May 5, 1775

*This Date in Missouri Senate History*

On *This Date in Missouri Senate History*, the date was May 5, 1775, the day Missouri’s first governor was born.

Alexander McNair was born in Pennsylvania. He traveled to what became Missouri in 1804, right after the Louisiana Purchase was made. Later in the year, he got married and then lived in St. Louis. Shortly thereafter, he became a U.S. Marshal, ran his own business and served on St. Louis’ trustees board in 1808 and ’13.

Also in 1813, McNair became a colonel in the Mounted Militia’s First Regiment.

In 1820, as Missouri was working toward becoming a state, McNair defeated explorer William Clark — Missouri’s first territorial governor — in the governor’s race, winning with 72 percent of the vote. After four years in this office, McNair then took a federal job until his death in 1826.

May 5, 1775, the date marking birth of Missouri’s first governor — Alexander McNair — on *This Date in Missouri Senate History*.

(Source: [National Governor’s Association](https://www.nga.org/cms/home/governors/past-governors-bios/page_missouri/col2-content/main-content-list/title_mcnair_alexander.html))