

ARTHUR KEEFE ONE OF THE PASSENGERS ABOARD THE TITANIC

Rahway Daily Record

Wednesday 17 April 1912

New York Papers This Morning Give His Name In List of Passengers Embarking at Southampton

FEAR HE IS AMONG MISSING

His Sister in East Rahway Feels That He Met His Fate When The Ill Starred Vessel Sank

Hoping against hope, the numerous friends of Arthur Keef [sic] of East Rahway in this city still cling to the belief that he was not a passenger on the illfated steamship Titanic, or will, if he sailed on her, be found among those rescued. This hope, however, has little of solid foundation to rest upon beyond the general hope that he escaped death when the vessel went down.

Name on Passenger List

Arthur Keefe's name appeared this morning in the lists of steerage passengers who boarded the Titanic at Southampton and who have not as yet been accounted for.

Many of his friends say it would not be at all unlike Mr. Keefe to have taken passage on some other boat than the Titanic, and they still cling to the hope [sic] that he will return. However, the probabilities are all the other way. In his latest postal cards sent to relatives and friends in this city he stated explicitly that he intended to sail from London on April 10. These postals were mailed from Edinburgh, Scotland, and while Mr. Keefe mentioned London as his point of sailing, it is well known that Southampton is the point at which passengers from London embark, a special boat train being run from Waterloo station to the wharf at Southampton.

Lists Probably Accurate

There is little reason to question the accuracy of the passenger list as published this morning in the New York Sun and Tribune, and in this list the name of Arthur Keefe appears among the steerage passengers. In the scramble for boats which must have occurred when it was found that the Titanic was sinking, the steerage passengers undoubtedly would obtain the worst of the argument, and it seems, sad though it is to admit the fact, that "Artie" went down with the hundreds of others who will be seen no more.

Until the Carpathia reaches her dock in New York City some time tomorrow nothing will be ascertained accurately of the horrible and heartrending scenes which must have accompanied the death throbs of the great vessel. Perhaps something may then be learned of the fate of Arthur Keefe and those who went with him to a watery grave. Until then hopes will be held for return, although the thread is of the slenderest.

No More News Yet

No additional news of real value has today been added to the information published in the New York

papers this morning. The offices of the White Star line in New York are still besieged by crowds of heartbroken relatives of those who were in the vessel, but the officials of the company have no further information to give out. There appears to be little prospect that any on board the steamship, with the exception of those who are now being brought to port aboard the Carpathia, are saved. The latest wireless telegrams affirm this.

Business And Pleasure Trip

When Arthur Keefe left Rahway he went on a trip which was intended to combine business and pleasure. He had information of an estate in Ireland of which a portion at least was due to fall to him through his mother. This, it is understood, was one of the principal reasons why he undertook the trip. He at the same time desired to visit some of the more noted places in the old country. On the day he left this city for New York he stated to a representative of the Daily Record that he intended to take a trip through North Wales after landing in England, and that he would then go to Scotland, probably returning from London.

As to his sailing steerage on his return trip, Mr. Keefe said at that time to the Record representative that he would look the boat over and if the steerage suited him he would come home that way.

Sister Had Premonition

A peculiar circumstance concerning the mishap is that Mrs. Maggie O'Brien of East Rahway, sister of Mr. Keef, [sic] feels thoroughly convinced that he went down with the vessel. Mrs. O'Brien says "I am positive that Artie is drowned as I received three warnings on Sunday. One was a terrible coldness that came over me like a wet blanket or heavy fog. The second was a blueness and dulness [sic] that settled on my mind, and the third was a deep feeling that something awful was going to happen."

The postal to Mrs. O'Brien, which she received on Monday, stated that her brother intended to sail on the Titanic on April 10 and that he expected to reach home on April 18 and that he might go steerage.

Courtesy of Mark Baber

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