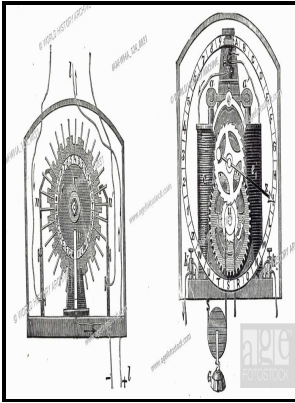


Cooke and Wheatstone and the invention of the electric telegraph.

Augustus M. Kelley - Sir William Fothergill Cooke



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Cooke and Wheatstone

Western Union and Bell were both invested in telegraphy and telephone technology. First, in 1800, the Italian physicist Alessandro Volta 1745-1827 invented the battery, which reliably stored an electric current and allowed the current to be used in a controlled environment.

Sir William Fothergill Cooke

A common code was a necessary step to allow direct telegraph connection between countries. Early equipment sets used five needles to point to the letter being transmitted, but the cost of installing wires was more economically significant than the cost of training operators so a single-needle system with a code that had to be learned became the norm.

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However, in July 1839 the Great Western Railway set up a telegraph line from Paddington station to West Drayton station, eventually extending to Slough.

History of Communication Inventions from Telegram to Email

Eventually, the bandwidth was widened much further by using laser light signals sent through fiber optic cables. At this moment the country was in the throes of its first great Railway Mania, it saw the raising of huge sums of capital for companies to connect the major cities with each other by steam-powered railways. The change became more urgent as the insulation of some of the early installations deteriorated, causing some of the original wires to be unusable.

Cooke and Wheatstone

Newspaper coverage of this incident gave a great deal of publicity to the electric telegraph and brought it firmly into public view. This is effected by the electrical fluid causing a little hammer to strike the letter which presents itself, the letter which is raised hits some manifold writing paper a new

invention, black paper, which, if pressed, leaves an indelible black mark, by which means the impression is left on white paper beneath. The costs would be better covered by finding a way to send more than one message at a time through the single wire, thus increasing revenue per wire.

Sir William Fothergill Cooke

Fiber optic transmission can carry 25,000 telephone signals simultaneously down a single fiber. Eventually, Cooke convinced a financier John Lewis Ricardo to invest in his telegraph and he created the Electrical Telegraph Company, in September 1845.

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