

January 19

1809 Robert E. Lee was born in Stratford, Virginia. Lee saved the city of St. Louis early in his career. While in the Corps of Engineers he designed a system of dikes that kept the Mississippi from changing course and leaving the city landlocked. Lee met another former St. Louisan on April 9, 1865 at Appomattox Courthouse, Virginia. His surrender to General Ulysses S. Grant ended the Civil War.

1826 John Thompson Hodgen was born in Kentucky. Beginning during the Civil War era, he became one of the leading surgeons in St. Louis. Many of his inventions are still used today. Those include the stomach pump, the double action syringe and the cord and pulley arrangement to allow leg fractures to heal.

1849 The first cases of cholera were beginning to spread across the city. Six people died in January, and a few more died over the winter. By spring, an epidemic raged. By summer, 100 people were dying each day from cholera. By the time the epidemic was checked in August, 8,423 deaths were reported officially, about 1/10 the population of the city.

1871 Hiram Leffingwell was presenting his plans for a huge city park to the St. Louis delegation to the state legislature. Leffingwell was a developer who owned much of the land in the area around the proposed park west of Kingshighway. Lawmakers approved his plan for Forest Park in 1872, but residents who didn't share his dream challenged it successfully in court. Forest Park finally won approval in 1874.

1877 Several cities and villages were battling for the honor of being chosen as the county seat for St. Louis County, newly separated from the city. Kirkwood was said to be the front-runner. Proponents said Kirkwood was the "largest, airiest and most pious of all the hamlets in the county."

1881 The Missouri Legislature took up a bill to make whipping a legal punishment in some cases. The measure limited lashes to 39, but specified that they should be "well laid on the bare back of the culprit with a substantial leather thong." The Sheriff, Marshal or other officer of the state administering the punishment would be paid \$1 for their service.

1899 The first organized hockey game recorded here drew a large and enthusiastic crowd to the newly opened indoor rink, the Ice Palace. The All-Canadiens beat a team of Washington University students 2-1. The students had never played the game before.

1921 The St. Louis Prohibition Squad, Captain Stinger's "Raiders" was making headlines with a series of raids. One of the biggest hauls yet was a raid on a still above a saloon on South Jefferson. Agents seized 1,200 gallons of corn and raisin whiskey.

1933 St. Charles businessmen were protesting a plan by the State Highway Department to Route U.S. Highway 40 away from St. Charles. The "Super Highway 40" plan called for the route to run from Wentzville to a new bridge over the Missouri at Weldon Spring.

1940 A fire ravaged the Casa Loma Ballroom and seven businesses at Cherokee and Iowa. Damage was put at \$250,000. Six firefighters were injured when a wall collapsed. Freezing temperatures hampered efforts to fight the fire and the entire scene was coated with ice.

1953 The last wooden-hulled side wheel passenger boat on the the Mississippi made its final voyage. The *St. Paul*, known for years as "The Excursion Queen," was towed downstream from St. Louis to be dismantled. The *St. Paul* was built in 1883 at a cost of \$75,000.

1961 St. Louis Archbishop Joseph Ritter was elevated to the College of Cardinals in a ceremony at the Vatican. Joe Garagiola was quoted as saying that with the baseball Cardinals under Busch Brewery ownership and the football Cardinals owned by Falstaff, it was nice to have a Cardinal in St. Louis that wasn't sponsored by a brewery.

1962 Seven more inches of snow brought St. Louis a record total of 21.9 inches of the white stuff so far that month. The city faced a critical shortage of salt for the streets. Barges carrying the salt were stuck in the ice-choked Mississippi.

1969 Four of the five starting offensive lineman for the Big Red appeared in the Pro Bowl. Bob DeMarco, Irv Goode, Ken Gray and Ernie McMillan made the cut. The Big Red offensive line would become one of the best in football during the 70's with the addition of Conrad Dobler and Dan Dierdorf.

1981 The family of Marine Sergeant Rocky Sickmann of Krakow, Missouri said they were cautiously optimistic. They were reacting to word that an agreement had been reached to free their son and the other Iranian hostages.

1983 The Cardinals signed Ozzie Smith to a three-year-deal that made him baseball's first million-dollar shortstop.

1983 The St. Louis Museum of Science and Natural History announced negotiations to buy the old Falstaff Building at 5050 Oakland Avenue. The museum, then located in Oak Knoll Park in Clayton, was planning a multimillion-dollar science center on the site.

2005 The "American Idol" program focused on St. Louis auditions. Simon Cowell told the blonde Maynard triplets that they looked like three "overweight Jessica Simpsons." When Katrina Reice said she had once eaten human flesh, Cowell quipped that she should eat the triplets. Osbourne Smith Junior, son of Hall of Famer Ozzie Smith, was among those that made it through to the next round in Hollywood.

2006 The Rams named Scott Linehan as their new coach, replacing Mike Martz. Linehan was a former Miami Dolphins defensive coordinator.