

## April 1

**1782** George Champlin Sibley was born in Massachusetts. He helped build Fort Osage and blaze the Santa Fe Trail. He settled on 280 acres at St. Charles in 1828 with his wife, Mary Easton Sibley. They founded a school for girls on their estate, which was called "Linden Wood." The Sibleys still rest today on the campus of the college.

**1805** Joseph McDowell was born in Fayette, Kentucky. McDowell was a respected surgeon. But he was notorious for stealing bodies to use in dissections at his medical college, overlooking Chouteau's Pond. He carried out bizarre experiments on the cadavers of his family members, including sealing his daughter's body inside a cave in Hannibal. His building at 9<sup>th</sup> and Gratiot was seized and became a notorious prison during the Civil War.

**1841** The first luxury hotel in St. Louis opened. The Planter's House was located north of the courthouse on Fourth Street. It hosted the great names of the day, including Henry Clay, Daniel Webster and Charles Dickens. It was the birthplace of the famous "Planter's Punch."

**1861** Citizens of "Illinoistown" voted to change the name of their community to "East St. Louis." Some citizens who favored the name East St. Louis went out to a railroad construction site where workers would only be in town for a short time, but could still vote. They spread around money and whiskey to get the votes they needed.

**1870** The west pier of the Eads Bridge was anchored in bedrock 86 feet below the surface of the river. The east pier had reached bedrock in February 1870. Both piers rose above the water line by the summer of 1870.

**1880** Homer Gilliam Phillips was born in Sedalia. He became an attorney here and led the fight for the establishment of a hospital to treat African-Americans. He was gunned down on June 18, 1931. The crime was never solved. Homer G. Phillips Hospital opened in 1937 and closed amid much controversy in 1979.

**1890** The Terminal Railroad Association announced it would build a new train station in the the Mill Creek Valley. In July 1891, the TRRA would chose a design for the new Union Station by St. Louis architect Theodore C. Link. Construction began in 1893.

**1899** The *Globe-Democrat* reported that the owners of the new St. Louis team would not call the team the Browns. Pat Tebeau, one of the new owners who had swapped the Browns for his Cleveland team, said nicknames were degrading. He also stunned fans by announcing no beer would be sold at the games.

**1900** The earliest recorded use of the word "Cardinal" to describe the St. Louis baseball team. An article in the *Republic* on an exhibition contest referred to the team as "Cardinal hosed," a reference to their brand new uniforms. When the Robison brothers took over the Browns in 1899, they changed the nickname to the "Perfectos." The papers

usually referred to the team as the “St. Louis Club” or some form of “Teabeaus,” a reference to manager Patsy Teabeau.

**1901** Rolla Wells was elected Mayor of St. Louis. The Democratic machine controlled the police department. The police reported no serious trouble at the polls, despite widespread reports to the contrary. A district attorney was shot and seriously wounded when he tried to stop an illegal voter.

**1912** Branson, Missouri was incorporated with a population of about 1200. The publication of the novel *Shepherd of the Hills* and the construction of Lake Taneycomo helped Branson develop into a popular resort. Tourism increased again with the construction of Table Rock Lake in 1959. A family from Springfield, the Mabes, began the first country music show there, "The Ozark Jubilee," in 1959.

**1917** "The King of Ragtime," Scott Joplin, died in a mental institution in New York City. Joplin came to St. Louis in 1901. He wrote many of his best-loved songs while living here, including "The Entertainer."

**1926** City officials put forward a plan to do something about the smelly River Des Peres in Forest Park. Munny patrons were forced to endure the stench of the polluted river. The plan called for diverting the river into sewage pipes. The Munny Association would pay for the plan, using city labor.

**1941** William Dee Becker was elected Mayor of St. Louis. He was killed along with five other city and county leaders in a glider crash at Lambert Field on August 1, 1943.

**1947** Demolition work began on the 118-year-old Jean Baptiste Roy House, 617 South Second Street. The house may have been the birthplace of the hot dog. A plaque on the home said sausage peddler Anton L. Feuchtwanger began selling “dachshund sausages” on a split bun at his shop in 1883, not at the World’s Fair as widely believed. Browns owner Chris Von Der Ahe introduced them at the ballpark in 1893. But they were not called hot dogs until a sports cartoonist coined the phrase in 1901.

**1954** Former patrolman Elmer Dolan was convicted of perjury in connection with the missing Greenlease ransom money. He was convicted of lying to a federal grand jury when he testified that the suitcases containing the ransom were taken to the police station at the same time Carl Austin Hall was booked. Half of the ransom was still missing.

**1959** The Missouri State Highway Commission announced tentative plans for a 40-mile "Circumferential Expressway" loop around St. Louis. The highway was to be designated as Interstate 270. Planners called for a new bridge over the Mississippi north of the Chain of Rocks Bridge.

**1963** Bi-State Development bought out the old St. Louis Transit Company and 14 other regional transit companies. It brought an end to the days when several different companies would operate busses along the same routes.

**1970** Washington University Chancellor Thomas Elliot took action amid continued unrest on campus. He suspended 15 students for disrupting R-O-T-C classes. A campus poll found 52 percent of the students supported continuing the R-O-T-C programs.

**1976** The *Globe-Democrat* reported on the demise of the Holiday Hill Amusement Park at Brown and Natural Bridge. The property had been condemned a few years earlier. It was purchased by the city for an airport parking lot that was never built. The familiar rides, such as "The Bullet," were gone or had been moved to the Chain of Rocks Fun Fair park.

**1987** The Cardinals made a less-than-memorable deal. They traded outfielder Andy Van Slyke, catcher Mike Lavalliere and pitcher Mike Dunne to the Pirates for catcher Tony Pena.

**1999** Marshall Faulk became a Ram. He was traded from the Indianapolis Colts for in exchange for the Rams second round pick (36<sup>th</sup> overall) and 5<sup>th</sup> round pick (138<sup>th</sup> overall) in the 1999 draft.