June 4, 1812

*This Date in Missouri Senate History*

On *This Date in Missouri Senate History*, the date was June 4, 1812, the day Congress established the Territory of Missouri.

The previous April, the state of Louisiana was formed. Establishing the Missouri Territory kept confusion away from the remainder of the *Louisiana* Territory, formerly the Louisiana Purchase.

By October, territorial gov. William Clark would divide the Missouri Territory into five districts. These would become the first five counties of our state. St. Louis would be the initial capital.

A House of Representatives would then be established. This body would be given authority to offer nominees for a legislative council, to be approved by the president. Presidential confirmation would also be needed to choose a territorial governor.

The territory would remain until Aug. 10, 1821, when Missouri would officially become a state.

June 4, 1812, the date marking creation of the Missouri Territory, on *This Date in Missouri Senate History*.

(Sources: Making Missouri American: A crowded frontier in the age of Lewis and Clark; *How the City of Jefferson Became the State Capital*)