

In the year 1864, when our young townsman, the late Ira Seaver, was in charge of the railway station at Sheffield, Illinois, two young men, about the same age, Herman Lee Ensign, born in Pennsylvania, and Lewis M. Seaver of our place, found employment at the station. Mr. Ensign was learning telegraphy. Later he went to Davenport, Iowa, and thence to Denver, Col. The two young men became fast friends and remained so till the death a few years ago of Mr. Ensign in New York city, where both were associated in the advertising business. By fortunate investments, in part, Mr. Ensign left what in earlier days would have been considered a large sum of money. When a young man he was a student in Phillips academy, Andover, Mass., and at that time wanted to be a minister, but his health failed and he was obliged to give up his cherished wish. A friend of man and animals, and without any family, he left his wealth for humane purposes and it was put into the hands of designated persons, among them his lifelong friend Lewis M. Seaver, and the institution organized to carry out his plans is called the "National Humane Alliance," of which Mr. Seaver is secretary and treasurer. A recent donation from this alliance is a beautiful drinking fountain, made of West-erly, R. I., pink granite, to be set up in the city of Burlington, N. Y. We have just seen a photograph of this fountain. It bears the words "Presented by the National Humane Alliance. Herman Lee Ensign Founder. Mr. Seaver tells us they have many applications for help and he spoke of two gifts that they had sent to Malaga, Spain, that were greatly appreciated. It is this matter that calls Mr. Seaver so often to New York. On his return from his late visit there he came via Binghamton, to consult with the proper persons there about the location of the fountain.

## Burlington, NY and Malaga, Span



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johnwalshderby  
Mon, Jul 31, 2023

### NEW DRINKING FOUNTAIN FOR BURLINGTON

Shipped From Marine's News, 11—The  
Story of the Gift.

The handsome drinking fountain of Mather grants presented to the city of Burlington by the National Humane alliance was shipped November 11 from Rockland, Me., and is expected to arrive here tomorrow. It will be set up at the corner of Pearl street and Battery Park.

The fountain was ordered for Burlington through Mr. A. E. Richardson who is a friend of J. M. Seaver of New York, trustee of the estate of the late Hermon Lee Ensign, founder of the National Humane Alliance of which Mr. Seaver is secretary. The Alliance is the giver of the fountain.

Mr. Ensign was for some years in charge of the advertising for Wells, Richardson & Co. and was well known to many Burlingtonians. The fountain will be about seven feet high, with about six feet in diameter, of artistic design and will be of practical utility for man and beast. Both Mr. Richardson and Mr. Seaver deserve the hearty appreciation of the citizens of Burlington.

Mr. Ensign to whom primarily is due the possibility of this benefaction was born in Carlisle, Pa., on June 20, 1844. At an early age he moved with his parents to Sheffield, Vt. When fifteen years old he acquired a knowledge of telegraphing, and soon became an expert operator. Soon after that he went to Davenport, Iowa, and later to Denver.

He was raised under religious influences, was a member of the Congregational church, and when twenty years old decided to become a minister. With that object he entered Phillips academy. His health or finances soon failed, and he left school and went to Chicago, where he began business with a bridge company.

During the great fire of 1871 he rendered important service to his company by saving from the fire valuable books.

A few years later he became manager of a brilliantly written paper, called the Alliance, a weekly journal, mildly religious and widely humanitarian. His experience in journalism he turned to practical account by later engaging in the advertising business following it with marked success, and acquiring a fortune in twenty years.

In 1881 he moved to Rochester and two years later to New York, where he lived until his death in 1893.

From childhood he was a lover of domestic animals. This love made him desire all that was cruel or unkind in the treatment of animals by their natural protector—man. It became more than a sentiment—it became a passion, growing upon him and at last dominating his life.

He accordingly founded the National Humane Alliance to carry out his ideas for the welfare of animals. He intended to give his time and fortune to the work. But just as it was started he died. He left his fortune for this work, and the society in administering the trust of Mr. Ensign on the lines of his ideas, for humane work, educating children in kindness to animals and other similar work.

The Humane Alliance has offices at No. 18 United Charities Building, New York city. The officers are: Harrison Gray Fiske, president; Frederick H. Tuckman, vice-president; Lewis J. Seaver, secretary and treasurer.

Mr. Seaver was recently in this city to help select a site for the fountain.

Burlington, VT 11-19-1905



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