

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**TOLEDO NATIVE FILMMAKER TITANIC VICTIM
AT WOODLAWN CEMETERY**

William Harbeck a pioneer documentary motion picture photographer died of hypothermia in his life jacket at the sinking of the Titanic. Mr. Harbeck was commissioned to film the maiden voyage of the Titanic. Buried at a single grave in section 39 of Woodlawn, with the inscription "William H. Harbeck Victim of Titanic April 15, 1912".

Mr. William Harbeck, 44, was born in Toledo, Ohio. He earned his reputation in 1906 filming the aftermath of the earthquake in San Francisco. One of Harbeck's first feature films, "The Ship's Husband", was a light comedy about a matrimonial mix-up on board a ferry that ran between Vancouver, Seattle and Victoria. Life may have imitated art on Titanic. Although Harbeck was married and had two teenaged sons, the woman travelling with him on Titanic was not his wife, Catherine, but Henriette Yrois, a 24-year old model Harbeck had met in Paris. Both Harbeck and Yrois died in the sinking. When Harbeck's body was recovered, it was found clutching a purse which was later identified as being Yrois', and he was identified by his membership card in the Moving Picture and Projecting Machine Operators Union. (1)

The Story of Mr. Harbeck is one of the many stories featured in Buried Treasures of Toledo, Notable People Laid to Rest in the Historic Woodlawn Cemetery. Throughout the spring and summer tours at Woodlawn will highlight some of these buried treasures that made an impact on not only to our local community but throughout the country as well. The series will kick off on May 20th at 1:00 pm with a semi-annual Tree and Tombstone Tour. The next in the series is a Monthly Summer Evening Stroll the second Thursday of June, July and August, 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm. Woodlawn will also be partnering with Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments, promoting National Bike Month with two Pedal tours: Bikes, Birds and Blooms, May 20 from 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm then Art, Architecture and History, May 31st from 6 pm. – 7:30 pm. All events are free and meet at the entrance of Woodlawn.

Historic Woodlawn Cemetery and Arboretum is a National Historic Site. With more than 160 acres of scenic and rolling hills, Woodlawn, a private, non-profit cemetery, has over 40 acres of burial space available. A public mausoleum, crematory, cremation niches as well as traditional burial plots are open to people of all spiritual beliefs and ethnicities. Public programs, tours and field trips continue the rural cemetery origin mission to share the beauty, natural beauty, and architectural significance of Woodlawn. For more information about Woodlawn, please call 419-472-2186 or visit www.historic-woodlawn.com.

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(1) *Encyclopedia Titanica*