Dec. 30, 1826

*This Date in Missouri Senate History*

On *This Date in Missouri Senate History*, the date was Dec. 30, 1826, the day the Missouri General Assembly abolished the whipping post, pillory and stocks as a means of punishment in our state.

This was one of the first acts created during the Third Session of the General Assembly, newly moved from the old state capital of St. Charles to its new home in Jefferson City.

Whipping posts had been around as a form of punishment for some time. By the 1820s, some were starting to question if the punishment was worse than the crime committed.

Whipping posts, pillories and stocks were commonplace in many towns throughout the country. For instance, one could be found at the corner of Main and Market streets in St. Louis in 1820. Just a few years later, it would be moved to the same location as the old courthouse.

Also of note, in 1879, there was a move to bring back whipping posts in Missouri prisons. This plan was quickly struck down.

December 30, 1826, the date marking the end of whipping posts, pillories and stocks as punishment in the Show-Me State, on *This Date in Missouri Senate History*.

(Sources: *Missouri Senate Journal*; [*Encyclopedia of the History of St. Louis*](https://books.google.com/books?id=fdIyAQAAMAAJ&pg=PA2496&lpg=PA2496&dq=Missouri+abolishes+whipping+post+1826&source=bl&ots=iuyeaMfIRf&sig=ACfU3U2yNGGvF4zegBblZ7Jfiy7Mn7tnXA&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwig9e_L_tDjAhVfAp0JHT-VB4sQ6AEwDnoECAUQAQ#v=onepage&q=Missouri%20abolishes%20whipping%20post%201826&f=false); and *The Inter Ocean Curiosity Shop*)