

April 13

1743 Thomas Jefferson was born in what is now Albemarle County, Virginia. In 1803, he sent James Monroe and Robert R. Livingston to Paris to negotiate the purchase of lower Louisiana to ensure free navigation on the river. He was stunned when the French offered to sell the whole territory. The U.S paid \$15 million for 828,000 square miles of land. Thirteen states were carved from the Louisiana Territory, including Missouri. There are over 40 streets, parks and institutions in the St. Louis area named for Jefferson.

1861 The news from Fort Sumter had St. Louis in a great state of excitement. The *Missouri Democrat* captured the mood. "The dispatches this morning will thrill the whole country to its hearts core. The war has begun, and it has been inaugurated by the rebel forces. On their heads be the responsibility."

1862 Godfrey, Illinois, originally called Monticello, is named for Captain Benjamin Godfrey, who died on this date. Godfrey was a businessman and the father of several daughters. In order to give them a formal, Christian education, he founded Monticello Seminary in 1838. The facility was converted to Lewis and Clark Community College in 1973

1866 A joint resolution of Congress established the Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery. Young Eliza Ann Lash, the daughter of an Army captain became the first person buried there in August 1827. But some of the remains are even older. The bodies of men who died at Fort Bellefontaine in the early 1800's were transferred to Jefferson Barracks. Seven Medal of Honor winners are among the 145,000 buried there today.

1906 A young white woman was assaulted in Springfield, Missouri. Three black men were arrested. They were lynched by a mob of 5,000 the next day in the town square. Springfield was placed under martial law. Many blacks fled the city.

1912 The *Globe-Democrat* carried advertisements for sailing dates of the new White Star liner *Titanic*. The "unsinkable" liner was to sail from New York on April 20th, May 11th and June 1st. The 45,000-ton liner was en route from Southampton on her maiden voyage to New York. Over 2,200 people were on board.

1913 The Jefferson Memorial in Forest Park was dedicated. The World's Fair company built the building with funds leftover from the fair. It stands at the site of the fair's main entrance. It was the first national monument to Jefferson. The Jefferson Memorial in Washington was not completed until 1943.

1933 Bonnie Parker and Clyde Barrow shot it out with police at a Joplin bungalow where they had holed up with Clyde's brother and his wife. Two of the five officers who had arrived to check out the house were killed. The four criminals fled in a speeding car with guns blazing.

1934 A huge crowd jammed the streets downtown for the dedication of the new Municipal Auditorium. It would later be named after Mayor Henry Kiel. His contracting firm built the auditorium.

1951 The Zoological Board of Control was said to be considering making the chimps at the zoo the first anywhere to get driver's licenses. They were being taught signals and signs. The *Globe-Democrat* reported that if trial runs in Forest Park worked out, the chimps could drive downtown and apply in person.

1954 Tom Alston started at first base on Opening Day. He was the first black to play for the Cardinals. That same day, Wally Moon of the Cardinals became one of the few rookies to hit a home run in his major league debut. He would go on to win Rookie Of The Year honors in 1954. His mammoth home runs were known as "Moon Shots."

1955 Preservationists were searching for a way to save a St. Louis landmark, after the owners announced that the DeMenil Mansion was for sale. The home at 3352 South 13th Street was built in 1863. The owners were asking \$32,500.

1958 A report from the Terminal Railroad Association said that disappearing passenger trains cast doubt on the future on Union Station. Several lines were seeking permission to drop a total of 24 daily trains. If the requests were granted, just 91 trains would use Union Station each day.

1962 Stan Musial scored the 1,086th run of his career. That broke the old National League record held by Mel Ott.

1963 "Surfin' U.S.A." by the Beach Boys entered the Top 40. The song is a very thinly disguised rewrite of Chuck Berry's "Sweet Little 16." At the time of its release, Berry was serving time in the federal pen for a Mann Act conviction. He would later sue, and win a co-writing credit on the song.

1970 Mayor Alfonso Cervantes proposed a bond issue for a downtown convention center. The plan called for a \$75 million facility in the DeSoto-Carr area. The proposed site was bounded by 7th, 9th, Delmar and Cole.

1972 The first players strike in Major League baseball history came to an end. The Cardinals opened their season ten days late.

1976 Beneath the Arch, in front of the under construction Museum of Western Expansion, a life sized statue of Thomas Jefferson was unveiled. U.S. Representative Leonore K. Sullivan dedicated the statue of the man who inspired the memorial.

1983 Morton D. May died at the age of 69. May was the former CEO of May Department stores and a great philanthropist. He was a driving force behind the construction of the Arch and St. Louis Centre. The Morton D. May Amphitheatre at Kiener Plaza is now a favorite place for sports pep rallies and gatherings.

1984 Fans arriving at Busch Stadium on Opening Day got a look at the new AstroTurf surface. Monsanto said its new “AstroTurf 8” could drain 20 inches of rain in 24 hours. The old turf had faded badly since it was laid in 1978. It was being sold to fans for \$6 per linear foot and given away during one home game.

1993 Lee Smith of the Cardinals set a new major league record, with the 358th save of his career. That broke the old mark set by Jeff Reardon. Smith racked up three seasons in a row with 40 saves or more for the Cardinals. He retired with 478 saves.

1998 Another major shakeup took place in the St. Louis banking industry. NationsBank announced a merger with Bank America. NationsBank had taken over St. Louis-based Boatmen's in January 1997.

1998 An afternoon rush hour twister touched down in the area around Page and Lindbergh. Forty buildings in an industrial park, including the huge Carol House Furniture Warehouse, sustained significant damage. Two schools and several homes in Overland were damaged, but no one was seriously hurt.

2004 Mike Danton of the Blues scored his first career playoff goal as the Blues lost to the Sharks 4-3 at Savvis Center. That night, Danton argued with his agent and mentor David Frost. The next day, he called 19-year-old Katie Wolfmeyer of Florissant, asking her to find a hit man to kill Frost. Danton would plead guilty of conspiracy to commit interstate murder for hire on July 16, 2004.

2005 St. Louis music legend Johnny Johnson died at the age of 80. The Rock and Roll Hall of Famer played piano on Chuck Berry’s biggest hits. Eric Clapton once called him the world’s greatest blues piano player. Johnson also played with and influenced artists such as the Rolling Stones and Bonnie Raitt and appeared in the movie *Hail Hail Rock and Roll*.

2006 The first passenger plane landed on the new \$1.1 billion runway at Lambert Field. The opening of runway 11-29 marked the end of a controversy that began when the plan was unveiled in the 1980’s. Hundreds of homes in Bridgeton were leveled to make room for the expansion.