

# Holley man went down in Titanic

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One hundred years ago on the night of April 14, 1912, the White Star liner Titanic on its maiden voyage from Southampton to New York met with disaster as it collided with an iceberg off the banks of New Foundland. Less than three hours after impact, the magnificent new liner went down taking with it more than 1500 people.

The legend of this tragic event remains with us today as one of the most curious and interesting marine accidents in history. Books have been written about it and movies made of it depicting this terrible calamity.

Aside from its international toll of lost lives, it also had a direct impact on an Orleans County family. Here is an account of the local implications from an April 1912 Albion newspaper.

Speaking of the disaster the Holley Standard says: "The Bentham and Douton families have been intimate for years and Miss Bentham made both the outgoing and returning voyage in Mr. Douton's company. Dr. Douton's name does not appear in any of the lists of the survivors on board the Capathia, and as the great majority of those rescued were women

and children it is probable that he went down with the doomed vessel. His wife and his two daughters, Mrs. Chas. Cooper of Hilton, and Mrs. Epke of Holley, and his many Holley friends, still cling to the hope that he may be among the rescued whose name have not yet been reported."

Both Miss Bentham and Mr. Douton were 2nd class passengers on the Titanic. On May 9, 1912 his name appeared on the final list of those lost on that ill-fated voyage. A cenotaph bearing his name was erected by the Holley IOOF in Hillside Cemetery.

## Bethinking of Olde Orleans

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"The pall of grief which has spread over the whole country on account of the greatest marine disaster in the history of the world is made darker and brought nearer to our doors by the fact that an Orleans County man went to his death on the ill-fated Titanic. William J. Douton, of Holley, was returning from a trip to England and expected to reach home on the Olympic, but was delayed, and so became a victim of the Titanic's final plunge. Mr. Douton, when he first came to this county, was a resident of Albion for several years."

"Miss Lillian Bentham, now of Rochester, but up to last fall a resident of Holley, was also on the Titanic, but is among the rescued."

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