

An Argyle Theatre's Bandsman Among the Titanic Orchestra

Birkenhead News

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One of those on board the *Titanic* and who it is feared is amongst those who have perished, is Mr. J. F. P. Clarke, formerly a member of the orchestra of the Argyle Theatre of Varieties. Mr. Clarke in his short time he played the Bass at the theatre.

He then got employment with the White Star Line and was appointed as a member of the orchestra formed to render music on the ill-fated *Titanic*. He was in the Birkenhead in the early part of last week, and said good-bye to friends preparatory to leaving for Southampton to join the *Titanic*. Mr. Clarke is very well known in musical circles. Only two Saturdays ago he was in Birkenhead and was very well. He attended the performance at the Argyle Theatre and met a number of friends there.

He appeared rather morose and he said had hopes of receiving great benefit from his voyage on the *Titanic*. After completing his services with the White Star Company, he hoped to embark on a musical season again. He was an enthusiastic musician, and has played in the Liverpool Philharmonic band. He had a large circle of friends in Birkenhead.

The survivors from the *Titanic* are loud in their praise of the members of the orchestra. After the collision they brought their instruments on deck and played almost until the moment that the ship broke in two and foundered. The last item of a concert such as surely has never taken place in the history of the sea is reported to have been

Courtesy of Brian Ticehurst

www.encyclopedia-titanica.org 1996-2011 and third parties (ref: #5448)

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