

History Committee Data Base		
April		
Year	Date	Information
1860	30-Apr	John Sikes hand delivered to the Benton Courthouse, his plat for the town of Sikes Town.
1861	Apr	The Civil War began.
1861	Apr	Sikeston, during the Civil War, was a small town which encompassed an area from King's Highway in the East to Stoddard St. in the west, and North Street in the north, to South Street in the south. It was located on a ridge named after the town. During the Civil War, the ridge was between two swamps, Lake Saint Mary to the west, and Lake Saint John to the east.
1862	1-Apr	Rains and melting snow had swollen the rivers and swamps of Southeast MO. The depth of the water was from two to ten feet. The railroad from Bird's Point to Sikeston was under water. The road from Commerce to Sikeston became a quagmire.
1864	14-Apr	Abraham Lincoln was assassinated.
1864	Apr	Sikeston became a modern town, with the construction of the telegraph line through Sikeston and Charleston by the Union military. The telegraph line connected New Madrid and Cape Girardeau. For the remainder of the war the destruction and repairing of this telegraph line became routine.
1865	Apr	The Civil War ended.
1914	Apr	"Information has come to me that attempts will be made in the coming City Election to cast illegal votes. All efforts possible will be put forth to prevent any except qualified voters from exercising the franchise. I personally hereby offer a reward of \$25.00 for information leading to the arrest of anyone found guilty of the offense." E.J. Malone, Mayor
1917	Apr	President Woodrow Wilson asked Congress to declare war on Germany. Government controlled all railroads when transporting war material and troops. Sikeston provided mules, alfalfa, and corn for the United States Army.
1920	Apr	Raises in salaries for teachers approved at the Board Meeting included: Superintendent from \$2,000 per year to \$2,400; High School Principal from \$1,110 to \$1,800; High School Teachers \$900 to \$1,200, and Grade School Teachers from \$720 to \$1,200 per year.
1923	Apr	City and business leaders are working to provide affordable housing for the workers of the new International Shoe Factory which will soon begin operations in Sikeston. The Sikeston residents were encouraged to notify the city of any properties they had available to sell.
1927	Apr	Company K, Sikeston's unit of the 140th National Guard Regiment left for duty on the levees near Bird's Point, to patrol and report any breaks or any attempts to do damage. Previous attempts have been made to dynamite the fuse plug above and below Bird's Point.
1930	Apr	Efforts are being made to secure the permanent location of Highway 61 close to town, following the present gravel road to the Talley filling station and then swinging around the northeast corner of town to the shoe factory to connect with the present slab extending south from that point. These points later became known as the North & South "Y".

1934	23-Apr	Lillian A. Smith Addition, also known as "Bonus Hill", was dedicated and recorded in Scott County, Mo. The name "Bonus Hill" came about due to the fact that the first veterans of World War I were given bonuses by the government. They used these bonuses to purchase land in the subdivision. The veterans purchased their property from E. J. Keith for about \$200 an acre. There were no trees, no utility poles, no gas, no plumbing or sewers. It stayed that way through most of WWII. The roads were dust in the summer and mud in the winter.
1936	17-Apr	This began and continued to be a very wet year. On April 17, WPA workers were sent to a levee washout at St. James' Bayou in Mississippi County. If the signal whistle blew several blasts it meant that the levee had broken and all should evacuate.
1937	Apr	The fuse plugs on the levee at Birds Point were blown to save Cairo, Illinois.
1937	19-Apr	John Sikes, the founder of Sikeston, and his family were moved from his private cemetery East of Kingshighway and South of Greer Ave. to the Sikeston City Cemetery.
1939	Apr	Our high school band, resplendent in their new red and black uniforms, returned from a band contest with a number one rating. Citizens and business donations paid half the cost (\$850) for the new uniforms and the school paid the other half for a total of \$1,700.
1939	Apr	Phil Leslie, son of Mr. and Mrs. Leroy C. Leslie, is writing for "Al Pearce and His Gang," and may soon be writing for "Fibber McGee and Molly" a national popular radio program featuring the famous Fibber McGee's Closet..
1941	Apr	Formal opening of John Fabick Tractor Company, one of Sikeston's newest and one of the largest businesses on the highway was held.
1942	Apr	Merchants are preparing for the beginning of sugar rationing for World War II.
1942	10-Apr	Three Sikeston men, Capt. W.E. Derris, Jr., Fred Boyer, and Charles C. Branum, were believe to be in the Bataan area when it was surrendered to the Japanese.
1942	10-Apr	President Roosevelt designated Sikeston as a critical war area, permitting FHA construction of homes for personnel of the Missouri Institute of Aeronautics.
1942	22-Apr	Plans for doubling of the Aviation Cadet training program here were announced officially.
1942	27-Apr	Men, 45-65 registered for Selective Service.
1943	9-Apr	On April 15th the final 'spurt' of the bomber drive will be made with a gigantic gasless parade. It is asked that every student try to enter the parade. Word has been passed that there will be plenty of buggies, wagons, wheelbarrows, bicycles, and other makes of carriages in the parade.
1943	22-Apr	Approximately 370 pounds of fat were collected this past week through the schools. A 25 cent defense stamp will be given to each student in the winning room in each of the three buildings . To the student who has done the most to aid in making the drive a success will go the title of "Honorary Commando" and two twenty five cent defense stamps.
1945	Apr	Sikeston Cub and Boy Scouts held their second of three scrap paper drives. By the end of the 3rd drive they hope to have collected 1,000 pounds of paper per boy.
1947	Apr	Sikeston Rotary Club received its Charter.
1950	Apr	Preparation for construction of Associated Natural Gas Co. has begun.
1956	Apr	Under newly enacted law, every city of populations of 10,000 to 30,000 is required to register voters and Sikeston has begun registration.

1958	Apr	"Daddy Felker" announced today that on his farm of more than 300 acres on Highway 61, between Benton and Morley, the area is covered with small trees suitable for transplanting in yards. "Daddy" says he'll give anyone any of these small trees, but he won't dig'em for you! Bring your shovels and get your free trees.
1962	April	Once again, Sikeston has been honored by the Automobile Club of Missouri for the city's outstanding record in pedestrian safety insofar as it concerns children of school age. The AAA has again awarded a certificate stating Sikeston is on the Honor Roll of Cities.
1964	Apr	Jacqueline Scott, a native of Sikeston and well known television actress, has returned for a two-week visit with her mother, Mrs. Maxine Scott.
1965	April	Fielding Potashnick was master of ceremonies of the largest Chamber of Commerce Banquet ever held in Sikeston last night, where over 900 honored the man of the Year Charles L. Blanton Jr., editor and publisher of The Daily Standard. Mr. Ronald Reagan was guest speaker for the evening.
1967	April	"The Jungles" (early home of C.D. Matthews, Sr.) was sold and torn down, and the bricks used to build Joel Montgomery's lovely home north of town. The snow fence was removed and the century old elm trees were cut down.
1972	April	The first Sikeston Regional Special Olympics will be held Tuesday, April 11, at the Senior High School Stadium.
2002	22-Apr	The Sikeston Area Chamber of Commerce unveiled a new magazine, <u>Images</u> that will promote our community. This first issue will include articles on the Sikeston Higher Education Center and the parks and recreational facilities in Sikeston. Shorter articles range from information about major employers to small business, annual events, and local history.
2003	25-Apr	Sikeston residents' effort to "Make a Difference" earned them recognition from USA Weekend Magazine. In October of 2002, 59 volunteers from churches, schools, and service groups raked leaves and removed trash from 100 homes of elderly and low-income residents in Sikeston. This effort was spearheaded by the Sikeston Area Chamber of Commerce and the United Methodist Men of Sikeston.
2004	April	the honorees of the 54th annual Sikeston Area Chamber of Commerce Awards Banquet never showed. The evening was dedicated to the members of 1140th Engineer Battalion which is serving in Iraq. This was the community's way of showing them that they were appreciated.
2005	25-Apr	Members of the Sikeston Department of Public Safety Special Operations Group held a mock terrorist drill at the Power Plant, to evaluate the SEMO Hazmat Team's ability to perform in such a situation. Also participating in the drill were Hazmat Team members from the Jackson Fire Rescue, officials from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.
2006	25-Apr	The Southeast Missouri Regional Bomb Squad was activated in Sikeston at Fire Station No. 1. The squad is staffed initially by five members of local law enforcements agencies from Cape Girardeau, Jackson, Poplar Bluff, and Sikeston.
2006	26-Apr	The University of Missouri-Columbia School of Medicine awarded a grant to Missouri Delta Medical Center to become a training center for medical students. The \$995,000 award was given by the Missouri Foundation for Health.

2007	13-Apr	First day of classes were held in the new Math and Science Center at Sikeston Senior High School.
2009	April	Missouri Delta Medical Center is joining hospitals across the state in adopting a new wristband standard to prevent medical confusion. The colored wristbands are used to alert hospital personnel that patients have allergies, are prone to falling, or do-not-resuscitate orders.