Jan. 5, 1857

*This Date in Missouri Senate History*

On *This Date in Missouri Senate History*, the date was Jan. 5, 1857.

Trusten Polk stood and took oath as the new governor of Missouri and preceded Gov. Sterling Price.

Polk was born in Bridgeville, Delaware, and served as the 12th governor of Missouri — but will more notably go down in history as serving the shortest term of any governor, from Jan. 5, 1857 to Feb. 27, 1857.

Just barely over a month after being sworn in as governor, Polk was named successor to Henry S. Geyer in the U.S. Senate. He was later expelled for disloyalty from the U.S. Senate for supporting the Confederacy in 1862. Following this, he became a confederate officer and was taken prisoner in 1864.

After the war concluded, Polk returned to St. Louis until he passed away on April 16, 1876.

Interestingly enough, Polk’s short-lived career as governor in 1857 wasn’t the only record setter in the Legislature that year. In 10 months, Missouri saw four governors come and go: Sterling Price, Thurston Polk, Hancock Lee Jackson and Robert M. Stewart.

But it all started Jan. 5, 1857, the date Trusten Polk took the oath of office and served the shortest term as a Missouri governor, on *This Date in Missouri Senate History*.

(Sources: *Across Our Wide Missouri, Bob Priddy, and http://www.nga.org/cms/render/live/en/sites/NGA/home/governors/past-governors-bios/page\_missouri/col2-content/main-content-list/title\_polk\_trusten.html)*