

Taken from The Educator September 1924

#### THE PASSING OF H. W. ELLSWORTH

The Fredonia, N. Y., Censor of July 16, 1923 contained the news of the death of that veteran penman, teacher and penmanship author, Mr. Henry W. Ellsworth.

Mr. Ellsworth, was in his eighty-seventh year, having been', born at Stockton, N. Y., in 1837. Singularly, his wife died just four months previous to his death, she having reached the age of eighty-five.

Mr. Ellsworth was an earnest student of penmanship, and did what he could for the improvement of the methods' by which the youth of the land could develop good penmanship.

In 1861, believing that the then prevailing styles of writing with flourished, shaded, complex :capitals and the long loons of small 'writing could be simplified and made more practical, he decided to prepare a series of writing books with simpler capitals and shorter loops. It is said that he was, the first to make the. change in reducing the length of loops from four or five spaces in length to thirds, and which was later followed by other publishers.

In 1866 Mr. Ellsworth published the first journal devoted to penmanship, "The Writing Teacher," and continued its publication until 1872. This journal was followed by the "Penman's Art journal" which was begun by AH Hinman in 1874 in Pottsville, PA, and later transferred to D. T. Ames of New York, City.

As the crowning feature of Mr. Ellsworth's life work for the benefit of business colleges, public schools, teachers and their pupils, he published in 1897, "Lessons and Lectures on Penmanship" which many regard as the best treatise on writing known at that time.

It is stated that Mr. Ellsworth always placed the good of the cause before his own pecuniary gain. Yet, he continued to prosper even in competition with others having much greater capital.

He raised a family of eight children He retained his skill in writing to the very end, as letters recently received in our office testify.