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## **FIRE PROTECTION HISTORY-PART 30: 8<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL NFPA MEETING-1904 (A TRIBUTE TO CAPT. WILLIAM STRATTON)**

By Richard Schulte

Many of the names of the early pioneers in the field of fire protection are unknown to most of us today. One such pioneer was apparently William Stratton.

The following is the text of a tribute to Captain Stratton read at the eighth annual meeting of the National Fire Protection Association:

### ***“Resolutions on the Death of Capt. W. H. Stratton.***

*The President. I will now call for the report of the Special Committee appointed by the Executive Committee to draft resolutions on the death of our friend Capt. Stratton, Mr. Anderson, chairman.*

*(Mr. Anderson read the following resolutions, which were adopted by a rising vote.)*

*The committee to which was referred the subject of memorial notice on the death of our late associate, Captain W. H. Stratton, who died at his home in Hartford, Conn., on August 13<sup>th</sup>, 1903, hereby present a brief summary of his career.*

*Wm. H. Stratton was born in 1854. In 1874 he became interested in the subject of fire protection and took part in the installation of the Parmelee Automatic Sprinkler system at New Haven, Conn., and from that time until his death he was an untiring student in work of this character.*

*In 1881 he was selected by J. W. Bishop, of New Haven, Conn., to attend the Atlanta Cotton Exhibition to represent and introduce to the cotton men of this country the value of automatic sprinkler protection. His earnestness and energy at this exhibition brought him to the attention of others interested in this then new field of industry, and soon after he became associated with the Connecticut representatives of the Grinnell sprinklers.*

*In 1883 he became the general agent of the Automatic Fire Alarm & Extinguisher Co., of New York, in their sprinkler department, and from that time to 1888 he superintended the installation of this class of work for that company. In 1888 he accepted the position of chief inspector of the southern and western section for the New England Mutual Insurance Companies, and in this position he became familiar with the cotton industries of the Southern States and did much to improve the protection of this class of hazard.*

*In 1895 he was appointed assistance manager of the Factory Insurance Association of Hartford, and in 1899 manager of this important organization, in which position he continued until his death.*

*He took an active part in the formation of the National Fire Protection Association and was one of its original members. He was elected Chairman of the Executive Committee in 1897, and was continued in this office until his death. During this time he performed valuable service on many of our important Committees, and by his broad and extensive experience secured the entire confidence of his associates and largely contributed to the success of this organization.*

*We therefore recommend the adoption of the following resolutions:*

*Whereas, Captain William H. Stratton, by his long and diligent study of the subject of fire protection and by his intelligence and active co-operation in securing many important improvements in fire extinguishing and safety devices, gained the respect of his associates, and by his uniform kindness and conscientious performance of duty as co-laborer, won our admiration and gratitude, and as a genial friend secured our affection:*

*Resolved, By his death this Association loses an officer, whose memory will ever be cherished as one who was always earnest, cheerful, energetic, enthusiastic and conscientious, dignified, sincere, and of an affectionate disposition, active in all work of our Association and fully devoted to its best interests.*

*Resolved, That we place on our minutes this record of our appreciation of his excellent qualities, our affection for him as a friend, and our recognition of his valuable and faithful services as Chairman of our Executive Committee and as a member of various important Special Committees of this Association.*

*Wm. A. Anderson, Chairman.*

*H. L. Phillips.*

*W. H. Merrill, Jr."*

**Source:** *Proceedings of the National Fire Protection Association, Volume 1904-1906*

While the name William Stratton may not be familiar to those now working in the fire protection field, the names Parmelee and Grinnell are likely to be familiar names many have heard before and, for old-timers in the field today, the organization Factory Insurance Association is certainly familiar.

Although Parmelee, Grinnell and the Factory Insurance Association (FIA) belong to bygone days, every once in awhile you still see references to the Parmelee sprinkler, Grinnell sprinklers and the FIA.

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