

**FIRE PROTECTION HISTORY-PART 103: 1922  
(A TRIBUTE TO F. M. GRISWOLD)**

By Richard Schulte

Among the presentations made at the twenty-sixth Annual Meeting of the National Fire Protection Association held in 1922 was a tribute to F. M. Griswold. The following is the text of the tribute to Mr. Griswold:

*“Mr. C. M. Goddard (Boston): May I now present the resolutions of the Committee on the death of Mr. Griswold.*

*The President: Yes, sir.*

*Mr. Goddard then presented the following resolutions.*

**FLORENCE MAHONEY GRISWOLD.  
1843-1922.**

*Florence Mahoney Griswold, an Honorary Life Member of the National Fire Protection Association, died at his home in Garden City, Long Island, Tuesday, April 28th, at the age of seventy-nine.*

*Mr. Griswold served in the Civil War and also as Special Agent for the North American Insurance Company of New York for the State of Ohio previous to his entering the employ of the Home Insurance Company of New York as General Inspector in 1875. Mr. Griswold filled this important position with marked ability during a period of forty seven years and up to the time of his death.*

*Mr. Griswold was one of the early workers in the National Fire Protection Association, becoming a member in 1898. Those familiar with the work of the Association in the formative period well remember the ardent interest which Mr. Griswold always displayed in matters looking toward fire protection and fire prevention. His activities were many, but perhaps more especially along the line of fire protection, because he was unusually interested in developing efficiency in public fire departments, and it was undoubtedly this interest that suggested to him the possibility and the wonderfully beneficial effects of standardizing hose couplings.*

Mr. Griswold was an extremely modest man, quiet and retiring in his actions, but industrious and above all persistent. *For years he led the fight for standardizing hose couplings among municipal fire departments*, and it must have been a satisfaction to him that he lived to see such marked progress in this direction. The history of his successful work among fire departments of this country, as it appears over a long period of years in the records of the annual meetings of the National Fire Protection Association, becomes a monument to his ability.

*Mr. Griswold represented the National Board of Fire Underwriters at the International Congress of Fire Prevention held in London in 1903.*

The National Fire Protection Association honored itself in conferring Honorary Life Membership on Mr. Griswold in 1914. His kindly presence and often-sought and valuable advice will be greatly missed. Mr. Griswold well deserved the following introduction at the time of his election to Honorary Life Membership: –

*“It does not come to all of us to have the honor of going down to posterity as having really accomplished something. The great inventor goes back into the recesses of his brain and presents some new thought or new idea, something apparently entirely new. It is taken up quickly, and we accept it as a matter of course. His work is easy. But the man who deliberately attempts to change the line of established thought, of public opinion; who starts out upon a quest to stir the public from its beaten path,— that man is attempting a work of another character. That man has to contend, and realizes that he has to contend, with selfishness, prejudice, jealousy, and heaviest burden of all, inertia or lack of interest. Such work is a job of a man’s size and when a man takes a work of that character and carries it through to a successful conclusion, we are moved to exclaim, ‘There is a man’.”*

Your Committee recommend that the above be spread on the Records of this Association.

C. M. Goddard,  
Chas. A. Hexamer,  
Committee.

*The President: The Chair understands that you move adoption of this resolution by a rising vote?*

*Mr. Goddard: Yes, sir.*

*The resolutions were adopted by a rising vote.*

The standardization of hose couplings utilized by the fire service was quite a technical achievement-an achievement which is taken for granted today.

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**Source:** *“Proceedings of the Twenty-Sixth Annual [NFPA] Meeting”*, Atlantic City, New Jersey, 1922.