

May 6

1754 Stephen Hempstead was born. Hempstead was among a group that took part in a mission to spy on a British camp on Long Island in 1776. Nathan Hale was captured and hanged during that mission, but Hempstead escaped. Hempstead came to St. Louis in 1811 and settled on land that would become Bellefontaine Cemetery. He would be instrumental in founding the Presbyterian Church in Missouri.

1794 The citizens of Cahokia, led by Louis LeBrun, petitioned the local court to establish a public school in the old courthouse. It would become the first public school in Illinois.

1861 St. Louis was tense as the pro-southern state militia began holding drills at Lindell's Grove, renamed "Camp Jackson," on the western edge of the city. A large shipment of rebel arms was headed for St. Louis. The commander of the U.S. Arsenal here, Nathaniel Lyon, was becoming nervous. Four days later, Lyon marched on the camp and the violence of the Civil War came to St. Louis.

1875 The city was in an uproar amid rumors that dozens of people were about to be arrested for taking part in the "Whiskey Ring." President Grant was demanding the resignation of Revenue Commissioner J.W. Douglass over allegations that the St. Louis ring had defrauded the government out of millions in tax revenue.

1875 A crowd of over 5,000 packed the Grand Avenue baseball grounds to witness the first game between professional teams from St. Louis and Chicago. The Brown Stockings defeated the White Stockings 10-0. George Washington Bradley tossed the shutout. The *Dispatch* said the date would be long remembered by St. Louisans while the Chicago papers ridiculed the celebrations here. The rivalry was on.

1888 St. Louisans were advised not to drink the water in the dark. An eel was found in a sink in a downtown office building. The city water commissioner said eels and minnows often passed through the filtration systems while young, and grew in the settling basins. He said far from being harmful, the fish life actually improved the water.

1892 William Allen died. In 1855, he platted and surveyed a town in St. Charles County, and donated land for a railroad depot. He named the site for Erasmus Wentz, a good friend and engineer with the Northern Missouri Railroad. Wentz had helped him lay out "Wentzville."

1902 It was now a certainty that the World's Fair would be postponed a year past the scheduled opening day of May 1, 1903. The Senate passed a bill granting the delay so several foreign nations time to prepare their exhibits.

1913 Ground was broken for the present Missouri State Capitol building in Jefferson City. The previous capitol was destroyed by fire after it was hit by lightning in February 1911. It took eight years to finish the new building.

1917 Belleville native Bob Groom threw a no-hitter for the St. Louis Browns in his very first start, only the third player in history to do so. It came in the second game of a double header against the White Sox. Groom had thrown two scoreless innings to wrap up the first game. In 1917, Groom would be the losingest pitcher in the American League for the third season in a row.

1929 H.M. Bixby announced that the "Spirit of St. Louis" would be presented to the Smithsonian Institution. Bixby was one of the St. Louis businessmen who had backed Lindbergh's flight. They actually owned the plane.

1942 Mayor Becker signed an ordinance changing the name of the Municipal Bridge to the Douglas Macarthur Bridge, effective May 6th. Becker said it was a fine tribute to a great general.

1953 Bobo Holloman of the Browns became only the third pitcher in major league history to throw a no-hitter in his first start. He added two hits of his own as the Browns beat the Athletics, 6-0 in St. Louis. Holloman would write the initials of his wife and son in the dirt along the foul line before each game. He would only win two more games, and was out of baseball in three months.

1966 Civic Center President James P. Hickock accepted a golden key, as Civic Center made the final payment of \$279,893 for the construction of Busch Stadium. The ceremony behind home plate cleared the way for the stadium to be dedicated two days later.

1970 Picket lines of striking students blocked the entrances to UMSL, Washington University and St. Louis University. Over 5,000 SLU students marched from the campus to the Soldier's Memorial. A well-organized strike had virtually shut down Webster University.

1971 Ike and Tina Turner were awarded their only gold record, for "Proud Mary." Tina met Ike at the Club Manhattan in East St. Louis. They began performing together regularly at spots such as the Club Imperial in Baden. They broke big nationally with "Fool in Love" in 1960.

1986 The charred remains of Julia Bulloch were found inside a burning garage in Ballwin. She was naked and bound to a chair with 76-feet of duct tape. Just ten weeks earlier, she had married a man she met through a personal ad. Dennis Bulloch claimed Julia died during an act of sexual bondage, which she initiated. He said he panicked and set the garage on fire. A jury believed it, and Bulloch was convicted of involuntary manslaughter. He was later convicted of arson and evidence tampering.

1999 Nathan Danny Williams pleaded not guilty to the murder of Gina Dawn Brooks of Fredericktown. Gina disappeared in 1989, and her body was never found. Brooks was

already behind bars for another crime. The prosecutor would eventually drop the charges against Brooks, citing a lack of evidence. The crime remains unsolved.

2002 African-American activists complained a few days after University City rapper Nelly was asked to leave Union Station for wearing a “Do-Rag,” a kind of hip-hop headgear. Nelly came under fire from the activists when he refused to take part in the protests against the dress code.