

HISTORICAL FACT SHEET Telephone Industry Related Companies



COMPANY Clay Commercial Telephone Company

DATE ORGANIZED Nov 1893

WHERE ORGANIZED Camden, NJ

FOUNDER(S) John C. Scott, Pres; James McMillen, VP; Geo Bratton, Mgr; S.P. Goodwin, Tres; Henry Clay, Inventor

NATURE OF BUSINESS Manufacturer, Service Provider

Subsequent names or significant changes resulting from acquisitions, consolidation, sales or bankruptcies:

Established plant and office in Philadelphia, PA

DATE
1894

Injunction against Co for patent infringement by Bell System

1894

Failure to pay rent, taxes, payroll, creditors

1894

Factory equipment and stock sold at auction

1895

REMARKS Clay was able to receive approval from Philadelphia to use light poles to string telephone lines provided they provide telephones for all govt offices for no charge. They were never able to do so. Several months later the Bell System filed an injunction for patent infringement. The court system ruled in favor of Bell.

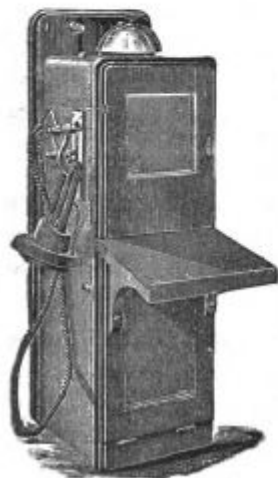
Source: Electrician & Electrical Engineer, 1884-1885; Central Reporter (Philadelphia), 1887 New York Times, 1884

Clay Commercial Telephone was only in business for a few months when Bell took the company to court for patent infringement. Following the injunction against the company restraining it to use any of their infringing telephones, it's investors got very nervous and ceased to supply any additional funds. Clay's lawyers argued the validity of Bell's patents of March 1876 and January 1877 denying that electric speaking telephones had never been in use before Bell obtained his patents, but asserted that they had been in used and were controlled by McDonnough, Drawbaugh, Gray, Edison and ten other persons, many of whom had obtained letters of patent for their discovery prior to Bell. For that reason they argued that Bell's patents were null and void.. Bell prevailed in this case and the Clay company, except for mention in numerous legal briefs, disappeared.

Clay Commercial Telephone Co.

JOHN C. SCOTT, JAMES McMILLEN, GEO. W. BRATTON, S. P. GODWIN,
President. *Vice-President.* *Gen'l Manager.* *Treasurer.*

GENERAL OFFICE, SHAKESPEARE BUILDING,
 1017 Chestnut St., Philadelphia, Pa.



This Company owns all the patents issued to Henry Clay for a Speaking Telephone and other patents for improvements on same. Our instruments and exchange system are entirely new and novel, and **are no infringement upon any Telephonic System in use.** Responsible parties can purchase territory, that is not already licensed, for organization of companies for the use of our Private Line and Exchange Systems. We would respectfully call the public's attention to our system, and request an examination of it before adopting any other, as we are confident the superior service, simplicity of construction and absolute privacy, will recommend it to all. Any further information will be cheerfully given by

GEO. W. BRATTON, Gen'l Manager.



