

# Local man lost on Titanic

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— namely land located in the southern part of the county where he came from. It is possible that he and his brother, David, had inherited the family farm and began specializing in the buying and selling of land suitable for limestone quarrying.

In any case, newspaper reports indicate that Crafton amassed some \$50,000 and was called the "stone king." Eventually he sold his interests in the county and invested in lumber in Mississippi.

LATE IN THE FALL of 1911 he was back in Bloomington to visit friends and relatives, among whom were W.T. Blair, Charles Barnhill, Mrs. L.D. Rogers and Mrs. Osman Welson. He was off, he told them, to Europe for a vacation and to see if spa baths would ease his rheumatism.

But homesickness prompted Crafton to cut short his vacation in Europe. In fact, he was so anxious to get home that he unwittingly made a fatal error.

## Court wants bomber's records

United Press International

INDIANAPOLIS — The mother of convicted Speedway bomber Brett Kimberlin has been ordered to produce records concerning her son's wealth to satisfy a judgment sought by the widow of a man in-

jured in one of the bombings.

Marion County Superior Court Commissioner Steven Eichholtz ordered that Carolyn Kimberlin of Zionville bring whatever records she has to court on May 31.

His return steamship trip had been booked on the German liner Kaiserin Auguste Victoria. Hearing that a posh new liner was making its maiden voyage a week earlier, Crafton turned in his original ticket and bought a berth on the Titanic, which sailed in April, 1912.

MUCH HAS BEEN WRITTEN about the only voyage of the liner — the largest ever built at a cost of \$10 million. It was also supposed to be the safest, because it had been built with watertight compartments.

Racing through the fog some 1,200 miles from New York City, it struck an iceberg that ripped a 300-foot gash in the hull. Unfortunately the world's safest liner wasn't all that safe, despite the watertight compartments.

The crew and passengers numbered 2,244. The majority of the 1,178 places in the lifeboats were gallantly given to the women and children. Only 20 percent of the men aboard survived.

JOHN B. CRAFTON WAS NOT one of them. Several days after the disaster word was received in Bloomington that the liner's company had informed his wife (who was in Roachdale) that her husband was presumed lost.

It can be said, however, that the Monroe County farmboy who amassed a fortune of his own, died in impressive company. Also drowned when the Titanic sank were John Jacob Astor, Jr., Benjamin Guggenheim, Isador Strauss and George Widener, whose collective fortunes were reputed to have been worth some \$191 million.

## CORRECTION

the coupon for Receipts is The