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John Jacob Astor IV was 47 years old when he and his second wife were returning to the U.S. on the *Titanic*. He was the wealthiest person aboard the ship (and one of the wealthiest in the world). Image online, courtesy Bain Collection at the Library of Congress.

Many members of New York's elite society were on board for the historic sailing. Although J. P. Morgan himself could not make the trip, many of his friends did.

John Jacob Astor IV (age 46), great grandson of the famous fur trader, was the richest man on board. He was also the most controversial since his young wife Madeline (age 18) was expecting a baby. Some folks thought the pregnancy came a little soon after the Astors' marriage.

Molly Brown (later coined the "unsinkable") was not the only colorful personality on board. Isador and Ida Straus, owners of Macy's Department Store, had been married many years and were devoted to each other. Later, after catastrophe descended on the ship, all three would demonstrate amazing calm and fortitude. So would Archibald Gracie, Ben Guggenheim and Lawrence Beesley, a second-class passenger.

Eva Hart, a 7-year-old English girl, was traveling in second class with her parents. Esther, the mother, was troubled by all the outlandish claims that had been made about the new ship. Eva later recalled her mother's comments:

I don't like this ship because a vessel called unsinkable was flying in the face of God.

Some of the passengers were emigrating to America. (The complete, handwritten list of all passengers is now freely available on-line.) Frederick (age 40) and Augusta (43) Goodwin were traveling third-class with their six children (ages 19 months -16). They planned to set up a new home in Niagara Falls, New York.

Accommodations for third-class (also called steerage) passengers, like the Goodwins, were functionally basic. On the other hand, compared to the price of a first-class ticket, their passage was relatively cheap.

Many of these passengers, and their fellows, never made it to their final destinations. The general room for steerage passengers could have been the place where people, unable to get to the upper decks, breathed their last.

See [Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:](http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/THE-PASSENGERS-Fatal-Voyage-The-Titanic)

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See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/THE-PASSENGERS-Fatal-Voyage-The-Titanic>

Questions 2 Ponder

Are Premonitions Real or Merely Coincidental?

Do you think that Esther Hart—Eva Hart's mother—had a premonition that something bad might happen during *Titanic's* maiden voyage? Explain your answer.

Have you ever had a premonition that something—good or bad—might happen ... then it did? How do you explain such a thing?

Media Stream

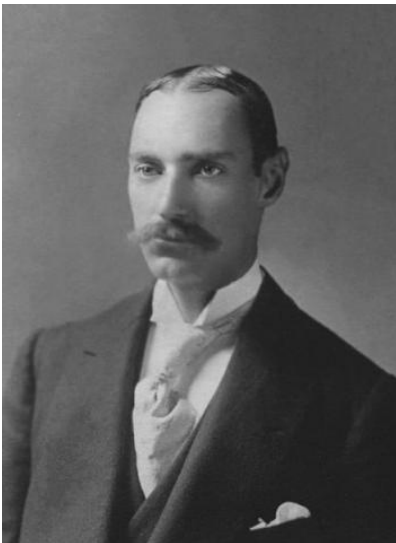


J.P. Morgan

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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John Jacob Astor IV

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Madeline Astor

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The Astors

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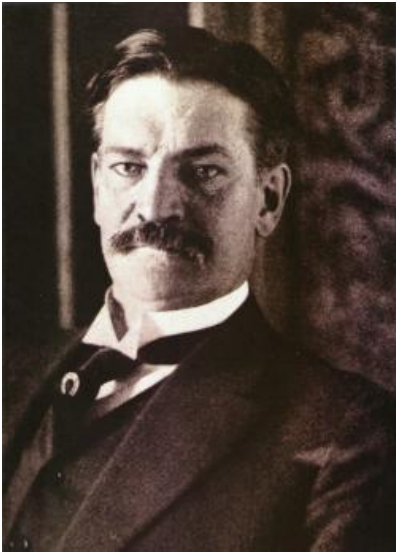
Isador and Ida Straus

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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Archibald Gracie

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Ben Guggenheim

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Lawrence Beesley

Image online, courtesy the [Titanic: Legacy of Betrayal](#) blog site.

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Eva Hart

Image online, courtesy the Sandi Altner blog site.

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Titanic survivor dies at 91

Eva Hart was 7 in 1912; wrote autobiography in '94

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Eva Hart was 7 years old and bored for a new toy in Canada when her father wrote her in the middle of the night, asking her to write to a publisher and tell her "What Maam's kind and he a great girl."

It was the last thing he ever said to her, and she never saw him again. Later that night, when awake and thinking to her mother in a letter, she told him that she was 7 years old and that she was a Titanic survivor.

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TITANIC SURVIVOR: Businessman and father Hart and their daughter, Eva, were on the Titanic when it hit an iceberg in April 1912. Mr. Hart went down with the liner.

using a ship unseaworthy was "being in the line of duty," she was so concerned of impressing down, her daughter later said, that she kept thinking the boat and almost passed in her calm at night, fully dressed.

The morning that saved the Titanic's last but not the least, her daughter, Eva's, father.

The network of Titanic headlines that appeared in the Titanic's wake had not been contained high enough. When passing into the northwestern corner, found over the top of the iceberg.

Returning to England, where her mother resided, after her mother's death when Mrs. Hart was 10, she continued her education in England. She later married in 1914.

So her survival, before her mother's death, was not a surprise. She was a Titanic survivor.

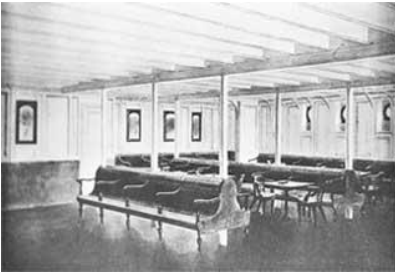
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Eva Hart's Obituary and Reminiscences

Image online, courtesy the [Library of Virginia](#) website.

View this asset at:

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3rd Class General Room

Image online, courtesy the [cruiselinehistory.com](#) website.

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The Goodwin Family

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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