

## History Committee Data Base - January

Year	Pertinence	Information
1860	4-Jan	The founder of Sikeston said, "I, John Sikes, am going to start me a town and I am going to call it Sikes Town."
1861	9-Jan	An act inaugurating the Civil War took place this date when a detachment of Confederate forces at Morris Island in Charlestown Harbor SC fired on the Star of the West, a merchant steam vessel.
1862	27-Jan	Union forces in Sikeston were around 500.
1865	11-Jan	Slavery was abolished in Missouri by an ordinance of immediate emancipation, making Missouri the first slave state to emancipate its slaves before the adoption of the 13th Amendment to the US Constitution.
1867	7-Jan	The federal government took over the railroads during the war between the states, and much of the rolling stock was either removed or destroyed. Just north of the old South Grade school was the site of the turn-table until the autumn of 1866. The Sikeston railroad passed into the hands of the state by a sale under a lien, on January 7, 1867.
1900	Population	Population of Sikeston exceeded 600 inhabitants. The land area of town had more than doubled. The eastern border was where Moore Avenue is now.
1900	Jan	1900 saw the beginning of commercial telephone service when the Sikeston Company was organized. Monthly rental was \$2.00 for commercial and \$1.50 for residential.
1903	Jan	The Bowman/Matthews Milling Co. was organized. The organization of this company along with the Greer/Eberhart Milling Company was instrumental in getting the roads of Southeast Missouri "out of the swamp." With large amounts of grain being grown the farmers needed roads to get their products to a market.
1903	Jan	Sikeston became a city with lights when citizens voted for an electric light franchise and contract. Electric service in Sikeston proved unreliable; the plant was continually plagued by mechanical problems.
1906	Jan	The 1st rural mail route was established by the Sikeston Post office.
1906	Jan	An ordinance, "making the ringing of certain bells in the City of Sikeston and the wearing of bells by live stock a public nuisance, subject to fines," was passed.
1907	Jan	Order of the Eastern Star Chapter 137 was organized with Dr. O.E. Kendell as Worthy Patron, and Mrs. Jennie Sikes as Worthy Matron.
1908	Jan	The first City Hall was erected at 121 East Center Street
1910	Jan	C.M. Smith Brothers and Company listed for sale over 100,000 acres of fine improved land. All lands listed were of fine loam soil from 5-10 feet deep, free of stones and within easy reach of the railroads.
1911	Jan	High School track and field athletes Glenn Matthews, Clarence "Daddy" Felker, Rufus Reed, and Fred Smith went to the SEMO Track and Field Meet in Cape Girardeau and about swept the meet and took home team Honors.
1911	Jan	<u>The Sikeston Standard</u> was founded by the Naeter Brothers of Cape Girardeau from a combination of and successor to <u>The Sikeston Star</u> , the <u>Hornet</u> , and the <u>Democrat</u> .
1913	2-Jan	The first parcel post delivery was made in Sikeston by pushcart.

1913	Jan	New Madrid St. was the first street paved with brick in 1913, It started at South Street and ended at North Street.
1913	Jan	<u>The Sikeston Standard</u> was bought from the Naeter Brothers by Charles L. Blanton, Sr. (who was fondly known as Colonel Blanton "the Pole Cat Editor.")
1914	Jan	WWI declared in Europe. Volunteer forces from the U.S. served 1914 - 1917. War was not declared in U.S. until 1917 and U.S. "Doughboys" did not serve "over there" until 1917 - 1918.
1917	Jan	A new office building for the Scott County Milling Company will be constructed on Center Street.
1917	Jan	J.E. Dover, local agent for the Iron Mountain railroad has received information that a new station for Sikeston will be completed.
1918	Jan	In 1918, seeing a need for a church building, Mrs. Jennie Green and Needham Sikes, daughter and son of Mrs. Catherine Handy (John Sikes' wife and widow) Handy gave a lot for the First Christian Church at the corner of Trotter and New Madrid Streets.
1918	Jan	Editorial: Col. C.L. Blanton, Sr. - Pole Cat Editor: We are happy to note the prompt and strenuous efforts made to conserve food and supplies in the War (WWI) effort, and we congratulate the people of the Sikeston district on their loyal work in this complying with the request of our Government. But please, correct a prevailing error. While you are urged to use the food you need and not to waste, you are not asked to hoard your money. Money hoarded brings no benefit to yourself or your country! Food wasted is gone forever, but money spent does not perish. Save supplies, but spend your money. All will benefit.
1919	11-Jan	January 11th will be Tag Day for Sikeston, which means everyone will be given an opportunity to wear a tag that day to show that he or she has contributed to the relief of the poor and needy of the town. Tag day is being instituted by the Provident Association of Sikeston.
1920	Population	Sikeston's population stood at 3,613.
1921	Jan	Serving hot lunches to the children of the elementary school started this week with very satisfactory results. The movement was recently suggested by the Sikeston Women's Christian Temperance Union and the idea was endorsed by many women of the town, both in and out of the WCTU. About 150 children are now being served.
1922	8-Jan	A great retiring from business and closing out sale (January 8, 1922) The Sikeston Mercantile Company, after nearly 20 years of the most phenomenal success acquired by any General Merchandise firm in the Mississippi Valley, has decided to retire.
1922	Jan	An intelligence test was administered in the High School Thursday. This test is conducted in all schools by the U.S. Government.
1923	Jan	The City Council authorized a committee to secure large electric signs to be placed across the four most important roads leading into Sikeston: Kingshighway, north and south, road leading east to Charleston, and the one leading west to Morehouse.
1925	Jan	Bethel African American Episcopal Church was organized in Sikeston and located at 100 Luther Street.
1926	1-Jan	Charles F. McMullin was shot and killed by one of his farm tenants on New Years day. He died 4 days later at the age of 60. He had been a large land owner and the town of McMullin (north of Sikeston) was named after him.
1926	23-Jan	Effective January 23rd "Sunnyland" the new Frisco Railroad's Daylight Flyer, will make its initial trip, operating on an eight hour schedule between St. Louis and Memphis. This train will give Sikeston two daylight flyers.

1927	Jan	One section of town called "Dog Trot," was just back of the 1st Methodist Church on New Madrid St. It consisted of 3 or 4 blocks, where wealthy St. Louis folks when visiting the Matthews family exercised their dogs.
1929	Jan	Two grocery stores of Sikeston have closed their doors during the past week, and another, said to have been in bad shape financially, has been transferred to the new owners. Tuesday, the Piggly Wiggly failed to open. Today, Paul Jones Market, located on Front and Kings Streets failed to open. Both owners are said to have filed for bankruptcy.
1937	Jan	With all the rain in 1936, the 1937 flood arrived in January. The weather was no sunshine, fog, rain, a little snow, sleet like icy splinters, crusty mud, and chilly air that made your bones ache. It was a Sunday afternoon in January when the army trucks starting rolling into Sikeston unloading men, women and children into the various churches and the IOOF Hall. The Red Cross finally arrived around 8:00 p.m. The next morning large kegs of sauerkraut and wieners arrived, which served as breakfast, lunch and supper that day. The Methodist Church was a refugee hospital . Doctors in town took turns helping there.
1938	Jan	Construction was started on the erection of Sikeston's new armory located in the Chamber of Commerce park. Construction cost more than \$53,000.00
1939	30-Jan	On January 30, 1939 the young Austrian, Adolf Hitler, paranoid and unstable, announced that the result of war would be the annihilation of the Jewish race in Europe. We did not take him seriously.
1939	Jan	Most of the 1200 sharecroppers, cotton pickers and itinerate workers who were camped on Highway 60 from the Levee in Mississippi county to Sikeston have returned to their homes and to the employ and care of the accused "hard-hearted land owners."
1940	31-Jan	The first Social Security monthly payment was made to Ida May Fuller of Ludlow, VT for the amount of \$22.54.
1940		Colonel Harry E. Dudley of Sikeston is the new Commanding Officer of the 140th Infantry, Missouri National Guard.
1941	Jan	It was announced this morning that approval was received for the naming of the field of the Civilian-operated Army Air Corps pilot training school in Sikeston. The field will be known as the Harvey Parks Airport. It was named in honor of the late Harvey Parks who was a brother of Oliver L. Parks, school head.
1941	Jan	Sikeston's flu epidemic, which closed Sikeston schools this week and which has brought sickness into nearly every home, is still going strong, local doctors report. It is hoped the epidemic has reached its peak.
1942	Jan	R.L. Johnson, Class of 42-F, Parks Air Base was the first American pilot in this war to break Capt. Eddie Rickenbacker's record of enemy planes destroyed in combat. For his achievements Johnson was awarded the Air medal, the Distinguished Flying Cross, with 7 Oak Leaf Clusters, the Purple Heart and the Silver Star.
1942	21-Jan	Sikeston's Public Library Board asked the Red Cross to transfer its knitting activity to another building.
1942	25-Jan	Cleo Wright, was lynched by a mob which stormed the City hall after Mrs. J.D. Sturgeon, wife of an Army Sergeant, and Officer Hess Perrigan had been wounded seriously in separate alleged knife attacks by the Negro.

1943	28-Jan	The Bulldog Barker is to be used as a model for the "Seabees" battalion paper. "From Memphis to Mobile--from Natchez to Gulfport--from Gulfport to Cincinnati. Such is the case of the story of a Bulldog Barker. A letter from a navy lieutenant to a former editor of the paper states: 'I found a copy of your Dec 18 issue left by the former occupant of a hotel room near Gulfport..I have never been near Sikeston and am not quite certain of its location, my home is in Maryland. As Recreation Officer of my battalion of Seabees, I am about to begin publishing a battalion news weekly. Since I am a civil engineer, I have been searching the outfit for a competent editor or adviser. It is my intention to keep the Barker with me for a model and a goal for my staff. Our battalion is completing its training course at Gulfport and will shortly embark for foreign shores.'"
1943	Jan	Scott CO Milling Co. has made an offer to all Sikeston High School students. They can exchange coupons packed in Juanita Flour at the following rate: 10 cent Defense Stamps for 7 coupons; 25 cent stamps for 17 coupons; 50 cent stamps for 335 coupons; 12 dollar stamps for 1,250 coupons
1945	Jan	"It looks like they're going to make us draft young farmers under 26, but we don't have enough of them left to hurt us much," said Scott County, Selective Service clerk at a meeting at the Armory in Sikeston. Tomorrow it is expected that drastic drafting of men over 26 will be announced.
1950	Jan	Korean conflict began and drafting began in Sikeston with WWII veterans being recalled.
1952	Jan	With rising temperatures and cessation of freezing rain, Sikeston and the surrounding districts are beginning repair of damages done by the worst ice storm that has ever occurred here within human records.
1953	Jan	The recent Sikeston Christmas parade was described as "Super Colossal" by the national "Executive" magazine publication of the American Chamber of Commerce Executives.
1963	Jan	This fall a 120 unit Holiday Inn of America will open in Sikeston on a ten acre tract of land just south of Sikeston.
1969	9-Jan	Visiting privileges at the Missouri Delta Community Hospital have been limited because of a recent increase of upper respiratory problems, Harold L. Jones, hospital administrator, said. Hong Kong flu was credited with bringing about the restriction.
1969	10-Jan	The Sikeston School Board set Feb. 7 as the dedication date of the new \$800,00 field house. It consists of 800,000 feet in floor space to make the largest such structure between St. Louis and Memphis. It has a seating capacity for more than 5,000 persons.
1969	22-Jan	A survey will be made soon in the Sikeston area to determine the number of buildings that could be used as shelters from disasters.
1971	Jan	A first Career Ladder Class was started in Sikeston with ten nurse aides who successfully completed a 9 month program. This program was started by Clare Eisenbach.

1977	30-Jan	Fire swept through a block of stores in downtown Sikeston Friday night, destroying seven stores before a cold and weary public. Safety officers could not bring the flames under control. The stores were located on front street east of American Legion Park to Kingshighway. The icicles were hanging off the fire men, their equipment and the buildings.
1984	Jan	Workers were busy Wednesday at the Sikeston National Guard Armory preparing for the issuance of surplus food to needy families. Approximately 1000 cases of cheddar and American cheese, instant milk, honey, butter and cornmeal were unloaded at the facility. The food was issued today by members of the Delta Area Economic Opportunity Corporation.
1986	Jan	The building at Front and New Madrid Streets, a structural cornerstone of Sikeston's downtown area, serving stores since the beginning of the 20 <sup>th</sup> Century, seemed to stand forever-almost. A fire gutted it last fall and within the last few weeks the building has been demolished.
1995	Jan	Lambert's Café is nominated for the Missouri Travel and Tourism Award, scheduled to be presented in late January at the Missouri Travel and Tourism Conference in Jefferson City.
2000	12-Jan	Sikeston D.A.R.E. car, which has been seen on television, featured in a book and won numerous contests, has been cast into a small Matchbox car after it was named the international D.A.R.E. car grand champion, beating out cars from Japan, Australia, and Great Britain.
2002	26-Jan	Sponsored by the Sikeston Depot, the nation's only art museum on a train is in Sikeston. Artrain USA, is made up of 5 rail cars, which house fine arts exhibition, interactive area, artist studio, gift shop and staff administrative space. It contains NASA commissioned art works.
2004	3-Jan	Charlie company of the 1140th Engineer Battalion departed from Sikeston. The 90 National Guard members left for Fort Riley, Kansas, for additional training. From Kansas they will depart for Kuwait.
2008	6-Jan	Sikeston's Historic Homes are featured in a new brochure. The brochure is a cooperative effort of several groups and individuals. It locates some of the historic homes of Sikeston and is set up for a driving/walking tour. These brochures are available locally.
2009	27-Jan	The worst Ice Storm in most Sikestonian's memories hit the city as well as the Bootheel and surrounding states. A lot of Sikeston was without power well into February. Some power was restored by late in the week; but most remained without power for several weeks.