Feb. 22, 1853

*This Date in Missouri Senate History*

On *This Date in Missouri Senate History*, the date was Feb. 22, 1853, the day the Missouri Legislature granted charter to Washington University.

The university had already been established by more than one dozen St. Louis leaders who found themselves concerned with what they considered to be a lack of higher-education institutions in the Midwest.

Among those who shared this concern was Missouri Sen. Wayman Crow, who led the effort in the upper chamber to secure the charter.

In the three years that would follow, the college would have three different names: Eliot Seminary, after its first board of trustees president; Washington Institute, after our first president; and then Washington University. In 1976, to avoid confusion with all of the other colleges around the country with the same name, it became “Washington University in St. Louis.”

But, it all began on Feb. 22, 1853, the date marking chartering of Washington University by the Missouri General Assembly, on *This Date in Missouri Senate History*.

(Sources: Washington University history and Missouri Senate Journal)