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Pigeon story - Montparnasse cemetery (*cimetière*)

Charles Joseph Pigeon

Born Le Mesnil-Lieubray (Normandy) 1838, Died Paris 1915.

Only son of Pierre and Sophie Pigeon (married in 1825), Charles-Joseph worked as a salesman at the Bon-Marché where he became friends with Erenest Cognacq, the future developer of La Samaritaine.

He opened a business that sold, repaired, and maintained light fixtures at 33 rue de Cherche-Midi in Paris.

Gradually his studio began transforming lamps to work with fuel around 1875.

His curiosity for using mineral spirits produced his first tubular lamp in cast iron under his name two years later.

Eight million of these non-explosive lamps were produced at the new factory on rue Montgolfier in 1902 (3rd arrondissement, close to les Halles).

Charles Pigeon ordered a tomb for 18 members of the family built in 1905.

He inaugurated the next factory, 2 rue Claude Vellefaux (10th arrondissement) the following year which produced 500,000 examples a year.

His wife died March 9, 1909, and his son, George in 1910.

Charles Pigeon died at his home, 54 rue de Rennes in Paris on March 18, 1915.



Montparnasse Cemetery