

Taken from a December 1936 Educator magazine

G. A. Gaskell
A Pioneer Penman

G. A. Gaskell was one of America's most skillful penmen. He was one of the best known penmen because of his national advertising. At the time the above flourish was made in 1880 he was in his prime. He conducted the Bryant and Stratton Business College in Manchester, N. H., where quite a number of America's prominent penmen received some of their early inspiration. Notably among these penmen were L. Madarasz and W. E. Dennis. Gaskell advertised the work of these and other young penmen in magazines throughout the country and was one of the first to promote the "before and after" type of advertising. One of Mr. Gaskell's former associates, L. G. Wilberton, M. D., now of Winona, Minn., writes as follows:

"About the year 1882-83 I accepted a position in the Bryant & Stratton College, Manchester, N. H., and remained with them a year as a teacher of Bookkeeping and other subjects. At that time Prof. G. A. Gaskell was president of that college. He was in the height of his penmanship skill.

Prof. Gaskell was still a young man and of excellent personal appearance. He would be classed as a handsome man, about six feet tall. His bearing, was erect and pleasing manners. He was 'a natural orator and speaker as well as a teacher of first rank. He excelled in teaching others. Penmanship was his favorite subject, and he did much to advance the study of good writing; in fact he became a national figure in the penmanship profession. He evolved a style of writing that was purely his own. He was a real artist and master in describing how each letter should be made, carefully showing the right and wrong way in forming letters and figures. The students soon became interested to learn how to write well. The results were that his students became excellent penmen and teachers.

Shortly after I left Manchester, Prof. Gaskell died. My opinion of him stands high and I am sorry he died so young."

HO Keesling, President of Pasadena Business College, Pasadena, Calif., celebrated his sixtieth birthday by sending us a package of copies of ornamental penmanship which challenge the ability of the most skillful in the penmanship profession, young or old.

-We congratulate Mr. Keesling upon his fine ornamental pen work and hope that- we can persuade him to prepare something in black ink which will reproduce for our readers.