Jan. 11, 1865

*This Date in Missouri Senate History*

On *This Date in Missouri Senate History*, the date was Jan. 11, 1865, the day Missouri abolished slavery.

The Civil War had been underway for four years. The Emancipation Proclamation had been in effect, for confederate states, for two years. The 13th Amendment, which banned slavery nationwide, would not go into effect Dec. 18 of 1865.

The Show-Me State was actually the first in the country — that was still a slave state, but loyal to the Union — to do away with slavery before Dec. 18.

The steps toward this goal started in 1861, but gained more ground in Missouri in 1863. At the time, a state convention was held. Members drafted an ordinance that would have led to emancipation by 1870, but some said that wasn’t soon enough.

In May of 1865, the Civil War would come to an end.

Jan. 11, 1865, the date marking the emancipation of all slaves in Missouri, on *This Date in Missouri Senate History*.

(Sources: Kansas City Public Library)