures.

Hershey began to look for investors who valued his business enough to cover his costs, including the value of his labor and skills. He found one. A British importer of US Candy offered to market Milton's candy outside the United States. Milton received a large order to export. With this order, a local bank found Hershey credit worthy and he had the financing he needed to expand his business.

Source: http://www.softschools.com/timelines/milton_hershey_timeline/390/

1890

Milton Hershey and the Lancaster Caramel Company became one of the leading manufacturers of caramels in the United States. The company employed over 1,400 workers. Finally, Milton was able to see a profit in his business. Profit is determined after taking total revenue and subtracting all expenses. So, for Milton, that meant he calculated the sales of caramels (prices times quantity) and subtracted all the expenses necessary to run a business (ingredients, tools, equipment, wages for workers, salary for Hershey and other supervisors, rental for the factory, taxes, etc.). The money remaining after expenses is the profit. Entrepreneurs don't always see a profit.

Source: https://www.thehersheycompany.com/en_us/this-is-hershey/milton-hershey.html#secTitle

1893

Milton Hershey and his cousin, Frank Snavely, attended the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago, an event that changed Milton Hershey's life. A German company was showing how chocolate was produced, and Milton was convinced that this was the future of candy making.

Hershey took another risk as he purchased an entire assembly line of chocolate making equipment that was on display, had it crated up and shipped back to Lancaster. When he returned home, he installed the machinery in part of his caramel factory.

Source: https://www.thehersheycompany.com/en_us/this-is-hershey/milton-hershey.html#secTitle

1894

For Milton, money was not his only incentive. He wanted the satisfaction of creating the best quality product for the marketplace at the most affordable price to his customers. In the past, chocolate had been a luxury, something only very wealthy people could afford.

Source: http://www.netstate.com/states/peop/people/pa_msh.html

1898

Milton Hershey, now over 40 years old, married Catherine (nicknamed Kitty) Sweeney on May 25th in New York City.

Source: https://www.thehersheycompany.com/en_us/this-is-hershey/milton-hershey.html

1900

Hershey sold the Lancaster Caramel Company business for \$1 million but kept all of his chocolate making business. Milton became the first American to discover a formula for manufacturing milk chocolate, introducing the molded milk chocolate bar. It was affordable to the masses, tasted good, and remained fresh for a long time.

Source: <https://www.biography.com/people/milton-hershey-9337133>

1903-1905

Milton began construction on a new factory in 1903 and completed the factory in 1905. This factory was located in Derry Township, Pennsylvania (later the town's name was changed to Hershey) and proved to be a perfect location for his booming business since it was convenient to the port cities that could provide cocoa beans and sugar and was surrounded by dairy farms and a hardworking labor force.

Source: https://www.hersheys.com/en_us/our-story/our-history.html

Source: <https://www.biography.com/people/milton-hershey-9337133>

1905

Hoping to provide for the quality workers he wished to employ and their wellbeing, Milton built the Cocoa House in the town center which included a store, bank, post office, boarding rooms, and a lunchroom. He also provided for a laundry, a blacksmith shop, a printing plant, a café, a department store, and a barber shop. Companies were formed in order to supply water, electric power, sewage, and telephone service.

Source: <https://blog.hersheyarchives.org/tag/cocoa-house/>

1906

The Hersheys built Hersheypark so employees and their families could relax, unwind and have fun. It opened on May 30th and was originally built for picnicking, boating, canoeing and relaxation. There was also a bandstand and pavilion for theatre productions. Since then it has grown into a park open to the public with lots of attractions.

Source: https://www.hersheys.com/en_us/our-story/our-history.html

1907

The company added Hershey's Kisses to its product line. Workers wrapped each Kiss by hand.

Source: https://www.hersheys.com/en_us/our-story/our-history.html

1909

One of the Hershey's biggest accomplishments was the [Milton Hershey School](#). The school for orphan boys was a product of the love Milton Hershey and his wife, Catherine, shared for children. Wanting their good fortune to make a lasting positive difference, Milton and Catherine decided to found the school and fund its operations.

Source: https://www.hersheys.com/en_us/our-story/our-history.html

Source: <https://www.mhskids.org/about/>

1918

Milton Hershey transferred his ownership of the Hershey Chocolate Company, then valued at \$60 million, to the Milton Hershey School.

Source: <https://www.biography.com/people/milton-hershey-9337133>

1927

The first S'mores recipe appeared in the Girl Scout Handbook. Folklore says it was named that because consumers were left asking for "some more."

Source: https://www.hersheys.com/en_us/our-story/our-history.html

1927

The business became a corporation and changed its name to the Hershey Chocolate Corporation, selling stock to the public to fund its continued growth.

Source: <http://www.fundinguniverse.com/company-histories/hershey-foods-corporation-history/>

1929-39

Milton funded the "Great Building Campaign" in Hershey. This put 600 men to work during the Great Depression, a time where people struggled to find work.

Source: https://www.hersheys.com/en_us/our-story/our-history.html

Source: <https://blog.hersheyarchives.org/tag/great-depression/>

1941-1945

Field Ration D bars were produced. During the war years, Hershey produced chocolate bars for the troops. The bars needed to stand up to high temperatures. They were to taste "a little better than a boiled potato" so troops wouldn't be tempted to eat them too quickly. The Field Ration D met the government's specifications, but they weren't a great hit with the soldiers. Between 1941 and 1945, Hershey produced over one billion of the bars.

Source: <http://mentalfloss.com/article/67616/15-sweet-facts-about-hersheys>

Source: <https://blog.hersheyarchives.org/2015/07/20/hersheyarchives30-19-serving-the-nation-hershey-and-the-ration-d-bar/>

1945

Milton passed away on October 13, but his company continues to thrive today.

Source: <http://biography.yourdictionary.com/milton-hershey>