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ADA President 1876-1877: George Watt Keely

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George Watt Keely

1876-1877

Doctor Keely, of Oxford, Ohio, was elected sixteenth president of the Association at the 1876 meeting in Philadelphia. *Transactions of the American Dental Association* for that year listed 145 dues-paying members. Only eight were from states west of the Mississippi River: three each from Missouri and California and one each from Iowa and Minnesota. Attendance was 130.

Doctor Keely was a trustee of the Ohio College of Dental Surgery for 20 years, served as president of the Ohio State Dental Society, and was treasurer of the American Dental Association from 1882 until his death in 1887. He was born in Ohio in 1822.

Rutherford B. Hayes, a Republican, was elected president over Democrat Samuel J. Tilden, in the disputed 1876 election. The phonograph was patented by Thomas A. Edison. Federal troops were sent to South Carolina to disperse turbulent gatherings. There was fatal violence between Americans and Indians, Americans and Mexicans, and strikers and militia.