Brief Summary of History of Digital Logic Design

Theory of combinational and sequential logic and hardware design:

4th century BC - beginnings of formal logic with Aristotle (384-322 BC)
1854 George Boole An Investigation of the Laws of Thought
1936 Alan Turing "On Computable Numbers" Proc London Math Soc
1938 C. E. Shannon "A Symbolic Analysis of Relay and Switching Circuits" AIEE (M.S. EE thesis at MIT)
1955 G. H. Mealy "Method for Synthesizing Sequential Circuits" BSTJ
1956 E. F. Moore "Gedanken Experiments on Sequential Machines" Princeton U.

Technology - very rough draft of sequence of events (dates approximate)

1800 Jacquard loom stored program concept
1850's Charles Babbage analytical engine - mechanical computer
    Ada Lovelace programming language for computer
1906 DeForrest vacuum tube audion and electronics born
1948 transistor invented at Bell Labs
1959-60 Jack Kilby at Texas Instruments and Robert Noyce at Intel: integrated circuit
1965 Gordon Moore at Intel proposes "Moore's Law" which holds to this day: doubling
    of transistors on a chip every 18-24 months
1970 UNIX and C developed at Bell Labs
1980 Berkeley Software Distribution (BSD) unix includes TCP/IP and internet follows
1982 IBM "standardizes" the personal computer, and Microsoft is born
1985 first public version of VHDL available, FPGAs available
1992 Linux open source software becomes available