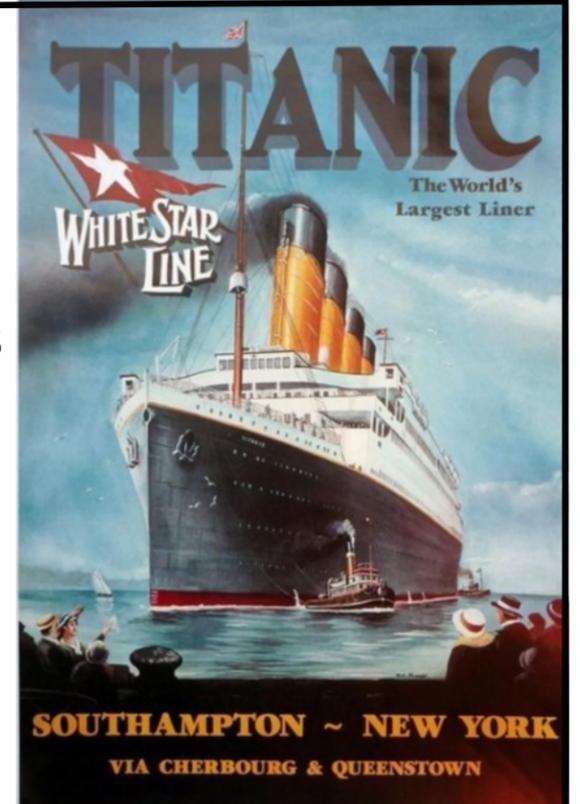


Robert Douglas Norman 1884-1912

Died in Titanic disaster

Click the name to see more information about this burial on our Cemetery pages

This memorial includes the only mention of the Titanic disaster in the Grange Cemetery. The Titanic struck an iceberg shortly before midnight on Sunday 14 April 1912 and sank less than three hours later with the loss of over fifteen hundred lives. By 25 April **Robert Douglas Norman's** family knew that he had not survived and put a notice of his death in *The Scotsman*. The paper followed this with an obituary the following day. North American papers were full of reports of the disaster. They reveal that Robert's was one of 189 bodies picked up by the cable ship Mackay Bennett, which arrived back in Halifax with them on 29



April. Robert is one of 121 victims buried in Fairview Cemetery, Halifax.

Robert Douglas Norman was the son of Robert Norman and his second wife Mary Hicks. Robert Norman was born in Penrith in 1834 and served his apprenticeship as a draper. He worked for the firm of Messrs. Scott, Son, and Co., Shawl Merchants and Warehousemen, Cannon-street, London, working his way up to be head of one of the departments in the business and being taken into partnership in January 1875.

Robert Norman married Margaret Kirkbride in 1861 and they had a daughter, Lucy, born in Govan in May 1865, but Margaret died aged only 30 the following year.

Robert married his second wife, Mary Harriet Hicks, at St Peter's Episcopal Church, Edinburgh, on 8 August 1883. They had two sons both born in Edinburgh: Robert Douglas Norman on 14 September 1884 and George Stanley Norman on 29 September 1885.

Robert Douglas Norman was educated at Merchiston Castle School and then studied at Berlin University for three years. In 1912 he was working for the A.E.G. Company in Glasgow as an electrical and civil engineer when he resigned in order to travel, telling his uncle, Wallace Hicks, who lived in Dalrymple Crescent, Edinburgh, that he might settle abroad. He boarded the Titanic intending to start his travels with a visit to his brother, George, who was then working in Vancouver.