



Rev. Robert James Bateman

**BIBLE WHICH BELONGED TO MAN WHO GAVE
HIS LIFE TO SAVE HIS SISTER WHEN THE
TITANIC SANK,
NOW IS IN BAXTER SEMINARY LIBRARY**

By Albert W. Brogdon

Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN

Thursday, April 11, 1940

(Photo: Encyclopedia Titanica courtesy of Harvey Myers)

<http://www.encyclopedia-titanica.org>

A Family Photo (origin unknown) copied from a copy hanging in my mothers dining room. She, Born Betty Jane Bateman was his granddaughter.

As far as is known, the only Bible saved from the Titanic when the great liner sank to the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean 28 years ago Sunday, on Sunday night, April 14, 1912, which was owned by a man who gave his life that his sister might be saved, is now in the library of Baxter Seminary.

The Bible was owned by the **Rev. R. J. Bateman**, a Wesleyan minister of near Birmingham, England, who was on his way to this country to live. Mr. Bateman carried his Bible, which was an unusual book, when he took passage on the ill-fated Titanic. The book is "The Emphatic Diaglott, containing the original Greek text of the New Testament with an interlinary word for word English translation based on the interlinary translation, on the rendering of eminent critics, and on the various readings of the Vatican manuscript in the Vatican library."

The minister may have been reading from his Testament at 11:40 p.m. on that fateful Sunday night or may have already read a few passages of Scripture and retired. It is not known what may have transpired in his cabin before the giant ship struck an iceberg, but his Bible was not far from his hand, for when the passengers were summoned on deck after the collision, he carried the book with him.

A sister of the minister, a **Mrs. Wells** of Overlea, MD, who had been to England on a visit, was returning home aboard the ship. In the ensuing panic the man became separated from his sister, whom he thought had been placed in a life boat. He subsequently found a seat in a lifeboat which was ready to be rowed away from the doomed vessel when he looked back and saw his sister still aboard.

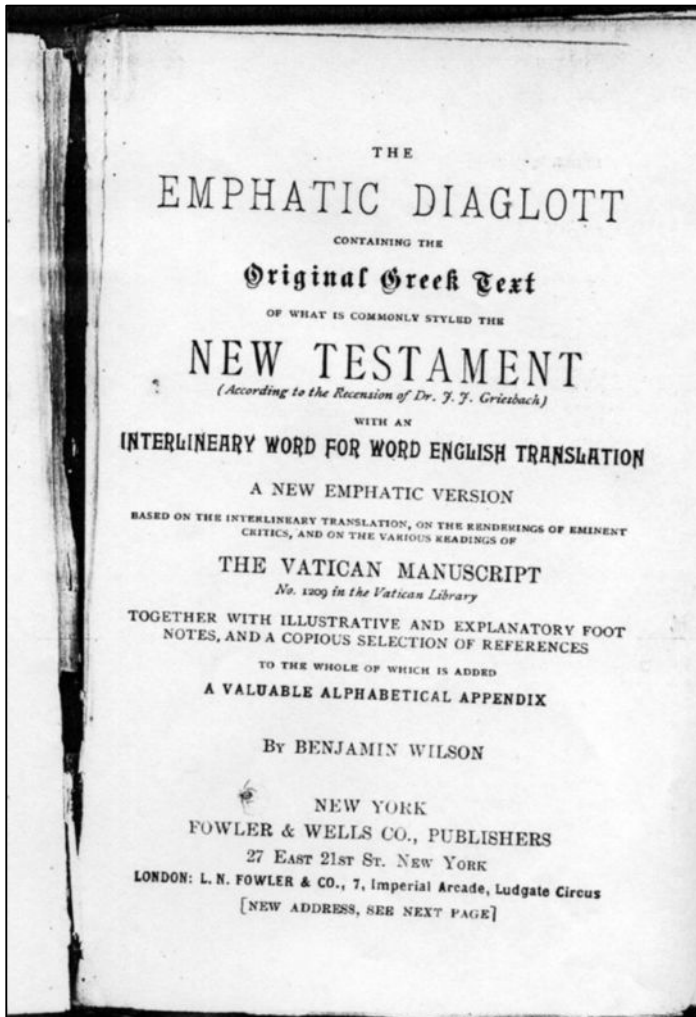
He insisted on being allowed to exchange places with her, and as he helped her into the boat, gave the Bible to her. Mrs. Wells was saved, but her heroic brother and 1,517 others went down with the ship as the band played "Nearer My God to Thee."

Dr. Upperman was told the story and was given the book by Bateman's wife, who later came to Baltimore to live. She presented the book to him during her last illness and had him sit by her bedside and pen the following inscription on the flyleaf of the Bible:

“To **Harry L. Upperman**, a gift from Mrs. Bateman as a remembrance of her husband who got up out of a rowboat as the Titanic was sinking, and gave that seat to his sister, who he thought was in another boat, but who had really been left on the Titanic. Mr. Bateman got back on the Titanic and lost his life as the boat sunk.”

“The drama, as I see it,” Dr. Upperman declared, “was in that man, who, in the darkness of the night, knew that if he got back on that boat, he would die.”

By a strange coincidence, Dr. Upperman will preach in a Baltimore church on Sunday, the 28th anniversary of the sinking of the Titanic, and has announced his intention of reading his text from the historic Testament.



The
EMPHATIC DIAGLOTT
Containing The
Original Greek Text
of what is commonly styled the

NEW TESTAMENT
(According to the Recension of Dr. F. F. Griesbach)

Interlineary Word for Word English Translation

A New Emphatic Version

Based on the Interlineary Translation, on the
Rendering of Eminent Critics, and
on the Various Readings of

THE VATICAN MANUSCRIPT

No. 1209 in the Vatican Library

Together with Illustrative and Explanatory Foot
Notes, and a Copious Selection of References

To the Whole of Which is Added

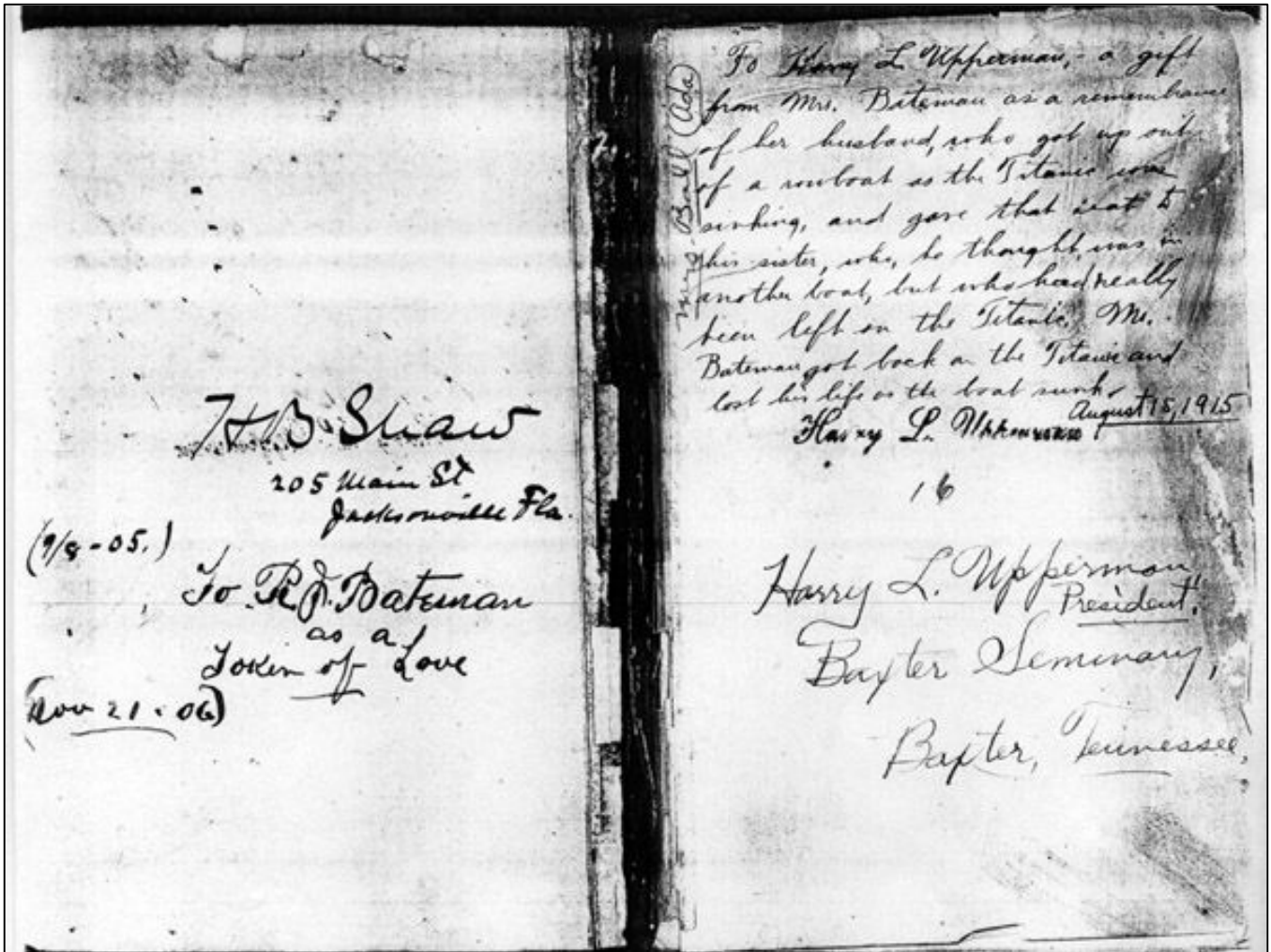
A Valuable Alphabetical Appendix

By Benjamin Wilson

New York

Fowler & Wells Co., Publishers
27 East 21st St., New York

London: L.N. Fowler & Co., 7, Imperial Arcade, Ludgate Circus
(New Address, See Next Page)



THE REV. R. J. BATEMAN BIBLE

“To **Harry L. Upperman**, a gift from Mrs. Bateman as a remembrance of her husband who got up out of a rowboat as the Titanic was sinking, and gave that seat to his sister, who he thought was in another boat, but who had really been left on the Titanic. Mr. Bateman got back on the Titanic and lost his life as the boat sunk.” August 15, 1915

Harry L. Upperman, President of Baxter Seminary, Baxter, Tennessee

*See History of Baxter Seminary: <http://www.ajlambert.com>

TITANIC'S PASSENGER LIST.

FIRST CABIN.

The first-class passenger list of the steamship Titanic includes:

Miss E. W. Allen.
 H. J. Allison, wife, daughter, son, maid and nurse.
 Harry Anderson.
 Miss Cornelia Andrews.
 Thomas Andrews.
 Mrs. Ed Appleton.
 Raymon Artaga-Veylla.
 Col. John Jacob Aqter, wife, maid, servant and maid.
 Mrs. N. Aubert and maid.
 O. H. Barkworth.
 J. Baumann.
 Mrs. James Baxter.
 Quigg Baxter.
 R. T. Beckwith and wife.
 K. H. Behr.
 D. H. Bishop and wife.
 H. Bjornstrom.
 Stephen Wear Blackwell.
 Henry Blank.
 Miss Caroline Bonnell.
 Miss Caroline Bonnell.
 Lily Bonnell.
 J. J. Borabank.
 Miss Bowen.
 Elsie Bowerman.
 John B. Brady.
 E. Brandeis.
 George Brayton.
 Dr. Arthur Jackson Brew.
 Mrs. J. J. Brown.
 Mrs. J. M. Brown.
 Mrs. S. W. Bucknell and maid.
 Maj. Archibald Butt.
 E. P. Calderhead.
 Mrs. Churchill Cardell.
 Mrs. J. W. M. Cardeza and maid.
 T. D. M. Cardeza and man servant.
 Frank Carlson.
 F. M. and J. P. Carran.
 William E. Carter, wife, son, daughter and maid.
 Howard B. Case.
 T. W. Catendish, wife and maid.
 Herbert P. Cuppe and wife.
 N. C. Chambers and wife.
 Miss Gladys Cherry.
 Paul Chevre.
 Mrs. E. M. Childnall.
 Robert Chisholm.
 Walter M. Clark and wife.
 George Quincy Clifford.
 E. P. Colley.
 Mrs. A. T. and Miss S. W. Compton.
 A. T. Compton, Jr.
 Mrs. E. C. Consett.

W. T. Stead.
 Max Froelicher Stehl and wife.
 C. E. H. E. Stengel and wife.
 Mrs. W. B. Stephenson.
 A. A. Stewart.
 Mrs. George M. Stone and maid.
 Isidor Straus and wife.
 Frederick Sutton.
 Mrs. Frederick Joel Swift.
 Emil Taussig.
 Ruth Taussig.
 K. S. Taylor and wife.
 J. B. Thayer and wife.
 J. B. Thayer, Jr.
 J. Thorne and wife.
 G. M. Tucker, Jr.
 Mr. Urichurru.
 Wickoff Vanderhoof.
 W. Anderson Walker.
 F. M. Warren and wife.
 J. Weir.
 M. J. White.
 Richard F. White and wife.
 Percival W. White.
 George D. Wick and wife.
 Miss Mary Wick.
 George D. Wildner and wife.
 Harry Whitener.
 Miss Constance Willard.
 Duane Williams.
 N. M. Williams, Jr.
 Hugh Woodner.
 George Wright.
 Miss Marie Young.

SECOND CABIN.

The list of second-class passengers on board the Titanic is as follows:

William Angle and wife.
 John Ashby.
 Samson Ahlstrom.
 Hanna Ahlstrom.
 Edgar Andrew.
 Lillian Bentham.
 Ada E. Balls.
 Kate Blue.
 Robert J. Bateman.
 Lawrence Beasley.
 Mrs. A. O. Becker and three children.
 Reginald Butler.
 Edward Beane.
 Ethel Beane.
 H. J. Beauchamp.
 Jose de Brito.
 The Rev. Thomas R. D. Byles.
 Mr. Bombledge.
 Solomon Bowenar.
 Mildred Brown.
 Percy Dally.
 W. Hall Horsford.
 William Ferriman.
 Carl Brydt.

<http://www.lva.lib.va.us/whoware/exhibits/titanic/p2.htm#alpha>

In 1912, major newspapers routinely published Steamship passenger lists, as shown by this example from the, *Los Angeles Times*.

Following the disaster, newspapers around the nation and the world rushed to print lists of both the Lost and the Survivors.

The following list includes the names of all Passengers known to be aboard the *Titanic* on April 14, 1912.

Included on this list was: Robert J. Bateman in the list of second class passengers, shown above. Robert J. Bateman lost his life on the Titanic.

Included in the list of second class passengers were survivors, Master Ralph Wells, Miss J. Wells & Mrs. Addie Wells and Mrs. Ada E. Ball (nee Hall).

Fr Robert James Bateman

He was born on [Sunday 14th October 1860](#)

When the *Titanic* sank Robert James Bateman was aged 51 years

His last residence was in [Jacksonville Florida United States](#)

[BATEMAN, Fr Robert James](#) 2nd Class Priest / Minister: People Traveling to Jacksonville, FL

Occupation: [Priest / Minister](#)

He boarded the Titanic as a [2nd Class passenger](#) at [Southampton](#) on Wednesday 10th April 1912 , Ticket No. 1166 , £12 10s 10d

Destination: [Jacksonville Florida United States](#)

Bateman died in the sinking. His body was recovered by the [Mackay-Bennett](#) (No. 174) and was buried at Evergreen Cemetery [Jacksonville Florida United States](#) on Sunday 12th May 1912.

[BATEMAN, Fr Robert James](#) 2nd Class Priest / Minister: People buried in Jacksonville, FL.

Current Editorial Team:

[Stephen C Bateman](#)

[Join the editorial team for Robert James Bateman](#)

Related Images

A Family Photo (origin unknown) copied from a copy hanging in my mothers dining room. She, Born Betty Jane Bateman was his granddaughter.



Mackay-Bennett

Notes

1. *C. S. Mackay-Bennett*, Official No. 89,965; Call Sign JRHS; built in 1884, length 259.3 ft.; breadth 40.1 ft.; draught 21.8 ft.; registered tonnage 1,731 tons.
2. Captain Frederick Harold Larnder, lived at 69 Inglis Street, Oxford Apartments, Halifax.
Canon Kenneth Cameron Hind, priest's assistant, Cathedral Church of All Saints (Anglican), Tower Road, Halifax; boarded at 52 Coburg Road, Halifax
John R. Snow Jr., undertaker, Snow & Co. Ltd., 90 Argyle Street, Halifax; lived at 206½ Morris Street, Halifax.
George Peter Snow, stone cutter and undertaker worked at Geo. A. Stanford & Sons (next door to Snow & Co.) at 82-84 Argyle Street, Halifax; lived at 108 North Street, Halifax.
3. It has been suggested that only those bodies which could be identified or were in good enough condition for embalming were kept on board the *Mackay-Bennett*, but there is apparently no evidence for this. It appears that, while class *had* been a factor, the vessel was simply ill prepared for the number of bodies that were found. Once additional supplies were obtained from the

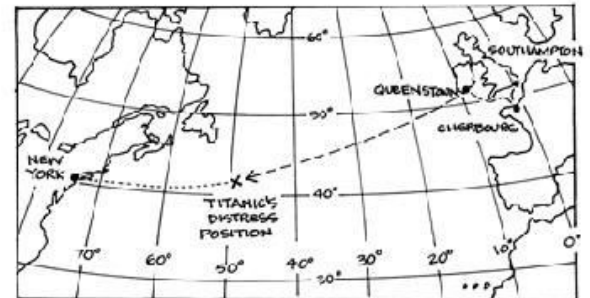
Sardinian on the evening of 23 April 1912 all burials at sea stopped and all bodies were kept regardless of class, identification or state. No sea burials occurred after 24 April 1912.were

References

- John P. Eaton & Charles A. Haas (2000) *Titanic: A Journey Through Time*.
 John P. Eaton & Charles A. Haas (1994) *Titanic: Triumph & Tragedy*, 2nd ed. Patrick Stephens Ltd. ISBN 1 85260 493 X
 Alan Ruffman (1999) *Titanic Remembered: The Unsinkable Ship and Halifax*. Formac Publishing Company Ltd., Halifax ISBN 0-88780-467-5
 Alan Ruffman (2001) Personal Communication. *Timetable and Details of the Five Trips of Canadian Vessels to the R. M.S. Titanic Loss Area*. 23 July revision, 2pp.
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 Garry D. Shutlak & Alan Ruffman (2000) A New Discovery: The Inquest into the Death of Mr. Alfred Rowe, First Class Passenger, Titanic Victim and Body 109 — recovered by the Mackay-Bennett. *Atlantic Daily Bulletin*, British Titanic Society, 2000, No.4, pp 6-9
 White Star Line (1912) *Disposition of Bodies ex Titanic Recovered up to May 13, 1912*. Public Archives of Nova Scotia, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Library Call No. VK T53 D63, dated Monday, May 13, card covers, probably printed in Halifax, 23 pp., unpagged; two sections, List of Bodies Identified and Disposition of Same, 9pp.; List of Bodies Unidentified and Disposition of Same, 14 pp.
 White Star Line (1912.) *Record of Bodies and Effects (Passengers and Crew S.S. "Titanic") Recovered by Cable Steamer "MacKay Bennett" Including Bodies Buried at Sea and Bodies Delivered at Morgue in Halifax*, N.S. Public Archives of Nova Scotia, Halifax, N.S., Manuscript Group 100, Vol. 229, No. 3d, Accession 1976-191, 76 pp., unpagged.

Username: Hmyers512 Full Name: **Harvey Myers** Last Logged In: August 3, 2004 Registered: December 6, 2003 Total Posts: 2 Status: Member Occupation: Software Developer Home Town: Clearwater Beach State/Province/County: Florida Country: USA Age: 47 Sex: Male About Me: **Great Grandson of Rev. Robert Bateman who went down with Titanic. Great Nephew of Ada Balls who survived.**

Username: Stephenbateman Full Name: **Stephen C Bateman** Last Logged In: Unknown Registered: January 9, 2005 Total Posts: 0 Status: Member Occupation: Teacher Home Town: Bristol Country: UK Age: 52 Sex: Male About Me: **Robert J Bateman was my Great Grandfather's Brother**



She started from Southampton, England, and stopped at Cherbourg, France and Queenstown, Ireland to pick up passengers. Her destination was New York. She sank 1000 miles due east of Boston, Massachusetts, and 375 miles southeast of St. John's, Newfoundland.

Bob Ballard released the coordinates of the *Titanic's* location. He recorded her coordinates as, stern section sits on ocean floor at 41°43'35" N, 49°56'54" W, boilers at 41°43'32" N, 49°56'49" W, bow at 41°43'57" N, 49°56'49" W. Find these coordinates and trace the outline of the sunken pieces of the *Titanic* on a chart of the North Atlantic.

Noted Historical Family Connection: The **Reverend Robert James BATEMAN**, my 7th cousin and a relative of all the *Family 1* below, went down with the "*SS Titanic*". He is mentioned in the book and film "*A Night to Remember*" where he led some passengers in prayers and conducted the band in playing *Nearer My God To Thee* (his favorite hymn) as the ship went down. The recent Oscar award winning film "*Titanic*" directed by James CAMERON has a similar scene, although the characters are not identified. He was washed overboard and drowned. *See his reference also in [Encyclopedia Titanica](#)*

The following is extracted from press reports:

<http://www.geocities.com/Area51/Labyrinth/4644/bateman.html>

JACKSONVILLE - **Dr. Robert James Bateman** became a footnote to history when the Titanic sank in the North Atlantic after striking an iceberg. But Bateman's death on April 15, 1912, is only a postscript in the life of an Englishman who made a lasting impression on his adopted home of Jacksonville and in Knoxville, Tennessee, and Baltimore, Maryland, where he served as a minister, evangelist, and a champion of the disadvantaged.

Bateman was already a successful minister and evangelist when he made a trip in the spring of 1912 to his native Staple Hill (Bristol), England. He visited his mother's grave, studied a successful orphanage in Bristol, **and escorted his wife's sister, Ada E. Balls**, on a visit to Jacksonville.

They boarded the Titanic in Southampton, England. Just hours before the accident, Bateman conducted a church service for the second-class passengers, ending with his favorite song, "Nearer my God to Thee," according to accounts by Mrs. Balls. It was the same song survivors recall a band playing on the sinking vessel, which was about the size of today's aircraft carriers.

"Brother forced me into the last boat, saying he would follow me later. I believe I was the last person to leave the ship. Brother threw his overcoat over my shoulders as the boat was being lowered away and as we neared the water, he took his black necktie and threw it to me with the words, 'Goodbye, God bless you!,' she said.

At a memorial service held on April 21, 1912, Bateman was remembered for his work at the Central City Mission in Jacksonville.

Bateman was ordained in the ministry when he was 21 and served as a pastor in Wales, Ireland, England and the United States, according to an article written by Jacksonville historian Edward A. Mueller and published in the "Titanic Commutator," in 1987 by The Titanic Historical Society.

For a while, Bateman worked with his father as a stone mason in the United States before returning to the ministry in Baltimore, where he served as superintendent of the Florence Crittendon Mission. He moved to Knoxville, Tenn., in the late 1890s, where he founded the non-denominational Peoples Tabernacle. He also was known for his work as an evangelist.

After moving to Jacksonville, Bateman started the Central City Mission.

Twelve days after the disaster, Bateman's body was plucked from the icy Atlantic, the 174th recovered. He was identified by his gold watch and chain, a Masonic charm pin, fountain pen, pipe lighter, and gold cuff links.

Bateman was given a hero's funeral with 11 ministers, according to an account in The Florida Times-Union.

He was buried in Evergreen Cemetery in an unmarked grave. A nearby cenotaph reads, "Dr. R.J. Bateman. Born Oct. 14, 1860. Died Apr. 15, 1912. He lost his life in the wreck of the S.S. Titanic." ---

Username: Stephenbateman Full Name: **Stephen C Bateman** Last Logged In: Unknown Registered: January 9, 2005 Total Posts: 0 Status: Member Occupation: Teacher Home Town: Bristol Country: UK Age: 52 Sex: Male About Me: **Robert J Bateman was my Great Grandfather's Brother.**

Hi Steve,

I was compiling information on my website: ajlambert.com and I obtained an article and photos of a Bible that was considered to be that of Rev. Robert James Bateman who died on the Titanic. According to the article he gave up his seat on a life boat to save the life of his sister Mrs. Wells of Overlea, MD, who had been to England on a visit, was returning home aboard the ship.

Dr. Upperman was told the story and was given the book by Bateman's wife, who later came to Baltimore to live. She presented the book to him during her last illness and had him sit by her bedside and pen the following inscription on the flyleaf of the Bible:

"To Harry L. Upperman, a gift from Mrs. Bateman as a remembrance of her husband who got up out of a rowboat as the Titanic was sinking, and gave that seat to his sister, who he though was in another boat, but who had really been left on the Titanic. Mr. Bateman got back on the Titanic and lost his life as the boat sunk."

According to website articles there was only three people on the Titanic with the surname of Wells:

Included in the list of second class passengers were survivors, Master Ralph Wells, Miss J. Wells & Mrs. Addie Wells. None of these seem to be the sister of Rev. Robert James Bateman.

As I read the family website on the Batemans I see a story stating that Rev. Robert James Bateman helped his sister-in-law, sister of his wife that was on the Titanic get into a life boat to save her. So the article in the Putnam County Herald, Cookeville, TN stated that it was R. J. Bateman's sister not sister-in-law.

I saw on the website of the Bateman family: Bateman was already a successful minister and evangelist when he made a trip in the spring of 1912 to his native Staple Hill (Bristol), England. He visited his mother's grave, studied a successful orphanage in Bristol, and escorted his wife's sister, Ada E. Balls, on a visit to Jacksonville.

They boarded the Titanic in Southampton, England. Just hours before the accident, Bateman conducted a church service for the second-class passengers, ending with his favorite song, "Nearer my God to Thee," according to accounts by Mrs. Balls. It was the same song survivors recall a band playing on the sinking vessel, which was about the size of today's aircraft carriers.

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I gathered that Rev. Robert James Bateman was your Great Grandfather's brother. I was hoping you could straighten out the story that was in the Putnam County Herald Newspaper!!!

Attached are scans of Rev. Robert James Bateman's Bible.

Hi Audrey,

Many thanks for sending me the pictures of the Bateman bible. I am not a direct descendent of Robert James Bateman but I share common ancestors with him. About 5 years ago I made contact with a descendent of Rev. Robert Bateman's brother. He was able to give me details of some of Rev. Robert's close family. I will check them and reply more fully to your email over the weekend.

Do you have a connection with the Bateman family by any chance ? I had a quick look at your website but I could not see any mention of the Bateman family.

Regards

Steve Bateman
UK

Audrey's reply was she was not connected to the Bateman family.

Hi Audrey,

I believe the person he helped save was Ada Elizabeth Balls (nee Hall) who was his wife's sister.

The Rev Robert James Bateman was married to Emily Jane Hall on 9 Feb 1880 at Bitton St Mary near Keynsham, England.

Ada Elizabeth Hall married Martin Luther Balls Q3 1896 in Poplar, London.

Of course he may have helped save others too, but I was not aware that he had a sister.

I will send you a small family tree diagram as a Word document very soon.

Regards

Steve

Hi Audrey,

As far as I am aware Rev. Robert James Bateman did not have a sister, just one brother Charles Shadrack Bateman. I had a letter from Charles's grandson (who was living in Bristol, England), who only mentioned Robert and Charles.

The promised mini family tree is attached.

Please let me know if you think I can be of any further help. If you trace any U.S. descendents of Rev. Robert James Bateman I would be interested to know.

Regards

Steve

LAST AMERICAN SURVIVOR OF THE TITANIC SINKING DIES AT AGE 99.

BOSTON – Lillian Gertrud Asplund, the last American survivor of the sinking of the Titanic in 1912, has died, a funeral home said Sunday. She was 99.

Asplund, who was just 5 years old, lost her father and three brothers – including a fraternal twin – when the “practically unsinkdalbe” ship went down in the North Atlantic after hitting an iceberg.

She died Saturday at her home in Shrewsbury, said Ronald E. Johnson, vice president of the Nordgren Memorial Chapel in Worcester, MA.

“She went to sleep peacefully,” he said.

Asplund's mother, Selma, and another brother, Felix, who was 3, also survived the Titanic sinking in the early morning of April 15, 1912.

Asplund was the last Titanic survivor with actual memories of the sinking, but she shunned publicity and rarely spoke about the events.

Herald-Citizen, Cookeville, TN: 11 April 1940.

A book now sitting on a shelf of the Baxter Seminary Library has quite a history behind it. It's called the *Emphatic Diaglott* and, except for a man who gave his life for his sister, it would now be resting on the lightless bottom of the Atlantic in the wreckage of the Titanic.

Here's the story: The Rev. R.J. Bateman, a Wesleyan minister, was accompanying his sister, a Mrs. Wells of Overlea, Maryland, back to America after she'd visited him at his home in England. Their ocean liner was the Titanic, making its premier voyage.

On a Sunday night, 28 years ago this week, while Bateman was reading the *Emphatic Diaglott* -- an original Greek translation of the New Testament -- he felt the ship shudder and lurch as it was sliced open by an iceberg. Moments later, he climbed into a lifeboat, looking desperately for his sister.

He spotted her still standing at the rail. He exchanged places with her, giving her his seat on the lifeboat and his book. Then she watched from safely afar as he and 1,516 others went under on the deck of the ship they called unsinkable.

The sister later returned the book to the reverend's wife, a friend of Dr. Harry Upperman, the president of Baxter Seminary. He regularly visited and comforted her in her last months, sitting by her sick bed in Baltimore and reading and talking to her. When she died, the *Emphatic Diaglott* came to him.

The inscription inside the cover reads, "To Harry Upperman, a gift from Mrs. Bateman as a remembrance of her husband who got up out of a rowboat as the Titanic was sinking and gave his seat to his sister."

The book is going back to Baltimore this week with Dr. Upperman. On the 28th anniversary of the sinking of the Titanic, he is to preach in a church there and plans to read from the *Emphatic Diaglott*.

<http://www.ajlambert.com>