

Taken from The Business Educator, November 1918

AJ Warner

NC Brewster  
Elmira, N.Y.

We are publishing herewith a portrait of and signature by Mr. A.J. Warner, of Elmira, NY, at the age of 85 years, who is probably the oldest penman now living capable of executing work of, this quality, and probably the last graduate of. P. R. Spencer, Sr.

Mr. Warner was born near St. Johnsbury, Caledonia County, Vermont, in March, 1832. He took a course in penmanship under Platt R Spencer, Sr., at the Log Cabin Seminary, Geneva, Ohio, in 1858, and 59, and has a certificate of proficiency, written in Mr. Spencer's own hand. He relates that Mr. Spencer would come in with his sickle, give a lesson and set copies for the students, and go back to his farming.

Mr. Warner became a very expert penman and capable teacher of writing, adding other commercial subjects. He taught at the Albany, N. Y., Business College, Eastman's at Poughkeepsie, and was for a time teacher, and partner, with the late Prof. Lowell, at Binghamton, N. Y. He worked with many of the old time penmen, James W. Lusk, John D. Williams, George Davis, of Poughkeepsie and others.

He came to Elmira in 1863, entering the employ of Nathan. Caldwell, who had organized the Elmira Commercial College in 1858. On the death of Mr. Caldwell in 1864, Mr. Warner took charge of the school and conducted it in various locations according to its growth, for about 44 years, in 1894 erecting a building of his own for the work.

While Mr. Warner retired from regular business about six years ago, he is still active in going about the city, takes a keen interest in current events, works in his garden and flower beds, and as a diversion, and to keep in practice, tries his hand at ornamental penmanship.

Having known Mr. Warner for 35 years, and being in his employ for six years, I can appreciate his work, and believing that a man should have credit for any remarkable attainments, while he is still living, I am led to submit the above at this time.