Aug. 4, 1825

*This Date in Missouri Senate History*

On *This Date in Missouri Senate History*, the date was Aug. 4, 1825, the day the president pro tem of the Missouri Senate became Missouri’s third governor.

Abraham J. Williams was born in Virginia in 1781. In his mid to late 30s, he would move to Howard County, and then to next-door Boone County.

Williams was elected to the Missouri Senate in 1822. Just two years later, he would be re-elected and subsequently named president pro tem by his fellow senators.

When Gov. Fredrick Bates passed away on Aug. 4, 1825, the Show-Me State had no lieutenant governor, as Benjamin Reeves had resigned from the job sometime earlier. At the time, state law stated the pro tem was next in line, behind the lieutenant governor, and Williams was sworn in that day.

The special election for a replacement governor was held in December, and John Miller was sworn into office the following month. Once that happened, Williams resumed his term as Missouri senator, and would go on to lose a second re-election attempt later in the year.

He then took up farming fulltime and passed away in 1839.

August 4, 1825, the date marking the day Missouri Senate President Pro Tem Abraham J. Williams became governor, on *This Date in Missouri Senate History*.

(Sources: State Historical Society of Missouri)