Sept. 4, 1793

*This Date in Missouri Senate History*

On *This Date in Missouri Senate History*, the date was Sept. 4, 1793, the day Edward Bates was born.

He was born in Virginia, but moved to St. Louis in 1814. Bates would later earn his law degree, and then start the James Ferry with his business partner. The ferry ran from St. Charles to Alton, IL.

In 1820, Bates was elected to Missouri’s first constitutional convention. It was he who wrote the preamble. As the story goes, he was so connected to this preamble that he was among the loudest critics of what is known as the “radical” Missouri Constitution of 1865.

Bates is also Missouri’s first attorney general.

Bates would be elected to the Missouri House of Representatives in 1822, followed by one term in the *U.S.* House and then a term in the Missouri Senate, from 1831-’35. An attempt to become a United States senator proved unsuccessful, thanks to Thomas Hart Benton.

His continued political attempts were also without victory until 1861, when then-Pres. Lincoln appointed Bates as U.S attorney general, a position he would hold for four years.

Bates would return to his adopted hometown of St. Louis, where he would pass in 1869.

September 4, 1793, the date marking birth of former Missouri Sen. Edward Bates, on *This Date in Missouri Senate History*.

(Sources: The Lincoln Institute, *The Diary of Edward Bates*)