

Easton Fire Department

Line of Duty Deaths

By John B. Bast, Captain – EFD

George Collier – January 6, 1885

Fireman Collier was a part-time Call Fireman for the City of Easton. Fireman Collier was a hoseman assigned to Engine Company Number One. He died from injuries sustained while fighting a fire at the Masonic Temple, which occurred on one of the coldest nights of the year. Fireman Collier was also a member of the old Humane Fire Company, the first fire company established in Easton.

Frank Rath – May 11, 1899

Fireman Rath was a part-time Call Fireman for the City of Easton. Fireman Rath was a hoseman assigned to Engine Company Number Two. He died from injuries sustained while fighting a dwelling fire on Washington Street. Fireman Rath was pulled from the burning building in a semi-conscious state after he was overcome by the smoke conditions. He never recovered from his injuries and died at twenty-nine years of age.

Edward Freyhart – December 23, 1901

Fireman Freyhart was part-time Call Fireman for the City of Easton. Fireman Freyhart was a ladderman assigned to Hook & Ladder Company Number One. He died from injuries sustained at fighting a fire at the Easterly Building on Northampton Street the previous August. Fireman Freyhart was knocked from a ladder and broke his ribs. He never recovered from his injuries and was forty years old at the time of his death.

Edward Arnold – February 5, 1918

Fireman Arnold was Permanent Fireman for the City of Easton. Fireman Arnold was assigned as the driver of Engine Company Number two. He died of a heart attack while responding his engine to a fire at 1119 Bushkill Street. He was able to bring the engine to a stop, so as not to crash the vehicle. Fireman Edward Arnold also served for many years as the tillerman for the Hook & Ladder Company.

George Muller – February 11, 1953

Fireman Muller was Fulltime Fireman for the City of Easton. Fireman Muller was assigned to Central Fire Station. He died of a heart attack while on duty. Fireman Muller was injured at a fire downtown the previous week at the Grube & Betts Building, which is believed to have contributed to his death. The fire occurred on one of the coldest nights of the year. Most of the fireman, as well as the fire trucks were covered in ice.

Captain George Keck – November 30, 1953

Captain Keck was appointed to the Easton Fire Department in 1933, and quickly rose through the ranks of the department. He died of a heart attack while fighting a fire at the C.K. Williams Company on North Thirteenth Street. During the blaze, Captain Keck was stricken while on the roof of the building. He was taken to the hospital but he never recovered. In addition to his duties at the Easton Fire Department, captain Keck was a frequent instructor at the Pennsylvania State Fire School, where he taught firemen from around the state.