Feb. 23, 1853

*This Date in Missouri Senate History*

On *This Date in Missouri Senate History*, the date was Feb. 23, 1853, the day the Missouri Legislature chartered Westminster College in Fulton.

Westminster was the first Presbyterian college to be chartered west of the Mississippi, originally founded in 1849 and opened in 1851.

During the first semester it was open, Westminster had 51 students.

Where all other colleges closed — or curbed class time — during the Civil War, Westminster remained opened throughout.

And, it all started on Feb. 23, 1853 — the date marking the Missouri General Assembly’s chartering of Westminster College in Fulton, on *This Date in Missouri Senate History*.

(Sources: Westminster College website and Missouri Senate Journal)