

March 3

1805 Congress separated the Territory of Louisiana from the Indiana Territory. After the Louisiana Purchase, Missouri was made part of the District of Louisiana, Indiana Territory. But the residents of St. Louis were unhappy about being governed from far-away Vincennes. They demanded a change.

1805 James Wilkinson was named as the first governor of the Louisiana Territory. While in St. Louis, the former close friend of Benedict Arnold was a double agent on the Spanish payroll, even spying on Lewis and Clark! He plotted with Aaron Burr to raise an army in Missouri, separate the Louisiana Territory from the rest of the U.S. and conquer Mexico. When it appeared the plot would fail, he betrayed Burr. Wilkinson managed to avoid being convicted of treason.

1820 Congress adopted the "Missouri Compromise." The measure cleared the way for Missouri to be admitted to the Union as a slave state, with Maine admitted as a free state. Many Missourians were upset that outsiders were determining the slavery issue here. They would get angrier when northern lawmakers objected to language in the state constitution dealing with slavery. A second compromise was necessary before Missouri was admitted in August 1821.

1825 President James Madison signed a bill authorizing funds to mark a trail westward to Santa Fe. The first leg of the Santa Fe Trail would follow the "Booneslick Trail" west from St. Charles. (Later the route of US 40 and I-70) A marker in front of the St. Charles Courthouse commemorates the starting point of the trail.

1832 Galusha Anderson was born in New York. He was a very influential pastor here during the Civil War. Anderson gave the first pro-Union sermon in St. Louis and became the target of pro-rebel thugs, who attacked another pastor by mistake. His book *The Story of A Border City During The Civil War* is perhaps the definitive work on St. Louis during the critical period in history.

1851 The Northern Missouri Railroad was incorporated. Later famous as "The Wabash," the railroad was planned from St. Charles to Des Moines. The first section was actually built from St. Louis to St. Charles in 1855.

1862 The siege of New Madrid began. It was the first step in Union General John Pope's attempt to dislodge the Confederates from their stronghold at Island Number Ten. The island controlled the river. Pope sent to Cairo for siege guns and began firing at daybreak on March 12th. The Confederates pulled out the next day.

1874 The temperance crusade sweeping the nation reached St. Louis. 300 women invaded the saloons to hold prayer meetings and convince the bartender to find another line of work. They didn't have much luck, and pledged to renew their attempts the next day

1875 The St. Louis area was hit with a 15-inch snowstorm, the biggest since 1860. Transportation was at a standstill, since the horses couldn't find the streetcar tracks. The *Globe-Democrat* reported that "thousands of children" were unable to make it to their places of labor.

1920 The Brentwood School District was established.

1961 The Board of Aldermen was considering a bill to change the name of Olive Street between Whittier and Pendelton. The bill would change the name to "Gaslight Square," as the entertainment district there had become known nationwide. Today, nothing remains of the once vibrant area.

1962 Jacqueline Joyner was born in East Saint Louis. Joyner Kersee became an Olympic champion, winning two medals (silver in 1984 and gold in 1988) in the heptathlon and another gold medal in the long jump at the 1988 Games in Seoul, South Korea.

1977 Former Missouri House Speaker Richard J. Rabbit was indicted by a federal grand jury on election and mail fraud charges. He was accused of extorting money from a firm with state contracts and in connection with his role in a bill affecting auto dealer taxes.

1980 A US appellate court ruled that the St. Louis public school system was intentionally segregating students. The court ordered a desegregation plan, including bussing and possible transfers of students between the city and the county by the fall.

1981 Alderman Vince Scheomehl won the Democratic primary, ensuring his election as mayor. He was 34 years old. Scheomehl had been elected to the Board of Alderman from the 28th Ward at the age of 28. He would become one of the youngest mayors in St. Louis history. Before the primary, he was given only a slim chance of upsetting Mayor James Conway.

2004 St. School Board member Rochell Moore was arrested after dousing a school administrator with a pitcher of water. Moore had quite a history of erratic behavior. She once put a "curse" on St. Louis Mayor Francis Slay and was sent to a psychiatric unit briefly after claiming a school official spiked her coffee with cocaine. Moore was removed from the board on April 30.