

Chief of Department William T. Cheswell, age 63, Headquarters

On February 15, 1906, Chief of Department Cheswell died from heart failure while directing operations at Box 15, (Richmond & Commercial Streets) for a fire in a wholesale grocery business at 72 Commercial Street, North End. Chief of Department Cheswell had 43 years of service.

(On December 20, 1905, he was thrown from his wagon at Albany and Bristol Streets while responding to an alarm from Box 48. He received a fractured skull and other injuries. He was transported to Massachusetts General Hospital where he stayed until December 31, 1905, when he was sent home to recuperate. Chief Cheswell reported back for duty on January 22, 1906. On February 15, 1906, at 0501 hours, he was taken suddenly ill at the fire at 72 Commercial Street, North End, and was taken to the Relief Station of the City Hospital where he died at 0526 hours. The doctor in charge, Dr. George H.M. Rowe diagnosed the cause as cardiac.)