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A History of Penmen, Early Business Education and Educators in America.

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Mr. Arrin Reynolds

Among the earnest, capable and successful teachers of penmanship who have honored our profession during the past forty-five years is the subject of our sketch, Mr. Orrin Reynolds. It was Mr. Reynolds' good fortune in the latter part of the 1850's to come under the instruction and inspiring influence of P. R. Spencer about the age of twenty, at Mantua, Ohio. He would attend the morning lectures of Mr. Spencer there, and then, with the copy for the day, would go to his home and in a shady corner behind the barn, where he constructed a board table, he would practice for hours to embody in writing the beauties his teacher had pictured on his brain through blackboard illustrations and with his pen. A few years later through the recommendation of Mr. Spencer Mr. Stratton engaged Mr. Reynolds to take charge of the penmanship department of the Chicago Bryant & Stratton College. He was also aided in his work by Harvey A. Spencer. The day attendance was then, in 1864, about 500 students and the evening attendance about 300. At that time the writer was a bookkeeper in the city and, being a P. R. Spencer graduate, Mr. Bryant engaged me to work in the evening classes as an assistant to Messrs. Reynolds and Spencer.

Mr. Reynolds was a genial associate and a superior penman both upon the blackboard and with the pen. In his methods of illustrating the beauties of writing he followed closely those of his famous teacher. As a bold, muscular movement writer he was the leading skillful rapid writer and most famous penman of the west. He remained with the Chicago College over twenty-five years both as a penman and as Mr. Bryant's confidential man as superintendent of the college. Mr. Bryant employed for several years a Mr. Morgan, an ornamental pen artist of great ability, and the walls of the great college and office were filled with over one hundred large expensively framed specimens of the combined skill of Reynolds and Morgan. A great loss to even the penmen of today was the burning of this famous gallery of pen art in the great Chicago fire.

' During his quarter of a century with the Chicago College Mr. Reynolds endeared himself to many thousands of students. In a letter Mr. Reynolds sent me about four years ago there was exhibited smoothness and strength, showing still the strong natural freedom and skill of the famous master. Still true to his pen and profession he is, I am rightly informed, with Brother Elliott's famous business school of Burlington, Iowa.

Mr. A. B. Capp

Another star in our profession is A. B. Capp, Superintendent of Heald's Business College of San Francisco. Mr. Capp is not only a superior penman but an able, forceful, all-round commercial teacher. In about 1880 and for several years he was a celebrated teacher of penmanship in the Chicago Bryant & Stratton College. Inducements from Mr. Heald to go west and enjoy the glorious climate and opportunities of California took him to Heald's College. Mr. Capp is probably the best known penman and commercial teacher on the Pacific coast. For many years he has been Superintendent of Heald's College, the oldest, largest and leading college in the far west where his students by thousands appreciate his work and interest in their behalf. Mr. Capp has not only the high esteem of his students but he ranks among his teaching profession of the coast as an educator of the highest order. He once thought of returning with ample means gained through investments, but his devotion to his life's work retains him with Heald's College where he enjoys the work of equipping young men and women for success in commercial life.

Mr. J. F. Mooar

Memory does not recall to the writer a high grade penman and teacher who has spent as many years in one school as Mr. J. F. Mooar, of the Bryant & Stratton Commercial School of Boston, Mass. For fully thirty years Mr. Mooar has, for their advancement, come into the lives of from four hundred to seven hundred students annually. He is a swift, bold, muscular movement Spencerian writer and was once a student under the famous Williams. He has taught in New England and possibly in the United States, more commercial students than any other teacher. Mr. Mooar is a forceful and popular teacher, efficient in all departments of commercial school work, and the quality of the penmanship of his average graduates ranks with the best schools of the country.

Mr. Mooar is an all-round commercial teacher and was for many years at the head of the actual business work of the school. In every department of commercial school work he has been the strong aid to the principal in the school management as well as in advertising and financial affairs,

Mr. Mooar has for several years past been the superintendent of the school at the head of about twenty long experienced high salaried teachers. Due to his merits as a teacher and school manager, Mr. Mooar is probably the highest salaried commercial school man in the country. The responsibility of his position so occupies his attention that he never appears at commercial teachers' conventions, but in his own city and New England he has an army of grateful, devoted friends whom he has faithfully instructed, qualified and aided to business success.

Mr. H.W. Shaylor

When professional penmen and aspiring amateurs in the art of penmanship during the past forty years have sought the finest specimens from the most skillful penmen of the country, they have not failed to write for the artistic lines of Prof. H. W. Shaylor, of Portland, Maine. Mr. Shaylor had the good fortune to start in life and pass his youth in Ashtabula, Ohio, for many years the home of P.R. Spencer. At sixteen he was trained by Spencer and soon began teaching writing in neighboring towns. Again in 1863 he attended Spencer's Log Cabin Writing Academy at Geneva, Ohio. Later he came under the training of John D. Williams, the Prince of Flourishers. He was engaged in 1864 by Mr. Stratton to teach in the Portland Bryant & Stratton College. In 1870 he began as a teacher of writing in the public schools. During the past fifteen years Mr. Shaylor has divided his school work between the teaching of writing and drawing. Many years ago Mr. Shaylor planned and wrote a series of copy books in simplified styles of writing which were published by Harper Brothers, of New York, and three million books were sold in the first five years. Later, in connection with Geo. H. Shattuck, of Medina, N. Y., they published Medial Slant copy books. His school work in drawing when taken in connection with colors affords unlimited development causing him to grow more absorbed in teaching art. His summers with palette and oil colors he spends in the mountains sketching and painting from nature, and finds in this an unlimited source of inspiration and pleasure. This being lost in Art causes him to need to pray as Dr. Van Dyke says " Give me an ideal that will stand the strain of human weaving into human stuff on the loom of the real, keep me from caring more for books than for folks, for art than for life. Steady me to do my full stint of work as well as I can and when that is done stop me, pay me what thou wilt, and help me to say from a quiet heart a grateful Amen."