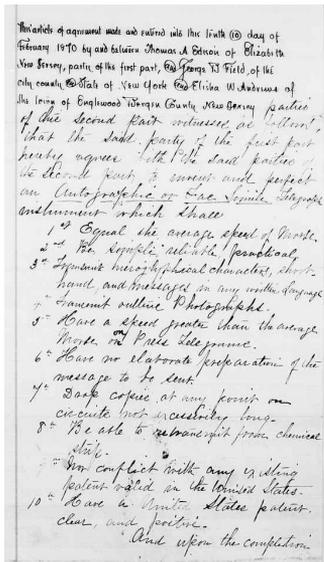


Agreement with George Field and Elisha Andrews

This article of agreement made and entered into this tenth (10)^b day of February 1870 by and between Thomas A Edison of Elizabeth New Jersey, party of the first part, and George B Field, of the city county and State of New York and Elisha W Andrews of the town of Englewood Bergen County New Jersey^c parties of this second part witnesses as follows, that the said party of the first part hereby agrees with the said parties of the second part, to invent and perfect an Autographic or Fac Simile Telegraph instrument which shall



- 1st Equal the average speed of Morse
- 2nd Be, simple, reliable, practical
- 3d Transmit hieroglyphical characters, short hand, and messages in any written Language
- 4h Transmit outline Photographs.
- 5h Have a speed greater than the average Morse orn on^d Press Telegrams.
- 6h Have no elaborate preparation of the message to be sent.
- 7h Drop copies at any point on circuits not excessively long.
- 8h Be able to retransmit from chemical strip.
- 9h Not conflict with any existing patent valid in the United States.
- 10h Have a United States patent, clear, and po[s]itive.

And upon the completion of two instruments fully demonstrating the^e practical working of said invention, to the satisfaction of the parties of the second part, the said party of the first part agrees to convey by an assignment to the parties of the second part Two-Thirds $\frac{2}{3}$ ds interest in his invention, and to have the same secured by letters patent of the United States. The parties of the second part agree to pay to the party of the first part, in consideration of said assignment the sum of Three Thousand \$3000. dollars. And farther the parties of the second shall furnish a good comfortable room at a rent not exceeding ten dollars per month, and all the necessary tools, and machinery to make experiments for and Construct said apparatus, the tools not to exceed a cost of four hundred dollars \$400., and to pay a first class mechanic to be employed by said party of the first part until said instruments shall be completed, not to exceed six months working time, and for the stock to be used in their construction and the incidental expenses pertaining thereto.—¹

All bills to be presented to the party of the second part, by the party of the first part. And no bill to be contracted amounting to over the sum of Ten (10)^b dollars without the consent of the parties of the second part. The parties of the second part shall pay all patent fees for securing Letters patent and upon fulfilling the conditions above recited, and by securing by special agreement to the party of the first part, one third of all profits accruing from said invention, the parties of the second part, shall become owners of two thirds of said invention and the parties of the first the owner of one third $\frac{1}{3}$ interest in said patent or patents.² It is hereby agreed that the obligations in this contract between the parties herinto are obligatory upon their heirs and assignees

In witness whereof the parties have hereinto set their hands & seals, the day and year aforesaid^f

Thomas. A. Edison

Geo B Field

Elisha W. Andrews^g

In Presence of A. M. Kidder³

DS (copy), NjWOE, LS (*TAEM* 28:928). ^aDate taken from text, form altered. ^bCircled. ^cTo this point, written in Edison's hand. ^dInterlined above in Edison's hand. ^e"of two . . . the" repeated upside down, overstruck, at bottom of page. ^f"hereby agreed . . . aforesaid" written in Edison's hand. ^gRepresentation of wax seal next to each signature.

1. Under this provision, Edison established the Newark Telegraph Works in conjunction with William Unger (1850–1878), a Newark machinist. Unger and Edison were partners in the Newark Telegraph Works until 3 July 1872 (see Doc. 264). Unger then moved to New York City and manufactured telegraph instruments, light machinery, and models at a shop over the New Haven Railroad Freight Depot on Franklin St. After a fire at this shop in February 1873, he went into partnership manufacturing electrical and telegraph instruments and other machinery with Hamilton Towle at 30 Cortland St. Unger later joined his brothers—Herman, George, Frederick, and Eugene—in the firm of Unger Brothers in Newark, manufacturing pocket knives and hardware specialties. In 1878 George, Frederick, and William Unger died. William Unger advertisement, *Telegr.* 8 (1871–72): 445; "Scorched But Not Destroyed," *ibid.* 9 (1873): 59; Rainwater 1975, 175–76.

On 15 February, Edison and Unger rented a room for \$13.50 at 15 Railroad Ave. in Newark (70-008, DF [*TAEM* 12:206]), and by the end of April they had spent about \$400 on machinery and tools (70-006, DF [*TAEM* 12:159–66]). The firm's accounts for experimental work on the facsimile telegraph began in May, after the shop had been equipped (70-005, DF [*TAEM* 12:144]). The establishment of the American Telegraph Works in October 1870 (see Doc. 109) provided Edison with a much larger and better-equipped machine shop, but he and Unger continued to operate the Newark Telegraph Works, where much experimental work was done.

2. Apparently Andrews, Field, and Marshall Lefferts (who acquired an interest in the autographic telegraph) continued to pay for these experiments for over a year, although Edison claimed that he bore the expenses after the six months stipulated here. As late as 1876 Edison still sought to collect money he claimed was due him. He continued to experiment periodically on facsimile telegraphs, finally patenting a system in 1881. Cat. 1183:2-13, Accts. (*TAEM* 20:861-66); Andrews to TAE, 20 June 1870, DF (*TAEM* 12:618); TAE to Andrews, 21 June 1876, DF (*TAEM* 13:1136).

3. A. M. Kidder, of the banking and brokerage firm of A. M. Kidder & Co., specialized in the trading of railroad stocks and bonds. He became a member of the newly consolidated New York Stock Exchange on 1 May 1869. *New York Times*, 27 Apr. 1903, 7; New York City 417:193, RGD; membership records, NNYSE.