

## **October 21**

**1785** Henry Miller Shreve was born in New Jersey. The “Father of the Mississippi Steamboat” designed the now familiar double-decked boat. He also invented a snag boat that cleared the Red River in Louisiana to a town that would be named Shreveport in his honor. He retired to his “Gallatin Place” estate near what is now Bellefontaine Cemetery, where you find Shreve Avenue today.

**1839** The cornerstone was laid for the new courthouse downtown. The building we now know as the "Old Courthouse" included this original structure in one of its four wings. The entire structure was not finished until 1862. The first two trials in the Dred Scott Case took place there. The last public slave auction in St. Louis took place on the courthouse steps on January 1, 1861.

**1861** The first Missouri Confederate legislature convened in Neosho. Governor Jackson had fled from Jefferson City, where a federally supported interim government had taken over. Jackson called for what was left of the legislature to meet in Neosho. They passed an act seceding from the union, even though Jackson was no longer governor, and the legislature was no longer the lawmaking body of the state.

**1861** Federal troops under Colonels W.P. Carlin and J.B. Plummer turned back the state guard under Brigadier General Meriwether Jeff Thompson at the Battle of Fredericktown. It marked the turning point in the first Confederate drive on St. Louis.

**1867** Father Timothy Dempsey was born in Ireland. In St. Louis, he became famous for helping the poor and minorities. Thousands were fed at “Father Tim’s Free Lunch Room” during the Great Depression. He was called on to mediate dozens of strikes and opened hotels for workingmen, working women and African Americans. His charities are still in operation today.

**1892** The first school in Clayton opened. The Forsythe School on Lee Avenue had four rooms, with two grades to each room.

**1901** Voters approved five city charter amendments. The measures allowed for a program of street widening, sewer building and improvements in time for the World's Fair.

**1904** In the worst tragedy in city police history to that date, Detective John Shea, Detective Thomas Dyer and Special Officer James McClusky died in a shootout with train robbers in a house at 1324 Pine. The suspects were wanted in connection with the robber of an Illinois Central train on August 1.

**1907** The James Gordon Bennett International Balloon Races got underway in Forest Park. It was the first time the races had been held in the U.S. Oscar Erbsloeh and H.H. Clayton won the event in the “Pommern.” Their flight from St. Louis to Asbury Park,

New Jersey established a new long-distance record of 873 miles. The races established St. Louis as an aviation center.

**1925** A social organization which had conducted a year-long study on the effects of delinquency had high praise for managers of St. Louis dance halls. They said the pocket flask was nearly non-existent, few girls were observed smoking and there was very little cheek-to-cheek dancing or suggestive music.

**1932** A crowd of 12,000 jammed into the 10,000 seat Coliseum and another 8,000 stood in the street to hear a speech by Democratic nominee Franklin Roosevelt. The crowd cheered loudly when he called for the legalization of beer.

**1949** A storm of protest greeted a proposal by Mayor Darst to drop plans for a riverfront memorial in order to move faster on other projects connected with the memorial, such as a downtown stadium. The mayor warned that the federal government might not come up with its share of the money for years, and riverfront development could be stymied for a generation.

**1953** St. Louis Police investigators questioned Lieutenant Louis Shoulders for six hours. He had captured Carl Austin Hall and Bonnie Heady, charged with the kidnaping and murder of Bobby Greenlease. Hall claimed he had the entire \$600,000 ransom with him when he was arrested. But half of the money was now missing.

**1955** Elvis Presley made his first concert appearance in St. Louis. At the time, he had yet to have a national hit, so he was relegated to opening act status for Roy Acuff at the Missouri Theatre. He also played shows on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**1977** Prince Charles was in St. Louis. He toured the Museum of Westward Expansion, rode to the top of The Arch, and also attended a reception in his honor at the Old Courthouse. The St. Louis Chapter of the English Speaking Union and the Council on World Affairs sponsored his visit.

**1987** The Cardinals got some help from an unexpected source in game four of the World Series. Utility man Tom Lawless flipped his bat as his home run cleared the wall. Lawless had just two hits all season and one homer during his 215 game Major League career. The Cardinals won 7-2 to even the series.

**1994** Frank Sinatra made his final concert appearance in St. Louis. A crowd of 15,000 saw the concert at the new Kiel Center.

**1997** The first span of the old highway bridge at St. Charles was dynamited into the Missouri River. The bridge was built just in time for the 1904 World's Fair.

**2002** A judge threw out Johnnie Johnson's lawsuit against Chuck Berry. The pianist claimed he and Berry wrote the music for classics such as "Roll Over Beethoven," "No Particular Place To Go," "Rock and Roll Music," "Sweet Little Sixteen." But Berry

claimed copyright ownership and the profits from the songs. Berry wrote “Johnny B. Goode” in honor of Johnson.

**2004** The Cardinals clinched their first pennant in 17 years, with a 5-2 win over Houston at Busch Stadium. The Cardinals were trailing Roger Clemens 2-1 in the 6<sup>th</sup> inning when Albert Pujols tied it with a double. Scott Rolen slammed the next pitch into the seats to give the Cards the lead.

**2006** The Cardinals won a World Series game for the first time in 19 years, beating Detroit 7-2 in Game One. Rookie Anthony Reyes held the heavily favored Tigers to just four hits.