

May 4

1774 Rufus Easton Junior was born in Litchfield, Connecticut. He was the first postmaster of St. Louis. Easton Avenue was named for him. Easton established a steamboat landing north of St. Louis and named it after his son Alton.

1819 Nineteen-year-old Henry Shaw arrived in St. Louis from England aboard the steamboat *Maid of Orleans*. He brought with him a small stock of cutlery to make his fortune. Shaw became such a successful importer-exporter and real estate investor that he was able to retire at age 40. In 1851, he visited the Royal Gardens and the gardens at the Duke of Devonshire's estate in England. The visits inspired Shaw to construct his own garden at his estate, Tower Grove.

1850 As one of the efforts to improve public health after the great cholera epidemic, a quarantine station was established on Arsenal Island. All boat passengers were required to disembark for cholera inspection, and many were detained. The buildings could accommodate up to 500 people. A hospital was set up on this land in 1851.

1872 Harold Bell Wright was born in Rome, New York. Wright wrote 18 books, but his most famous is *Shepherd of the Hills*, released in 1907. The popularity of the books about the struggles of Ozark settlers is credited with introducing large-scale tourism to the Branson region. Four movie versions of the book have been made, including a 1941 version starring John Wayne.

1872 The commission picking a site for the "new" post office and customs house announced it had chosen a spot. The commissioners favored a site bounded by Seventh and Eighth, Pine and Chestnut Streets.

1874 A mass meeting of citizens demanded the resignation of state lawmakers who were instrumental in authorizing the purchase of land for Forest Park. They said the park was too far to be of any practical use, and would be nothing more than a playground for the rich.

1876 The first National League game in St. Louis took place. A crowd of 4,000 was on hand at the Grand Avenue Baseball Grounds to see the Brown Stockings face the Chicago White Stockings. (The two teams had played in the National Association in 1875) The game was rained out in the 3rd inning. Management refused to make refunds or allow fans to use their tickets for the make up game the next day.

1898 Missourians began arriving at Jefferson Barracks, answering President William McKinley's call for volunteers to fight Spain. Most of Missouri's 8,083 soldiers who served in the war were mustered in at Jefferson Barracks between May 9th and May 18th.

1901 The Cardinals game against the Cincinnati Red Stockings was halted in the tenth inning because of a fire in the grandstand at League Park. The crowd was forced to take

to the field as the raging fire destroyed the grandstand and the Cardinal's office. The city refused to issue a permit to rebuild without a steel or concrete grandstand.

1910 President William Howard Taft visited St. Louis. Mindful of the political fallout if he offended fans of either team, he attended parts of both the Cardinal game at Robison Field and the Browns game at Sportsmen's Park. A month earlier, he had inadvertently started a baseball tradition. In the 7th inning Taft rose from his seat to stretch. The crowd thought he was leaving and rose as well to show their respect. The Seventh Inning Stretch was born.

1920 A writer and feminist who was raised in St. Louis caused a scandal. Fannie Hurst revealed her secret marriage five years earlier to pianist Jacques Danielson. They kept separate apartments and called each other for dates. Hearst said a married woman had a right to her name and personal life. They remained happily married until Danielson died in 1952.

1931 The Cardinals sent pitcher Jerome "Dizzy" Dean back to the Houston Buffalos for more seasoning. The *Globe* said Dean had proven to be "somewhat erratic." Ol' Diz predicted he would win 25 games and lead the Buffalos to the Dixie League title. He then went out and threw a three-hitter, defeating the Wichita Falls Spudders, 6-0.

1941 A crowd of 15,000 jammed the Arena to hear a speech by Colonel Charles Lindbergh as part of his tour to speak against American involvement in Europe. Lindbergh was roundly criticized for his role in the America First Committee. He was even called the "Leading Nazi in the United States" by Interior Secretary Harold Ickes after he accepted a medal from the Germans.

1944 The Cardinals and Browns both announced they would change their policy of only allowing blacks to sit in the right field pavilion bleachers. Sportsmen's Park at that time was the only park in the majors with Jim Crow laws.

1955 An organization of businessmen and leaders of service clubs launched a drive to bring the Milwaukee Hawks to St. Louis. They hoped to raise 1,000 pledges for season tickets in an effort to convince owner Ben Kerner to move the team.

1969 The Montreal Canadiens completed a four game sweep of the Blues in the Stanley Cup Finals for the second year in a row. The Blues had won the Western Division Championship the first two years they were in the league, only to run up against the mighty Canadiens.

1970 Youths at Washington University rallied that evening to protest the killings at Kent State. After the rally, the protestors moved to the building housing the Air Force ROTC. After midnight on the 5th, they set it on fire and pelted firemen with rocks. Howard Mechanic was sentenced to five years for his role in the riot. He fled St. Louis and lived a secret life until 2001, when a bid for political office in Arizona brought his past to light.

1990 The Cardinals traded Tom Brunansky to the Boston Red Sox for big Lee Smith. Smith would go on to save 27 more games for the Cardinals that season and establish a National League record for saves with 47 in 1991. Smith had three seasons with 40 saves or more for the Cardinals beginning in 1990.