

March 11, 1893 – Chester Times

JAMES SIMPSON – The End Of A Busy Life Spent For Others

The Well-known Philanthropist Falls Ill While Preparing For the World's Fair, And Life Soon Ebbs Away, His Kind Deeds

James Simpson, whose philanthropy to the people of this section, particularly Eddystone, made his name a household word, died in Chicago yesterday, after a short illness of pneumonia. He had leased a home there for the World's Fair. Until two or three months ago, while president and general manager of the Print Works, he took an active interest in all that transpired in Eddystone and Chester. For the borough he could never do enough. He expended hundreds of dollars beautifying the place and making comfortable the homes which the firm owned there. He gave over \$12,000 and a handsome organ to the M. E. Church recently built in the borough, and about \$5,000 to the St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church at Leiperville. To the young men he was also kind. Last summer, when a cricket team was organized among the employees of the print works, Mr. Simpson donated a piece of ground for the sport, and was liberal in expending money for its improvement. In his death the people of Eddystone lose one of their best friends, and sorrow at his demise is universal.

Mr. Simpson never forgot his employees and substantially rewarded them for their faithfulness. Chester also occupied a warm corner in his heart, and he never refused a request to assist any enterprise when asked. When the First Ward park project was before our people, Mr. Simpson gave his individual check for \$5,000, which was to be used with the proviso that the citizens of Chester subscribe a like sum. The amount was not raised and the check was withdrawn.

HIS DEATH A BLOW

Mr. Simpson resigned the presidency and management of the Eddystone Print Works about three months ago, and retired from active work in the firm, though he still retained his interest in the concern. His brother, William Simpson, succeeded him. Since that time, the people of the borough have seen or heard very little of the deceased. The sad intelligence of his death spread rapidly over the borough, and in every household and store his many acts of kindness were the sole topics of conversation. The news came like a blow to the employees of the Print Works, with whom he had been so intimate during almost the whole of his lifetime. At noon, manager Peter Hunter posted a notice at the entrance to the works, stating that there would be a meeting of the employees of the works in Light House Hall today at noon to take action on his death.

In politics, Mr. Simpson was an unswerving Republican, and always liberally contributed to campaign funds, particularly in presidential years. He was a member of the Chester Republican Club and assisted more than once to help swell the club's finances. He also remembered the Young Men's Republican Club when making contributions.

He was about 42 years of age and unmarried.

The remains will be brought on from Chicago at once and buried from the residence of the deceased's mother, on Arch Street, above Eleventh, Philadelphia.

The news of Mr. Simpson's death was received with deep regret in Chester.