Dec. 14, 1796

*This Date in Missouri Senate History*

On *This Date in Missouri Senate History*, the date was Dec. 14, 1796, birth date of former Missouri Sen. Lilburn Boggs.

He was born in Kentucky, and moved to the Show-Me State — then still a part of the Louisiana Territory — in 1816.

Boggs’ first wife was the daughter of a state supreme court judge. His second was a descendent of Daniel Boone.

Before Boggs was 30, he served in the Missouri Senate for two terms, from 1825 to ’32. He would then spend the next four years as lieutenant governor, one term as governor and then a final five years in the Missouri Senate.

Despite the years Boggs spent in the upper chamber, it is his time as governor for which he is known. His infamous Executive Order 44 was issued on Oct. 27, 1838, a reaction to what is known as the 1838 Mormon War. Incidentally, this order was rescinded in 1976 by then-Gov. Kit Bond.

An attempt on Boggs’ life was made in May 1842. Despite the fact several doctors did not think he would survive the nearly fatal shooting, Boggs got better. It is believed the assassination attempt came because of his actions against Mormons.

Following his second trip to the Missouri Senate, Boggs and his family moved to California, where he served in the state assembly there from 1852 to ’55.

Boggs passed away in 1860.

December 14, 1796, the date marking birth of former lt. gov., gov. and state Sen. Lilburn Boggs, on *This Date in Missouri Senate History*.

(Sources: Missouri State Archives; [EO 44](http://www.quaqua.org/extermination.htm); and [FarWestHistory.com](https://web.archive.org/web/20060707043436/http%3A/www.jwha.info/mmff/boggs.htm))