

properly executed attestation clause it has been held that, in the absence of proof of some reason for testator not signing the will, there is no presumption that no such reason exists, which will overcome the attestation clause, and such clause will shew that nevertheless testator must have *acknowledged, as his own signature*, one made either by himself or someone else.

So also, one who holds a proper power of attorney may execute a paper binding on his principal, by signing same only with the principal's name.

*Manner of Signing.*—In the absence of statutory requirements, signatures need not be done by actual handwriting, or with pen and ink. In Pennsylvania, the distinction between pen and ink and lead pencil writing, outside of Court records and the like, is gone; elsewhere it has been held that signatures may be made with a pencil. A finger print impression would no doubt do, and a rubber stamp signature to a check is valid; so is a similar endorsement, though the Negotiable Instruments Law speaks of "written" endorsements; yet, where typewritten corporate minutes are not actually signed by the secretary, but only rubber stamped with his name, they will not be admissible in evidence without proof of the authenticity of the use of such stamp.

Letters bearing typewritten signatures are admissible in evidence; but a magistrate's typewritten signature to a jurat of a constable's return to a summons, will not sustain a judgment against a defendant who did not appear, "because it cannot be identified and is too liable to be erased"! A sheriff may use a fac-simile stamp signature as his official signature, in making returns, and a city solicitor may use a printed name to municipal liens, if he intends it as a signature for the purpose; a printed signature is also sufficient evidence of a contract of sale, under the Statute of Frauds.

From the foregoing it would seem that the popular conception of the legal individuality of a signature is shot pretty full of holes, and that in very truth there is, legally, very little left in a mere name—except a strong probability of lawsuits in every event. It is indeed fortunate that, scientifically, the *characteristics of identity of mark* still are left, ready for use in sorting out the goats