May 13, 1807

*This Date in Missouri Senate History*

On *This Date in Missouri Senate History*, the date was May 13, 1807, the day Missouri’s territorial Legislature passed an act relating to divorce and alimony.

Missouri had been a part of the Louisiana Purchase for four years, at this time, and 14 years from becoming a state. Page 90 of the territorial laws allowed for a jury trial, if one is requested by either party of the suit.

By 1825, state statute gave circuit courts jurisdiction over divorce and alimony proceedings. This would be upheld in future revisions throughout the years.

For several years following Missouri becoming a state, the Missouri General Assembly had the final say in divorces in our state. On a side note, if you think there a lot of divorces now, the Legislature signed off on 53 divorces in 1849.

Today, an entire section of state statute relates to divorce and alimony.

May 13, 1807, the date marking the first laws governing divorce in the Show-Me State, on *This Date in Missouri Senate History*.

(Sources: *Reports of Cases Determined in the Supreme Court of the State of Missouri*; *Missouri Territorial Laws, First Edition*, p. 90; *Missouri Revised Statutes of 1825*, p. 330; Missouri Senate Journal; *Missouri Revised Statutes of 2016*, Section 452)