Victims of San Francisco Earthquake

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On 18 April 1906, an earthquake measuring 8.25 on the Richter Scale, rocked San Francisco. The quake lasted 48 seconds—the subsequent fires lasted three days and nights and caused immense property damage. The number of casualties, never completely tabulated, was in the hundreds.

To arrive at an accurate total of the number of dead, Mrs. Gladys Hansen, San Francisco City Archivist, has made a thorough search of all available records. Her total of 826 known dead far exceeds the official figure of 478, given by the 1907 City Board of Supervisors. Yet, even with her careful calculations, Mrs. Hansen believes the revised figure too low. She therefore appeals to anyone having knowledge of any person killed in the 1906 disaster to write her with whatever information he or she might have. The names of the dead will be entered upon the official roster in the San Francisco Public Library, available to researchers of history and genealogy.

We encourage anyone seeking information on people killed in the 1906 earthquake and fire to write to:

Mrs. Gladys Hansen  
San Francisco Archives  
Public Library  
Civic Center  
San Francisco, CA 94102

and enclosing a stamped self-addressed envelope.