



Titanic passenger list goes online for first time to mark 95th anniversary

Scanned images of the original passenger list of *RMS Titanic*, recording the details of all who sailed on its ill-fated maiden voyage in 1912, will go online for the first time today at www.ancestorsonboard.com.

Marking the 95th anniversary of the ship's tragic loss, the online release enables the public to easily view the original, handwritten lists electronically for the first time. These name the passengers and provide such details as their port of departure, occupation, nationality, age, the class they travelled in and destination. Until this launch the lists had been kept under lock and key at The National Archives in Kew and only available for viewing under supervision. The release of the Titanic's passenger list comes as part of a new release of thousands of passenger lists from the decade 1910 -1919.

In the decade since James Cameron's blockbuster movie 'Titanic' burst onto the big screen, Jack Dawson, Rose Buckateer, Cal Hockley and Captain Smith have become well-known characters. However, the ship's original passenger list reveals who really sailed on the ship, undermining some of the more pervasive myths that surround the *Titanic*.

Only those on the boats escaped – but the official passenger record reveals that five people disembarked from the ship at Cherbourg, France. These included the Conyngham family who were travelling to France for a holiday, narrowly escaping the fate of the other passengers. Inspection of the newly scanned images has shown that some passengers who intended to board at Queenstown (Cobh in County Cork) did not actually embark, despite having purchased tickets.

Jack Dawson and Rose Buckateer – the real-life 'Jack and Rose' of the passengers were lovers Kate Phillips, a 19 year-old shop assistant, and Henry Morley, a shop-keeper from Malvern, who eloped to New York on the *Titanic*. Kate survived the tragedy and gave birth to a baby daughter, Ellen, nine months after the tragedy.

Elaine Collins, commercial director at findmypast.com, says: "The *Titanic* is one of the most infamous ships in history and first-hand tales of the voyage have been passed down by the survivors to their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. For those of us who cannot hear the tales first hand, the passenger list provides a fascinating insight into the lives of the passengers, and in this respect are a national treasure."

Dan Jones, Head of Business Development at The National Archives, says: "This launch provides a fascinating snapshot into the birth of long distance and affordable travel. It represents another important milestone in our commitment to put our most popular records online. Using the expertise and resources of partners, such as findmypast.com, in the private sector enables us to bring fascinating historical material to life and makes it available to the widest possible audience".

Ancestorsonboard.com, the microsite developed in association with The National Archives, opens up easy, online access to new avenues of research for family historians, demographers and migration specialists alike. The website provides access to records of passengers on all long-distance ships leaving England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales, and currently includes records dating from 1890 to 1919. Once complete, the high quality, full

colour, digitised ship passenger records will contain over 1.5 million pages, listing the 30 million passengers who travelled on these long-distance journeys from UK ports between 1890 and 1960.

The National Archives, www.nationalarchives.gov.uk, is a government department; and also an executive agency of the Secretary of State for Constitutional Affairs. Over 600 staff work in Kew, in Norwich, at Admiralty Arch in central London and at the Family Records Centre in Islington. The National Archives brings together the Public Record Office, Historical Manuscripts Commission, the Office of Public Sector Information and Her Majesty's Stationery Office. See also www.opsi.gov.uk

The National Archives is at the heart of information policy – setting standards and supporting innovation in information and records management across the UK, and providing a practical framework of best practice for opening up and encouraging the re-use of public sector information. This work helps inform today's decisions and ensure that they become tomorrow's permanent record. **The National Archives is also the UK government's official archive**, containing 900 years of history from Domesday Book to the present, with records ranging from parchment and paper scrolls through to recently created digital files and archived websites. Increasingly, these records are being put online, making them universally accessible.

The vision of The National Archives is to:

- Lead and transform information management
- Guarantee the survival of today's information for tomorrow
- Bring history to life for everyone

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