

## May 15

**1776** John Sappington was born in Maryland. A frontier physician in Missouri, he was one of the first to use quinine in the treatment of fevers. Governor Claiborne Jackson married three of his four daughters. The other one married Meredith Marmaduke, who was also a governor. One source says Sappington Road was named in his honor, but it was probably named for Thomas J. Sappington, an early settler in the area.

**1793** The founder of St. Charles was buried under the floor of St. Charles Borromeo Church. Louis Blanchette was also instrumental in establishing the church. His remains were moved to a cemetery on Randolph Street in 1938.

**1819** The *Independence* left St. Charles on the first voyage by a steamboat up the Missouri River. It was built especially for the Missouri, and took 13 days to make the 150 mile trip to Franklin. The voyage proved steamboats could navigate the treacherous river.

**1832** The road from St. Louis to Fenton was declared a public road. A year earlier, William Long, who claimed to be a descendant of the Earl of Fenton, had convinced a county court to lay out a road to the town he founded in 1819. Gravois was made a state road in 1839.

**1850** Bellefontaine Cemetery was dedicated. Among the over 82,000 people buried there are fur trader Manuel Lisa, kindergarten creator Susan Blow, poet Sara Teasdale, James Eads, Senator Thomas Hart Benton and Adolphus Busch. Flamboyant Browns owner Chris Von der Ahe rests beneath a life-size statue he built before going bankrupt. The grave of explorer William Clark faces the confluence of the Missouri and Mississippi.

**1854** A federal court began hearing the Dred Scott case. Scott was a slave who sued for his freedom in St. Louis Circuit Court after his owner took him to a free state. The circuit court ruled in his favor, but the Missouri Supreme Court ruled against him. The federal court would also rule in favor of his owners, and the case headed to the US Supreme Court.

**1875** James Britton was declared the winner of the special election to replace Mayor Arthur Barrett, who died of a mysterious ailment after just one week in office. But supporters of Henry Overstolz claimed the election was rigged, and threatened to march on city hall. The ensuing legal battle made St. Louis a national laughingstock. Overstolz was finally declared the winner in February of 1876.

**1931** Mayor Victor Miller called for the city to buy the bankrupt Arena. He said the city would be ideally suited to attract conventions and expositions with the new Municipal Auditorium, the Soldier's Memorial and the Arena.

**1934** The National Hockey League announced that St. Louis was about to get a team. The league agreed to move the Ottawa team here. The team would play at the Arena as the St. Louis "Flyers."

**1944** Three African-American women and one white staged a "sit-in" at the Stix, Baer and Fuller lunch counter downtown. Sit-ins were held at Famous-Barr, Stix and Scruggs, Vandervoort and Barney stores for the next two months. But in July, the stores closed the lunch counters rather than serve blacks. Except for Scruggs, the big department store dining facilities were not fully integrated until 1958.

**1960** The Cardinals were no-hit for the first time since 1919. Don Cardwell of the Cubs threw the no-hitter, just two days after he was traded to the Cubs from Philadelphia.

**1968** The Card's Julian Javier borrowed a page from the legend of Babe Ruth. Javier hit a home run, just as he had promised a Pennsylvania boy he had visited in the hospital. Six-year-old Mark Sandusky had been injured in an auto accident and was not expected to walk again. Javier's home run was all the offense Steve Carlton needed, as the Cardinals beat the Pirates 1-0 at Forbes Field.

**1972** A study for the Missouri-St. Louis Airport Authority said Lambert would be adequate until at least 1992. The Missouri and Illinois Legislatures had created rival airport authorities to work for a new airport on their side of the river.

**1997** A 120-pound-chunk of a TWA L-ten-11 jumbo jet plunged to earth and landed in the middle of a downtown street. No one was hurt. The landing gear door broke off as the pilot on a flight from Florida put down the gear.

**1998** St. Louisans remembered Frank Sinatra. At the Summit, a downtown restaurant with a Sinatra theme, the lunchtime crowd was twice the normal size. Sinatra played St. Louis many times, including a December, 1939 gig at the Casa Loma ballroom just days before he left Harry James. "The Rat Pack" played a benefit for Dismas House at Kiel in June 1965. Sinatra's last appearance here was at Kiel on October 21, 1994.