

SCHULTE & ASSOCIATES

Building Code Consultants
880D Forest Avenue
Evanston, IL 60202
fpeschulte@aol.com
847/866-7479

FIRE PROTECTION HISTORY-PART 45: 1912 (THE TITANIC)

By Richard Schulte

The 46th annual meeting of the National Board of Fire Underwriters (NBFU) was held at the Woldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York City on Thursday, May 23, 1912. After the calling of the roll of the members of the National Board, the president of the NBFU, George W. Babb, addressed the meeting. Part of the president's address included a review of members and former members of the NBFU who had passed away since the prior meeting.

One of the NBFU members who had died was Wyckoff Van Derhoef. President Babb had this to say about Mr. Wyckoff's death:

"Wyckoff Van Derhoef, Secretary of the Williamsburg City Fire Insurance Company, died April 15, 1912. Mr. Van Derhoef, who was elected Secretary of his company following the death of President Driggs in 1910, was returning from abroad on board the "Titanic," and was one of the large number of heroic men who lost their lives in that most tragic disaster of modern times."

Mr. Wyckoff was one of 1,517 passengers and crew who perished in the North Atlantic when the RMS Titanic struck an iceberg shortly before midnight on April 14th, 1912. Roughly 2-1/2 hours later, the Titanic went to its grave at the bottom of the Atlantic.

The complete text of George Babb's address from 1912 will be included in one of the next installments in this series of articles on the history of fire protection.

* * * * *

Copyright © 2011
Richard C. Schulte