

ABOUT Frederick PEARCE AND HIS SPECIAL MORSE WRITER.

1. The man

Mr Frederick Pearce was born in London, England, in 1843.

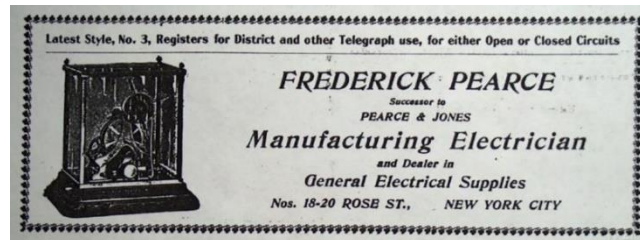
In early life he was employed in the factory of his father, who made electrical instruments for Elliott Brothers of London, including a variety of telegraphic equipment.

At the age of 20 he went to America, where he found employment with the brothers Charles and John Chester in Centre Street, New York, one of the very early concerns in America to engage in the manufacture of telegraph instruments.

While thus employed he devised and constructed instruments that were used in the central office of the fire alarm telegraph in New York, and adopted in many other cities in the USA.

In 1872 he embarked in business on his own account, establishing the firm of **Pearce and Jones** with premises in John Street, New York.

When Mr. Jones retired, Frederick Pearce continued the business under his own name as the **Frederick Pearce Company**, located in Rose Street, New York.



His specialty of manufacture was fire alarm and police telegraph apparatus.

His sons Charles (as vice-president) and Walter joined him later in the board of directors.

The manufacture of electrical instruments, mainly those used in fire alarm and police devices, continued, and the company also dealt as usual in telegraph, telephone and electrical light apparatus.

In 1905 he was a president of the OLD TIME TELEGRAPHERS and HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION.

He died at his home in Summit, New Jersey, in 1918 at the age of 75.

(Main source: the very interesting website of Mr. John Casale > <http://www.telegraph-history.org>)

2. His telegraph



Frontview

This morse telegraph differs from the classic models in three ways:

First: Its winding system. The spring is not tensioned by a winding key but by moving the lever back and forth.



Back

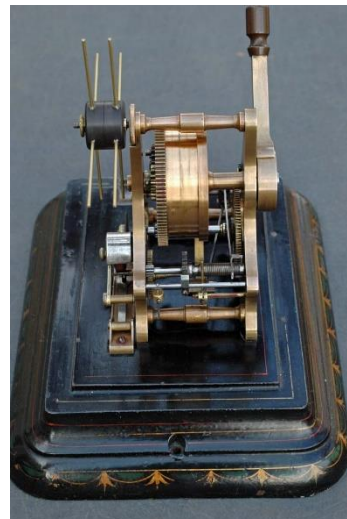
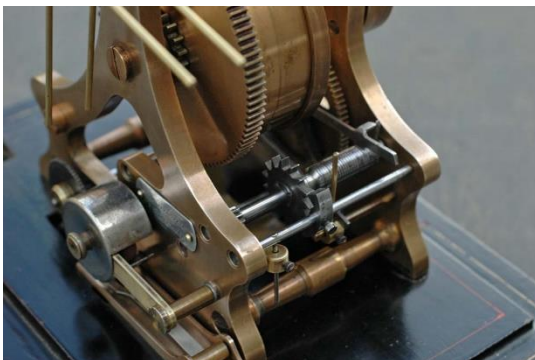
Second: The electromagnets are not visible; they are hidden in the space under the base plate.



Bottom

And third: It has the (rather rare) 'auto start-stop' feature. The motor that drives the paper tape starts automatically at the reception of the current impulse of the first character sent by the transmitter. And it stops automatically after a few seconds when no further Morse signals are received. This telegraph can therefore receive messages unmanned.

Some more images:



This was a major breakthrough! When we moved into our loft in 2013, my wife allowed me, for the first time in my life, to put three telegraph instruments on display in our living-room!



- You can see Frederick Pearce's telegraph in operation if you go to the 'SHORT MOVIES' chapter of my website:

<https://www.telegraphy.eu/pagina/movies.html>

HALLE (B), 23 February 2021
Drafted with some help of Mr. Bill BURNS