

January 22

1825 The birthday of the city of Union. On this date, the legislature approved an act moving the Franklin County seat from Newport. Nathan Richardson, Phineas Adams and Rueben Harrison donated 72 and one-half acres for the new county seat.

1827 Thomas Fletcher was born near Herculaneum. He helped lay out the city of DeSoto, and became the first native Missourian to be elected governor. When he was elected in 1865, he also became the first Republican governor of Missouri.

1850 Robert Brookings was born in Cecil County, Maryland. His Cupples and Company built a complex of 18 warehouses downtown, designed to streamline freight operations. Brookings was instrumental in establishing the new Washington University campus. He leased the building we now know as Brookings Hall to serve as headquarters of the World's Fair, in part to recoup expenses from the move.

1877 The County Court, the governing body of St. Louis County, met for the first time since the separation of the city and county. The first meeting was held at the home of James Sutton on Manchester East of Big Bend. The next two meetings were held at the temporary county seat at Mount Olive.

1890 A city ordinance authorized the use of Forest Park for the proposed Columbia Exposition of 1892. David R. Francis led the bid for St. Louis to host the fair. Citizens raised over \$4 million, but the city lost out to arch rival Chicago. Francis vowed to get even when the centennial of the Louisiana Purchase came around.

1900 The United States Supreme Court agreed to hear a landmark suit by the State of Missouri and the City of St. Louis against Chicago. They were suing to close a drainage canal that sent Chicago sewage into the river. Chicago city officials said it was absurd to think it could pose a health threat to St. Louis.

1931 Hampton Avenue opened to traffic from Oakland Avenue to a point near Gravois. The long-awaited roadway was built to relieve congestion on Kingshighway. Hampton was originally the western border of street of the Southampton Subdivision. It was extended over parts of Billon, West Park, Cheltenham and Sulphur to create a continuous avenue.

1931 A former co-owner of the Buckingham Hotel Annex was sentenced to death for first degree murder in connection with the deadly fire on December 5, 1927. He was convicted of hiring agents to start the fire so he could collect on the insurance. Seven people died in the blaze.

1932 The Board of Aldermen was considering the appointment of a committee to consider purchase of the bankrupt Arena. The city was considering locating the armory at the Arena instead of building a new one. Though the Arena was not yet three years old, it was in danger of being torn down.

1934 Missouri Director of Employment, Judge Harry S. Truman of Independence, said everyone in Missouri who wanted a job would have one if the present federal employment program was completed. Truman said if necessary, the workday should be cut by two hours and everyone paid the same as for a ten-hour day.

1948 Miss Mary France Nawrocki of St. Louis became the first woman ever admitted to the St. Louis University School of Medicine. SLU was one of the last four-year medical schools in the nation to remain males-only.

1958 A committee of 12 business leaders announced the formation of Downtown St. Louis Incorporated. The organization pledged to work to keep businesses and residents from moving to the suburbs. The group planned to push for completion of the riverfront memorial.

1959 City officials unveiled plans to build a new workhouse on the site of the old Ross Airport, in the 7700 block of North Broadway. The airport had closed in 1953.

1960 For the fifth time since 1954, the St. Louis Board of Aldermen defeated a bill prohibiting discrimination in public places based on race, creed, or national origin.

1962 The National Park Service opened bids to build the Arch. The McDonald Construction Company of St. Louis submitted the \$12,139,918 low bid. That was 50% higher than the park service expected. The bid was later reduced by ½ million dollars.

1968 Joe Medwick was named to the Baseball Hall of Fame. “Muscles” Medwick patrolled the outfield for the Cardinals from 1932 to 1940 and again in 1947-48. In 1937, he led the NL in batting average and RBI’s while tying for the lead in home runs. No National Leaguer has equaled the feat since. He was elected to the Hall of Fame in 1968.

1972 At least 200 people were hurt, 100 left homeless, after a tanker car hauling 30,000 gallons of propylene exploded in the Alton and Southern Railyard in East St. Louis. Damage was estimated at \$7.5 million dollars. Over 850 buildings were damaged.

1973 St. Louis public school teachers walked off the job for the first time. They were seeking higher pay. At least 17 schools were damaged as the unsupervised kids went wild. The strike was settled 28 days later.