

What's New? ... Calendar Year 1876

The year 1876 was a landmark period for technological innovation, political shifts, and colonial expansion. Here are the key highlights:

Global Milestones

- **The Telephone:** Alexander Graham Bell received the patent for the telephone and made the first successful transmission: "*Mr. Watson, come here, I want to see you.*"
- **Battle of the Little Bighorn:** Often called "Custer's Last Stand," Lakota Sioux, Northern Cheyenne, and Arapaho forces defeated the U.S. 7th Cavalry in Montana.
- **Centennial Exposition:** The first official World's Fair in the U.S. opened in Philadelphia to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.
- **Queen Victoria:** The British Parliament passed the Royal Titles Act, officially proclaiming Queen Victoria the **Empress of India**.
- **First Four-Stroke Engine:** Nicolaus Otto built the first practical four-stroke internal combustion engine, a design that still powers most cars today.

In Australia

- **Lodge Inverell Established:** On August 18, 1876, **Lodge Inverell No. 1778 E.C.** (English Constitution) was officially established in New South Wales, marking a significant growth in local Freemasonry.
- **Adelaide-Perth Telegraph:** The overland telegraph line finally connected South Australia to Western Australia, drastically reducing communication times across the continent.
- **Constitutional Crisis in Victoria:** A major political standoff occurred between the Victorian Legislative Assembly and Council over the payment of members of Parliament.

Culture & Science

- **Tchaikovsky:** The composer completed his score for the ballet *Swan Lake*.
- **Mark Twain:** *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* was published.
- **Robert Koch:** The German physician demonstrated that a specific bacterium (*Bacillus anthracis*) caused anthrax, a foundational moment for modern bacteriology.