

A portrait of James Smithson, a British scientist, wearing a dark blue coat and a white cravat. The portrait is set against a dark background.

Today in History

June 27, 1829

▲ **James Smithson, British scientist whose bequest enabled the foundation of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington DC, died in Genoa, Italy**

1844: Joseph Smith, founder of the Mormon Church, was killed by a mob storming a jail in Carthage, Illinois

1954: The world's first atomic power station opened in the "Science City" of Obninsk, near Moscow

1976: Palestinian militants hijacked an Air France plane to Entebbe, later stormed by Israeli commandos

1979: World heavyweight boxing champion Muhammad Ali first announced his retirement