



# 45 Famous Missourians

Triva, Quotes and More on Famous Missourians for Students of All Ages



MARIES COUNTY  
**Advocate**

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 20, 2019

*We hope you learn a little about our great state of Missouri and these famous Missourians. This list is by no means all the famous Missourians, it's not even the top 45, it's just a good cross section. If there is a famous Missourian you would like to see in a future edition just let us know.*

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# 45 Famous Missourians

## Bob Barker

(born Robert William Barker)

**Birthdate:** Dec. 12, 1923 at Darrington, Wash.

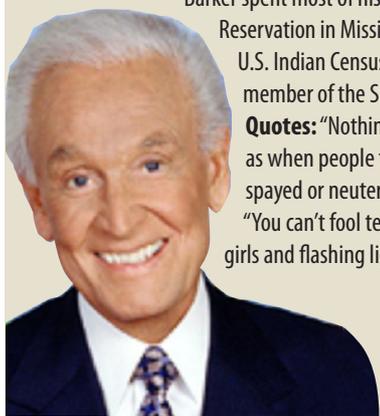
**Best known for:** Hosting CBS's The Price is Right from 1972 to 2007.

**Interesting facts:** Barker resigned as host of Miss Universe and Miss USA pageants because officials refused to stop giving fur coats as awards.

Barker spent most of his youth on the Rosebud Indian Reservation in Mission, South Dakota and the U.S. Indian Census Rolls list him as an official member of the Sioux tribe.

**Quotes:** "Nothing gives me quite so much joy as when people tell me they've had their pets spayed or neutered."

"You can't fool television viewers with dancing girls and flashing lights."



For 35 years Bob Barker was the host of The Price Is Right game show. Not only is it the highest-rated daytime game show, it's also the longest-running game show in TV history. He also served the show's executive producer since 1987. Named the most popular game show host of all time in a national poll, he received the Lifetime Achievement Award for Daytime Television in 1999.

He made his motion picture debut in Universal Pictures' Happy Gilmore. He also played Mel Harris' father in NBC's Something So Right. Another honor came when one of the most historic sites in the history of television, Stage 33 at CBS Television City was re-dedicated as the Bob Barker Studio in ceremonies following the taping of the 5,000th episode of "The Price is Right." Barker is the first performer to whom CBS has ever dedicated a stage.

Barker spent most of his youth on the Rosebud Indian Reservation in South Dakota. **His family eventually moved to Springfield, Mo., where he attended high school and Drury College on a basketball scholarship.** WWII interrupted his studies and he joined the US Navy, becoming a fighter pilot, but the war ended before he was assigned to a seagoing squadron.

Following his discharge Barker returned to Drury and took a job at a local radio station to help finance his studies. It was there he discovered that what he did best was to host audience participation shows. After graduating summa cum laude with a degree in economics, he went to work for a radio station in Palm Beach, Florida. A year later he moved to Los Angeles, and within a week he was the host of his own radio program, "The Bob Barker Show". He made his debut in 1956 on national television as the host of the popular The New Truth and Consequences. Barker hosted "Truth or Consequences" for 18 years.

Barker has been twice named in the Guinness Book of World Records as television's "Most Durable Performer," at 3,524 shows, and "Most Generous Host in Television history" for awarding \$55 million in prizes on his various shows. During the ensuing years the \$55-million figure has increased to more than \$200 million.

Barker established the DJ&T Foundation in Beverly Hills, Calif., to help control the dog and cat population. He funds the foundation to support low-cost or free spay/neuter clinics. Barker's work on behalf of animals has garnered him a long list of awards.

## Linda Bloodworth-Thomason

**Birthdate:** April 15, 1947 at Poplar Bluff, Mo.

**Best known for:** Creating/writing the CBS series Designing Women.

**Interesting facts:** Bloodworth-Thomason wrote five episodes of the original series M\*A\*S\*H.

She lost her mother to AIDS, contracted through a blood transfusion.

She considers the concern with correcting the world's problems to be a family tradition.

**Quotes:** "Keep moving. Have a goal, one day you will arrive at a place that is better than the place where you were, even if it is only in your head."



Linda Bloodworth-Thomason is the creator/writer of Designing Women and Evening Shade. She also served as Executive Producer, along with husband Harry Thomason, on three other series, Hearts Afire, Women of the House and Emeril.

**A native of Poplar Bluff, Mo., Bloodworth-Thomason received her B.A. in English from the University of Missouri.**

She moved to Los Angeles to work for the Wall Street Journal in advertising and later joined the Los Angeles Daily Journal as a reporter.

Bloodworth-Thomason is the first American writer in television history to write 35 consecutive episodes of a series.

The Thomasons formed Mozark Productions for the development of quality entertainment. The name of the company is derived from the combination of Missouri and Arkansas, their home states.

Bloodworth-Thomason has received many awards, including numerous Emmy and Writers Guild nominations. Her shows have also received a number of civic and cultural awards which include Nancy Susan Reynolds Award for Sexual Responsibility in the Media from the Center For Popular Options; the Humanitarian Award from Funders Concerned About AIDS; the first Freedom of Speech Award from Americans for Democratic Action; the Trend Setter Award from the National Health Council; and the Silver Satellite Award. She has also been honored by the Women's Legal Defense Fund in Washington, D.C. for her contribution to the advancement of women and families.

In 1990, Ladies Home Journal named Bloodworth-Thomason one of America's Fifty Most Powerful Women. In July of 1992, she produced the acclaimed documentary, The Man From Hope, which introduced Bill Clinton at the Democratic National Convention in New York. In 1993, the Thomasons served as Co-chairs of the Presidential Inauguration. In 1996, she directed and produced A Place Called America, which introduced President Clinton at the 1996 Democratic National Convention.

To honor her late mother, Claudia, Bloodworth-Thomason created The Claudia Foundation, which provides scholarships for qualified girls in Arkansas and Missouri who would otherwise not be able to attend college. Bloodworth-Thomason has donated over one million dollars to these scholarships, which has put 87 women in colleges and universities across the country.

## Yogi Berra

(born Lawrence Peter Berra)

**Birthdate:** May 12, 1925 at St. Louis, Mo.

**Died:** Sept. 22, 2015 at West Caldwell, N.J.

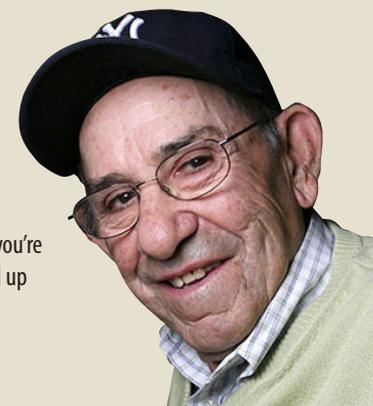
**Best known for:** His "Yogi-isms" and being one of the best baseball catchers in baseball history.

**Interesting facts:** The name "Yogi" comes from a childhood friend who said a character in a movie looked like Berra.

Berra left school after 8th grade to work and play American Legion baseball.

**Quotes:** "It ain't over till it's over."

"If you don't know where you're going, you might wind up someplace else."



Yogi Berra was an American professional baseball player, manager and coach. Berra was a key player for the New York Yankees for 18 years, during which he played in a record 14 World Series winning an unprecedented 10. He also established records for catchers of his era: he held the benchmark for most home runs hit by a catcher, most consecutive errorless games, and most consecutive chances handled.

**Berra grew up in the Italian district of St. Louis where he played softball, baseball, soccer, football and roller hockey.**

He first played organized baseball with a YMCA team and later played American Legion baseball. He batted left-handed and, like most catchers, threw right-handed. Berra acquired his famous nickname from a teammate who thought he looked like a Hindu yogi when he sat cross-legged as he waited to bat.

Berra signed a contract with the American League (AL) New York Yankees in 1942. After a season in the minor leagues, he served in the U.S. Navy during WWII and returned to minor-league baseball in 1946. He moved up to the New York Yankees toward the end of the 1946 season. Because Berra's catching was initially erratic, he played mostly in the outfield until 1949, when he became the team's regular catcher. He hit 20 or more home runs a season in 1949-58 and 1961, including a home run in his first World Series appearance. He was named the AL's Most Valuable Player three times. Berra helped the Yankees win World Series titles and he caught in more series games than any other catcher. He also hit 12 World Series home runs.

After retiring as a player, Berra managed the Yankees in 1964, winning the pennant but losing the World Series. He then moved across town to the National League (NL) New York Mets as a coach and team manager, winning the NL pennant in 1973. Thereafter he returned to the Yankees, serving as a coach. Berra was one of the few men to manage pennant winners in both leagues. He was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1972, and in 1998 the Yogi Berra Museum and Learning Center opened at Montclair State University. In 2015 he was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Berra was well known for amusing non sequiturs, which came to be termed "Yogi-isms." Examples include statements such as "It's déjà vu all over again," "You can observe a lot by watching," "The future ain't what it used to be," and "Baseball is 90 percent mental; the other half is physical."

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# 45 Famous Missourians

## Molly Brown

(born Margaret Tobin)

**Birthdate:** July 18, 1867 at Hannibal, Mo.

**Died:** Oct. 26, 1932 at New York City, N.Y.

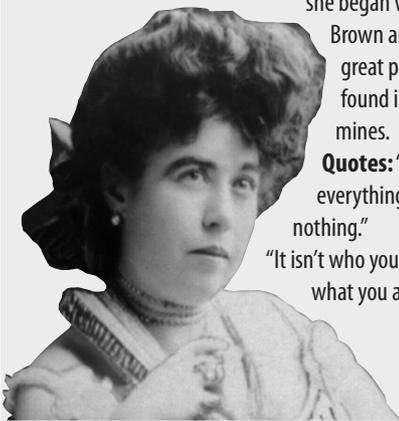
**Best known for:** Surviving the 1912 R.M.S. Titanic disaster; known as "The Unsinkable Molly Brown."

**Interesting facts:** Brown attended school until she was 13 when she began working in a factory.

Brown and her husband achieved great prosperity through gold found in one of her husband's mines.

**Quotes:** "I am interested in everything because I don't know nothing."

"It isn't who you are, nor what you have, but what you are that counts."



Margaret Tobin Brown captured the world's attention for her brave actions during the sinking of the RMS Titanic.

**Brown was born and raised in Hannibal, Mo.** She attended private school taught by her aunt Mary O'Leary until she was thirteen years old. She then worked at the Garth Tobacco Factory in Hannibal to help support her family.

Brown was an active social reformer, joining the Denver Woman's Club and the Denver Women's Press Club. Both organizations sought to better the lives of others through political and social activism.

She supported numerous charities and was fond of helping women and children in need. One of her favorite causes was Denver's Juvenile Association for the Protection and Betterment of Children.

Throughout her life, Brown loved to travel. While in France, Margaret learned that her young grandson was ill. Worried, she made plans to immediately return to the U.S. and booked passage on the maiden voyage of the RMS Titanic.

On the evening of April 14, 1912, the RMS Titanic struck an iceberg. When it became clear that passengers should be evacuated, Brown assisted fellow passengers into Lifeboat 6 before she was shoved into the boat. Brown maintained morale among her fellow survivors as they waited for rescue.

After Brown and other survivors were rescued by the RMS Carpathia, she helped organize relief efforts for destitute passengers.

During a coal miners' strike at Ludlow, Colo., miners and their families were attacked by members of the Colorado National Guard and employees of the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company. An estimated two dozen people were killed. Brown, sympathetic to the miners' plight, worked to draw worldwide attention to what became known as the "Ludlow Massacre."

She later traveled overseas to serve as a director for the American Committee for Devastated France. The French government awarded her the French Legion of Honor for her work.

In her later years, Margaret Brown continued to travel, and escaped disaster a second time when the hotel she was staying at in Palm Beach, Fla., caught on fire. Brown led other guests to safety down a fire escape.

She is remembered for her courage, social activism, and generosity to others.

## Maya Angelou

(born Marguerite Annie Johnson)

**Birthdate:** April 4, 1928 at St. Louis, Mo.

**Died:** May 28, 2014 at Winston-Salem, N.C.

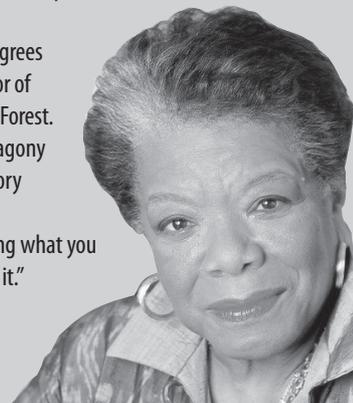
**Best known for:** Her autobiography titled "I Know Why The Caged Bird Sings"

**Interesting facts:** Angelou received the nickname Maya from her brother Bailey who called her "my sister," which came out as "Maya sister."

She holds over 50 honorary degrees and was Reynolds Professor of American Studies at Wake Forest.

**Quotes:** "There is no greater agony than bearing an untold story inside you."

"Success is liking yourself, liking what you do, and liking how you do it."



Maya Angelou had a diverse career spanning five decades — first as a singer and dancer, then as a journalist and civil rights activist, and later as a memoirist, poet and screenwriter.

**Angelou was born in St. Louis and lived there until the age of three** when she, along with her brother Bailey, went to live with their paternal grandmother in Stamps, Ark.

At the age of seven, Angelou moved back to St. Louis to live with her mother where she was hurt very badly by her mother's boyfriend. Not long after telling her mother about it, the boyfriend was shot and killed. The thought that her voice caused the man's death made her feel so bad that she didn't speak for the next five years.

Angelou married a South African freedom fighter and for a time lived in Cairo where she was the editor of the Arab Observer.

During the 1960s, Angelou worked as a civil rights activist. She first worked with Martin Luther King Jr. and became the Northern coordinator for his organization, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. Later, she helped Malcolm X to form the new Organization of African American Unity.

In 1969, Maya published her first autobiography called "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings." The book tells the story of her life up until the age of seventeen. In the book, Maya captures the many struggles she went through growing up as an African-American woman in the mid-1900s. She also shows how she overcame these issues through character, books and words.

With her book, I Know Why The Caged Bird Sings, Angelou was one of the first African-American women to make the New York Times bestseller list. The book remained on the list for two years, making Angelou an international star. She went on to write seven autobiographical works and her books remain on many school syllabuses.

Dr. Angelou wrote the Pulitzer-winning screenplay and composed the score for the 1972 film Georgia, Georgia. She also wrote several prize-winning documentaries such as Afro-Americans in the Arts.

After reciting a poem 'On the Pulse of the Morning' at Bill Clinton's inauguration, she became one of the best known African-American authors.

Many of her books can still be found on school syllabuses today.

## Daniel Boone

**Birthdate:** Nov. 2, 1734 at Oley Valley, province of Pennsylvania

**Died:** Sept. 26, 1820 at St. Charles county, Mo.

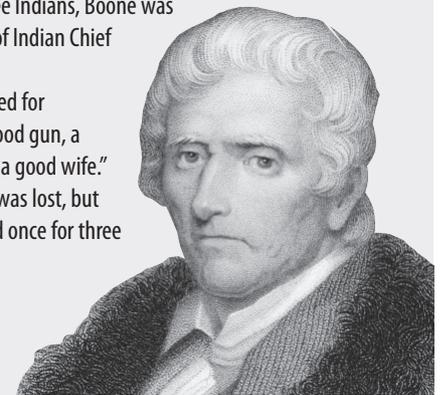
**Best known for:** His exploration and settlement of what is now Kentucky.

**Interesting facts:** According to his son Nathan, Boone despised the raccoon fur caps and did not wear one himself.

Captured by Shawnee Indians, Boone was adopted as son of Indian Chief Blackfish.

**Quotes:** "All you need for happiness is a good gun, a good horse, and a good wife."

"I can't say as ever I was lost, but I was bewildered once for three days."



An American frontiersman and explorer, Daniel Boone was the greatest woodsman in U.S. history. He left behind many lands that he had discovered, protected, settled and improved. He was the subject of many stories after his death that exaggerated both his accomplishments and his flaws.

In 1767 Boone led his first expedition as far westward as the area of Floyd County, Ken. In 1769, with John Finley and four others, he cleared a trail through the Cumberland Gap that soon became a highway to the frontier. As an agent for Richard Henderson and his Transylvania Company, Boone led the first group of colonists to Kentucky, reaching the site of Boonesborough in April 1775.

Boone held many government offices, including lieutenant colonel of Fayette County, legislative representative and sheriff. In 1786 he moved to Maysville, Ken., and was elected to the legislature. Bad luck continued to follow him, however; he lost his land because of a mistake made in the records. In 1788 he abandoned Kentucky and moved to Point Pleasant in what is now West Virginia. He was appointed lieutenant colonel of Kanawha County in 1789 and its legislative delegate in 1791.

**Boone and his family later moved west to Spain's Alta Luisiana (or Upper Louisiana, now Missouri).** When asked why he had left Kentucky, he answered, "Too many people! Too crowded, too crowded! I want some elbow room." What he really wanted was to settle on land that would not be taken away from him later. The Spaniards were pleased to have him as a colonist, giving him a large land grant and a position of leadership in his district. However, when the U.S. took over the land, Boone's claim was denied once again, although Congress restored part of it in 1814.

After his wife died, Boone spent his remaining years in St. Charles at the home of his son.

Boone was moderately well known from several books about his wilderness adventures when Lord Byron wrote about him in the 1823 poem Don Juan. This made the explorer world famous three years after his death and led people to tell many exaggerated stories about him. Love of adventure, skill in the outdoors and dignity in the face of misfortune made Boone a symbol of early America.



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# 45 Famous Missourians

## Don Cheadle Jr.

**Birthdate:** Nov. 29, 1964 at Kansas City, Mo.

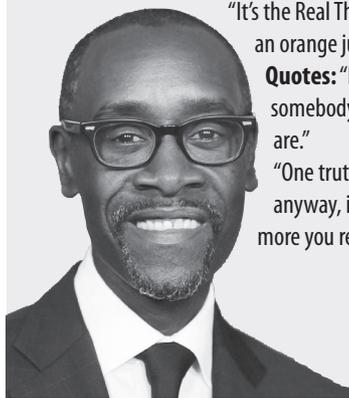
**Best known for:** His roles in movies such as Avengers, Crash, Hotel Rwanda, Ocean's Twelve, Ocean's Eleven and more.

**Interesting facts:** Cheadle was named U.N. Environment Program Goodwill Ambassador.

In 1989 he appeared in a video for Angela Winbush's No. 2 hit single "It's the Real Thing," performing dance moves in an orange jump suit working at a car wash.

**Quotes:** "I think it's intoxicating when somebody is so unapologetically who they are."

"One truth that I know for sure, for me anyway, is that the more you know, the more you realize that you don't know."



**Donald Frank Cheadle was born in Kansas City, Mo.** His childhood found him moving from city to city with his family. Cheadle attended and graduated from the California Institute of the Arts with a Bachelor's Degree in Fine Arts. Encouraged by his college friends, he attended a variety of auditions and landed a recurring role on the hit series Fame, which led to feature film roles in Colors and Hamburger Hill.

Early in his career, Cheadle was named Best Supporting Actor by the Los Angeles Film Critics for his breakout performance opposite Denzel Washington in Devil in a Blue Dress.

Cheadle was honored by the CineVegas Film Festival and the Los Angeles Film Festival and received ShoWest's Male Star of the Year award. He is also well-recognized for his television work, including his portrayal of Sammy Davis Jr. in HBO's The Rat Pack, for which he received a Golden Globe Award and a Best Supporting Actor Emmy nomination. That same year, he also received an Emmy nomination for his starring role in HBO's A Lesson Before Dying.

He produced and starred in Oscar-winning movie, Crash, and gained Oscar, Golden Globe, Broadcast Film Critics and Screen Actors Guild award nominations for his performance in Hotel Rwanda.

After acting in Hotel Rwanda he became an activist to raise awareness of the mid-2000s genocide in the Darfur region of Sudan. In January 2005, he traveled to Sudan with five members of Congress to see refugee camps and to meet survivors of the genocide. Upon his return, he reported on his trip for ABC News Nightline.

Big screen appearances have included Brooklyn's Finest, Iron Man 2, Iron Man 3 and The Guard.

Among his projects in development is a movie based on the life of jazz legend Miles Davis.

A talented musician who plays saxophone, writes music and sings, he is also an accomplished stage actor and director and was nominated for a Grammy Award in 2004 for Best Spoken Word Album for his narration/dramatization of the Walter Mosley novel "Fear Itself".

Other notable off-stage achievements include the 2007 BET Humanitarian Award for the cause of the people of Darfur and Rwanda, and sharing the Summit Peace Award by the Nobel Peace Prize Laureates in Rome with George Clooney for their work in Darfur.

## Porter Wagoner

**Birthdate:** Aug. 12, 1927 at West Plains, Mo.

**Died:** Oct. 28, 2007 at Nashville, Tenn.

**Best known for:** His country music and television career and partnership with Dolly Parton

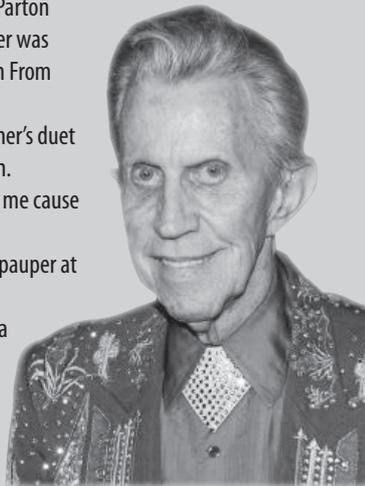
**Interesting facts:** Wagoner was known as "The Thin Man From West Plains."

Prior to Dolly Parton, Wagoner's duet partner was Norma Jean.

**Quotes:** "Just gather round me cause misery loves company."

"The wealthiest person is a pauper at times

Compared to the man with a satisfied mind."



Porter Wayne Wagoner was born in West Plains, Mo. He spent hours as a child pretending to be an Opry performer, using a tree stump as a stage.

Wagoner started in radio, then became a regular on ABC's Ozark Mountain Jubilee, one of the first nationally televised country music shows. He signed with RCA Records in 1955 and joined the Grand Ole Opry in 1957, calling it "the greatest place in the world to have a career in country music."

He launched his own TV show, "The Porter Wagoner Show" in 1960. It was one of the first syndicated shows out of Nashville, remaining on the air until 1981. Wagoner was famous for his flashy handmade rhinestone suits (he had more than 60) and blond pompadour.

Wagoner was also remembered for hiring Dolly Parton as his duet partner in 1967, boosting the 21-year-old's career just when she was beginning to gain notice. In 1974, she left the show for stardom with pop hits and movies such as 9 to 5.

Wagoner sued Parton for \$3 million in assets, but they settled out of court in 1980. They reconciled in the late 1980s. Parton inducted Wagoner to the Country Music Hall of Fame in 2002 and was present when Wagoner was honored for his silver anniversary with the Opry in May 2007. She also visited him in the hospital as he battled cancer.

Wagoner had a string of country hits in the '60s, including "A Satisfied Mind," "Misery Loves Company, Company's Comin'," "Skid Row Joe" and "The Cold Hard Facts of Life." The songs often told stories of tragedy or despair. In "Carroll County Accident," a married man having an affair is killed in a car crash. He also won three Grammy Awards for gospel recordings.

In the 1980's, Wagoner continued with the Opry, and appeared in the movie Honky Tonk Man starring Clint Eastwood. He stopped making records after RCA dropped him from the label, complaining that record executives wouldn't give him sufficient creative control.

In May 2007, he signed with ANTI- records and released his final album Wagonmaster earning him some of the best reviews of his career. Over the summer, he opened for the influential rock duo White Stripes at a sold-out show at New York's Madison Square Garden.

## James Cash Penney

(a.k.a. J.C. Penney)

**Birthdate:** Sept. 16, 1875 at Hamilton, Mo.

**Died:** Feb. 12, 1971 at New York, N.Y.

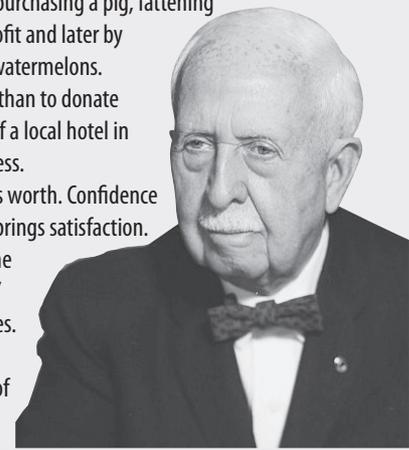
**Best known for:** founding the J.C. Penney stores

**Interesting facts:** By the age of eight, Penney had to buy his own clothes. He did so by purchasing a pig, fattening it and selling it for profit and later by growing and selling watermelons.

He went bankrupt rather than to donate whiskey to the cook of a local hotel in order to obtain business.

**Quotes:** "Honor bespeaks worth. Confidence begets trust. Service brings satisfaction. Cooperation proves the quality of leadership."

"I do not believe in excuses. I believe in hard work as the prime solvent of life's problems."



**James Cash Penney, better known as J.C. Penney, was an American businessman born on a farm in Caldwell County, Mo.** He spent his childhood doing farm work and attending school.

When he was eight, he had to pay for his own clothing because money was scarce and his father wanted him to learn the value of money. To do so, he first sold livestock until neighbors complained of the smell. Then he moved onto watermelons.

After high school graduation, his father helped him get a job at a dry goods store where he learned about the business.

He moved to Denver, Colo. In 1897 and found work in a dry goods store before buying a butcher shop with his savings. The first business failed though because he wouldn't give special favors to a powerful customer.

In 1898 he went to work for Golden Rule dry goods store for Thomas Calahan and Guy Johnson. Calahan liked Penney's work ethic and extended to him the opportunity to work in Wyoming. Calahan and Johnson later asked him to join them in opening a store.

The store J.C. Penney opened on April 14, 1902 was a one-room wooden building. Penney and his family lived in the attic above the store. He stocked only quality products and accepted cash only. The store was successful because customers liked the merchandise and good service.

Soon, he had one-third ownership in three stores in Wyoming. By 1907, Calahan and Johnson sold their shares of the chain to Penney who dreamed of starting more Golden Rule stores throughout the west. The store name represented his religious beliefs and gave him a business motto.

By 1909, he established his headquarters in Salt Lake City. By 1912, there were 34 stores with sales surpassing \$2 million. The chain name was changed in 1913 becoming the J.C. Penney Company.

The J.C. Penney name flourished under the company motto, "Honor, Confidence, Service, and Cooperation."

The first J.C. Penney store of his home state Missouri opened April 15, 1918 in Moberly.



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# 45 Famous Missourians

## Brad Pitt

(born William Bradley Pitt)

**Birthdate:** Dec. 18, 1963 at Shawnee, Okla.

**Best known for:** His roles in movies such as Mr. and Mrs. Smith, Interview with a Vampire, Fight Club and more.

**Interesting facts:** His children are not allowed to Google him or their mother, Angelina Jolie.

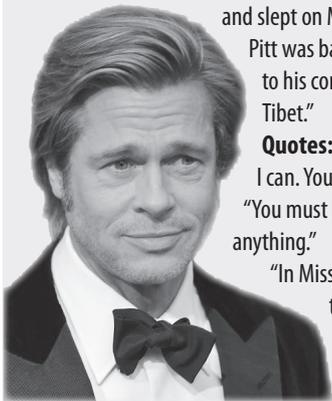
He moved to Los Angeles in 1986 with \$325 in his pocket and slept on Melissa Etheridge's couch.

Pitt was banned from entering China due to his controversial role in "Seven Years in Tibet."

**Quotes:** "I feel like I have to share whatever I can. You're culpable if you don't act."

"You must lose everything in order to gain anything."

"In Missouri, where I come from, we don't talk about what we do — we just do it. If we talk about it, it's seen as bragging."



**William Bradley Pitt was born in Shawnee, Okla., and raised in Springfield, Mo.** Pitt was involved in sports, debating, student government and school musicals. He attended the University of Missouri, where he majored in journalism with a focus on advertising. He occasionally acted in fraternity shows. He left college two credits short of graduating to move to California. Before he became successful at acting, Pitt supported himself by driving limos, moving refrigerators and dressing as a giant chicken while working for "el Pollo Loco".

Pitt's earliest credited roles were in television, starting on the daytime soap operas Another World and Dallas. Following a string of guest appearances on various television series through the 1980s, Pitt gained widespread attention with a small part in Thelma & Louise. This led to starring roles in badly received films such as Johnny Suede (1991) and Cool World (1992).

But Pitt's career hit an upswing with his casting in A River Runs Through It.

Pitt's subsequent projects were as quirky and varied in tone as his performances, ranging from his unforgettably comic cameo as stoner roommate Floyd in True Romance to romantic roles in such visually lavish films as Interview with the Vampire: The Vampire Chronicles and Legends of the Fall, to an emotionally tortured detective in the horror-thriller Se7en. His performance in Twelve Monkeys won him a Globe for Best Performance by an Actor in a Supporting Role.

Pitt's performance in Troy was closely followed by a co-starring role in Mr. & Mrs. Smith. It was on the set of Mr. & Mrs. Smith that Pitt, who married Jennifer Aniston in 2000, met his current partner Angelina Jolie. Pitt left Aniston for Jolie in 2005, a break-up that continues to fuel tabloid stories years after its occurrence.

He continues to wildly vary his film choices, appearing in everything from high-concept popcorn flicks such as Megamind to adventurous critic-bait like Inglourious Bastards and The Tree of Life. He has received two Best Actor Oscar nominations, for The Curious Case of Benjamin Button and Moneyball. In 2014, he starred in the war film Fury, opposite Shia LaBeouf, Logan Lerman, Jon Bernthal, and Michael Peña.

Pitt and Jolie have six children, including two sons and a daughter who were adopted.

## Clarence Thomas

**Birthdate:** June 23, 1948 at Pin Point, Ga.

**Best known for:** a U.S. Supreme Court Justice

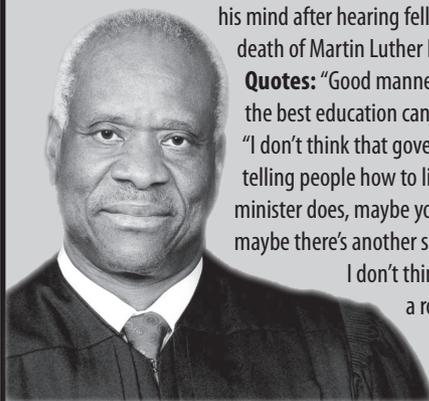
**Interesting facts:** While employed at Monsanto Co. during the late 70s, he dealt with pesticide, fungicide and rodenticide law.

He intended to enter priesthood and enrolled at Immaculate Conception seminary in Conception, Mo. He later changed his mind after hearing fellow student mock the death of Martin Luther King Jr.

**Quotes:** "Good manners will open doors that the best education cannot."

"I don't think that government has a role in telling people how to live their lives. Maybe a minister does, maybe your belief in God does, maybe there's another set of moral codes, but

I don't think government has a role."



Justice Clarence Thomas was born in the small coastal community of Pin Point, Georgia—a community founded by freed slaves after the Civil War.

Thomas grew up in the segregated South of the Jim Crow era.

Thomas attended St. Benedict the Moor Grammar School, a segregated Catholic school in Savannah run by the Missionary Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Conception.

Thomas did not attend an integrated school until he entered St. John Vianney Minor Seminary in the tenth grade. He later attended The College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Mass., and Yale Law School.

**After receiving his law degree in 1974, Thomas worked for Missouri Attorney General John Danforth.** When Danforth was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1976, Thomas went to work for Monsanto in its legal department. He moved to Washington, D.C. to join Senator Danforth's staff in 1979. After Ronald Reagan was elected president in 1980, Thomas was nominated and confirmed to be an Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights at the Department of Education (1981-82) and then Chairman of the Equal Opportunity Commission (1982-90).

In 1989, President George H.W. Bush nominated Thomas for a seat on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit, and he was confirmed in 1990. The following year, President Bush nominated Thomas to the Supreme Court of the United States.

After a controversial and contentious confirmation process, Thomas was confirmed by the U.S. Senate and became the 106th Justice—and second black American—to serve on the nation's highest court.

Justice Thomas has been one of the Supreme Court's most principled originalists over the past 25 years.

Thomas has been a vigorous defender of the First Amendment and a strong voice for Second Amendment rights. Consistent with this approach, Justice Thomas has also held that the Constitution permits no discrimination based on race, and that the Constitution leaves certain moral and social choices, such as abortion and same-sex marriage, to the States. Justice Thomas has also raised questions about the extent of power delegated to federal agencies and emphasized the importance of judicial accountability for administrative actions.

## Ginger Rogers

**Birthdate:** born Virginia Katherine McMath July 16, 1911 at Independence, Mo.

**Died:** April 25, 1995 at Rancho Mirage, Calif.

**Best known for:** her dance partnership with Fred Astaire

**Interesting facts:** Rogers was the highest paid star of 1942. She was given the name "Ginger" by her little cousin who couldn't pronounce "Virginia" correctly.

**Quotes:** "The only way to enjoy anything in this life is to earn it first." "When two people love each other, they don't look at each other, they look in the same direction."



Ginger Rogers performed stage work as a child in Fort Worth, Texas, and won a major Charleston contest in which she was awarded her own vaudeville tour. Her mother became her manager and Rogers would later largely credit her mother for her showbiz success.

Rogers eventually made her way to New York City as a solo performer. There she was hired for the Broadway production Top Speed.

Rogers' initial stage work led to a role in the Paramount film Young Man of Manhattan and she acted and sang the same year on Broadway in Girl Crazy.

Rogers began to do both stage and film work simultaneously, working on Paramount's movie stages in Queens during the day and performing live at night. She then moved back to Hollywood and starred in several films before landing the memorable part of Anytime Annie in classic movie-musical 42nd Street and a prominent role in Gold Diggers of 1933.

At 22, she was cast in the hit 1933 film Flying Down to Rio with Fred Astaire.

They co-starred over the next few years in eight more. Rogers and Astaire were a winning film combo.

Rogers took on many additional film roles outside of her dancing partnership, including a turn in Stage Door. Rogers was determined to tackle serious fare, and in 1941 won a lead actress Academy Award for her dramatic title role in the film Kitty Foyle. Afterwards she starred in several films—also **becoming the highest-paid woman in America**—before reuniting with Astaire for the 1949 hit The Barkleys of Broadway. After a variety of film work in the '50s, including Monkey Business (1952) with Cary Grant and Marilyn Monroe, Rogers' last film was the 1965 biopic Harlow, in which she played the mother of 1930s actress Jean Harlow.

In 1965, Rogers succeeded Carol Channing as the star of Hello, Dolly! on Broadway and played the role for two years. Rogers also went on to star in Mame in London, and during the 1970s made TV appearances and successfully hit the nightclub circuit. Years later, in 1991, she published her autobiography, Ginger: My Story.

She appeared in more than 70 films, and has been celebrated by generations of filmgoers as an icon of dance.

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# 45 Famous Missourians

## Walter Cronkite Jr.

**Birthdate:** Nov. 4, 1916 at St. Joseph, Mo.

**Died:** July 17, 2009 at New York City, N.Y.

**Best known for:** His work as an anchorman for the CBS Evening News.

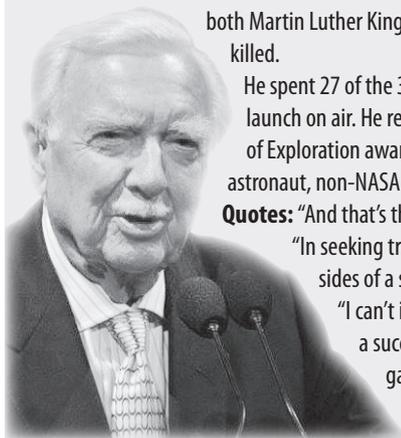
**Interesting facts:** While one of Cronkite's most famous broadcasts was on the JFK assassination, he also broke the news of both Martin Luther King Jr. and John Lennon being killed.

He spent 27 of the 30 hours of the Apollo 11 launch on air. He received the Ambassador of Exploration award. He was the first non-astronaut, non-NASA employee to get the honor.

**Quotes:** "And that's the way it is."

"In seeking truth you have to get both sides of a story."

"I can't imagine a person becoming a success who doesn't give this game of life everything he's got."



**Walter Cronkite was a journalist, broadcaster and television news anchor born in St. Joseph, Mo.**

From the early 1960s to early 1980s, Walter Cronkite was a much admired evening news anchor on CBS, serving a reliable source of information for many Americans, often cited as the most trusted man in America.

Raised in Houston, Texas, he decided to become a journalist after reading a magazine article about a foreign correspondent. He left the University of Texas to work for the Houston Post in 1935, later working for Midwestern radio stations.

During WWII, Cronkite covered the European front for United Press and served as chief United Press correspondent at the Nuremberg trials.

Joining CBS News in 1950, he worked on a variety of programs, and covered national political conventions and elections. He helped launch the CBS Evening News in 1962 and served as its news anchor until his retirement in 1981.

The hallmarks of his style were honesty, impartiality and level-headedness, and "And that's the way it is" was his jaunty nightly sign-off.

Identified in public opinion polls as the man Americans most trusted, he provided a voice of reason during the Vietnam and Watergate eras.

After retiring, Cronkite hosted CBS's Universe, co-produced Why in the World for PBS and hosted Dinosaur for the AE. He also did a special short series for CBS and the Discovery Channel called Cronkite Remembers.

In addition to his television work, Cronkite wrote several books, including A Reporter's Life and Around America.

During his distinguished career, Cronkite has won numerous awards, including the prestigious Peabody Award twice and several Emmy Awards as well as the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1981. Most recently, he received the News World International's Lifetime Achievement Award in 2003 and the 2004 Harry S Truman Good Neighbor Award from the Truman Foundation.

In addition, Walter was the only non-NASA recipient of an Ambassador of Exploration award.

## Harry S. Truman

**Birthdate:** May 8, 1884 at Lamar, Mo.

**Died:** Dec. 26, 1972 at Kansas City, Mo.

**Best known for:** His term as the 33rd United States President.

**Interesting facts:** Truman was the first U.S. president to travel underwater in a submarine.

Truman was the first U.S. president to give a speech on television.

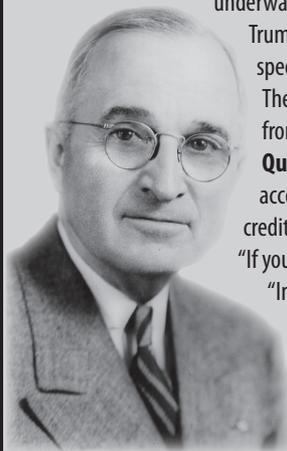
The S does not stand for anything, it comes from his grandfather's name.

**Quotes:** "It is amazing what you can accomplish if you do not care who gets the credit."

"If you can't convince them, confuse them."

"In reading the lives of great men, I found that the first victory they won was over themselves... self-discipline with all of them came first."

"The buck stops here."



Harry S. Truman was born in Lamar, Mo. His family moved several times during his childhood, first to a farm in Grandview then to Independence and finally to Kansas City. After leaving school, he worked briefly as a timekeeper for a railroad construction contractor, then as a clerk in two Kansas City banks. He later returned to Grandview to help his father run the family farm for more than 10 years.

Truman served in the Missouri National Guard. When the U.S. entered WWI in 1917, he helped organize the 2nd Regiment of Missouri Field Artillery, which was quickly called into Federal service as the 129th Field Artillery and sent to France. Truman was promoted to Captain and given command of the regiment's Battery D. Truman joined the reserves after the war, rising eventually to the rank of colonel.

From 1919 to 1922 he ran a men's clothing store in Kansas City with his wartime friend, Eddie Jacobson.

Truman was elected in 1922 to be one of three judges of the Jackson County Court. Judge Truman built a reputation for honesty and efficiency in the management of county affairs.

In 1934, Truman was elected to the United States Senate.

After being reelected in 1940, Truman gained national prominence as chairman of the Senate Special Committee to Investigate the National Defense Program.

In July 1944, Truman was nominated to run for vice president with President Franklin D. Roosevelt. On Jan. 20, 1945, he took the vice-presidential oath, and after President Roosevelt's unexpected death only 82 days later on April 12, 1945, he was sworn in as the nation's 33rd president.

In 1948, Truman won reelection.

Truman left the presidency and retired to Independence in January 1953. For the nearly two decades of his life remaining to him, he delighted in being "Mr. Citizen," as he called himself in a book of memoirs. He spent his days reading, writing, lecturing and taking long brisk walks. He took particular satisfaction in founding and supporting his Library, which made his papers available to scholars, and which opened its doors to everyone who wished to have a glimpse of his remarkable life and career.

## Tina Turner

(born Anna Bullock)

**Birthdate:** Nov. 26, 1939 at Nutbush, Tenn.

**Best known for:** her hit songs such as "Proud Mary" and "What's Love Got to Do with It."

**Interesting facts:** Turner has sold more concert tickets than any other solo performer in history, according to Guinness World Records.

In 1984 she became the oldest female artist to have a number-one hit single in the U.S.

She has her own highway in Tennessee named Tina Turner Highway off of State Road 19 between Brownsville and her hometown.

**Quotes:** "I believe that if you'll just stand up and go, life will open up for you."

"You must love and care for yourself, because that's when the best comes out."



Tina Turner's parents were poor sharecroppers, who split up and left Turner and her sister to be raised by their grandmother. **When her grandmother died in the early 1950s, Turner moved to St. Louis, Mo., to be with her mother.**

She spent much of her time at Club Manhattan. There she met Ike Turner, who often played at the club with the Kings of Rhythm. Soon Turner was performing with the group, and she quickly became the highlight of their show.

"Proud Mary" became a cornerstone of the couple's shows. Tina and Ike later married, but despite their success as a musical duo, the relationship was far from healthy. Tina later revealed that Ike was often physically abusive.

By the mid-1970s, the couple separated both personally and professionally.

In the years following her divorce, Turner's solo career got off to a slow start.

She exploded back into the record industry when her much-anticipated solo album, Private Dancer, was released to overwhelming critical and popular success. It went on to win four Grammy Awards and eventually sold more than 20 million copies worldwide.

In 1991, Ike and Tina Turner were inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

In 2008, the iconic entertainer embarked on her "Tina! 50th Anniversary Tour," which became one of the highest-selling ticketed shows of 2008 and 2009. She announced that it would be her final tour, and essentially retired from the music business save for occasional appearances and recordings.

Turner has continued to be a luminary of the musical world, appearing on the cover of a 2013 Dutch Vogue that was widely shared.

In 2013, it was announced that Turner, at the age of 73, was engaged to marry her longtime partner, German record executive Erwin Bach. In July 2013, they were married in Zurich, Switzerland, only months after Turner had gained her Swiss citizenship.

Tina, a musical that depicts a biographical account of the singers life and career, opened in 2018 at the Aldwych Theatre in London. Turner was also honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Grammys in 2018.

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# 45 Famous Missourians

## Mark Twain

(born Samuel Langhorne Clemens)

**Birthdate:** Nov. 30, 1835 at Florida, Mo.

**Died:** April 21, 1910 at Redding, Conn.

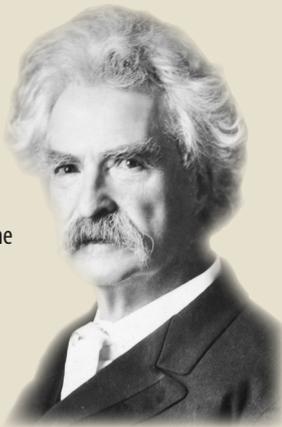
**Best known for:** His novels such as "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer" and its sequel "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn."

**Interesting facts:** He wasn't expected to live as he was born two months prematurely. He remained sickly until he was seven years old. He has no living descendants.

**Quotes:** "Kindness is the language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see."

"The two most important days in your life are the day you are born and the day you find out why."

"If you tell the truth, you don't have to remember anything."



**Samuel L. Clemens, also know under his pen name as Mark Twain was born in Florida, Mo. And raised in Hannibal from age four to 17.**

Hannibal inspired several of Mark Twain's fictional locales, including "St. Petersburg" in Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn.

Sam kept up his schooling until he was about 12 years old, when—with his father dead and the family needing a source of income—he found employment as an apprentice printer at the Hannibal Courier, which paid him with a meager ration of food. In 1851, at 15, he got a job as a printer and occasional writer and editor at the Hannibal Western Union, a little newspaper owned by his brother, Orion.

At the age of 21, he began learning the art of piloting a steamboat on the Mississippi River. He loved his career as a licensed pilot, however, his service was cut short by the outbreak of the Civil War. Clemens joined the Confederate Army but only served for a couple of weeks before his volunteer unit disbanded.

Twain climbed on board a stagecoach and headed for Nevada and California, where he would live for the next five years.

Seeing as he knew his way around a newspaper, he went to work as a reporter for the Virginia City Territorial Enterprise. Along the way, he adopted the pen name Mark Twain – steamboat slang for 12 feet of water.

Twain became one of the best-known storytellers in the West.

At the age of 34 he had become one of the most popular and famous writers in America when his book, The Innocents Abroad, became a best seller.

He went on to publish The Prince and the Pauper, Life on the Mississippi and Huckleberry Finn.

After that, business and writing were of equal value to Mark Twain as he set about his cardinal task of earning a lot of money. In 1885, he triumphed as a book publisher by issuing the bestselling memoirs of former President Ulysses S. Grant, who had just died.

Mark Twain's last 15 years were filled with public honors, including degrees from Oxford and Yale. He was likely the most famous American of the late 19th century.

## Stan Frank Musial

(born Stanislaw Franciszek Musial)

**Birthdate:** Nov. 21, 1920 at Donora, Penn.

**Died:** Jan. 13, 2013 at Ladue, Mo.

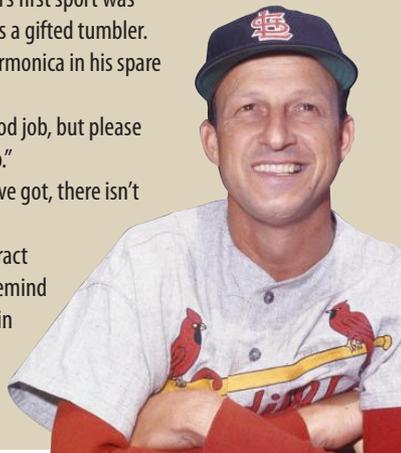
**Best known for:** Being one of the greatest, most consistent hitters in baseball he played with the St. Louis Cardinals from 1941 until 1963.

**Interesting facts:** Musial's first sport was gymnastics and he was a gifted tumbler. He enjoyed playing the harmonica in his spare time.

**Quotes:** "I have a darn good job, but please don't ask me what I do."

"Unless you give it all you've got, there isn't any sense in playing."

"The first principal of contract negotiations is don't remind them of what you did in the past – tell them what you're going to do in the future."



Stan Musial worked various odd jobs to help support his family. He spent his free time playing baseball, his lifelong passion, and maintained a C average in school. He was the only member of his family to graduate from high school.

Musial dreamed of a future as a professional baseball player. He later said, "I wanted to be a big league ball player from the time I was eight years old." At age 17, he signed a pitching contract with the St. Louis Cardinals for \$65 a month and left for spring training.

Musial began playing as a left-handed pitcher in the Cardinals farm system in 1938. While playing for the Daytona Beach Islanders, he fell hard on his left shoulder and was unable to continue pitching, so Musial began playing in the outfield. He was a natural there.

Cited as the greatest player in Cardinals history and one of the best in the history of the game, Stan "The Man" played the bulk of his 22-year career as an outfielder and first baseman for the Cardinals. He was selected to 24 All-Star games and is the franchise's career leader in virtually every batting category. As good a ballplayer Stan was, he was an even better man.

Born in Donora, Pennsylvania, Musial was originally signed by the Cardinals as a pitcher, but due to inconsistency and injury he was put in the outfield and ultimately slugged his way into the National Baseball Hall of Fame.

A three-time National League Most Valuable Player, Musial's most amazing statistics came from his incredible consistency. He retired in 1963 with 3,630 career hits (most in the National League at the time). Exactly half, 1,815, were hit at home while the other half came on the road. He scored 1,949 runs, drove in 1,951 runs, batted over .300 for 16 straight seasons and captured seven National League batting titles.

Musial's uniform number (6) was retired in 1963 at the end of his playing career—one in which he was never thrown out of a game for arguing a call. Baseball Commissioner Ford C. Frick may have summed up Musial the best when he said the following words, which now adorn a statue of "The Man" outside Busch Stadium: "Here stands baseball's perfect warrior. Here stands baseball's perfect knight."

## Walt Disney

(born Walter Elias Disney)

**Birthdate:** Dec. 5, 1901 at Chicago, Ill.

**Died:** Dec. 15, 1966 at Burbank, Calif.

**Best known for:** co-founding Walt Disney Productions with his brother, Roy.

**Interesting facts:** He had a secret apartment above the fire station at Disneyland.

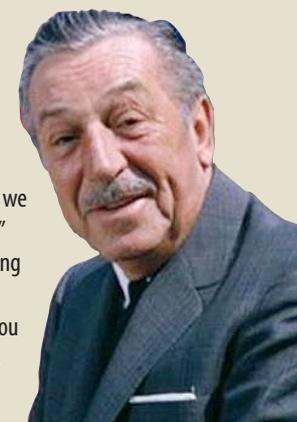
He once played Peter Pan in a school play.

Disney produced propaganda films for the U.S. government during WWII.

**Quotes:** "All our dreams come true, if we have the courage to pursue them."

"The way to get started is to quit talking and begin doing."

"The more you like yourself, the less you are like anyone else, which makes you unique."



**Walter Elias "Walt" Disney lived most of his childhood in Marceline, Mo.,** where he began drawing, painting and selling pictures to neighbors and family friends.

Disney attended McKinley High School in Chicago, where he took drawing and photography classes. At night, he took courses at the Art Institute of Chicago.

In 1919, Disney moved to Kansas City to pursue a career as a newspaper artist. He got a job at the Pesmen-Rubin Art Studio, where he met cartoonist Ubbe Eert Iwerks. From there, Disney worked at the Kansas City Film Ad Company, where he made commercials based on cutout animation. Around this time, Disney began experimenting with a camera, doing hand-drawn cel animation, and decided to open his own animation business.

Walt and Harman made a deal with a local Kansas City theater to screen their cartoons.

By 1923, burdened with debt, Disney declared bankruptcy.

Disney and his brother Roy soon pooled their money and moved to Hollywood. Iwerks also relocated to California, and there the three began the Disney Brothers' Studio.

Soon after, the Disney brothers, their wives and Iwerks developed Mickey Mouse, a character Walt had been working on. Walt was the voice of Mickey.

In 1929, Disney created Silly Symphonies, which featured Mickey's newly created friends.

On December 21, 1937, Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, the first full-length animated film, premiered in Los Angeles. It produced an unimaginable \$1.499 million, in spite of the Depression, and won a total of eight Oscars.

During the next five years, Walt Disney Animation Studios completed another string of full-length animated films, Pinocchio, Fantasia, Dumbo and Bambi.

Cinderella was released in 1950, followed by Treasure Island, Alice in Wonderland, Peter Pan, Lady and the Tramp, Sleeping Beauty and 101 Dalmatians. In all, more than 100 features were produced by his studio.

Disney's \$17 million Disneyland theme park opened on July 17, 1955, in Anaheim, Calif., with Ronald Reagan presiding over the activities. The site became known as a place where children and their families could explore, enjoy rides and meet the Disney characters.

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# 45 Famous Missourians

## Sam Walton

**Birthdate:** March 29, 1918 at Kingfisher, Okla.  
**Died:** April 5, 1992 at Little Rock, Ark.  
**Best known for:** founding the retailers Wal-Mart and Sam's Club.  
**Interesting facts:** Despite being the "richest man in America," Sam drove a red Ford pickup truck.

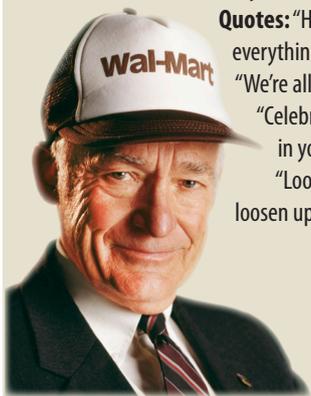
Walton's first job out of school was with retailer J.C. Penny.

**Quotes:** "High expectations are the key to everything."

"We're all working together, that's the secret."

"Celebrate your successes. Find some humor in your failures."

"Loosen up, and everyone around you will loosen up."



Sam grew up in Missouri with his younger brother James. From the time he was a young boy, Sam was a hard worker. He had little choice during the Great Depression. The only way to survive was hard work. Sam worked all sorts of jobs including a paper route. In addition to working, Sam did well in school, was a member of the Boy Scouts, and enjoyed sports. He was a star athlete on the high school football team and was **the first boy in Shelbina, Mo. to become an Eagle Scout.**

After high school, Sam attended the University of Missouri. At college Sam continued to work hard and stay busy. He worked part time jobs to help pay for school. He was also a member of the ROTC and was voted president of his senior class. He graduated in 1940 with a degree in economics.

Sam's first job out of school was with retailer J.C. Penny. He worked there as a manager for a year and half before he joined the army in 1942 during World War II.

After serving as an Army captain during WWII, Walton used a \$25,000 loan from his father-in-law to acquire his first store, a Ben Franklin franchise in Newport, Ark.

In less than two decades, Walton, working with his younger brother, James, came to own 15 Ben Franklin Stores. But frustration over the management of the chain, in particular the decision to ignore Walton's push to expand into rural communities, prompted him to strike out on his own.

Walton had the dream of opening a large discount store. These stores would be located in rural areas away from competition like K-Mart. He had a tough time selling the idea to investors at first, but he eventually got a loan and opened his first Walmart in Rogers, Arkansas in 1962.

The store was a great success and Walton continued to open more stores. He opened his second store in 1964 and his third in 1966. As of 2014, there were over 11,000 Walmart stores worldwide.

Even in the grips of a recession, Walton's stores proved successful. In 1991, as the country was mired in an economic downturn, Wal-Mart increased sales by more than 40 percent.

In 1985 Forbes magazine named Walton the wealthiest man in the U.S. Just a month before his death, Walton was honored by President George H.W. Bush with the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

## Dale Carnegie

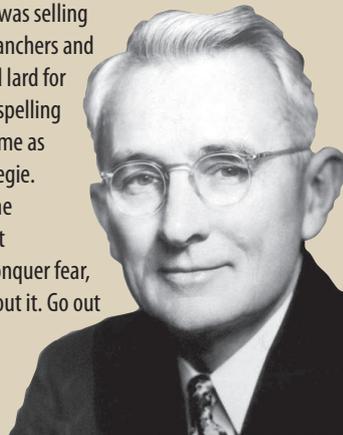
**Birthdate:** Born: Dale Harbison Carnagey Nov. 24, 1888 at Maryville, Mo.

**Died:** Nov. 1, 1955 at Forest Hills, New York

**Best known for:** his books such as "How to Win Friends and Influence People."

**Interesting facts:** His first job was selling correspondence courses to ranchers and then selling bacon, soap and lard for Armour Co. He changed the spelling of his last name to be the same as popular figure Andrew Carnegie.

**Quotes:** "Remember, today is the tomorrow you worried about yesterday." "If you want to conquer fear, don't sit home and think about it. Go out and get busy."



Dale Breckenridge Carnegie was a highly acclaimed American writer, professor and the also the founder of courses such as salesmanship, public speaking, self-improvement and interactive skills.

**He was born in an impoverished family in Maryville, Mo.**

Carnegie harboured a strong love and passion for public speaking from a very early age and was very proactive in debate in high school.

Carnegie went to the Warrensburg State Teachers College and later onwards became a salesman for Armour and Company in Nebraska.

He also moved to New York in the pursuit of a career in acting and gave classes in public speaking at the Young Men's Christian Association.

He formed classes of his own wrote pamphlets, which were eventually published as books.

Carnegie was of the opinion that the quickest and most effective way to build up self-confidence and self-esteem is through public speaking and interaction.

During the early 1930's, he was renowned and very famous for his books and a radio program.

When How to Win Friends and Influence People was published in 1930, it became an instant success and subsequently became one of the biggest bestsellers of all time. It sold more than 10 million copies in many different languages.

He later worked as a newspaper columnist and formed the Dave Carnegie Institute for Effective Speaking and Human Relations, with several branches globally.

Carnegie loved teaching others to climb the pillars of success. His valuable and tested advice was used in many domains and has been the inspiration of many famous people's success. His book, How To Win Friends and Influence People remains one of the most commercially famous books, primarily because of the colorful illustrations and simple well-constructed rules. The most famous and cited maxims in the book are "Believe that you will succeed, and you will," and "Learn to love, respect and enjoy other people."

One of the core ideas in his books is that it is possible to change other people's behavior by changing one's behavior toward them.

## Rush Limbaugh III

**Birthdate:** Jan. 12, 1951 at Cape Girardeau, Mo.

**Best known for:** his popular radio talk show, The Rush Limbaugh Show

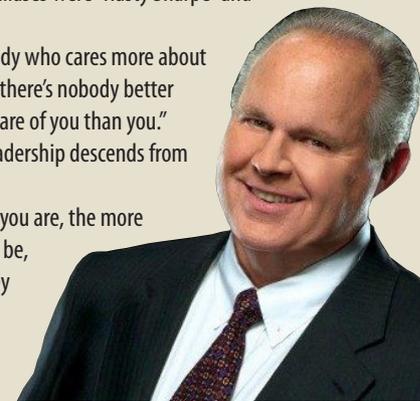
**Interesting facts:** His first job away from home was shining shoes in a barbershop at the age of 13.

Two of his early radio aliases were "Rusty Sharpe" and "Jeff Christie."

**Quotes:** "There's nobody who cares more about you than you, and there's nobody better equipped to take care of you than you."

"Character matters, leadership descends from character."

"The more dependent you are, the more ignorant you must be, and that's how they want you."



**Famed political commentator Rush Hudson Limbaugh III was born in Cape Girardeau, Mo., into a highly regarded local family.**

By the time he was 8 years old, Limbaugh had set his sights on a career in radio. His father, however, had a more stable career in mind for his son.

Limbaugh quickly was soon viewed as a rebel to his family. Though Limbaugh's family frowned upon his aspirations for a career in radio, they didn't completely ignore his passion for broadcasting. At the age of 9, Limbaugh received a Remco Caravelle, a toy radio that could transmit on AM frequencies up to 500 feet away.

Limbaugh landed his first radio job when he was in high school; using the pseudonym "Rusty Sharpe," he worked as a deejay for the local station KGMO (co-owned by his father).

Following high school, Limbaugh briefly attended Southeast Missouri State University; he left the school in 1971, after one year of enrollment to pursue a career in radio. However, he had trouble keeping a position. He was fired from stations in Missouri and Pennsylvania for being too controversial as a news commentator.

In the mid-1980s, Limbaugh landed a job as an on-air host at KFBK in Sacramento, Calif. Less than a year later, Limbaugh became known as Sacramento's top radio host.

The FCC's repeal of the Fairness Doctrine ultimately paved the way for Limbaugh's now-distinct, politically conservative radio style to take shape. Not long after the repeal, the on-air host left KFBK for a position at the ABC Radio Network, bringing his newfound fame with him, as well as a reputation for having strong, right wing ideologies.

The Rush Limbaugh Show, nationally syndicated from New York City by ABC Radio, premiered Aug. 1, 1988. Known for its heavy political focus and sometimes extreme conservative slant, The Rush Limbaugh Show has been on the air for more than two decades and is credited today as the highest-rated American talk radio program. The show is currently syndicated by Premiere Radio Networks, and can be heard on nearly 600 stations nationwide.

Limbaugh was inducted into the Radio Hall of Fame in 1993.

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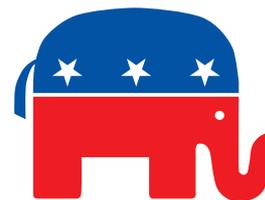
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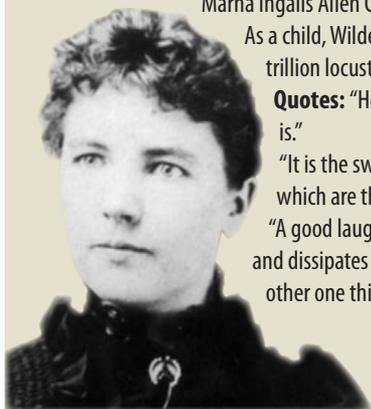
Lynn Davis Treasurer



# 45 Famous Missourians

## Laura Ingalls Wilder

**Birthdate:** Feb. 7, 1867 at Pepin County, Wis.  
**Died:** Feb. 10, 1957 at Mansfield, Mo.  
**Best known for:** her series of children's books titled "Little House on the Prairie."  
**Interesting facts:** Wilder was related to one of the Salem "witches," Marha Ingalls Allen Carter.



As a child, Wilder survived a cloud of 3.5 trillion locusts.  
**Quotes:** "Home is the nicest word there is."  
 "It is the sweet, simple things of life which are the real ones after all."  
 "A good laugh overcomes more difficulties and dissipates more dark clouds than any other one thing."

Laura Ingalls Wilder was born in a log cabin just outside of Pepin, Wis. In her books, Wilder would later come to call the cabin "The Little House in the Big Woods." Two years after her birth, her family moved to Kansas, which would become the setting for her book Little House on the Prairie.

Growing up, her and her family repeatedly moved from one midwestern town to the next. In 1874, they moved to Walnut Grove, Minn., which later became the setting of Little House on the Prairie, a television show based on Wilder's life.

Because they had moved so often, Wilder and her siblings mainly taught themselves and each other but they attended schools whenever they could.

At the age of 15, she signed on to teach at a one-room country schoolhouse 12 miles from her parent's home. During her teaching time at Bouchie School, her parents often sent Almanzo Wilder, who she later married, to pick her up and bring her home for weekend visits.

**Sometime after the couple married, they moved to a 200-acre farm in the Ozarks of Missouri.**

In the 1910s Wilder's daughter, Rose Wilder Lane, a reporter for the San Francisco Bulletin, encouraged her to write about her childhood.

Each of her books focuses on one or more of the memorable places she lived.

Her book Little House in the Big Woods was the first book in what would become an autobiographical series of children's books, collectively called the Little House books.

Other books in the series include Little House on the Prairie, Farmer Boy, On the Banks of Plum Creek, By the Shores of Silver Lake, The Long Winter, Little Town on the Prairie and These Happy Golden Years. Wilder completed the last book in the series when she was 76 years old.

Little House on the Prairie, a television show based on Wilder's life began airing in 1974, 17 years after her death. The show ran until 1982 and reruns can still be seen on television today.

## Leona Williams

(born Leona Belle Helton)

**Birthdate:** Jan. 7, 1943 at Vienna, Mo.  
**Best known for:** her country music songs such as "The Bull and The Beaver," a duet with Merle Haggard.



**Interesting facts:** She had her own program on Jefferson City's KWOS radio station at age 15.

Her 1976 live album San Quentin's First Lady marked the first time a female artist recorded an album from a prison.

A section of Highway 63 in Missouri is named in her honor.

**Leona Belle Helton was born in Vienna, Mo.**

She sang in her family band as a child and by 1958 had landed her own radio show on Jefferson City's KWOS called Leona Sings. This outlet brought her to the attention of Loretta Lynn, who asked Williams to join her touring band as a bassist and backup vocalist.

Williams signed as a solo artist with Hickory in 1968 and cut a few minor hits for the label, including "Once More" and "Country Girl with Hot Pants On."

She bounced from Hickory to MCA, where she recorded the landmark San Quentin's First Lady, the first country album recorded by a female inside a prison, in 1976.

Williams had joined Merle Haggard's backing band in 1975, but she soon replaced his estranged wife Bonnie Owens as featured vocalist. She and Haggard's professional and private lives were merged for several years. While their brief marriage was stormy, the duo was more successful as a songwriting team.

Released in 1978, "Bull and the Beaver" cracked the country Top Ten; "We're Strangers Again" charted in 1983, but the song also marked the dissolution of her relationship with Haggard.

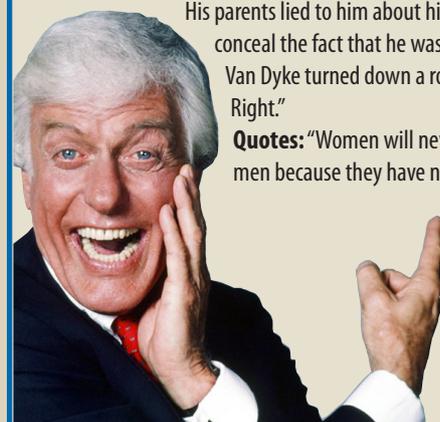
Williams continued to record and contributed vocals to albums by Vince Gill and Johnny Bush.

She released the solo effort Melted Down Memories in 1999 and appeared as part of the Us Girls! music variety show in Branson, Mo. She released Leona Williams Sings Merle Haggard in 2008.

## Dick Van Dyke

(born Richard Wayne Van Dyke)

**Birthdate:** Dec. 13, 1925 in West Plains, Mo.  
**Best known for:** Starring in the musical "Bye, Bye Birdie" and "The Dick Van Dyke Show."



**Interesting facts:** Van Dyke stood over six feet tall before his 12th birthday.

His parents lied to him about his age for 18 years to conceal the fact that he was born out of wedlock. Van Dyke turned down a role on "The Price is Right."

**Quotes:** "Women will never be as successful as men because they have no wives to advise them."  
 "Don't worry so much. Most of the things you worry about never end up happening."

During his more than 60 years in show business, Dick Van Dyke has enjoyed great success on the stage, in films and on television. **Born in Missouri,** Van Dyke grew up in Danville, Ill.

In his younger years, Van Dyke considered becoming a minister. He abandoned this ambition after joining high school drama club, and developed his singing and dancing skills. Around this time, he landed his first professional job, working part-time at a local radio station.

In 1942, Van Dyke enlisted in the U.S. Air Force, and ended up in the special services unit. He enlisted to be a pilot in the Army Air Corps during World War II, but initially did not make the cut because he did not meet the weight requirement, as he was underweight. He tried three times to enlist, before barely making the cut. He actually served as a radio announcer during the war, and he did not leave the United States.

After being discharged from the service, he tried his hand at advertising before joining a novelty lip-syncing act the "Merry Mutes" and moving to California.

Van Dyke worked in radio and television in Atlanta and New Orleans before landing a seven-year contract with CBS. He was let go after three years.

He went on to be cast in the musical Bye Bye Birdie, bringing him his one and only Tony award win for his supporting role. Not longer, after his career took off.

Van Dyke beat out Johnny Carson for the role of Rob Petrie on what later became The Dick Van Dyke Show. He won three Emmy awards from The Dick Van Dyke Show. Rob Petrie, Van Dyke's role on The Dick Van Dyke Show, was ranked #22 in TV Guide's list of the "50 Greatest TV Dads of All Time."

Later he was in the musical Mary Poppins. His attempt at a Cockney accent in Mary Poppins (1964) is so notorious that a "Dick Van Dyke accent" is an accepted slang term for an American's unsuccessful attempt at any British accent. He also starred in Diagnosis Murder alongside his son, Barry. He has held many other supporting roles as well.

At the age of 87, Van Dyke received the 2013 Screen Actors Guild Life Achievement Award. During his acceptance speech, he asked his Hollywood colleagues "Aren't we lucky to have found a line of work that doesn't require growing up? I love that."

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# 45 Famous Missourians

## Meriwether Lewis

**Birthdate:** Aug. 18, 1774 at Albemarle County, Colony of Virginia

**Died:** Oct. 11, 1809 at Hohenwald, Tenn.

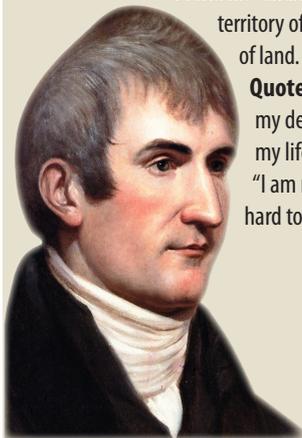
**Best known for:** his role as leader of the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

**Interesting facts:** Lewis served as Thomas Jefferson's aide.

President Jefferson appointed Lewis as governor of the territory of Louisiana and awarded him 160 acres of land.

**Quotes:** "I could but esteem this moment of my departure as among the most happy of my life."

"I am not a coward, but I am so strong. So hard to die."



Meriwether Lewis spent his childhood building his hunting skills and spending most of his time outdoors.

As a member of the state militia, Lewis helped to quell the Whiskey Rebellion, a Pennsylvania uprising led by farmers against taxes, in 1794. The next year he served with William Clark, a man who would later help him on one of the greatest expeditions of all time. Lewis joined the regular army and achieved the rank of captain.

In 1801, Lewis was asked by President Thomas Jefferson to act as his private secretary. Jefferson soon made Lewis another offer — to lead an expedition into the lands west of the Mississippi to gather information about the plants, animals and Native Americans of the region. After enlisting Army friend William Clark to join him, the expedition began near St. Louis, Mo. in May 1804. Lewis, Clark and the rest of their expedition were often called the Corps of Discovery by historians.

With the help of Sacagawea, the team successfully reached the Pacific Ocean in November of 1805. Their journey was famously known as the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

They built Fort Clatsop and spent the winter in present-day Oregon. On the way back in 1806, Lewis and Clark split up to explore more territory and look for faster routes home. Lewis and his men faced great danger when a group of Blackfeet Indians sought to steal from the corps in late July. Two Blackfeet were killed in the ensuing conflict.

The next month, Lewis was shot in the thigh by one of his own men during a hunt. Lewis and Clark and their two groups joined up again at the Missouri River and made the rest of the trek to St. Louis together. In total, the expedition traveled roughly 8,000 miles by boat, on foot and on horseback.

Once reaching the nation's capital, Lewis received payment for his courageous efforts. Along with his salary and 1,600 acres of land, he was named governor of the Louisiana Territory. Lewis also tried to publish the journals that he and Clark wrote during their great adventure. Always prone to dark moods, Lewis began to have a drinking problem and neglected his duties as governor. He had no family of his own, never having found a wife or fathered children.

Lewis helped change the face of the United States by exploring a vast unmapped territory — the American West.

## William Clark

**Birthdate:** Aug. 1, 1770 at Ladysmith, Colony of Virginia

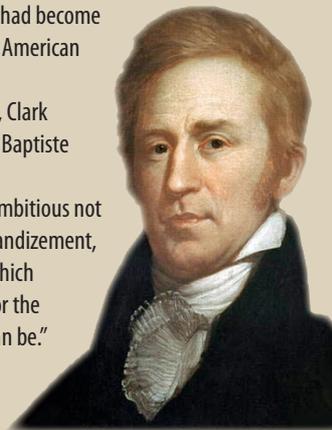
**Died:** Sept. 1, 1838 at St. Louis, Mo.

**Best known for:** helping Meriwether Lewis lead the Lewis and Clark Expedition of 1804 to 1806.

**Interesting facts:** He learned his wilderness skills from his older brother, George, who had become a General while fighting in the American Revolutionary war.

Following the death of Sacagawea, Clark adopted her two children Jean Baptiste and Lizette.

**Quotes:** "Boys, be ambitious. Be ambitious not for money, not for selfish aggrandizement, not for the evanescent thing which men call fame. Be ambitious for the attainment of all that a man can be."



William Clark was half of the exploration team Lewis and Clark, who in the early 1800s explored and mapped the lands west of the Mississippi River.

Clark entered the military at the age of 19. He became friends with Meriwether Lewis while the two served together in the U.S. Army in 1795.

In 1803, Clark received a letter from his old friend Lewis, inviting him to share command of an expedition of the lands west of the Mississippi River. The expedition was prompted by the acquisition of more than 800 thousand square miles of land through the Louisiana Purchase. The legendary journey began the following May in St. Louis, Mo. An experienced soldier and outdoorsman, Clark helped keep the expedition moving. He was also an excellent mapmaker and helped to figure what routes the expedition should take.

Clark helped lead the expedition through treacherous terrain and hostile weather, encountering many native peoples along the way. While spending their first winter near a native Mandan village, they invited Sacagawea, a Shoshone Indian and her husband to join the expedition as interpreters. During the journey, Sacagawea gave birth to a child named Jean Baptiste. The child was later nicknamed "Little Pomp" or "Pomp" by Clark.

When the expedition prepared to make the journey back to St. Louis, Lewis and Clark decided to divide into two groups to see more of the area. Clark took a group with him to explore the Yellowstone River. During this part of the journey, he named a rock formation after Sacagawea's son, calling it Pompy's Tower. The formation stands near what is now Billings, Mont., and bears the only physical trace of the entire expedition's path carved on its surface.

Clark and Lewis regrouped by the Missouri River in August, and the expedition reached St. Louis the next month. The epic journey had reached its conclusion.

Clark and Lewis were treated like national heroes. They were rewarded for their trailblazing efforts with extra pay and land. Clark also received an appointment as the agent for Indian affairs in the West and became a brigadier general of the militia all while living in St. Louis until his death.

## John Elroy Sanford

(a.k.a. Redd Foxx)

**Birthdate:** Dec. 9, 1922 at St. Louis, Mo.

**Died:** Oct. 11, 1991 at Los Angeles, Calif.

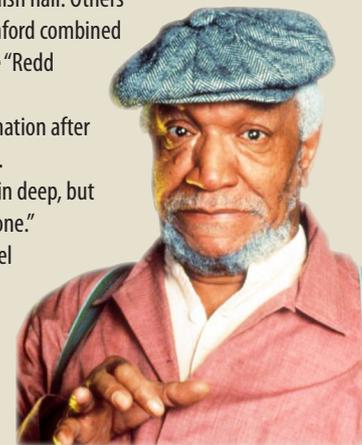
**Best known for:** his acting roles as Redd Foxx; Sanford and Son.

**Interesting facts:** Malcolm X gave Sanford the nickname "Chicago Red" because of his reddish hair. Others called him "Foxy," so Sanford combined both for the stage name "Redd Foxx."

He received an Emmy nomination after just three months on air.

**Quotes:** "Beauty may be skin deep, but ugly goes clear to the bone."

"Health nuts are going to feel stupid someday, lying in hospitals dying of nothing."



Redd Foxx began doing stand-up comedy on the infamous "Chitlin' Circuit" in the 1940s and 1950s. Foxx was one of the premier "blue humor" comedians. Blue humor was very dirty. For years his party albums were not available in white record stores.

In the 1960s his records became available leading to minor comedy work on The Ed Sullivan Show and The Red Skelton Hour, among other classic variety shows of the time. Foxx developed a fan base in the 1960s that led to increased notoriety. He received his own television series in 1972 called Sanford and Son. The show broke down racial stereotypes and was a huge success, making Foxx and the show household names.

Foxx left the show in 1977 to accomplish his dream on ABC: his own variety show, which lasted less than a year. He also starred in the controversial film Norman... Is That You?

His trouble with the law and IRS hampered his career in the early 80's. He flopped again with the sitcom The Redd Foxx show.

He found success playing a ghost in the TV movie Ghost of a Chance with Dick Van Dyke. The late 80s found Foxx on a rebound as he starred with Richard Pryor and Eddie Murphy in the popular Harlem Nights, which showcased the three premiere black comedians with their respective generations.

A whole new generation of comedians began claiming Foxx as a major influence on their careers, including Pryor and Murphy.

Foxx looked like he was finding success 20 years after Sanford and Son with The Royal Family but collapsed while rehearsing for an episode and was rushed to the hospital. He died in October of 1991.

Foxx is remembered as a pioneering comedian who influenced generations of comedians and helped break down racial barriers in the entertainment industry.

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# 45 Famous Missourians

## Jesse James

**Birthdate:** Sept. 5, 1847 near Kearney, Mo.

**Died:** April 3, 1882 at St. Joseph, Mo.

**Best known for:** being a career criminal, an outlaw.

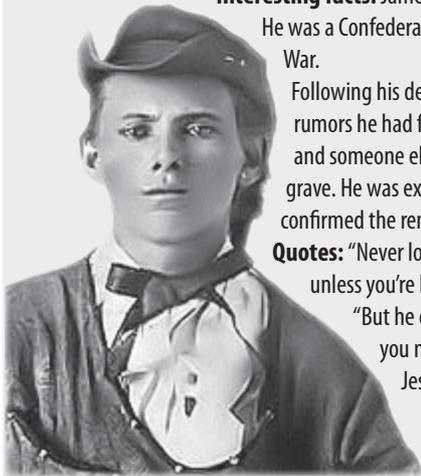
**Interesting facts:** James was a preacher's son.

He was a Confederate guerilla in the Civil War.

Following his death, there were rumors he had faked his own death and someone else was buried in his grave. He was exhumed and DNA testing confirmed the remains were him.

**Quotes:** "Never look down on someone unless you're helping them up."

"But he only had one eye—and you need two eyes to get Jesse."



**American outlaw, robber and legendary figure Jesse Woodson James was born in Kearney, Mo.**

Jesse and his brother Frank James were educated and hailed from a prestigious family of farmers. Their father, the Reverend Robert James, was a Baptist minister who married Zerelda Cole James and moved from Kentucky to Missouri in 1842. In the summer of 1863, the James farm was brutally attacked by Union soldiers.

Jesse was 16 when he and Frank became Confederate guerrilla soldiers, riding alongside William Quantrill and "Bloody Bill" Anderson.

They rebelled against harsh postwar civil legislation and took the law into their own hands. They began robbing trains, stagecoaches and banks that were owned or operated by a Northern institution.

From 1860 to 1882, the James Gang was the most feared band of outlaws in American history, responsible for more than 20 bank and train robberies and the murders of countless individuals who stood in their way. They stole an estimated \$200,000. They were legends in their own time, popular in Missouri for actively trying to further the Confederate cause.

On December 7, 1869, the gang robbed the Gallatin, Missouri, bank. Jesse asked to change a \$100 bill, and thinking that the banker was responsible for the death of Bloody Bill, shot the man in the heart. Local newspapers labeled the actions vicious and bloodthirsty and called for the gang's capture. From that robbery to the end of their careers, members of the James Gang had a price on their heads, dead or alive.

After members of the gang had been killed, and their friends sent to prison for 25 years, in 1879, the James brothers planned one more robbery with Charlie and Bob Ford. Little did they know that Governor Crittenden of Missouri had put together a reward fund so large that the Fords had turned traitor to earn it.

After breakfast on April 3, 1882, Jesse turned to straighten a picture on a wall of his home, and Bob shot Jesse in the back of the head.

## John "Jack" Buck

**Birthdate:** Aug. 21, 1924 at Holyoke, Mass.

**Died:** June 18, 2002 at St. Louis, Mo.

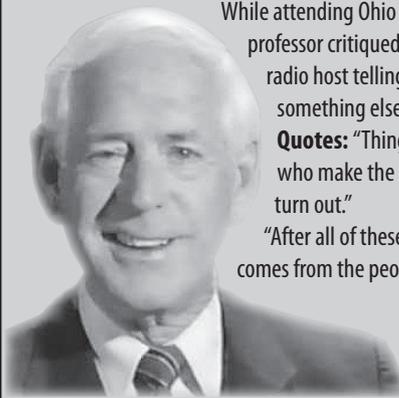
**Best known for:** His work announcing Major League Baseball games of the St. Louis Cardinals.

**Interesting facts:** He almost lost his arm while serving in the U.S. Army when he was hit with shrapnel earning him a Purple Heart.

While attending Ohio State University, a professor critiqued his work as a sports radio host telling him "You better find something else to do for a living."

**Quotes:** "Things turn out best for those who make the best of the way things turn out."

"After all of these years, I realize my energy comes from the people at the other end."



Jack Buck grew up rooting for the Boston Red Sox and listened to such radio broadcasting greats as Red Barber and Mel Allen. When Buck was 15, his family moved to Cleveland, Ohio. As a teen he worked on iron ore boats on the Great Lakes and variously at other odd jobs. He graduated high school in 1941 and was drafted into the Army during WWII at age 19. While crossing the Remagen Bridge into Germany in March of 1943, Buck suffered arm and leg injuries and received a Purple Heart.

Buck returned home in 1946 and enrolled at Ohio State University, commencing his broadcasting career at the campus radio station in Columbus.

Buck got minor league assignments, and **in 1954 landed a job announcing St. Louis Cardinals games on radio with Harry Caray.** Buck's low-key style blended with that of the boisterous Caray.

He was inducted into the National Radio Hall of Fame in 1995.

He left the Cardinals briefly in 1960 to work with ABC when that network carried baseball and the fledgling American Football League. He left that network after a dispute, and did not return the network's phone call when it considered him as play-by-play man for the inaugural year of Monday Night Football in 1970, when the AFL merged into the National Football League. Buck instead worked Monday night games—and 17 Super Bowls—on CBS radio from 1978 through 1995 with Hank Stram. Buck also worked NBA and college basketball games, professional bowling, and was host of *At Your Service* shows on KMOX in St. Louis, considered one of the first call-in talk shows in the United States.

He was best known, however, as the voice of the Cardinals.

For 15 years he was the No. 2 guy in Harry Caray's shadow, but after Caray left the Cardinals Buck emerged as No. 1 in St. Louis.

Buck even broadcast a radio show live from the top of the Gateway Arch upon its completion in October of 1965.

Buck's nearly five decades included several memorable calls.

Later in life, his health started to decline but Buck stood firm to his profession. Buck had worked Cardinals broadcasts while fighting diabetes, Parkinson's disease and vertigo, and while wearing a pacemaker.

## John Pershing

(a.k.a. "Black Jack")

**Birthdate:** Sept. 13, 1860 at Laclede, Mo.

**Died:** July 15, 1948 at Washington D.C.

**Best known for:** serving as the commander of the American Expeditionary Forces on the Western Front in WWI

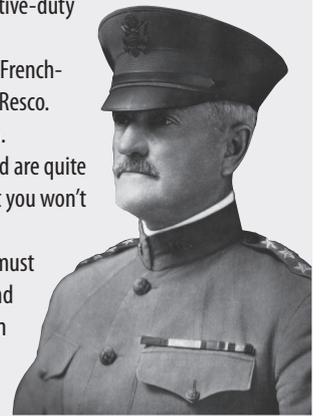
**Interesting facts:** After WWI, Pershing was promoted to General of the Armies and became the only active-duty six-star general in U.S. history.

At the age of 85, Pershing secretly wed French-Romanian portrait artist Micheline Resco.

She was 35 years younger than him.

**Quotes:** "If you know how to shoot, and are quite ready to shoot, the chances are that you won't have to shoot."

"To get the best out of your men, they must feel that you are their real leader and must know that they can depend on you."



**John Joseph Pershing was educated in the grade schools his father had helped establish in Laclede, Mo.,** and at age 17 began teaching at the local Negro school. He later taught at Prairie Mound where he earned the money to attend First District Normal School (now Truman State University), Kirksville.

After earning his Bachelor of Didactics degree, he applied to the US Military Academy. After receiving his appointment he attended Highland Military Academy in New York. He graduated from West Point in 1882, receiving his commission as Second Lieutenant with the Class of 1886. He was recognized as a leader and was elected President of the 1887 class and appointed Cadet Captain by the Academy Superintendent his senior year. After graduation, Pershing was assigned to the 6th Cavalry.

From 1891 to 1898, he was Professor of Military Science, first at the University of Nebraska then for a short while at West Point. At the out-break of the War with Spain, he was sent to Cuba to command the 10th Cavalry then in 1899, transferred to The Philippines to fight the Moros. He returned to the US in 1903 and spent next two years on staff duty in Washington, DC followed by a year as military attaché to the US Embassy in Tokyo, Japan.

In 1906, Pershing was given a rather controversial promotion from Captain to Brigadier General by President Roosevelt and sent back to The Philippines. His next assignment was to the Presidio in San Francisco and from there was posted to the US-Mexican border at El Paso where he and his troops were ordered into Mexico in an unsuccessful attempt to capture Pancho Villa. When the US entered World War I in 1917, he was promoted to full General and placed in command of the American Expeditionary Forces in Europe.

At the close of the war, Pershing was given the rank General of the Armies, the only officer to ever receive this distinction. He returned to the US and occupied the office of Army Chief of Staff until his retirement in 1924. He spent the first few years after retirement writing his 2-volume autobiography. *My Experiences in the World War* was published in 1931 and was awarded the 1932 Pulitzer for History.



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# 45 Famous Missourians

## Pheobe Couzins

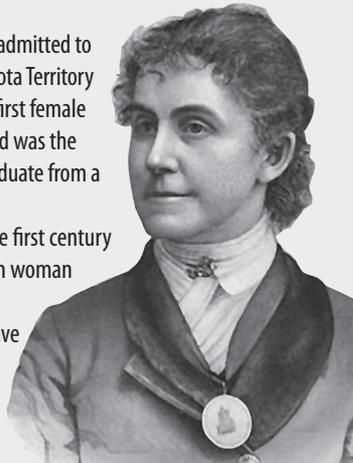
**Birthdate:** Sept. 8, 1842 at St. Louis

**Died:** Dec. 6, 1913 at St. Louis

**Best known for:** For: being one of the first female lawyers in the U.S., the second licensed attorney in Missouri and the third or fourth licensed attorney in the U.S.

**Interesting Facts:** Couzins was admitted to the Missouri, Kansas and Dakota Territory bars. She was appointed the first female to the U.S. Marshal service and was the first woman in the U.S. to graduate from a law school.

**Quotes:** "today we round out the first century of a professed republic – with woman figuratively representing freedom – and yet all free, save woman."



## Charlie "Bird" Parker

**Birthdate:** Aug. 29, 1920 at Kansas City, Kan.

**Died:** March 12, 1955 at Manhattan, N.Y.

**Best known for:** A leading figure in the development of bebop

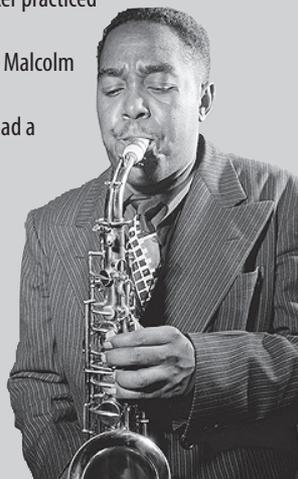
**Interesting facts:** As a tween, Parker practiced for up to 15 hours per day.

He worked in the same restaurant as Malcolm X and Redd Foxx

He was once laughed off stage and had a cymbal thrown at him.

**Quotes:** "Music is basically melody, harmony and rhythm. But people can do much more with music than that. It can be very descriptive in all kinds of ways, all walks of life."

"Music is your own experience, your own thoughts, your wisdom."



## George Washington Carver

**Birthdate:** 1864 at Diamond, Mo.

**Died:** Jan. 5, 1943 at Tuskegee, Ala.

**Best known for:** developing hundreds of products using the peanut, sweet potatoes and soybeans.

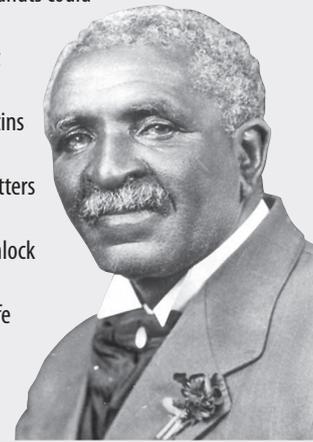
**Interesting facts:** He believed peanuts could fight polio.

He helped Henry Ford make peanut rubber for cannons for WWII.

Carver published 44 practical bulletins for farmers and advised Indian leader Mahatma Gandhi on matters of agriculture and nutrition.

**Quotes:** "Education is the key to unlock the golden door of freedom."

"When you do common things in life an uncommon way, you will command the attention of the world."



**Couzins was born in St. Louis.** Her parents were tireless public servants as a chief of police and battlefield nurse.

On May 8, 1871, Couzins made history as the **first female graduate of Washington University School of Law**. After graduating, she was admitted to the bar associations of Missouri, Arkansas, Utah, Kansas, the Dakota territories, and the federal courts. Having proven women deserved a place in the legal field, Couzins set her sights on women's suffrage next.

She traveled across the country speaking alongside nationally renowned suffragists Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, captivating audiences 3,000 strong.

In 1884, Couzins began working for her father, the newly appointed US Marshal for the Eastern District of Missouri, as one of his deputies, proudly helping enforce the nation's laws. Upon his death three years later, President Grover Cleveland named Couzins interim marshal, making her **the country's first female US marshal**. The job didn't last, however—she was replaced by a man after just two months.

By the early 1890s, Couzins was working as the secretary of the Board of Lady Managers for the Chicago World's Fair. The group's executive committee, disapproving of her outspoken and determined nature, didn't particularly like Couzins. She tried to claim the Board of Lady Managers was a sub-branch of the National Exposition Commission, an all-white, elitist gentlemen's club.

With help from the men, the Lady Managers literally locked Couzins out of the building. She sued but lost.

Hard up for money by the late 1890s, Couzins joined the United Brewers' Association as a lobbyist, lecturing against prohibition in exchange for funds. She greatly furthered the group's cause but was never compensated for her efforts.

By 1908, Couzins was living in poverty with few friends, little support, and chronic arthritis pain. She died in the company of her brother and a few close companions.

After she died in 1913, she was laid to rest in Bellefontaine Cemetery. Couzins's grave remained unmarked until 1950, when the Women's Bar Association of St. Louis paid to erect a headstone in honor of her achievements on behalf of the many female lawyers who followed her.

Charlie Parker moved to Kansas City, Mo. with his parents at the age of seven. At the time, the city was a lively center for African-American music, including jazz, blues and gospel.

Parker discovered his talent for music through taking lessons at public schools. By age 15, the alto saxophone was his instrument of choice. While still in school, he started playing with bands on the local club scene. He was so enamored of playing the sax that, in 1935, he decided to drop out of school in pursuit of a full-time musical career.

From 1935 to 1939, Parker played the Kansas City nightclub scene with local jazz and blues bands, including Buster Professor Smith's band and pianist Jay McShann's band with which he toured Chicago and New York. It was with McShann's band that Parker made his first recording in 1940.

While working in New York, Parker met guitarist Biddy Fleet. While jamming with Fleet, Parker discovered a signature technique that involved playing the higher intervals of a chord for the melody and making changes to back them up accordingly.

Parker stayed on with the band for four years, during which time he was given several opportunities to perform solo on their recordings. It was also during his time with McShann that Parker earned his famous nickname "Bird," short for "Yardbird."

In 1945 Parker became the leader of his own group while also performing with Dizzy Gillespie on the side. At the end of that year, the two musicians launched a six-week nightclub tour of Hollywood. Together they managed to invent an entirely new style of jazz, commonly known as bop, or bebop. After the joint tour, Parker stayed on in Los Angeles, performing until the summer of 1946.

Following the tour Parker performed a variety of venues, including clubs and radio stations. Parker also signed with a few different record labels: From 1945 to 1948, he recorded for Dial. In 1948, he recorded for Savoy Records before signing with Mercury.

In 1949, Parker made his European debut at the Paris International Jazz Festival and went on to visit Scandinavia in 1950. Meanwhile, back home in New York, the Birdland Club was being named in his honor. In March of 1955, Parker made his last public performance at Birdland, a week before his death.

George Washington Carver was born near Diamond, Mo., the child of Mary, a slave owned by farmer Moses Carver. After his mother was kidnapped, he was raised, along with his brother by Moses Carver and his wife Susan.

Carver took an interest in plants and would help local farmers determine how to improve the health of their gardens, fields and orchards.

When he was about eleven, George went to Neosho to attend a school for African Americans. There he boarded with Andrew and Mariah Watkins, a childless black couple.

At the age of 13, he spent near to a decade traveling.

After graduation, he was accepted to Highland College in Kansas only to be rejected once administration learned he was black.

**He later became the first African American to earn a Bachelor of Science degree and a Master of Agricultural degree.**

Through his work on soil chemistry, Carver learned that years of growing cotton had depleted the nutrients from soil, resulting in low yields. But by growing nitrogen-fixing plants, the soil could be restored, allowing yield to increase dramatically.

Farmers, loved the high yields of cotton they were now getting but the method yielded a surplus of peanuts and other non-cotton products.

Carver set to work on finding alternative uses for these products. He developed more than 300 food, industrial and commercial products. His biggest success came from peanuts.

During the 1920s and 1930s, he traveled throughout the South delivering his message of racial harmony.

He convinced the Ways and Means Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives to approve a high tariff for peanuts.

In the last two decades of his life, Carver lived as a minor celebrity but his focus was always on helping people.

Up until the year of his death, he also released bulletins for the public (44 bulletins between 1898 and 1943).

After Carver died in 1943, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed legislation for Carver's monument. Carver was also posthumously inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame.



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# 45 Famous Missourians

## Marie Watkins Oliver

**Birthdate:** Jan. 11, 1854 at Ray County, Mo.

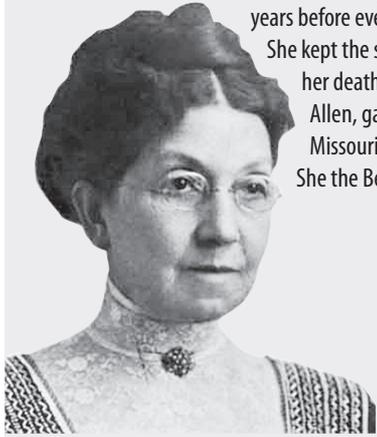
**Died:** Oct. 18, 1944 at Cape Girardeau, Mo.

**Best known for:** designing and creating the Missouri state flag.

**Interesting facts:** Her and her husband, Robert – who roomed with her brother at college, were pen-pals for two years before ever meeting.

She kept the silk flag of Missouri until her death in 1944. In 1961 her son, Allen, gave the flag to the state of Missouri.

She the Betty Ross of Missouri.



**Marie Elizabeth Watkins was born in Ray County, Mo.** Marie was educated at home by governesses and at private schools in nearby Farmville. Later, she attended Richmond College in Richmond along with her younger brothers.

Marie tutored her brothers in preparation for their admission to the University of Missouri. One of her brothers, Charles, became best friends and roomed with Robert Burett Oliver, a law student from Jackson, Mo. In 1874, Charlie died and Robert began writing Marie's family. Marie and Robert exchanged letters for two years before meeting in October 1876 during a visit to St. Louis. They later married.

In 1896, the couple moved to Cape Girardeau where Oliver established his law firm. In 1904, Oliver joined the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR). In 1908, the state DAR noticed that Missouri did not have an official flag. Though the state seal, which contains the Missouri coat of arms, had been officially adopted in 1822, there was still no official flag. The DAR appointed Oliver chairperson of the committee to research and design a flag for Missouri.

Devoted to her task, Oliver wrote to the secretaries of state of every state and territory in the union, seeking information about how other states had designed their flags and had them officially adopted. Once she had gathered enough information, Oliver designed a flag that she thought would represent Missouri. She worked her design around the Missouri coat of arms.

Oliver had friend Mary Kochitzky, an artist from Cape Girardeau, paint a flag showing her design. It was brought to the Capitol for viewing in 1908 and introduced to the Senate in 1909, though the bill to adopt it as state flag failed. It was reintroduced two years later, and again passed in the Senate but failed in the House because the General Assembly was considering another flag design. The competing flag was known as the "Holcomb flag." Many people opposed the "Holcomb flag" because it looked too similar to the U.S. flag and did not show Missouri as an independent state.

After the original paper flag was destroyed by fire in 1911 when the Missouri State Capitol burned. Oliver and Mrs. S. D. MacFarland worked together to sew a silk flag. The Oliver Flag Bill was introduced and passed in 1913.

## Sheryl Crow

**Birthdate:** Feb. 11, 1962 at Kennett, Mo.

**Best known for:** her hit songs such as "All I Wanna Do," "If It Makes You Happy," and the theme song for the 1997 James Bond film Tomorrow Never Dies.

**Interesting facts:** She worked as an elementary music teacher in St. Louis before moving to LA to pursue her dreams.

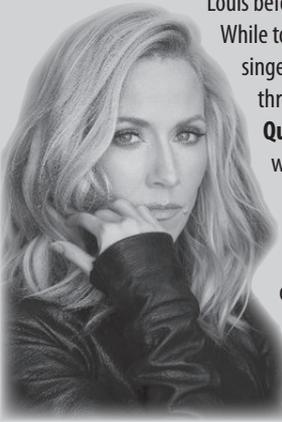
While touring with Michael Jackson as a backup singer on the Bad tour, he'd often jokingly throw grapes or carrots over the walls at her.

**Quotes:** "It's not having what you want, it's wanting what you have."

"The greatest hits in some weird way marks the end of something."

"How the world perceives you is largely out of your control."

"Let's face it, life is a constant challenge. It's full of unexpected detours that no one but you can navigate."



**Sheryl Suzanne Crow was born in Kennett, Mo.** After graduating from the high school there, she attended the University of Missouri in Columbia where she majored in music education. During college, she spent her weekends performing with a local band, Cashmere.

After college, Crow worked as an elementary teacher in St. Louis before moving to Los Angeles in 1986.

She began recording jingles for advertising clients, including McDonald's and worked as a back-up singer. In 1987-88 she sang on Michael Jackson's "Bad" world tour. She later sang back-up for Sting, Rod Stewart and Don Henley.

She released an album in 1991 for A&M Records. After shelving the record because it sounded too "slick," she began playing with the band The Tuesday Music Club. The group released the multi-platinum album Tuesday Night Music Club which included the smash hit "All I Wanna Do."

Sheryl angered the members of The Tuesday Music Club when she appeared on the Late Show with David Letterman and claimed that the song, "Leaving Las Vegas" was autobiographical -- omitting that it was, in fact, a collaborative effort between all members of the group. After this incident, the band decided that Sheryl should be on her own.

She later won three Grammy Awards for Best New Artist, Record of the Year and Best Female Pop Vocal Performance for Tuesday Music Club.

Crow released the album Sheryl Crow in 1996, winning two Grammy Awards for Best Rock Album and Best Female Rock Vocal Performance. She spent much of 1997-'98 on tour, playing select dates on the Rolling Stones' Bridges to Babylon tour and performing at the 1998 Liliith Fair concerts. She released her third album, The Globe Sessions in the fall of 1998, which won a Grammy for Best Rock Album.

Crow went on her Stop Global Warming Tour in April 2007. She released her sixth studio album, Detours, and played at an environmental-themed event related to the Democratic National Convention in 2008. Three years later, she released her first country music project, Feels Like Home, which debuted in the top 10 on the Billboard 200.

## Ella Kate Ewing

**Birthdate:** April 9, 1872 at La Grange, Mo.

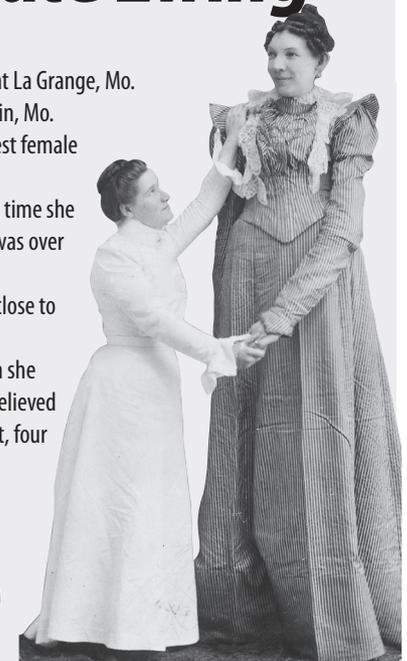
**Died:** Jan. 10, 1913 at Gorin, Mo.

**Best known for:** the tallest female of her era.

**Interesting facts:** By the time she was 14 years old, she was over six feet tall.

By the age of 18, she was close to seven feet tall.

Her ultimate height, which she reached at age 22, is believed to have been eight feet, four inches.



Around the age of 22, the world began to take notice of Ella Ewing. Unfortunately for the world, Ewing preferred to be left alone. The idea of celebrity clashed with her extremely pious Christian beliefs. What's more, she was self-conscious about her height, and uncomfortable with the idea of people gawking at her. But in 1892, when the Chicago Museum offered Ella \$1,000 to spend four weeks as one of their exhibits, she finally relented.

What made her change her mind? Furniture. Fame and fortune meant absolutely nothing to Ella. Her daydreams were filled with custom-made oversized beds and rocking chairs, on which she could finally rest comfortably. She also realized how much the money could change the hardscrabble lives of her aging parents.

From the museum gig, Ella went on to the World's Fair in Chicago, and later became a headliner for the Barnum and Bailey Circus. "The Missouri Giantess" also had stints touring with the Ringling Brothers Circus and Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show. The money rolled in, and soon Ella could afford all the massive furniture she wanted. She bought her family a new farm, near Gorin, Missouri, and had a house constructed to match her dimensions, so that she'd never have to stoop again.

Life in the limelight changed Ella very little. As much as they remembered Ella's height, friends and acquaintances also remembered her modesty, her faith, and her soft-spoken, gentle nature. Ella enjoyed more money, more adventures, and more independence than most 19th century women could ever imagine, but there remained a sadness about her. The life she really wanted was beyond her grasp. She once told a reporter: "Wife, mother, and housekeeper are the three things woman's being requires to make her life complete... But my size will prevent me from marrying."

By 1910, Ella began to feel the weight of her frame. She retired from show business, and spent her last few years peacefully at home. She died in 1913, of tuberculosis. Ella had requested to be cremated, fearing her bones would be put on exhibit after she was gone. But her father couldn't bear the thought, and instead placed her casket into a steel vault, which was encased with cement.

Some of Ella's furniture, clothing, and other possessions are on display at the nearby Downing House Museum in Memphis, Mo.

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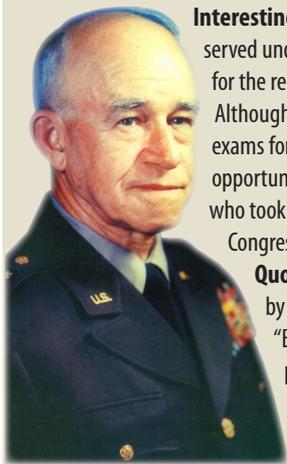
# 45 Famous Missourians

## Omar Nelson Bradley

**Birthdate:** Feb. 12, 1893 at Clark, Mo.

**Died:** April 8, 1981 at New York City, N.Y.

**Best known for:** his care and compassion for the soldiers under his command in WWII, named as "The Soldier's General."



**Interesting facts:** Bradley's former commander served under him and commanded the 3rd Army for the remainder of the war.

Although he finished second in the placement exams for West Point, he was given the opportunity to take the place of the person who took first because they couldn't accept the Congressional appointment.

**Quotes:** "Set your course by the stars, not by the lights of every passing ship."

"Bravery is the capacity to perform properly even when scared half to death."

**Omar Nelson Bradley was born in rural Missouri and spent his boyhood impoverished.**

During WWI, Bradley's infantry regiment was guarding copper mines in strike-ridden Montana.

Bradley graduated from the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, in 1929, and subsequently served as an instructor in tactics at the Infantry School.

In 1938, Bradley was assigned to the War Department General Staff, where one of his duties was to present decision papers orally to Chief of Staff Marshall, who promoted him directly to brigadier general in 1941 and sent him to Fort Benning as commandant of the Infantry School. In 1942, Bradley was promoted to major general and first given command of the Eighty-second Division, and later of the Twenty-eighth (National Guard) Division. He rapidly turned the Twenty-eighth Division into a first-class fighting unit.

In February 1943, Marshall assigned Bradley to North Africa to assist Dwight D. Eisenhower in the aftermath of the disastrous American defeat at Kasserine Pass. There, he was appointed deputy commander and later commander.

Eisenhower next selected Bradley to command the U.S. First Army in Operation Overlord, the cross-Channel invasion of Normandy. Bradley was the architect of Operation Cobra.

As an army group commander from August 1, 1944, to V-E Day in May 1945, Bradley commanded more troops than any general in American history: four armies, twelve corps, forty-eight divisions—in all, over 1.3 million troops.

In 1950, when Bradley became one of only five U.S. Army officers promoted to the five-star rank of General of the Army, President Harry S. Truman praised Bradley as "the ablest field general the U.S. ever had."

In August 1945, Bradley was appointed to head the Veterans Administration, and until February 1948, when he succeeded Eisenhower as U.S. Army Chief of Staff, he helped overhaul an organization responsible for seventeen million veterans. In August 1949 he became the first-ever chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, serving two terms during the difficult period of the Korean War.

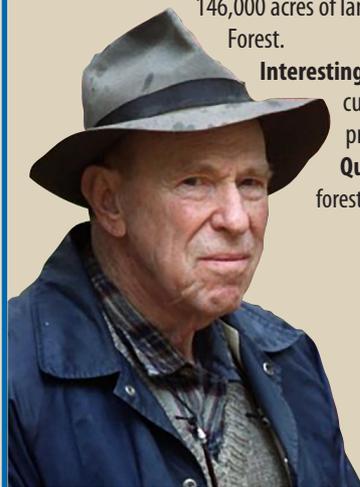
Omar Bradley retired in 1953 after thirty-eight years of distinguished military service.

## Leo Drey

**Birthdate:** Jan. 19, 1917 at St. Louis, Mo.

**Died:** May 26, 2015 at University City, Mo.

**Best known for:** forming the L-A-D foundation and donating 146,000 acres of land to preserve the Pioneer Forest.



**Interesting facts:** Drey felt he wasn't cut out for business and much preferred outdoors instead.

**Quotes:** "I'm out planting a forest."

**Born in St. Louis, Mo., to a wealthy manufacturer of glassware,** Drey was a 1935 graduate of John Burroughs School and a 1939 graduate of Antioch College.

Drey began acquiring timberland in the Missouri Ozarks for reforestation and conservation in 1951.

His holdings, much acquired for the price of back taxes, eventually grew to nearly 160,000 acres, the largest private landholding in the state and larger than Missouri's entire state park system.

The project, known as Pioneer Forest, is a commercial forest managed in the public interest, with single-tree selection harvesting techniques, which he pioneered.

Drey purchased the Greer Mill property in 1987, and later sold it to the Forest Service for incorporation into the Eleven Point District of the Mark Twain National Forest.

Drey founded the L-A-D Foundation, which acquires and protects other natural areas in the state, leasing many of them to the state park system at \$1 per year.

In 2005 Drey was placed at No. 6 on Slate magazine's annual list of the top 60 U.S. philanthropists, thanks to his gift of 146,000 acres of Ozark land to the L-A-D Foundation.

Other Drey beneficiaries have included his alma mater Antioch College; John Burroughs School, which uses Drey land for biology and outdoor education courses; the Government Accountability Project; and Missouri Coalition for the Environment, Missouri's first independent citizens' group to address a broad range of environmental issues.

In 1991, he donated his papers to the Western Historical Manuscript Collection at the University of Missouri—St. Louis.

In 1955, Drey married Kay Kranzberg, who became, like himself, an environmental and civic advocate for more than half a century.

Together, they raised three children. Drey died at his home in University City, Mo., at age 98 on May 26, 2015, two weeks after suffering a stroke.

His body was donated to the Washington University School of Medicine for science.

## John Goodman

**Birthdate:** June 20, 1952 at Afton, Mo.

**Best known for:** Starring in roles such as Dan on the hit series "Roseanne" and Fred on "The Flintstones."

**Interesting facts:** His first acting gig was taking a big bite out of a Whopper for a Burger King commercial.

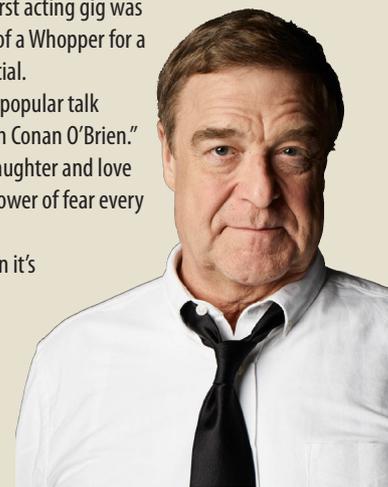
He was the first guest on popular talk show "Late Night with Conan O'Brien."

**Quotes:** "The power of laughter and love would beat out the power of fear every time."

"If I don't trust [in] it, then it's worthless."

"When I was young, we couldn't afford much.

But, my library card was my key to the world."



**John Goodman was born in Afton, Mo. Following graduation at Afton High School, he won a football scholarship to Southwest Missouri State University.** During his first year at Missouri, an injury squashed his dreams of a professional sporting career.

After the injury, Goodman changed his major to drama and studied theater with notable actors such as Kathleen Turner and Tess Harper.

He graduated with his theater degree and moved to New York to become a professional actor. With a loan from his brother, he found an apartment in Manhattan. There he worked as a bartender and waiter while he took small jobs in commercials and voice over performances.

In 1978 he joined fellow young and struggling actors Dennis Quaid, Bruce Willis and Kevin Kline in the Broadway production of Loose Ends, but the play failed to grab audiences.

In the 80s, he landed a string of TV and film appearances. He starred as Pap Finn in the musical Big River and stayed until he was cast in True Stories which led to a role in Raising Arizona.

Goodman was acting in a 1987 stage production of Antony and Cleopatra in Los Angeles when he was recruited for the sitcom Roseanne. The comedy was an overnight hit and became a career-making move for Goodman. He was nominated for an Emmy seven times from 1989 to 1995 and earned a Best Actor Golden Globe Award in 1993.

He continued performing on the big screen in such films as Arachnophobia, The Babe and The Flintstones.

Goodman has continued to work steadily in film and television by appearing in such films as Monsters Inc., Argo and The Monuments.

Now, maybe busier than ever, Goodman is slated to appear in a slew of upcoming films, including the dark thriller 10 Cloverfield Lane.

On the heels of the films Goodman stars in comes a return to voice-over work in the form of Ratchet and Clank, a big-screen adaptation of the blockbuster video game series, and as folk hero Paul Bunyan in Bunyan and Babe.



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# 45 Famous Missourians

## Robert Calvin Hubbard

(a.k.a. Cal Hubbard)

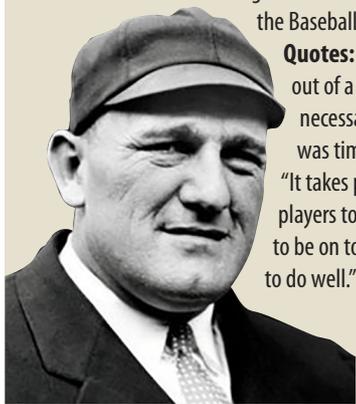
**Birthdate:** Oct. 31, 1900 at Keytesville, Mo.

**Died:** Oct. 17, 1977 at St. Petersburg, Fla.

**Best known for:** in football, both as an offensive and defensive lineman; in baseball, as an umpire.

**Interesting facts:** Hubbard is the only man to be named to the College and Pro Football Halls of Fame as well as the Baseball Hall of Fame.

**Quotes:** "I always hated to throw a guy out of a game but sometimes it was necessary to keep order." "When it was time for a player to go, he went." "It takes pressure off of your better players to know they don't always have to be on top of their game for the team to do well."



## Chuck Berry

**Birthdate:** Oct. 18, 1926 at St. Louis, Mo.

**Died:** March 18, 2017 at Wentzville, Mo.

**Best known for:** being one of the pioneers of rock and roll music.

**Interesting facts:** He obtained a degree in hairstyling and cosmetology.

His song "Johnny B. Goode" was on the gold-plated record sent to space on NASA's Voyager. NASA said the record was "intended to communicate a story of our world to extraterrestrials."

**Quotes:** "It's amazing how much you can learn if your intentions are truly earnest."

"Don't let the same dog bite you twice."



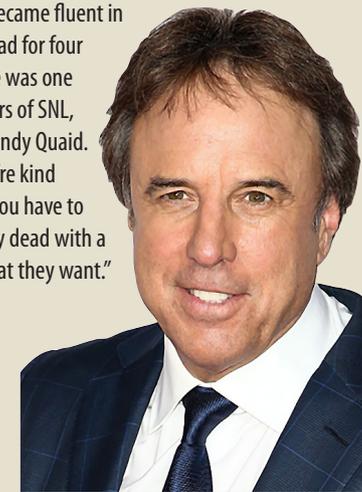
## Kevin Nealon

**Birthdate:** Nov. 18, 1953 at St. Louis, Mo.

**Best known for:** his role on Saturday Night Live (SNL) and acting roles in several of the Happy Madison films.

**Interesting facts:** Nealon became fluent in German while living abroad for four years as a child. At 6'4" he was one of the tallest cast members of SNL, tying Chevy Chase and Randy Quaid.

**Quotes:** "As a comedian, you're kind of like a blues musician; you have to live a little bit." "Don't play dead with a vulture. That's exactly what they want."



**Cal Hubbard, born Robert Calvin Hubbard in Keytesville, Mo.,** designed the four-man umpiring crew and positioning of each in 1952 and they continue to be used today.

Hubbard played college football in Louisiana and Pennsylvania before signing with the New York Giants in 1927.

The Giants took the agile and quick tackle/end, using him primarily at the end position on offense and linebacker on defense.

Playing alongside fellow Hall of Famer Steve Owen, the Giants took the NFL Championship in Hubbard's rookie season.

Despite his success in New York, Cal yearned for a small town atmosphere and threatened retirement if he wasn't traded to the Green Bay Packers. The Giants obliged and Hubbard flourished under the coaching of Curly Lambeau. He helped the packers win three consecutive NFL Championships.

Cal played nine seasons in the National Football League for the Giants, the Packers and the Pittsburgh Pirates.

He was a four-time NFL All-Pro First Team selection.

During his offseason, he spent time umpiring minor league baseball games. His skill as an umpire was noticeable early on and he was called up to umpire in the Majors by 1936. He managed in the American League and was selected to work the 1938 World Series in just his third season.

He worked three other World Series and three All-Star Games including calling balls and strikes in the 1939 and 1944 Mid-Summer Classics.

After Hubbard retired from football in 1936 and was forced to leave everyday umpiring due to injury, he was named the American League's supervisor of umpires.

Cal Hubbard was a charter inductee into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1963 and was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame in 1962. He was also inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame in 1976 becoming the only person enshrined in the NFL and MLB Halls of Fame.

**Born in St. Louis in 1926, Chuck Berry had many influences on his life that shaped his musical style.**

At his first stage performance at his high school's student music performance, he sang a Jay McShann song called "Confessin' the Blue." He got a thunderous applause for his daring choice, and from then on, Berry had to be onstage.

Berry took up the guitar after that. His friend, Ira Harris, showed him techniques on the guitar that would become the foundation of his original sound. Then in 1952, he began playing guitar and singing in a club.

In 1952, Berry joined the Sir John's Trio which played the popular Cosmopolitan Club in St. Louis.

Country-western music was big at the time so he created his own unique sound. The black audience thought he was crazy at first, but couldn't resist trying to dance along with it. Since country was popular with white people, they began to come to the shows, and the audience was at some points almost 40 percent white.

Later in 1955, Berry went on a road trip to Chicago, where Muddy Waters was performing. After Waters last song, Berry asked him who to see about making a record.

Berry went to see Leonard Chess of Chess Records the following Monday.

He didn't have any tapes to show, but Chess was willing to listen if he brought some back. Berry went home and recorded the would-be "Maybellene," then called "Ida May." Later that week he drove back to Chicago.

Catching Chess' attention, Berry was signed to Chess Records.

In the summer of 1955, "Maybellene" reached #5 on the Pop Charts and #1 on the R&B Charts. Through Chuck Berry, Chess Records moved from the R&B genre into the mainstream.

His popularity garnered him television and movie appearances and he toured frequently.

In the 1960s and 1970s, Berry's music was the inspiration for such groups as the Beatles and the Rolling Stones. He had a number of comeback recordings and in 1972 had the first and only #1 Pop Chart hit of his career.

He became the first inductee in history of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1986.

**Actor, comedian and author Kevin Nealon, born in St. Louis, Mo.,** first rose to fame as a cast member on Saturday Night Live (SNL). Since then, he has enjoyed a flourishing career in television and film, and on the stand-up circuit.

In 1986, Nealon got the chance of a lifetime: He joined the cast of Saturday Night Live. During his first years on Saturday Night Live, Nealon worked with the likes of Dana Carvey, Dennis Miller and Phil Hartman. He and Carvey created a humorous duo of extremely muscular fitness experts known as "Hans and Franz." Nealon also played "Subliminal Man" and served as an anchor for the "Weekend Update" faux news sketch for several years. As part of the show's writing staff, Nealon received an Emmy Award nomination.

Nealon left Saturday Night Live in 1995, making him one of the longest-running cast members in the show's history. He soon appeared on the big screen, starring alongside fellow SNL alum Adam Sandler in the 1996 comedy Happy Gilmore.

In addition to acting, Nealon continued to perform stand-up around the country. He also made guest appearances on such shows as Late Night with David Letterman and The Tonight Show. Nealon made a return to series TV with Weeds, a comedy starring Mary-Louise Parker as a suburban widow who turns to drug-dealing to support her family. Nealon played Doug Wilson, a local, pot-smoking councilman who gets involved in his friend's illegal enterprise on the show, which aired on Showtime from 2005 to 2012. The series earned many positive reviews and developed a strong following over the years.

Nealon displayed his writing talents in his first book, Yes, You're Pregnant, but What About Me?, which was published in 2008. The book explores his experiences about the birth of his son Gable with second wife, actress Susan Yeagley, in 2007. The pregnancy took its toll on Nealon, with People magazine, saying he had put on a substantial amount of weight during that time. "It was maybe 60 percent sympathy, 30 percent stress, 8 percent nerves and 2 percent hunger." The couple had wed in Italy in 2005. Nealon had been married to actress Linda Dupree.

Outside of performing, Nealon is a passionate animal rights activist. He has been a vegetarian for nearly two decades. The comedian is also an accomplished banjo player.

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