

April 22

1790 The birthday of St. Clair County, Illinois. Governor St. Clair of the Northwest Territory organized the county. At the time, St. Clair County 1/2 of what is now Illinois. The creation of Randolph County in 1795, Madison, Gallatin and Johnson Counties in 1812, and Monroe County in 1816 reduced it to its current size.

1857 Washington University was formally inaugurated with ceremonies in the Mercantile Library Hall. The speaker at the ceremony was Edward Everett. In 1863, Everett would speak for two hours at a cemetery dedication in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. But his 14,000-word oration was overshadowed by a 272-word, two-minute speech Abraham Lincoln made that day.

1860 "Buster Brown" was born. William H. Ray stood just 44 inches tall. His wife Jennie was 37 inches tall, and billed themselves as "The World's Smallest Couple." They toured with a circus before Ray moved to the Missouri Bootheel and opened a general store that sold Buster Brown shoes. He somehow convinced the company that he could portray Buster Brown better than a real child. "Major Ray" was a big attraction at the 1904 World's Fair.

1861 Pro-southern Governor Claiborne Jackson called a special session of the legislature to meet on May 2nd to arm the state militia. Jackson had refused President Lincoln's call for troops.

1877 The man for whom the city of Kirkwood is named died. James Pugh Kirkwood was the chief engineer for the Pacific Railroad. He laid out the path of the railroad in 1853. When a group of St. Louis businessmen formed an association to promote their suburb on the line, they named it Kirkwood.

1884 Samuel Vandover died. He owned much of what is now the city of Fenton and built the first bridge over the Meramec there. The first bridge was a toll span. It opened in 1854. Vandover Road is named in his honor.

1899 A mass meeting of St. Louis citizens was held at Music Hall. The meeting was to raise money towards the \$5 million the city had promised for the proposed 1903 World's Fair. Over \$4,244,000 was pledged that night.

1900 A freak accident at a "war museum" on South Broadway left an attendant dead and several people hurt. The attendant had been explaining just how deadly the shells from the Spanish American War on display were when he dropped one.

1904 The three-day old Negrito girl born at the Filipino Village died at Bethesda maternity hospital on Papin Street. She was the third child born on the fairgrounds. Louisiana Purchase O'Leary was born in a construction worker's tent in 1902. Francis Caldwell was born in May 1903 in a cottage near the New York Building.

1906 The fate of most of the St. Louisans in San Francisco when the great quake hit was still unknown. But Adolphus Busch managed to send word that he was safe. He convinced the German consulate at Oakland to wire the foreign office in Berlin. They relayed the message to St. Louis via New York.

1917 David R. Francis, former governor of Missouri and hero of the 1904 fair, had a close call. He was serving as ambassador to Russia, when an anarchist mob in Petrograd threatened to attack the embassy. He grabbed a gun and was prepared to defend himself. But the mob never made it to the embassy.

1933 The *Globe-Democrat* said "the most famous couple in the world" were here visiting friends. Colonel and Mrs. Charles Lindbergh were on an inspection tour in his capacity as technical advisor to Transcontinental Western Airlines. (TWA) Lindbergh stopped to see the display of his trophies at the Jefferson Memorial.

1938 The city of Potosi won its battle to keep the body of its founder. The State of Texas gave up a fight to move Moses Austin to a cemetery for state heroes. Austin established Potosi and Herculaneum as part of his lead mining empire. He planned a colony in Texas, then under Spanish rule. But he died while making preparations in 1821. His son, Stephen fulfilled his father's dying wish, and founded the city of Austin, Texas.

1952 A grand jury indicted Card's owner Fred Saigh on income tax evasion charges. He was eventually sentenced to 15 months and was forced to sell the team. Anheuser-Busch stepped in and bought the club to keep the Cardinals in St. Louis. But Saigh deserves more credit. He turned down offers of more money from other cities. The brewery's purchase of the Redbirds doomed the Browns.

1955 Many St. Louisans heard "Rock Around the Clock" for the first time. The motion picture *Blackboard Jungle*, starring Glenn Ford and Anne Francis opened at the Leow's State Theatre.

1960 The St. Louis Housing Authority reported that crime was down 59% in the Vaughn and Pruitt-Igoe Housing Projects during the first three months of 1960. They credited an increased number of private watchmen and the cooperation of city police.

1970 Teach-ins and seminars at area colleges marked the first Earth Day observances in St. Louis. St. Louis University and Washington University students joined in a "Litter and Survival" march to Forest Park.

1970 The city was seeking bids to demolish the landmark Bissell Water Tower in North St. Louis. The brick tower was 81 years old. Water Commissioner Conway Briscoe said he could not justify spending city money on a facility that had not been used in 50 years.

1998 Mark McGwire's 425-foot home run against the Giants landed in "Big Mac Land" in left field at Busch Stadium. It meant free Big Macs for everyone at the ballpark.

1999 Joe Camel and the Marlboro Man passed into history in Missouri. All the tobacco billboards came down as part of an agreement between the states attorneys general and the big tobacco companies.

1999 Students across the area were affected by the massacre two days earlier at Columbine High School in Colorado. Classes were cancelled at some Metro East schools, amid bomb threats. Many schools were holding special prayer services.