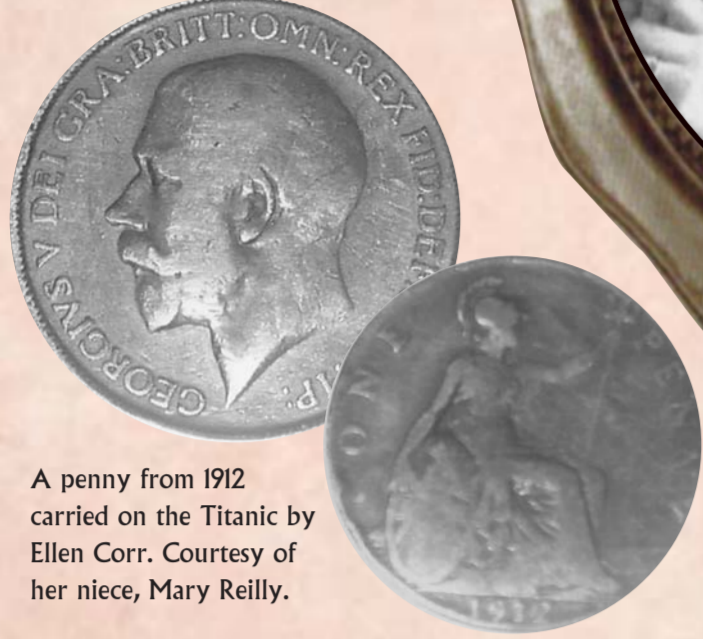


LONGFORD SURVIVORS

Ellen Corr, Corglass, Moyne

Aged only 16 years, Ellen was the youngest Longford passenger on the ship. She was a daughter of Charles and Bridget Corr, and was emigrating to join her elder sisters. Ellen was on lifeboat no. 16, which had fifty-six women and children, and six crew on board, including Kate Gilnagh and Kate Mullen from Killoe. She never spoke about her experiences on the Titanic. She lived in New York and worked as a waitress. She married Patrick Sweeney. Ellen died in 1980.



Ellen Corr

Katie Gilnagh, Rhyne, Killoe

Mary Katherine (Katie) Gilnagh was 17 when she boarded the Titanic at Queenstown as a 3rd class passenger. A girl of great beauty, she was the second eldest child of Hugh and Johanna Gilnagh. Katie shared cabin Q161 on E deck with her neighbour Katie Mullen and sisters Kate and Margaret Murphy. She was bound for New York where her sister Molly lived. She remembered vividly and recalled many times the eventful last night on the Titanic. That evening there was a party in the steerage section and later all were sleeping soundly when 'her guardian angel' as she called him, James Farrell, alerted them of danger. He then got them through barriers and hostile crew members and finally they were allowed into lifeboat no. 16. While climbing into it, Katie's shawl blew away and James Farrell threw her his cap shouting 'Good-bye forever'. Having reached New York, Katie found her distraught sister Molly making arrangements for a Requiem Mass as she thought she had perished.

Katie settled in New York and married, and it was fifty years before she, by then Mrs Manning, returned to Ireland, by air, in 1962 the fiftieth anniversary of the disaster. She died in 1971.



Katie (seated) with her sister Molly, New York, 1912

Kate Mullen, Rhyne, Killoe

Kate was a daughter of Thomas and Mary Mullen who farmed in Rhyne. She boarded the Titanic with her neighbour and friend Katie Gilnagh and roomed with her and the Murphys from Aughnaccliffe in cabin Q161 on E deck. According to her daughter Peggy, 'A man from their county James Farrell, then knocked on their door and told them 'something must be up' because the engines had stopped. One of the girls said 'Maybe we've landed' and then they laughed. But when they tried to go up on deck they found they were blocked. They couldn't get through.' Another family member recalled Kate saying 'James used an axe, intended for fire fighting, to smash the barrier and then fought with the crew members and got them through to the lifeboat'. She said she was the last person on that lifeboat, fifteen minutes before the Titanic sank. She remembered it was 'dreadful to see and hear the cries of the poor people.'

Kate met and married Martin Kearns from Galway and they settled and lived in New York. She never returned to Rhyne and rarely talked at all about the dreadful ordeal. She died in 1970.



Kate Mullen

Thomas McCormack, Glenmore, Aughnaccliffe

Thomas, a son of Bernard and Maria McCormack, was aged 19 and returning to Bayonne, New Jersey after a visit home. He accompanied his cousins, the Kiernans, and their neighbours, the Murphy sisters. Thomas jumped into the water as the ship was sinking, and tried to board a lifeboat but was beaten back by members of the crew. He later tried to get into another boat, but again was prevented from doing so. Thomas was soon helped into the boat by either the Murphy sisters or the McCoy's (there are conflicting versions of the story). He had been in the water for over an hour.

Thomas later served in the police force and as a soldier in World War I. He married Mary Donovan. He died in 1975.



Thomas with his sister Catherine

Margaret and Kate Murphy, Fostra, Aughnaccliffe

The daughters of Michael and Maria Murphy, Maggie (aged 24) and Kate (aged 17) left home to travel to the U.S.A. without the approval of their widowed mother. They intended going to Philadelphia. They went with their neighbours John and Philip Kiernan. John Kiernan had a relationship with Margaret prior to his emigrating, and she arranged that she and Kate would travel with the Kiernans. Kate brought her violin and she and other musicians played for the steerage passengers on the night of the tragedy.

As the Titanic was sinking, John Kiernan helped 3rd class passengers, including the Murphys, to get to the safety of the second class deck by building up chairs. The crew had blocked the passage way. John also put a lifebelt on Margaret and helped her into a lifeboat. She later recalled how John had kissed her and told her he would see her soon again, but of course, he did not.

A short time after arriving in New York, Kate met her future husband, Michael Guilfoyle, at the wedding of her sister Annie to Michael's brother, Dennis. Margaret married Matthew O'Reilly in 1913. Both couples remained in New York where they reared their children. Margaret died in 1957, and Kate in 1968.



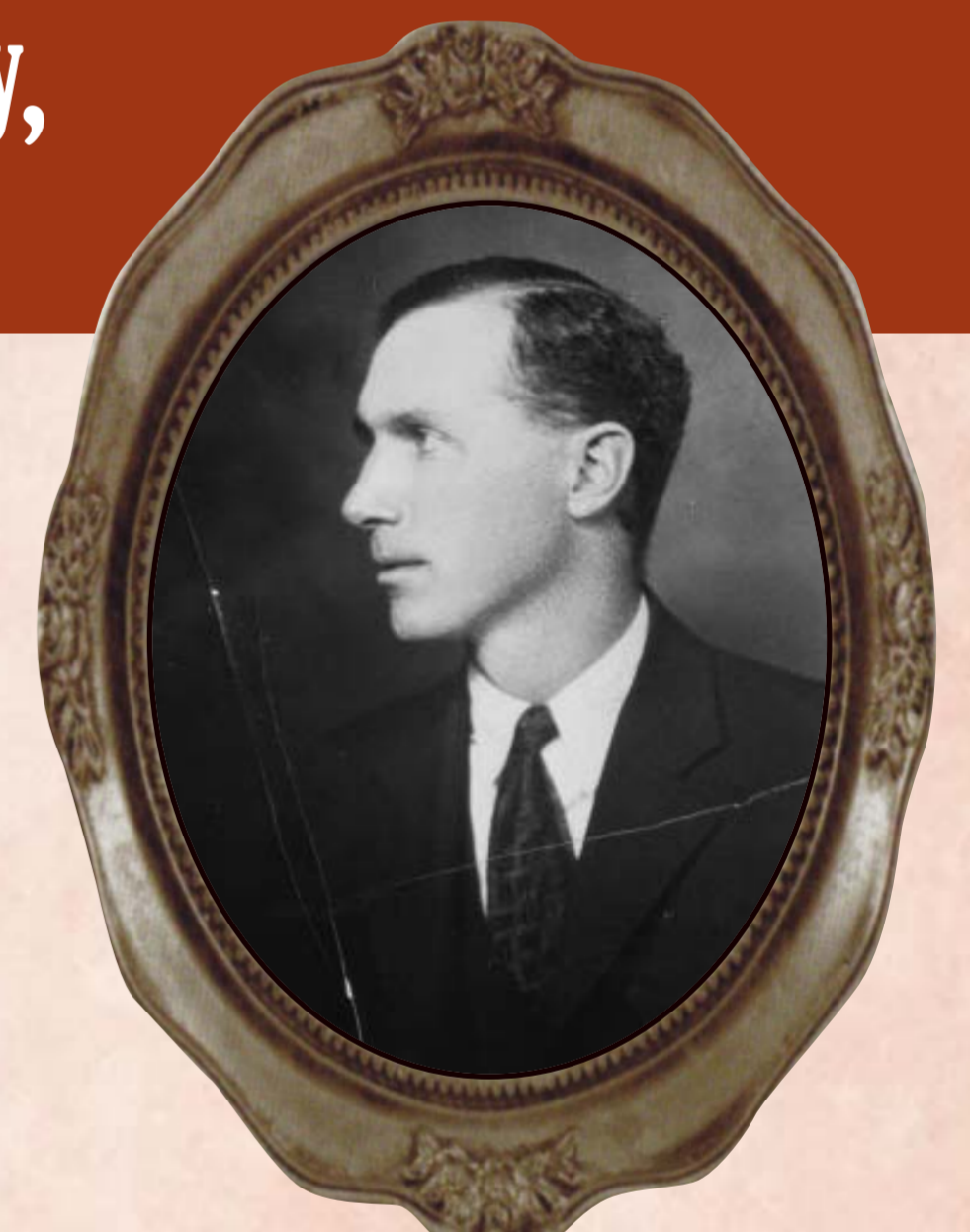
Kate and Margaret

Agnes, Alice and Bernard McCoy, Carrickathane, Ballinalee

Their parents were John and Bridget McCoy. Agnes (aged 29) and Alice (aged 26) had come home from New York to bring Bernard (aged 23) back with them. Most of their other siblings were already in the U.S. The three were asleep in their cabins when the Titanic struck the iceberg, and they awoke and went on deck. They were reassured by an officer, and were returning to their quarters when they saw people panicking. After a further attempt to go onto the deck, they saw water rushing into the third class section.

Agnes and Alice wanted to remain on the ship with Bernard, but they were forced onto a lifeboat. The boat they went on had previously been occupied by crew members, but an officer had forced them out at gunpoint. Bernard was said to have jumped into the water and he tried to board the boat with his sisters' help, only to be pushed back by a sailor. Eventually he was able to scramble on board with the help of a crewman. The McCoy sisters later spoke of the bravery of two priests, particularly Fr Thomas Byles, who helped women onto lifeboats and stayed with steerage passengers as the ship sank.

Agnes McCoy worked in the home of the Hollywood stars Douglas Fairbanks and Mary Pickford. She was unmarried and died in New York in 1957. Alice was married twice and died in New York in 1959. Bernard developed a stammer as a result of his ordeal on the Titanic. He served in World War I and suffered mustard gas poisoning. He was unmarried and died in New York in 1945.



Bernard McCoy



Alice, Agnes and Mary at the beach c.1920

Famous Titanic passengers

Margaret Brown

Later known as 'The Unsinkable Molly Brown', Margaret Tobin Brown was a daughter of Irish immigrants to the U.S. She was a noted feminist and social justice campaigner. Margaret sailed from Cherbourg. She helped to place passengers on lifeboats and to row the boat she was on. She was heavily involved in fund-raising for survivors.

Sir Cosmo and Lady Lucy Duff Gordon

The Duff Gordons went aboard the Titanic at Cherbourg under the name 'Morgan'. Lady Duff Gordon was a fashion designer. The couple boarded a lifeboat with a total of only twelve people, seven of whom were crew. The Duff Gordons refused to allow anyone else on board despite the fact that hundreds were in the sea looking for help.

Isidor and Rosalie Straus

Isidor Straus, aged 67, was a German-born businessman who owned Macy's department store in New York. He and his wife refused to be separated and sat side by side on deck as the ship sank.

