



Today in History

December 5, 1872

▲ **The American brigantine Mary Celeste was found abandoned, with its cargo intact, drifting midway between the Azores and the Portuguese coast**

1484: Pope Innocent VIII issued a papal bull giving the Inquisition explicit authority to prosecute witchcraft

1594: Flemish cartographer Gerhardus Mercator, known for the map projection that bears his name, died

1952: London's Great Smog, a toxic mix of fog and smoke emissions, claimed around 4,000 lives

2013: Nelson Mandela, South Africa's first black president and an anti-apartheid icon, died at age 95