



Niagara Falls Fire Department

Joseph F. Birmingham

Badge #

**Born 03/04/1891
County Clare, Ireland**

Employed 01/12/20 – 06/04/58

Captain 1950

**30 Years at HQ (Engine 1)
8 Years at Engine 5**

**United States Army WWII
Participated in 6 major battles in Europe
Received Medal of Bravery**

Died February, 1963



Niagara Falls Fire Department

William H. Birmingham

1917-1945

William Birmingham was born February 25, 1898 in Buffalo, NY. Firefighter Birmingham was appointed to the Fire Department on March 17, 1917 at the age of 19. In 1921 he became an Engineer and in 1934 he was promoted to Captain. He was a Captain for 11 years before retiring August 15, 1945 after more than 28 years of service.

He was a veteran of WWI, where he served in France from 1918 to 1919. On June 7, 1958 at the age of 60 he suffered a heart attack and died, despite the efforts of the Fire Department, who responded to his home on North Avenue to treat him.

He was a member of Sacred Heart Church and the Loyal Order of Moose.

He was the brother of Niagara Falls Firefighters Frank Birmingham and Joseph D. Birmingham.

Died June, 1958



Niagara Falls Fire Department

John J. Blake
1923-1961

John Blake was born June 10, 1894 in County Claire, Ireland. He came to Niagara Falls when he was 19 and was appointed as a Firefighter on January 24, 1923.

He worked for the New York Central Railroad until he was appointed to the Fire Department.

He was assigned to Firehouse 3 on Niagara Avenue.

After his retirement in 1961 he moved his family to Burbank, CA where he passed away at the age of 75 in 1970.

Died March, 1970



Niagara Falls Fire Department

Daniel P. Boland

Badge #89

Born 09/30/53 Niagara Falls, NY

Employed 09/25/78 - Present

**Captain 1992
Battalion Chief 1996**

**Levy Award 1981
Levy Honorable Mention 1987**

**Work Sequence: T1/P1, R/C, Captain E8/P4, T1/P2, T1/P1,
Training Chief, Relief Chief, Platoon Chief P2 and P3**

**Trainings Include: EMT-D, Flips, Confined Space, Rope Rescue,
Essentials, Municipal Training Officer, Investigator,
Haz-Mat, Incident Command**

**Secretary of Local 714
Vice-President of Local 714
Negotiating Committee Local 714 and Local 3359
Sick Bank and By-Laws Committee Local 3359
Chairman of Annual Picnic
Ticket Salesman Firefighter's Ball (3 years)
Trustee of NFFDMAA
President of NFFDMAA
Chairman of Firefighter's Toy Fund
Chairman Toy Fund Nursing Home Dinner (3 years)
Member Niagara County Fire Chief's Association, Fire Advisory Board,
Honor Guard, and NFFD Golf, Softball and Hockey Teams**

**Special Skills: NYS Attorney
Hobbies Include Sports and Fishing**



Niagara Falls Fire Department

John F. Carmody

Badge #

Born 04/06/06

Employed 07/01/37

**Captain 1954
Senior Captain 1955
Secretary 1956**

**President of Local 714
President of NFFDMAA**

**Memberships:
Republican Club
Knights of Columbus
St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church Holy Name Society**

United States Army 1943 - 1945

Died September, 1969



Niagara Falls Fire Department

Edward J. Cassidy

Badge #2

Born 12/27/06 Niagara Falls, NY

Employed 09/01/36 – 03/01/69

Captain 1958 (Reverted 1959)

Levy Award 1955

Work Sequence: E1, Captain E2

**Trainings Include: First Aid, Essentials,
Buffalo Fire Department School**

Previous Employment – NYCRR

Died February, 2000



Niagara Falls Fire Department

Edward M. Cassidy

1912-1918

1921-1948

Edward Cassidy was born September 21, 1884. He was appointed as a Firefighter on January 13, 1912. He resigned on March 1, 1918 but was reappointed December 15, 1921. He retired on January 1, 1948 with a combined total of 32 years with the Fire Department.

Firefighter Cassidy won a Bravery Award in 1946 for his assistance at a rescue at the Falls. His son Edward J. Cassidy won the Levy Award for a similar rescue many years later.

He was a member of the Holy Name Society and St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church. He was renowned as an athlete, playing football and baseball at St. Mary's High School. He also played for the Cataract Football Team and Electric City Nine.

He passed away on March 22, 1949.

Died March, 1949



Niagara Falls Fire Department

Robert M. Clark

Badge #135

Born 04/24/27 Niagara Falls, NY

Employed 07/26/54 – 12/20/73 (Deceased)

Captain 1970

Work Sequence: E3, Acting R/C P1

**Trainings Include: Essentials, Pump Operator,
Fire Inspector**

**Vice President of NFFD Credit Union
NFFD Credit Union Trustee
NFFD Credit Union Committee
Vice President Local 714, 1966/68**

Previous Employment – Wendt's Dairy

Died December, 1973



Niagara Falls Fire Department

Edward Collins

Firefighter Collins was a volunteer in the Village of Niagara Falls with the Cataract Engine Hose Company before his appointment to the Fire Department in 1905.

He was second-in-command at the Ramapo Fire Hall (Engine 5) and was of a genial disposition and made friends readily.

He was a member of the Niagara Falls Exempt Fireman's Association, the Falls Lodge of Orioles and the First Presbyterian Church.

He died on April 29, 1927 at the age of 63 from a stroke and was given an Honor Guard escort at his funeral.

Died April, 1927



Niagara Falls Fire Department

James M. Collins

Badge #79

Born 03/25/20 Rochester, NY

Employed 01/27/47 – 02/16/78

Work Sequence: E4, E9, E7

**Trainings Include: First Aid, CPR, MET,
Pump Operator,
Fire Inspector**

**Special Skills – Arc Welding, Deep-Sea Diving
Navy Salvage Diving School
Navy Firefighting School**

**VFW Member
Sportsman Club Member**

Previous Employment – Electro Metals

Hobbies Include Swimming, Boating, Traveling

United States Navy 1941-1945

Died June, 1983



Niagara Falls Fire Department

Carroll J. Colpoys
Badge #133

Born 05/06/30 Niagara Falls, NY

Employed 07/26/54 – 06/01/85

Captain 1966,

Battalion Chief 1974

**Work Sequence: E4, Snorkel, T1, E8,
Captain E3 and E9, B/C P3, B/C P4**

1966 Outstanding Young Firefighter

President of Local 714 1964 - 1968

Chairman of the Firefighter's Ball 1965

Vice President NYSPFF 1st District 1968-1971

Organized Firefighter's Junior Olympics

Co-Chairman United Givers Fund 1965

Board of Director's Leo F. Heck Toy Fund

Board of Directors Niagara County Chapter MDA

Special Projects

Little League Manager

Block Club President

President Niagara Street Business Association

Namesake for Carroll Colpoys Apartment Building

Chair Maid of Mist Ball

Previous Employment – NYCRR Brakeman

Hobbies Include Boating, Cards, Politics

United States Air Force 4 Years, Military Police

Died January, 2000



Niagara Falls Fire Department

Thomas Conroy (1894-1917)

Firefighter Conroy was born in Ottawa, Canada in approximately 1848 and moved to Niagara Falls at the age of ten. He lived an adventuresome life in the old Village of Niagara Falls and earned his living as a carpenter. He was one of the workers who helped erect Niagara University.

In 1871 he quit carpentry to come a tour guide in the Cave of the Winds, conducting sightseers along the lower Niagara River. He lived in a small house near the Maid of the Mist landing on the Canadian side of the river. It was here that he gained fame as a daring river rescue expert. He supported himself during this time as a trucker, hauling bricks for many of the buildings being constructed in early Niagara Falls.

As a river man, his daring was legendary and he was often called upon to enter the Rapids with a rope tied around him to make a river rescue. He later became a City Policeman and was considered a fearless patrolman who covered and made arrests in the "Tunnel" District, which was a well-known area of immigrants known for lawlessness.

In 1894, at the age of 46, he was hired as one of the original ten Firefighters when Niagara Falls formed a professional fire department. He had been a member of several volunteer companies and had earned his exempt status. He served 20 years at Headquarters and then four years at Engine 4 on Tenth Street.

In 1906 he made one of the most daring rescues ever recorded in Niagara Falls history by wading out 30 feet into the River, 15 feet from the brink of the Falls, to support the end of a ladder used by others to climb out and rescue a man who had been swept downriver. For this rescue he was awarded the Carnegie Medal and \$1,000.

Firefighter Conroy became ill in 1917 at the age of 69 while still a member of the Fire Department. After an illness of several months he passed away just days after his wife had died. He was a veteran, having served with the 42nd Separate Company. He was a member of the Elks, the Exempt Fireman's Association and St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church. He was survived by nine children.

Died January, 1917



Niagara Falls Fire Department

Timothy J. Crotty

Badge #

Born 03/18/1887 Ireland

Employed 03/01/17 – 05/05/47

Member of Knights of Columbus

Member of A.O.H.

Member of Holy Name Society at Sacred Heart Church

Member of Catholic War Veterans

Charter Member of Charles Morrow VFW Post 198

Officer State Veterans Association

United States Army 1910 – 1913 Philippines

United States Army 1918 – 1919 WWI

Died January, 1949



Niagara Falls Fire Department

Joseph J. Crowe

Badge #

Born 09/09/1898 Niagara Falls, NY

Employed 12/08/18 – 12/16/43

Engineer 1929

Captain 1943

Senior Captain 1952

Previous Employment – International Paper

Died October, 1989



Niagara Falls Fire Department

Harry M. Crowe

Badge #

Born 11/15/1896 Niagara Falls, NY

Employed 01/12/20 – 01/01/64

Engineer 1929

Captain 1941

Battalion Chief 1945

Deputy Chief 1955

Previous Employment: US Post Office

United States Army 1914-1919

WWI

Silver Star

NYS Conspicuous Service Cross

Died February, 1993



Niagara Falls Fire Department

Dennis R. Dinan

1894-1921

Born in Lewiston, NY around 1864, Firefighter Dinan came to Niagara Falls when he was a boy. He was appointed to the Fire Department June 1, 1894 as one of the original ten paid firefighters. He had been a member of the Cataract Hose Company on Second Street, which became Headquarters for the new City Fire Department.

On May 7, 1901 he was appointed to house foreman and was put in charge of the Third Street Firehouse. A few years later this position was changed to Captain. He remained in charge of Engine 2 for 20 years. Captain Dinan was a conspicuous figure who kept an immaculate personal appearance in his uniform. He had the respect and confidence of the men who worked for him, as well as his superiors in the Fire Department.

His parents were pioneer settlers of the old Village of Niagara Falls. His father was the caretaker of Oakwood Cemetery. Captain Dinan was a trained carpenter and worked that occupation before his appointment to the Fire Department. In 1921 he became ill with pneumonia and died on May 19th after a five-day illness. He was 58 years old and had over 26 years with the paid department. His two nephews, Gilbert and George Beck were City firefighters and his brother, William Dinan, was the first Chief of Police in Niagara Falls.

He was a member of St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church from childhood, the Knights of Columbus and the Exempt Fireman's Association. The flags at all City firehouses were placed at half mast upon news of his death.

Died May, 1921

May 20
1921

VARICOSE VEINS

Many people have become despondent because they have been led to believe that there is no remedy that will keep swollen veins and butchered feet from getting worse. It is true that there is no remedy that will cure them, but there is a remedy that will keep them from getting worse. It is true that there is no remedy that will cure them, but there is a remedy that will keep them from getting worse.

Oklahoma, Okla., May 20.—Radium valued at \$3,500 lost since May 2, when it was carried from the offices of an Oklahoma city medical firm by a charity patient has been returned by mail. It was announced yesterday. In an accompanying letter the patient who had been instructed to return it three hours after the radium had been applied to the affected tissue, said he did not know its value until he read an account of its loss in a newspaper.

Winona Lake, Ind., May 20.—The Rev. Henry C. Swearington of St. Paul, Minn., was elected moderator of the 13th general conference of the Presbyterian church in the United States of America here late Monday. He defeated the Rev. John B. Laird of Philadelphia by a vote of 560 to



Mother of 10 children Mrs. Lillian Moller Gilbreth of Menasha, Wis., has just won honorary membership in the New York Society of Industrial Engineers for her relentless attack on modern Mrs. Gilbreth is author of authoritative books on scientific management.

Bury Capt. Dinan Monday Morning

Definite announcement of the arrangements for the funeral of Captain Dennis R. Dinan, of the Third street fire hall, who died yesterday was made today. The funeral will be held from the home of Captain Dinan's niece, Mrs. E. C. Glass, brook, No. 225 Falls street, on Monday morning at 8:30 o'clock, and at 9 o'clock from the St. Mary's church in Fourth street.

The bereaved will be members of the falls city fire department, assisted today by Fire Chief Otto F. Uta, and are Assistant Chief George A. Wood and Richard D. Miller. Captain Charles Vedder, David Lathin and James Keogh, and Engineer William Peter, Assistant Chief Wood and Miller, and Captain Vedder and Engineer Perry were appointed to the city fire department with Captain Dinan when the department was organized on June 1, 1894.

Serious Rioting in Cairo, Egypt

Cairo, Egypt, May 20.—Serious rioting took place yesterday in the vicinity of the ministerial buildings. Many policemen were severely injured and some of the demonstrators were killed and a large number were injured.

Five Equitable Bottons' company's store in Fifth avenue was entered last night and \$70 was stolen from a cash drawer.

OPEN AN ACCOUNT

In front of G. C. Hall will be the following and bodies: General Gordon, American Legion, O. J. Todd, the high school, will be to you Faculty, to Harry waded cemetery monies will be Comrade Willie will then re-for Bandist church of the day will Music by the Rev. Robert H. Lyeburg address Litchard; musical Day address man Helms, present there of Peter A. F. A. H., who are the services of B. Litchard, Ham H. Carv, Jess. Lyford R. Rice, The broken during Greenwood col Graves of 73 C one world W Sunday event Day special in will be held at Rev. Robert H at appropriate be special music, and the R. Women's J in F. Jennings Legion will at

Rev. J. H. S John's Episcopal very will be held Sunday evening held in comm



Niagara Falls Fire Department

Gerald F. Donovan

Badge #154

Born 11/06/34 Niagara Falls, NY

Employed 03/26/62 – 01/04/93

Captain 1971

Battalion Chief

Temporary Acting Chief 03/19/02 – 06/18/02

Levy Award Honorable Mention 1981

**Work Sequence: E1/P2, E4, E9, Sr. Captain T1,
Captain E3, B/C Training, R/BC, B/C P2**

**Trainings Include: First Aid, CPR, Advanced First Aid,
HazMat, Fire Investigator, Arson Investigator, Essentials,
Train-the-Trainer, EMT, Multi Med**

Chairman of the Firefighter's Ball 1968

Member YMCA, Kiwanis Club

Previous Employment – Moore Business Forms

Hobbies Include Golf, Boating, Fishing, Insurance, Judo

United States Air Force 1960-1962



Niagara Falls Fire Department

John Fitzpatrick

Badge #

Born 06/13/48 Niagara Falls, NY

Employed 12/10/73 – 06/16/06

Captain 1985

Battalion Chief 1994

**Work Sequence: E7/P3, E8/P3, E3/P1, E6/P1, Training Chief,
Fire Prevention Chief, B/C P4, MTO**

**Trainings Include: Essentials, American Red Cross, CPR, Adult CPR,
EMT, MET, First Line Supervisors Program**

Local 3359 Man of the Year 2001

Liberty Award 2003

NFFDMAA Trustee

Local 714 Executive Board

Local 3359 Executive Board

Fireman's Ball

NFFD Basketball and Golf Teams

Local 3359 Negotiating Committee

Previous Employment – Harrison Radiator

Hobbies Include Sports, Hunting and Fishing

United States Army National Guard



Niagara Falls Fire Department

James J. Fitzpatrick

Badge #97

Born 03/05/25 Niagara Falls, NY

Employed 11/06/50 – 01/29/77

Captain 1967

**Work Sequence: E1/P1, E2/T1, A/RC,
Captain E5, E4**

**Trainings Include: First Aid, CPR, MET,
Pump Operator, Essentials, NiMo School**

Father of B/C John Fitzpatrick

Special Skills – Welding, Pipefitting

Previous Employment – C. H. Kremers & Sons

Hobbies Include Bowling, Swimming, Fishing

United States Army 1943-1946

Died September, 2008