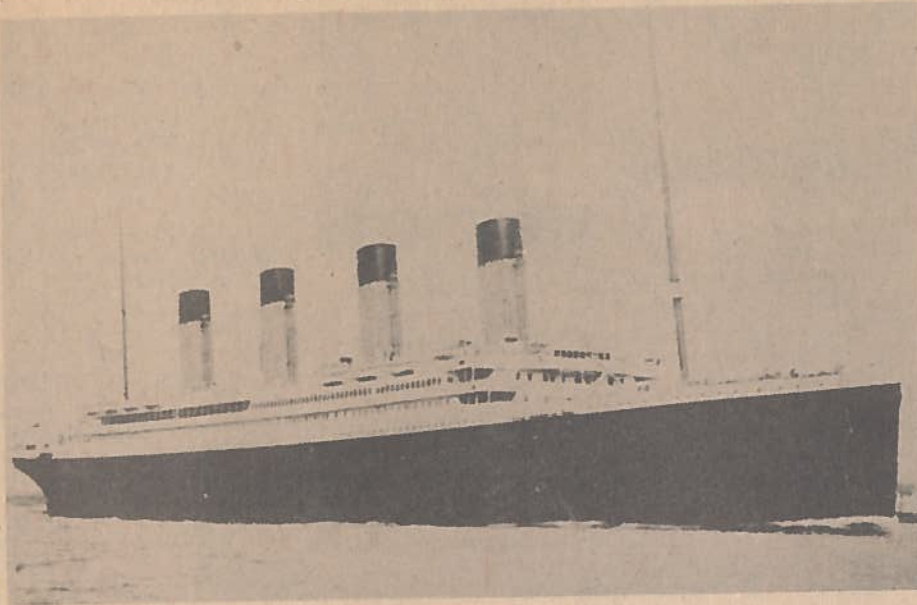


Bethinking of ⁴⁻¹⁵⁻⁸² Old Orleans

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HOLLEY MAN WENT DOWN ON TITANIC

Just seventy years ago on the night of April 14, 1912, the 46,328 ton White Star liner Titanic on its maiden voyage from Southhampton 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 which was the largest and most sumptuously decorated vessel ever put to sea 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.

"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."

"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 names 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.