

History Committee Data Base		
February		
Year	Date	Information
1862	1-Feb	One of the first things Union forces had to do was repair the roads and the rail-road to Sikeston.
1862	27-Feb	Confederate Gen. Jeff Thompson was at Sikeston recruiting to enlarge his command. He had arrived just in time to have dinner at John Sikes' house. Mr. Sikes claimed the meal prepared was for the Union officers of Pope's command. He had prepared the meal in hopes of protecting his property. The next evening the Union forces from Bird's Point would return the favor. Thompson saw humor in this situation. He claimed he ate the Yankees' supper and they ate his. While dining at the Sikes home, Thompson received word Union forces were advancing from Commerce.
1902	Feb	City Assessor, James E. Harris, died recently. He was a peculiar man long before his death, he had his coffin made of 2 inch oak. The coffin, which was nicely finished, was a heavy one, and required 16 men to lower it into the grave. A mattress and springs were placed under him in the coffin and he ordered that a guard be place at his grave for 3 days and nights and a pump pipe be placed in the grave with a bell attached on the top and a rope drawn through the pipe and placed in his hand. If he should show any signs of life, he could ring the bell and be taken from the grave. The latter request could not be complied with however.
1903	Feb	Preliminary work for draining half a million acres in the Little River Valley basin was begun by John H. Himmelberger, President of Himmelberger-Harrison Lumber Co. of Morehouse
1904	Feb	Passenger trains were running regularly from St. Louis to Memphis.
1906	Feb	First moving picture theater was located on the southwest corner of Front and Scott streets. "The Electric Dome" was built and operated by C.A. Russell who was constable of Richland Township.
1912	4-Feb	One hundred years ago the worst earthquakes ever known, occurred from December 16, 1811, to February 1812. Nearly 200 quakes were registered. At that time all of the inhabitants of the New Madrid area moved inland, where most of them made permanent settlements.
1912	Feb	The Bandstand in Wilson Park (later Malone Park) was built at a cost of \$1,200. (2) Construction is complete on the new Methodist-Episcopal Church, South.
1913	Feb	The privately owned Sikeston Ice, Light and Power Company was sold to the Missouri Public Utility Company of St. Louis.
1914	Feb	Letter from Congressman Russell to Mayor Malone contains the information that the John Chaney site (corner of North and New Madrid Street) was recommended as the "most suitable place for the new post office building in Sikeston."
1915	Feb	Colonel C.L. Blanton, Sr. announced the new location of the Standard newspaper: "The Chaney Building on King Street (Kingshighway) between Front and Center Streets."
1916	12-Feb	The Sikeston Herald Newspaper was sold to C.H. Denman.
1918	Feb	At a joint meeting of the City Board of Health and the Board of Education, it was decided to take immediate steps toward enforcing Mayor Malone's order providing for general vaccination against smallpox.

1919	18-Feb	A welcome home meeting for soldiers and sailors (World War I) will be held by the Home Service branch of the local Red Cross chapter in the Odd Fellows Hall, February 17th at 8:00p.m.
1923	Feb	Scott County Farm Bureau is urging farmers to attend meetings to be held in the interest of growing more cotton. Meetings will be held in Sikeston, Oran, Morley, Vanduser, Commerce and Blodgett. Sikeston began growing large acreage of cotton in the 1920's.
1924	Feb	The Friscoe railroad (north-South line) will soon ask for bids for the erection of a new modern station in Sikeston. The new building will be a combined freight and passenger station. This railroad contributed greatly to the expansion of industrial and agricultural businesses in the district.
1925	Feb	Superior Motor Coach Company has recently established a passenger bus route between Cape and New Madrid through Sikeston. One popular feature is all cars stop at the railroad crossings, allowing passengers to board or disembark.
1928	Feb	An Eagle Rock 3-place airplane has been ordered by a group of Sikeston men headed by Hubert Boyer and Leonard McMullin. The new plane will be used commercially by the company. Passengers will be carried in the plane for \$2.50 each. Leonard McMullin was the first licensed pilot in Missouri and the 1st commercial pilot in the State. He was known as the flying farmer.
1929	Feb	One of the prominent members of the community was Elias J. Malone. He had devoted himself to building up Sikeston in the way of religious, commercial, social and civic enterprises. He died at the age of 76.
1930	Feb	Few reported absent from school due to smallpox, but some on account of sore arms from the vaccinations.
1932	Feb	A thousand veterans of the first World War had gone to Washington, D.C. to demand bonuses for their services in that war. When these bonuses were finally paid to Sikeston veterans much of the money went into small new homes in the northeast part of the city which became known as "Bonus Hill," later Smith Addition.
1933	Feb	Depression worsens in area: Property owners urged to help unemployed in the right way, by giving them jobs. The Herald (newspaper) is trying to secure the cooperation of 100 owners or occupants of property to spend at least \$10.00 each for labor in improving or repairing their property. Scott County citizens met to ask the Federal Reconstruction Finance Corp. for a loan to extend relief to the unemployed and other needy citizens of the county.
1935	Feb	W.D. Lowe, president of the Mississippi Cotton Oil Products Corp., and P.B. Bartmas, resident manager of the plant at Cairo, are in Sikeston to complete plans to erect a plant here on a 13 acre tract on the east side of town.
1937	Feb	With a total of 79 patients in the emergency hospital for flood refugees being maintained by the American Red Cross in the local Methodist Church and with 23 suffering from pneumonia, additions to the nursing staff were necessary and 3 more nurses were sent from St. Louis.
1938	Feb	(1) Official approval for Sikeston's golf course and swimming pool to be erected in the recreation park east of town was received from the Works Progress Administration. Total cost for the two, combined into one project, will be approximately \$43,000. (2) The Woman's club is securing the needed signature on a petition for a mill tax to support the library.

1942	1-Feb	The humiliation and resentment felt by the people of Sikeston over the mob action against Cleo Wright, negro, here on January 25, burst into action Monday when the City Council unanimously adopted a resolution condemning the action of the mob.
1942	15, 16- Feb	Men 20 to 44 years of age inclusive, registered for Selective Service.
1942	17-Feb	Gene Davis Aldrich, 22, Seaman, First Class, was reported missing following action in a Pacific war zone, the Navy Department notified his mother, Mrs. Ada White Aldrich. Mr. Aldrich turned up alive after 34 days adrift in the Pacific.
1944	Feb	Several hundred pilots-to-be were happy enough to serenade the gate-keeper at the Air Base, but 75 boys were so pleased that they are still singing praises to Mrs. Paul Brewer, and the dates she arranged for the Underclassmen's Tea Dance at the Armory. Blondes from Cairo, brunettes from Charleston, redheads from Sikeston, all "angels from heaven" descended to attend the affair.
1945	Feb	For the fourth consecutive month Sikeston High School has reached its goal of 90% participation in the buying of war stamps and bonds. An additional reward to schools who have 90% for an entire semester, is an extra star attached to the Minute Man flag, which we now proudly fly.
1947	Feb	A rental housing conference will be conducted Tuesday evening in the library to encourage construction of new dwellings (behind the Armory) for rent to the World War II veterans and their families.
1949	Feb	Beginning Saturday, February 5 and continuing until Tuesday will be the formal opening of the new Reiss Dairy processing plant on South Main. Saturday from 1-5p.m. the new plant will be open to the public.
1950	Feb	Electric, telephone and telegraph services ceased when wires were broken by ice and falling trees.
1953	Feb	Sikeston Jaycees will begin assembling the first shipment of street signs, that arrived last week. Street signs were paid with proceeds from the first Rodeo.
1962	4-Feb	Sikeston has had an ordinance for many years banning Sunday sales. Do you the citizens of Sikeston really want a Sunday "blue law" enforced or are you satisfied with conditions as they are? Your city council wants to know and has asked the Standard to print the ballot for you to fill out and send to the city clerk, John Vaughn before March 5.
1969	7-Feb	The new Sikeston High School Field House will be used for the first time tonight, when the Bulldogs of Sikeston initiate the basketball court in a contest against Dexter.
1972	Feb	Harry W. Duncan, communications director for the Missouri State Highway Patrol, notified Sikeston Police Chief Arthur Bruce today that his office can expect a new computer system with a direct line to the Highway Patrol offices installed by the middle of February.
1974	Feb	Dedication ceremonies were held Sunday for the new Junior High school on Twitty Drive. Following the dedication, the school was open for public inspection.
1974	Feb	Ambulance service for residents of part of Scott and New Madrid counties may be available by midsummer, according to Harold Jones, Administrator of Missouri Delta Community Hospital.
1977	Feb	Keys to a new 12-passenger bus were presented to the Scott-Mississippi-New Madrid counties United Cerebral Palsy Children's Therapy Center, 510 East Center Street Tuesday, by members of the Sikeston Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie 3310.

1977	Feb	Albert Patterson, a 13 year veteran with the Fire Department rolled up the fire hose about 8:00a.m. Saturday morning after working throughout the night on the blaze, which destroyed an entire city block of downtown Sikeston from Legion Dr. to N. Kingshighway.
1985	Feb	The birthing room at Missouri Delta Community Hospital, which provides a family centered concept, is the newest feature in the obstetrical department.
2002	17-Feb	The Grand Opening of the new Imogene Ruth Albritton Mayer Center for the Arts was held on South Kingshighway.
2005	3-Feb	Members of the Veteran's Park Committee placed the Korean War helicopter on its pedestal today. The Navy helicopter is the fourth display piece at the park.
2009	9-Feb	All but 150-200 Sikestonians have had power restored after the Ice Storm 2009 hit the area the end of January.
2009	February	The new addition to the YMCA of Southeast Missouri is opened in Sikeston.