

- 1887** Arthur Conan Doyle published the first Sherlock Holmes story in Beeton's Christmas Annual of London.
- 1891** Hans Gross, examining magistrate and professor of criminal law at the University of Graz, Austria, published *Criminal Investigation*, the first comprehensive description of uses of physical evidence in solving crime. Gross is also sometimes credited with coining the word *Criminilistics*.
- 1900** Karl Landsteiner first discovered human blood groups and was awarded the Nobel prize for his work in 1930. Max Richter adapted the technique to type stains.
- 1904** Edmund Locard, professor of forensic medicine at the University of Lyons, France, established the first police crime laboratory.
- 1910** Locard published *L'enquete criminelle et les methods scientifique* which main focus was "Every contact leaves a trace." Locard Exchange Principle.
- 1950** Max Frei-Sulzer, founder of the first Swiss criminilistics laboratory, developed the tape lift method of collecting trace evidence.
- 1974** The detection of gunshot residue using scanning electron microscopy with electron dispersive X-rays technology was developed.
- 1977** The FBI introduced the beginnings of its Automated Fingerprint Identification System with the first computerized scans of fingerprints.
- 1986** In the first use of DNA to solve a crime, Alec Jeffreys used DNA profiling to identify Colin Pitchfork as the murderer of two young girls in the English Midlands. DNA was also used to exonerate an innocent suspect.
- 1987** DNA profiling was introduced for the first time in a US criminal court.
- 1992** The FBI contracted with Mnemonic Systems to develop Drugfire, an automated imaging system to compare marks left on cartridge cases and shell casings.
- 1996** In *Tennessee v. Ware*, mitochondrial DNA typing was admitted for the first time in a US court.