

John C. Eppley, (Apr 1853 - 5 Apr 1926), Duncannon Record, Thursday, April 8, 1926

John C. Eppley, aged 74, retired yard engineer of the Pennsylvania, Railroad, died at home in Marysville, Monday evening of last week after a short illness. With his wife he had been making his home with their daughter, **Mrs. Richard Hipple**, Maple Avenue. Surviving are his widow **Mrs. Delilah Eppley**; two daughters, **Mrs. W. H. Kennedy** of Enola, **Mrs. H. B. Hipple**, Marysville; four sons, **C. Dean Eppley** of Balboa Heights, Panama Canal Zone; **Roy Eppley** of Lemoyne, **Arch G. Eppley** and **Max C. Eppley**

Mr. Eppley was a railroad pioneer and had the distinction of running the first coal burning engine run by the company. He was born in April 1853 at Shiremanstown, and started to work for the railroad at the age 15 years as a water carrier to the road gang at Maclay Street. Later on he secured work at the engine house at Marysville as a cleaner and moved to the latter place. He was later transferred to fireman and the first engine fired by him was the old 97 which had a starting bar on. He had to down nine steps to the tank and climb another pair of steps to get coal for firing. **Mr. Eppley** retired July 11, 1918, after 50 years of service for the company. On his retirement his fellow workmen presented him with many gifts. In 1913 when Marysville had its Old Home; celebration, **Mr. Eppley** was adjudged the most popular railroader in the town. After he was promoted to engineer the first engine run by him was a twenty ton camel back No. 39. Later thirty ton engines were brought into use and he ran number 4045 for a number of years, also the 86A. In those days the engineer had to make his own repairs on the engine he was running with exception of grinding brasses and bearings. There were no airbrakes or patent couplers. The only brake on the engine was the reversing bar. **Mr. Eppley** had the record of never killing any one and only one person was injured that being when the old style coupler was in use.

Funeral services were held Thursday afternoon. He was a-member of the Retired Veterans Association, the P. R. R. Relief, a member of Perry Lodge No. 458, F. and A. M. and a member of Bethany Evangelical United Brethren Church, his pastor Rev. L. M. Dice, his pastor officiating with Rev. J. E. Strine of the Church of God. Burial was made in the Chestnut Grove Cemetery

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