

CHESTER TIMES – October 14, 1912

PRESIDENT PEW TO BE BURIED TODAY – Head of Sun Company to be Interred in Mercer County – Pioneer In Oil Trade

The funeral of Joseph Newton Pew, president of the Sun Company, which operates a large oil plant at Marcus Hook, will take place this afternoon at “Bonwoode”, Mercer County, where his father and family are buried. Services were held Saturday afternoon at his home in Bryn Mawr.

Mr. Pew, who died last Thursday morning as a result of an attack of heart failure at his office in Philadelphia, was born at “Bonwoode” sixty-four years ago. “Bonwoode” has been owned by his family since its purchase by his great grandfather from the Indians, when western Pennsylvania was first opened for settlement.

As a young man, Mr. Pew was one of the pioneers in the oil business. When in his early twenties he developed in a small way oil properties in the Bradford County fields, and with those properties started the extensive business of which he died president.

In 1880 he incorporated the Sun Oil Company with a refinery at Toledo, Ohio. This company later became the Sun Company. When the Texas oil field was opened the Sun Company, under Mr. Pew’s direction, erected a large refinery at Marcus Hook, Pa., and built a fleet of steamships to carry the crude oil from Texas to this refinery on the Delaware and thence to Europe. Both the Toledo and Pennsylvania plants have been greatly increased in size since, and now constitute one of the largest competitors of the Standard and other oil companies.

In addition to being president of the Sun Company, Mr. Pew, at his death, was also president of a number of pipe lines, railroads, oil producing and other subsidiary companies connected with his oil business.

Mr. Pew was also one of the pioneers in the natural gas business. In 1885 he organized the People’s Natural Gas Company and with that company first introduced natural gas into Pittsburgh. Indeed the phenomenal growth of manufacturing in Pittsburgh commenced with this introduction of natural gas.

When the Marcus Hook plant of the Sun Company was built, about twelve years ago, Mr. Pew relinquished the presidency of the People’s Natural Gas Company and moved to Philadelphia, where he established the main offices of the Sun Company, and its subsidiaries.

He first lived at 22014 Walnut Street, and later purchased an estate on Roberts Road, Bryn Mawr. It was at “Glenmede,” this country place, where the funeral services were held yesterday.

Mr. Pew also found time for many benevolent and social activities. He was at his death, president of the Board of Trustees of Grove City College, Pa., one of the largest educational institutions in Western Pennsylvania. He was a member of the Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church, was a member of the Union League Rocket, Radnor Hunt and Merion Cricket Clubs, and director in various banks and trust companies.

Mr. Pew married Miss Mary Anderson of Titusville, Pa. He is survived by his widow, two daughters, Miss Mabel A. Pew, Miss M. Ethel Pew, and three sons, Arthur E. Pew, J. Howard Pew and Joseph N. Pew Jr., who are all actively interested with him in the oil business.