

[Aspinwall, Irving D.]

A VETERAN OPERATOR DIES
I. D. Aspinwall Passes Away Thursday

Irving D. Aspinwall, aged 86 years, died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Ernest Chapman, on Wagener street, Thursday, Jan. 28, 1926, following a short illness.

Mr. Aspinwall was born in Hartford, N.Y., June 28, 1840, and was the son of Rev. J. [Joseph] A. Aspinwall, a Universalist minister. A few years after his birth Mr. Aspinwall's family moved to Rome where he obtained his schooling. He left school to work in a drug store in Mount Morris and a telegraph office was located in the store, so while employed there Mr. Aspinwall learned the telegraph trade and for sixty years served the Western Union Telegraph Company as an operator until a few years ago he was retired on pension.

Mr. Aspinwall's first position was with the Erie railroad at Cameron, and in 1872 he came to Penn Yan and worked under the late C. B. Shaw in the Northern Central office. At that time the Western Union messages were conveyed by the railroad operators.

In 1873 the Western Union opened an office in the second floor of the Cornwell Block and Mr. Aspinwall became manager. When he first learned the business Mr. Aspinwall stated that messages were received through a machine which made the dots and dashes on paper and they were read from that. These machines were often out of order and operators trained their ears so that they could get the messages if the receiver did not operate and they soon became proficient so that the paper machines were discarded.

After being placed on a pension Mr. Aspinwall acted in the capacity of messenger boy for a time and was one of the best known men in Penn Yan.

He is survived by two daughters, Mrs. Ernest Chapman, at whose home he died, and Mrs. E. A. Schrum, of Penn Yan, and one son, Frank, of New York. The funeral will be held Saturday. Interment will be in Lake View cemetery.

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