

INVENTION OF TELEGRAPH MADE BY JOSEPH HENRY

Famous Physicist, Professor Here
from 1832 to 1846, Has Left
Description of His Work.

"I think that the first actual line of telegraph using the earth as a conductor was made in the beginning of 1836 when a wire was extended across the front campus of the College grounds from the upper story of the library to the Philosophical Hall on the other side, the ends terminating in two wells". This is a statement made by Professor Joseph Henry, famous physicist, and is quoted in "Princeton", by Secretary V. L. Collins '92 of the University. Professor Henry held the chair of natural philosophy here from 1832 to 1846, and died in May, 1878.

Authority for the statement is a document in the University Library signed by Professor Henry which contains an account of the experimental research work that he carried on while at Princeton. The story as it appears there is as follows: "I had already invented, while at Albany, the first electro-magnetic telegraph, in which signals were transmitted by exciting an electro-magnet at a distance, by which means dots might be made on paper and bells were struck in succession indicating letters of the alphabet".

Invention Disputed.

Professor Henry was in the midst of his investigations along these lines when he was called to Princeton from Albany. Continuing, he says, "I arrived in Princeton in November, 1832, and as soon as I became fully settled in the chair which I occupied, I recommenced my investigations, and just previous to my leaving for England in 1837, again turned my attention to the telegraph." Then follows the statement, "I think that the first actual line of telegraph using the earth as a conductor was made in the beginning of 1836.

"A wire was extended across the front campus of the College grounds from the upper story of the library building to the Philosophical Hall on the other side, the ends terminating in two wells. Through this wire signals were sent from time to time from my house to my laboratory". Morse and Henry disputed the credit for the invention of the telegraph, and Morse was finally awarded the honors, but at the celebration of the Atlantic cable in the fall of 1858 Princeton honored Henry and a speech was "made by Professor Stephen Alexander, who had worked at Henry's side and had watched him explain his discovery to Morse."