Nov. 29, 1795

*This Date in Missouri Senate History*

On *This Date in Missouri Senate History*, the date was Nov. 29, 1795, birthdate of Robert William Wells — a former Missouri state representative who designed the state seal.

He was born in Virginia. Later, Wells would move to St. Charles, where he would practice law in 1820 and ’21. He would then serve as St. Charles circuit attorney for a year.

Wells then designed the Great Seal of the State of Missouri in 1822.

Unfortunately, why he was chosen for the job or where he came up with the idea for the seal’s design is unknown.

The seal, though, is the centerpiece of the state flag. The state seal is also in the center of the floor of the first-floor Rotunda at the state Capitol.

The Missouri General Assembly officially adopted the state seal on Jan. 11, 1822.

Wells would be elected to the Missouri House of Representatives and serve there from 1823 into ’26. He would then become state attorney general for a decade, before getting the presidential nod to be a circuit court judge for the state until his death in 1864.

November 29, 1795, the date marking birth of Robert William Wells — the former state representative who designed the state’s seal, on *This Date in Missouri Senate History*.

(Sources: *Biographical Directory of Federal Judges*; [Missouri secretary of state website](https://www.sos.mo.gov/symbol/seal))