

# Timeline of Wayne County's Highlights

**1541**  
DeSoto Expedition explored upper reaches of St. Francis River.

**1789**  
General George Morgan and party reach St. Louis and were given guides to explore his vast grant which included Wayne County.

**1799, Nov. 3**  
Lieutenant Governor Delassus gave Diego Maxwell a floating grant later surveyed at 112,896 arpents to be located on Black River 80 miles west of Cape Girardeau.

**1801**  
Joseph Parish secured a permit to settle from Louis Lorimier and moved his family to the future site of Patterson.

**1804**  
The Louisiana Territory was transferred to the United States by France during ceremonies in St. Louis.

**1804, April or May**  
Francis Clark settled on Clark's Creek

**1804, Spring**  
Testimony at Doubleweye Spanish grant hearing showed that in the spring of 1804 the Osage drove the settlers from their homes near Lodi and that year whites made a common crop for mutual safety.

**1805, March 3**  
Territory of Louisiana created with St. Louis the seat of government.

**1806**  
Elijah Bettis and his relatives settled near what later became Greenville.

**1808, Nov. 10**  
William Clark negotiated a treaty by which the Osage Indians, for presents received, ceded their hunting grounds east of a line running south from Fort Clark to the Arkansas River. Known as the Osage Boundary, this line was the western boundary of Wayne County from 1818 to 1825.

**1811, March 3**  
A congressional enactment provided for surveying the public lands of the Louisiana Purchase. When Missouri became a state in 1821, no United States land in Wayne County had been surveyed or sold.

**1812**  
Joseph Stokely built a log cabin on McKenzie Creek near what is now known as Lon Sanders Canyon. This cabin was restored in 1931 by William Carter, and stood for many years before being burned by vandals. Lon Sanders of St. Louis purchased some 500-600 acres that included the canyon and planned to make a resort there. Under his ownership, rock walls, trails and many improvements were made. The canyon has also been known as Piedmont Canyon because it is only one mile north of Piedmont, McKenzie Canyon for the creek that flows through it, and Bates Canyon for Dr. S.A. Bates, a pioneer doctor who once owned the farm on which the canyon is located.

**1812, Jan. 12**  
The first Board of Commissioners to consider Spanish land claims closed its work. All Wayne County claims were rejected.

**1812, June 4**  
The Territory of Missouri was created from the northern portion of the Louisiana Territory.

**1812, Oct. 1**  
The five administrative districts of St. Charles, St. Louis, Ste. Genevieve, Cape Girardeau, and New Madrid were changed to counties by proclamation. The area that later would become Wayne County was then in Cape Girardeau and New Madrid counties.

**1812 or earlier**  
Reverend William Street came to the Wayne County area from Georgia. He named Peachtree Creek. He may have been the second Baptist minister west of the Mississippi River. Some au-

thorities cite 1804 as the year of his arrival.

**1815, Jan. 15**  
Lawrence County was created and contained much land that was later incorporated into Wayne County.

**1816, March 25**  
Congress passed the pre-emption law confirming "squatters rights" and thereafter, squatters who had improved public land were given the first chance to buy it. Wayne County had numerous squatters at that time.

**1816, July 11**  
The first church congregation in Wayne County was organized and named St. Francois Baptist Church with Rev. William Street as the minister. It was located in a log building in the woods near Silva and Greenville.

**1816**  
First burial in Cowan Cemetery, Wayne County's oldest cemetery still in use.

**1817**  
Richard D. Cowan established a settlement near Lowndes. This was the third permanent settlement in the county. The Lowndes community was known as Hog Eye Mill or Hog Eye for many years. Robert McCullough was the first postmaster. The post office was established in 1836 some miles north of the present site of Lowndes where Hog Eye village was located, then moved to Charles Brills farm. The village was also called Jim Town for Jim Grisham, who owned the first store. Lowndes was named for state congressman Lowndes Davis, who helped get the post office for the town.

**1818, Dec. 11**  
The fourth territorial General Assembly created Wayne County from parts of New Madrid and Cape Girardeau counties.

**1819**  
Greenville was laid out as the county seat of

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