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FIRE PROTECTION HISTORY-PART 10: NFPA ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP ROSTER (1900)

By Richard Schulte

The roster of active members of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) reported at the fourth annual meeting of the Association held in 1900 was as follows:

*“New York Board of Fire Underwriters.
South Eastern Tariff Association.
Boston Board of Fire Underwriters.
Underwriters’ Association of the Middle Department.
Philadelphia Fire Underwriters’ Association.
Insurance Association of Providence.
Board of Fire Underwriters of Allegheny County.
Underwriters’ Bureau of Middle and Southern States.
Middle States Inspection Bureau.
New Hampshire Board of Fire Underwriters.
Western Factory Insurance Association.
The Union.
Underwriters’ Bureau of New England.
Chicago Underwriters’ Association.
Factory Insurance Association.
New England Insurance Exchange.
St. Louis Fire Prevention Bureau.
Canadian Fire Underwriters’ Association.
New England Bureau of United Inspection.
Ohio Inspection Bureau.
New Brunswick Board of Fire Underwriters.
Buffalo Association of Fire Underwriters.
Cincinnati Underwriters’ Association.
Milwaukee Board of Fire Underwriters.
National Board of Fire Underwriters.
Underwriters’ Association of New York State.
Underwriters’ Bureau of Fire Protection Engineering.”*

Source: *NFPA Proceedings*, Volume 1897-1900

Given that the by-laws of the National Fire Protection Association limited the active membership of the Association to fire insurance interests, the roster of active members of the Association is no surprise. Although the NFPA active membership included members from the Southeastern states, the Middle States, Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Louis and Cincinnati, it seems apparent that the Association predominantly represented the insurance interests located in the Northeastern part of the United States. In other words, the field of fire protection was essentially born in the Northeast.

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