



Western Union goes back to 1851 as the Mississippi Valley Printing Telegraph Company. In 1856 it became the Western Union Telegraph Company after acquisition of competing telegraph systems. By 1861, during the Civil War, it had created a coast to coast network of lines

Among media news this date (1 Feb 06) Western Union takes the hit! After 145 years, WU has quietly stopped sending telegrams. “What Hath God Wrought?”

“Effective 27 January 2006 Western Union will discontinue all Telegram and Commercial messaging services. We regret any inconvenience this may cause you and we thank you for your loyal patronage. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact a customer service representative.”

The decline of telegram use goes back at least to the 1980's when long distance telephone service became cheap enough to offer a viable alternative in many if not most

cases. Faxes didn't help, also “Email” could be counted as the final nail in the coffin. W.U. long ago refocused its main business to make money transfers for consumers and businesses. Revenues are now \$3 billion annually. It's now called Western Union Financial Services Inc and is a subsidiary of First Data Corp.

The world's first telegram was sent on 24 May 1844 by inventor Samuel Morse. The message “What Hath God Wrought” was transmitted from WashDC to Baltimore. In a crude way, the telegraph was a precursor to the Internet in that it allowed rapid communication, for the first time, across great distances. Morse's grandson kept the torch light.

Our card is W6FZZ the grandson of Samuel Finley Breeze Morse, one Samuel Finley Breeze Morse III - Born 26 July 1902, then Cherry Valley Ca. Now of Garden Grove, CA. Sam was/is a champion speed record holder with both American & International code at 75 Plus WPM. Sam was a long time CW opr on the bands and has not been heard from in a long time.

