

**DOCUMENT 11 – COMMUNICATION FROM THE CORONER TO THE MAYOR
CONCERNING UNSAFE ELEVATORS**

January 13, 1879

TRANSCRIPTION

To His Hon
The Mayor
of the City of Chicago.

Dear Sir:

The following is a copy of the
verdict of the Coroners Jury at the Inquest
upon the Body of Charles O. Thompson Jr.

_____ “That the said Charles O. Thompson, now
lying dead, came to his death by accident
by reason of falling a distance of 60 feet
down an Elevator way, in the building known
as No^s 151 and 153 Fifth Avenue in the City of
Chicago owned by N.S. Ray.

The Jury deem it their duty to censure the
owner of the building in which this young man
met his horrible death, this being the second case
of the same nature during the past year.

1st - For allowing an elevator to be used
in common by several different firms
without a proper person in exclusive charge
of it. 2nd - For leaving the approaches to
the Elevator way entirely unguarded except
by such as is afforded by the ordinary door
and fastenings, without any extra fastenings,
guards, or notices thereon.

The Jury are fully of the opinion that

Deceased came to his death from one or the other of these two defects both of which exist not only in the elevator in question but which the Jury are credibly informed exist in many other elevators in this city. The Jury therefore take occasion to invite the attention of the proper City Authorities to the importance of an Ordinance providing for more carefull management of this class of conveyance that is so generally in use in the City of Chicago,,

O.L. Mann

Coroner