



Heartland Science



Ohio's Legacy of Discovery & Innovation



Communications

From Greenbacks to Lexis-Nexis

Tickertape Machine

Samuel Spahr Laws (1824-1921), a Cincinnati gold broker, invented the tickertape machine, a device that transmitted stock prices on a long strip of paper that was cut and pasted for a permanent record. His patent (No. 72,742) was issued on December 31, 1867, and titled "Electrical Indicator." The New York Stock Exchange first adopted this early form of text messaging in 1867 for stock quotes, and the machines quickly went into businesses around the country.



Laws, a one time resident of Troy, Ohio, graduated in 1848 from Ohio's Miami University as the valedictorian of his class.

Did You Know?

- During his career, Laws hired a 22 year old inventor named Thomas A. Edison. Edison reportedly helped refine the ticker tape machine.

Find out more...

- [New York Stock Exchange](http://www.nyse.com/)
(<http://www.nyse.com/>)
- [The Henry Ford - Edison Biography](http://www.hfmvgv.org/exhibits/edison/)
(www.hfmvgv.org/exhibits/edison/)
- [Canada Science and Technology Museum](http://www.sciencetech.technomuses.ca/english/collection/conn5.cfm)
(www.sciencetech.technomuses.ca/english/collection/conn5.cfm)

