

# Today in Math History...



***-16 November 1823***

**Birthdate of Jakob Amsler...**

inventor, in 1854, of the polar planimeter, a device for measuring areas enclosed by plane curves.

*A planimeter is a technical drawing instrument used to measure the surface area of an arbitrary two-dimensional shape. As one point on a linkage is traced along the shape's perimeter, that linkage rolls a wheel along the drawing. The area of the shape is proportional to the number of turns through which the measuring wheel rotates when the planimeter is traced along the complete perimeter of the shape.*