March 14, 1782

*This Date in Missouri Senate History*

On *This Date in Missouri Senate History*, the date was March 14, 1782, the day Thomas Hart Benton was born.

The long-time U.S. senator was born in North Carolina. Later, he would move to Tennessee, and then to St. Louis.

His first foray into politics would happen in Tennessee, as a state senator. He would then become Andrew Jackson’s protégée.

When Missouri became a state in 1820, the new Legislature chose Benton to be our first United State senator. U.S. senators weren’t directly elected until the 17th Amendment. Benton would spend the next 30 years in Washington, D.C., until the Missouri General Assembly denied him another term. Benton then ran for Congress and was in the U.S. House of Representatives for a single term. In 1856, he ran unsuccessfully for Missouri governor.

Benton died in Washington, D.C., in 1858.

March 14, 1782, the date marking birth of Thomas Hart Benton, on *This Date in Missouri Senate History*.

(Source: Benton’s biography)