Feb. 26, 1781

*This Date in Missouri Senate History*

On *This Date in Missouri Senate History*, the date was Feb. 26, 1781, the day former Missouri Sen. and Gov. Abraham Williams was born.

He was born in Virginia, but moved to Missouri sometime between 1816 and 1820. After starting and running several businesses, Williams would be elected to the Missouri Senate in 1822. After re-election two years later, Williams served on both the Accounts and the Education committees.

When then-Gov. Frederick Bates passed away in 1825, Missouri did not have a sitting lieutenant governor, so Williams became governor — because he was next in line, as Senate president pro tem. Since the Legislature was out of session during his time as governor, as he made no appointments, his time in the governor’s mansion is a mere blip on the historical radar.

On Jan. 20, 1826, Williams retook his Missouri Senate position and lost a re-election bid later in the year. He would return to farming.

Feb. 26, 1781, the date marking the birth of Missouri’s third governor — and a former Missouri senators — on *This Date in Missouri Senate History*.

(Sources: *Dictionary of Missouri Biography* and *The Messages and Proclamations of the Governors of the state of Missouri, Volume 1*)