

A portrait of Thomas Edison sitting in a wooden chair, wearing a dark suit and a red tie. He is looking towards the camera with a serious expression. To his left, on a table covered with a dark red cloth, sits his first phonograph. The device has a large, flared horn and a hand-cranked cylinder. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

Today in History

February 19, 1878

▲ **Thomas Edison patented the phonograph, in which a large horn transmitted vibrations to a needle that scribed a recording on to a cylinder rotated by hand**

1861: Tsar Alexander II of Russia proclaimed the Emancipation Manifesto, liberating millions of serfs

1906: Dr William Kellogg formed the Battle Creek Toasted Corn Flake Company to make a breakfast cereal

1951: Jean Lee, convicted of murder, became the last woman to be hanged in Australia

1976: Iceland broke off diplomatic relations with Britain over fishing rights in the “Cod War”