

Taken from Gaskell's Compendium of Forms (1882)

“Brian, As you likely already know PRS' students of particular note were his sons, particularly Lyman P. Spencer and others notables such as AH Hinman and GA Gaskell.

Joe”

SPENCER.

Spencer, the originator of the Spencerian system, was, without doubt, the most successful itinerant of his time. Wherever he went he was sure of a large and enthusiastic school. His manner of advertising was peculiar, all his “bills” and “posters” being done by himself in his own hand, and placed in conspicuous positions in stores and other places of resort on winter evenings. Spencer was an earnest faithful teacher, a true friend, and a chirographic genius. Thoroughly in love with the art he taught, he never failed to impress upon his pupils its importance and its beauties; and long before the publication of anything “Spencerian,” he had become famous. His arrival in a village was heralded as the event of the year.

In northeastern Ohio, where most of his teaching was done, we see evidences to-day of his success, in the good penmanship of many of the people. Nowhere else in this country certainly among no farming population as this was then, and is principally yet will be found so many excellent writers as in the counties where Spencer taught. Many of his best pupils of those days among the living are now engaged in teaching writing in business colleges; but a new generation is coming forward to occupy the positions now offering therein, and as successful instructors in other fields.

It is a somewhat remarkable fact that of his large family of boys and girls, all became in youth, and grew up to manhood and womanhood, superior writers. This also shows the advantages of proper teaching—that penmen, unlike poets, are not born such, but made. Spencer died in 1864.