FOR

District Attorney

William Tregay

of Coatesville

with sixteen years' experience

in the Criminal Courts

of Chester County

offers his services to the

people of

the County of Chester

[Died in Coatesville
Hospital Oct. 2,1927]

CT 10.8.1927

The death of William Tregay at the Coatesville hospital on Sunday evening last takes from Coatesville and Chester county, a citizen whose life might be known as a well-rounded existence. It is no idle statement to say he was the leading criminal lawyer at the Chester County Bar; and his public interests were all-embracing, touching business, law, local government, charity and civic endeavor. CT 10.8.1927

He had a flare for politics which he capitalized to success, having been nominated for District Attorney for Chester county only a few days before he was fatally stricken. He had a gift for friendships upon which he solidly based the foundations of his progress. He came to this city about sixteen years ago, a stranger, realizing that his future depended upon himself alone, for he had at that time no wealthy or influential patrons to ease him over the rough spots. He immediately began the demonstration of the effectiveness of hard work and an ingratiating personality. These qualities quickly attracted attention and his rise became certain through natural steps until he had reached the zenith of his ambition—in being chosen to fill the high office of Prosecuting Attorney for his adopted county. But relentless fate did not permit him to grasp the scepter of power which was soon to be conferred on him—the icy hand of death grasped it and flung it aside.

For William Tregay there bulked [illegible]

whom it can be said that he will not be forgotten soon. He will be missed by his close friends and associates. He will be missed by the members of the Chester County Bar, where his counsel and guidance were considered invaluable. He will be missed by the poor, to whom he gave his services freely, without charge. And the scope and extent of the manner in which he will be missed in the circle of his friendships in this city is beyond estimate—as he possessed those kindly qualities of social contact, and attracted with the naturalness of his personality all who came within its radius.

At a meeting of the Chamber of Commerce the following resolutions were adopted on his death:

WHEREAS: An Omnipotent God in His infinite wisdom has called from our midst William Tregay, a Director of the Chamber of Commerce, an enthusiast in all that pertained to the welfare of our community and a citizen whose passing is mourned by men and women in every walk of life throughout the county; Be it

RESOLVED: By the Board of Directors of, the Coatesville Chamber of Commerce in special meeting assembled this third day of October, A. D. 1927, that with the calling of Mr. Tregap to the Great Beyond, a note of sadness has been sounded, among the entire membership. The Chamber of Commerce through its Board of Directors expresses its regret upon the loss of a valuable member and extends to the bereaved family its profound sympathy. Be it further

RESOLVED:, That a copy of these Resolutions be spread upon the minutes of the Board of Directors of the Coatesville Chamber of Commerce, a copy given the bereaved family and publication be made in the columns of the local papers.

A. F. HUSTON, President.

Adopted: October 3, 1927.

Attest:

H. S. Plummer, Sec'y.

L.10.3.1927

Writes the Coatesville correspondent: Following a critical illness of three days, William Tregay, of this city, well-known attorney and Republican nominee for the office of District Attorney, [illegible] an operation [illegible] performed shortly after noon by Dr. Kennedy, a Philadelphia specialist, who made a record run from Philadelphia here in an automobile sent from here to his office. The surgeon found the condition of his patient extremely grave and feared for the outcome, but was in hopes, as were the physicians at the hospital, that a chance would save his life. Friends and acquaintances were kept informed of his condition as they called the hospital in great numbers every hour of the two days in their anxiety to learn of his condition. To all these the nurses told that he was holding his own. Yesterday afternoon inquirers were informed that his condition was very grave. He lapsed into unconsciousness during the afternoon and passed away in the evening. 10-3

No man in the county was, perhaps, better known than was William Tregay. His lodge affiliations, his general good fellowship and his popularity at the Chester County Bar caused him to stand out as a prominent figure, and added to this was his ability as a criminal lawyer. His rise to the place of esteem in which he was held by those who knew him personally, and by those who knew his general reputation only, was by his own efforts; his indefatigable will to succeed and by his hard work for success. He was a past master of the language, affable even in the midst of a criminal trial, and it was conceded at the Chester County Court, where he often had thrice as many cases as other lawyers, that he was pleader of indominatable will and force, and many a man in trouble was sent away with light sentences or free because of William Tregay's knowledge of criminal law and his tact.

OVERCAME ODDS. (2)

His rise was not meteoric, but steady from the day he first came to Coatesville nearly fifteen years ago. He was then a meat inspector for the Federal Government, and while in this position in this county he studied law. His first office was in the Cook building, where he had but a few books, and made no excuses that he could ill afford the luxury of a finely fitted office. His present suite of offices in the Odd Fellows' Building at Third avenue and Lincoln Highway are considered among the finest equipped law offices in the entire county, and with a large law library that has taken years to accumulate.

STARTED AS BREAKER BOY.

"Bill" Tregay, as he was known about Pottsville coal regions, began his career as a coal picker on the banks of one of the coal mines, and then as a breaker boy. He later got employment in an abattoir at Pottsville, subsequently becoming identified as a meat salesman for Armour & Company, of Chicago. Later he became associated with the United States Government as a meat inspector. He burned the candle late at night studying law, and while engaged with the government took a law course at Temple University, in Philadelphia, from which he graduated. He went from there to North Carolina, but soon abandoned the practice there and came to this city.

Mr. Tregay was born at Tower City, Schuylkill county. He first entered law practice about 17 years ago, and after coming here was admitted to the Chester County Bar. He also practiced before the State higher court.

The attorney was in his 51st year, and was married three times. A daughter by his first wife is married and is living in Wisconsin. A younger daughter by the second wife is [illegible]

As a lodgeman, Mr. Tregay was active. He was a member of the Masonic Fraternity, the Chapter in Wilmington, Centennial Commandery, Knights Templar in this city, and a Masonic Lodge in New Jersey, where for a time he resided. He was a member of Coatesville Lodge B. P. O. E., and a trustee of the Washington Fire Company.

EXPRESSIONS OF FRIENDS.

"I was at his bedside last evening when he died. The end came so quietly and peacefully that the nurse had to listen intently for his last breathing. It was pathetic indeed to see a man in the height of his career, after such a struggle for success, pass away in death. I had the utmost respect for his ability as a lawyer and enjoyed his personal friendship and I am grieved indeed that he has been called from among us."—Mayor A. H. Swing.

"I was shocked on learning of the serious illness of "Bill" Tregay, and doubly pained when I heard a few moments after his death that such had occurred. He was a man whom everyone could like. He enjoyed the confidence of the attorneys of the Chester County Bar, with whom he had long been associated. His ability was respected and he held the esteem of the Court."—Walter E. Greenwood.

"He will be greatly missed at the fire house of the Washington Company, where his advice was always sought and heeded. He had been a wonderful officer of the company and a man whose place will indeed be hard to fill. His assistance in all matters pertaining to the welfare of the firemen was of the greatest value."—President F. E. Soule.

"Nothing could have occurred in the city of a greater pity than the death of William Tregay. I had known him almost from the day he came to Coatesville, and I ever called attention to his hustle and steady work on the go, and in a thoroughly business-like manner at all times. It is no wonder that he was so successfull in his profession, and he earned all he had achieved."—Ellis. B. Ridgway. L. 10.3. 1927

"The death of William Tregay is certainly a shock to the community here and will be to the county at large. He was a man who made friends wherever he went. His disposition was always pleasant. I was indeed pained to hear that he had died, for I, like many others, had been in hopes that he would recover. He had ideas of his own as to the management of the office of District Attorney and while the emoluments financially, would not have been nearly as much as he earned in his law practice, he had the ambition to run the District Attorney's office his own way, for the benefit of the court, generally, and the tax payers at large. He had the pride in Coatesville at heart too, and had he lived until his election in November, would have had the pleasure of the realization of his ambition to bring the office of the District Attorney to this city."—Harry S. Woodward.

L.10.4.1927

The various organizations of which William Tregay, deceased, was a member, will pay their respects to his memory this evening by a visit to his bier, at Masonic Home, East Lincoln Highway. Among organizations will be the Centennial Commandery, Knights Templar; Coatesville Lodge of Elks and the Washington Fire Company. Each organization will meet at their respective homes and march in a body to the hall.

The funeral of Mr. Tregay will be held to-morrow afternoon. The services will be in charge Rev. Roy T. Brumbaugh, with also a Masonic service at the grave, in Fairview Cemetery. The active pall-bearers will be members of the Washington Fire Company in full dress uniform. These will be: President F. E. Soule; Fire Chief William Houser; Secretary F. P. Pennegar; William McFadden, Ira Yeoman, Arnold Gilbert, Ray Rubincan, George Frymoyer. L.1927 10.4

L.10.5.1927

A beautiful scene in death; beautiful in its solemn impressiveness; beautiful for the great banks of flowers expressing their sentiment of truest respect and esteem; beautiful in its solemnity. And in the foreground lay the body of one of the most highly respected, loved and honored men ever to pass from the midst of his friends here—William Tregay.

And last night hundreds of people witnessed this scene, expressed their deep sorrow, stood for the moment in front of the bier, turned slowly away, and left the building with bowed heads. They could hardly realize that the still, cold features they had looked upon was the ever-active William Tregay. 10.5

The body of the well-known attorney, whose life was so suddenly snuffed out, lay in a handsome couch casket in the parlor of the Masonic Building, on Main street near Fourth avenue. For several hours the streams of humanity filed in and out in their last view of the one known so well. First came the lodges—the Masons, the Elks and the firemen, all of whose members were reluctant to depart. Then the populace, and many, also, from other places in the county, paid their tribute. L.1927

And to-day the final chapter in the sad scene will be enacted when the rites are said over the grave at Fairview Cemetery.

L.10.6.1927

MR. TREGAY'S FUNERAL.

Funeral services were held yesterday afternoon for William Tregay. These were in charge of Rev. Roy T. Brumbaugh, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, and Rev. A. A. Lamb, rector of the Episcopal Church of the Trinity, the latter officiating for the Masonic Chapter. The obsequies were very largely attended, with interment at Fairview Cemetery. 10-6 L.1927