

GA Gaskell

Notes from Del Tysdal:

This fellow seems to get attention lately. Let me tell you what I learned about him. He was born in East Seneca, NY 1845. His father was a doctor and liked of drink. The family moved around 1857 to Ashtabula, Ohio and that is where Gaskell became acquainted with P R Spencer senior. After the penmanship classes, Gaskell became itinerant and traveled the country writing at tables and organizing penmanship classes. He found the Manchester (N H) Business College was for sale and 'on credit' was able to buy it. The building was 3 stories tall and he rented the two lower floors to pay the rent and had his Gaskell School on the 3rd floor.

He had several students who became prominent: A N Palmer, Louis Madarasz and W E Dennis (all in 1883-ish). Gaskell was able to have his correspondence lessons printed in photo lithography and sold his many lessons by the 'thousands'. Gaskell's obituary told me that some 'of his students found him dead in the swamp'. He had been drinking and drowned when he fell to the earth. He was 41 years old and not married as far as I could tell.

I sent a sackful of information to the Public Library in East Seneca, NY for their files.  
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