June 9, 1813

*This Date in Missouri Senate History*

On *This Date in Missouri Senate History*, the date was June 9, 1813, the day James Minor was born.

He would become a pioneer for “normal schools” in our state. Those have become known as teaching schools. These institutions were put into place and funded by the Missouri Legislature.

Minor was born in Virginia. His love for education would result in his election as assistant teacher of the classics in his school. Minor was 15. He would then go onto law school.

By the time he was 20, he declined a job as U.S. district in southern Florida.

Instead, Minor moved to Palmyra and started a law practice. In 1838, he was elected secretary of the Missouri Senate. Within a year, Minor would be nominated and confirmed to be secretary of state. He would keep this position through 1845. At the same time, Minor also served as superintendent of public schools.

Despite returning to private life, he would continue to serve in several different capacities. His love for education turned into a vision for teaching schools, originally called “normal schools,” which turned into creation of geographically based locations in our state — universities that remain in place today.

June 19, 1813, the date marking birth of the father of “normal schools” in Missouri: James Minor, on *This Date in Missouri Senate History*.

(Sources: *Virginia Cousins: A Study of the Ancestry and Posterity of John Goode*; Missouri Senate Journal)