

Heroine of the Titanic Tour 2022

FRONT PORCH

Welcome to Historic Denver's Molly Brown House Museum. We've spent over 50 years saving the places that matter. Our first save was this 1889 house made of Colorado stone, which sits on the ancestral lands of the Ute, Arapaho, and Cheyenne Nations. We hope you agree that historic places and the stories they tell are important to **us all** today, **and** as we build the future together.

You may have heard of the "Unsinkable Molly Brown," but she was never called that during her lifetime. This nickname was made up by the newspaper reporter who wrote her obituary. Instead, she was Mrs. J. J. Brown, or Margaret to family. And after the Titanic, she was not called "**Unsinkable**," but rather the "**Heroine**" of the Titanic.

110 years later we still remember the tragic sinking of the RMS Titanic. As you explore the exhibit, "Heroine of the Titanic," you'll follow the experience of Margaret Brown, a survivor who helped row a lifeboat through the night to safety. On the rescue ship Carpathia, she made it her mission to comfort and raise money for Titanic's immigrant passengers who lost everything on their journey to a new world.

Daughter of hard-working Irish immigrants, Margaret Tobin had a humble start in Hannibal, Missouri, where she was educated at her aunt's school house. At age 18, she moved to Leadville, Colorado to marry James Joseph Brown, a mine-owner and mine supervisor. They lived comfortably in Leadville and had two children, Larry and Helen. J.J. was hired to help with the Little Johnny Mine, which soon brought in the most gold of any mine in North America. The Browns used their fortune to buy this house.

We now invite you into Margaret and J.J. Brown's Capitol Hill home to explore the exhibit, the "Heroine of the Titanic." You'll find objects on display related to the Titanic and Margaret's own experience surviving the tragedy of a ship that was said to be unsinkable.

*As you learn what made Margaret Brown the Heroine of the Titanic, think about what **you** can do in your lifetime, big or small, to help those around you.*

ENTRANCE HALL

Like the Titanic's First Class areas, the Brown's Entrance Hall gave clues about the family's social standing and interests. These walls were painted gold to reflect the pride the Browns had in J.J.'s tremendous gold strike.

After moving in, the Browns became frequent travelers; Margaret and J.J. even set out on a world tour of India, China, and Japan. You can see souvenirs from their travels in the house, such as the brass oil lamps from India here on the fireplace mantle. On her Titanic voyage Margaret was also bringing back souvenirs, in the form of art and statues to donate to the Denver Museum.

It was on April 10, 1912, that the RMS Titanic set sail from Southampton on its first trip to America. Titanic made a quick stop in Cherbourg, France to pick up passengers, including **Margaret Brown** who had been on a trip with her daughter Helen through Egypt. The photo they mailed home from the Great Pyramids can be seen here on the fireplace. They were travelling with multi-millionaire John Jacob Astor and his new wife, Madeline, who, like many other wealthy people, planned to sail back to America on the new luxury ship.

Upon returning to Paris, Margaret and Helen got a letter from family back in the States saying that Margaret's baby grandson was ill. She decided to head back home with the Astors on the Titanic, knowing she would get to mingle with the social elite.

Despite her mother's urging, Helen stayed in Paris. She wrote to her sister-in-law back home, saying, "Mamma almost persuaded me to make the return trip with her on this boat, as a great crowd will be aboard. It is the first trip, you know, and there will be much to do away with the monotony of the ordinary trip."

And what a crowd it was! Successful businessmen like Benjamin Guggenheim and Isadore Straus strolled the opulent smoking rooms and lounges of First Class. John Jacob Astor was thought to be the wealthiest man in the world and was the focus of many stories printed after the sinking. Although these celebrities intrigued everyone, including Margaret, she would express her disapproval of some of the snobbish First Class attitudes toward the passengers who were less well-off, and who were about to lose everything.

Four days into the journey, the ship struck an iceberg. There were only enough lifeboats for about half of the estimated 2,227 people on board, so Titanic's officers followed the motto of the sea which said women and children be saved first—a motto which Margaret later criticized for its unfairness. The First Class were put on the lifeboats first, and as a woman traveling First Class, Margaret survived on Lifeboat 6. She and others in her boat rowed for hours until they were picked up by the Carpathia.

Margaret was one of only 705 Titanic survivors—less than a third of the passengers and crew aboard. A few days later, ships were sent to the disaster site from the nearest port in Halifax, Nova Scotia to recover bodies. Only about 300 victims were found and either returned to their families, buried in Halifax, or buried at sea.

DRAWING ROOM

We all **think** we know the story of the “unsinkable” ship that sank to the ocean floor on April 15, 1912. But we may never know exactly what happened that night. Survivor statements are one of the most important resources for understanding the Titanic sinking, but these sources have to be considered against others, and with the understanding that memory changes and fades over time. Conflicting and varying survival stories make Titanic research complicated and ongoing, and like all history, new research leads to a new understanding.

The same is true for this house's history. In an account given by daughter Helen in 1957, she wrote that this Drawing Room was only used for special occasions to welcome visitors. She remembered putting her best dolls in this room to keep them safe, and how she and her brother Larry once snuck in and accidentally broke their mother's marble table from Italy—they pretended they had no idea how it happened! You'll also see Helen's memories in the form of a drawing of the home's rooms hanging over the fireplace in J.J.'s study, all remembered 50 years later.

After the Titanic sank, each passenger who lived to tell their tale saw something unique as the ship went down, depending on their mindset and location on the ship and lifeboats. For each survivor, recalling these memories was not as simple as re-playing a video. It was a process that depended on how they remembered events and what purpose those memories served.

Margaret's Titanic story is just one example of how we change our memory over time. She was interviewed many times: first on board the rescue ship, then in a New

York hotel, on the train home, and again back in Denver. She then wrote her story, which was published in the Newport Herald at the end of May. After having time to reflect, hear others' stories, and connect the dots of her own experience, she later added a few new stories, like falling out of bed when the ship hit the iceberg, and an Egyptian fortune teller who warned her of the coming events.

Mrs. Brown was known for her wonderful storytelling, which certainly played a part when she later put pen to paper, but reporters also took liberties with her account, sensationalizing the story of a woman who remained calm and selfless in the face of tragedy, and who put the needs of others before her own.

Fellow survivor Archibald Gracie tried to make sense of contradictory stories in his book, "The Truth about the Titanic." In it, he offered his own account which many felt was one of the most accurate considering he had sunk with the ship but survived on an overturned lifeboat. He also included other survivor stories like Margaret Brown's. His goal was to set the record straight about conflicting reports, such as whether the ship split in half as it sank, or whether the Captain or First Officer shot himself.

In these never-before-seen letters on display, Gracie wrote to Margaret a few months after the sinking, asking her to clarify something for his book. Had the newspapers misreported, or had Margaret embellished, but exactly which lifeboat did she survive in? Was it Lifeboat 4 containing Madeline Astor, whom one article said Margaret helped into her boat and took up the oars alongside her, or was it Lifeboat 6, whose quartermaster Margaret had criticized? Based on Gracie's final lists, she responded that she was in Lifeboat 6.

At any given moment, we choose and pick what to remember. Memories can change over time, as a product of how, when, and why we recall them. In this way, one survivor's account can never tell us all that happened on Titanic. We can learn a bit about Titanic through the eyes of Margaret Brown, but we learn even more about **her** and what she felt was important through her memories.

Think about when you first experienced something and then thought about it later. How has your memory of that experience changed overtime?

LIBRARY

The Library reflects Margaret's love of learning as seen by the original Brown family floor-to-ceiling bookcases. Both children, Larry and Helen, first went to school here in Denver, with Larry at Sacred Heart and Helen at Loretto Heights Academy. Margaret continued her own education, attending classes at the Carnegie Institute when they started a women's college. She spoke French, Italian, German, and later, Russian and Greek.

Margaret was also a passionate writer, mostly about her time traveling the world, which included criticism of India's caste system, as well as a family road trip across the Alps. Her essays were published in Denver newspapers and others across the country, which allowed people to share in her adventures and learn about the world.

When the Titanic struck the iceberg, Margaret first recalled that she had been outside on deck. In her first interview while on board the rescue ship Carpathia after it had docked in New York, she stepped away from comforting a steerage passenger to tell the reporter that she had been walking on deck with a Mrs. Brayton. She said, "Mr. Haven of New York had just said to us, 'What a pleasure to travel like this,' when the ship gave a terrible lurch, mounted in the air, and settled again."

When Margaret arrived in Denver 10 days later, papers reported that the iceberg had struck "directly under Mrs. Brown's stateroom." They said, "She did not know the seriousness of the accident, so, in fear that she might unnecessarily excite other women on board, she remained quietly in her room." Had Margaret changed her story or had the reporters decided to elaborate on the character of a calm and collected Mrs. Brown?

By the time Margaret sent her Titanic story to the Newport Herald, she said she was in her stateroom finishing a book: "So completely absorbed in my reading," she said, "I gave little thought to the crash that struck at my window overhead and threw me to the floor."

Could it be that in the chaos of helping people on Carpathia she skipped over the detail that she was actually in her room when the ship was hit? Or, after hearing that the iceberg struck directly below her room in the papers, did that story stick in her

memory? Maybe falling out of bed made for a more interesting story for her newspaper account.

In her earliest interviews she described in detail the sinking and her experience in the lifeboat. These quotes by Margaret paint a vivid and emotional picture of her recollections sailing away from the great sinking ship:

“We were lowering to the water as gently as if it were a drill... it all seemed like a play—like a drama that was being enacted for entertainment. It did not seem real.”

“For a while after we reached the water we watched the ship. We could hear the band. Every light was shining. It seemed perfectly natural.”

“It was getting cold. I took off my lifebelt because I knew how cold the water was and I felt that if I was to be drowned I wanted it over quickly... I did not wish to linger.”

“There in that lifeboat, with a sailor at my side, I rowed for all my might for seven and a half hours. I rowed until my head was sick, until I thought I was dead. I owe my life to my exercise.”

“You that have escaped this will never know what a hell it has been.”

When the ship sank to the bottom of the Atlantic, it took with it the belongings of every passenger on board. Only a few of Margaret’s belongings survived the sinking: the clothes on her back, \$500, and a souvenir from Egypt. This small Egyptian talisman on display, called a ushabti, survived in Margaret’s pocket.

This postal slip on display survived in the pocket of one of the postal clerks on board, Oscar Woody. While celebrating his birthday on Titanic, Woody felt the ship hit the iceberg, and rushed to the mail room to save the mail. He collected this postal slip from one of the mail bags so he could later account for anything missing. The staff aboard Titanic were not a priority for rescue, so Woody did not survive, and this artifact was recovered from his body.

DINING ROOM

The only known photograph of Margaret taken inside the house was in here the Dining Room. The Browns hosted many social events, often as fundraisers for their favorite causes. The Titanic was no exception. Margaret began raising money as soon as she was on board the rescue ship.

Newspaper reports after the Titanic disaster put the wealthy passengers in the spotlight, including Mrs. Brown. They were the celebrities of 1912. This memory of Titanic focuses on First Class and leaves out the struggles of the lower classes and foreign passengers that Margaret helped.

The Titanic was transport for hundreds of immigrants moving to the United States. People from China, Russia, Sweden, Finland, Syria, and Ireland, mostly traveling Third Class, had packed up everything they would need to build a new life in a new country – all of it would be lost to the sea.

Arriving in America after such an experience, including losing their own family members, Titanic's immigrants had to pick themselves up and find a way to start a new life in an unfamiliar place. Margaret said, they would be "friendless in a strange country" and needed more help than others. But some could never get that help as the Chinese Exclusion Act, passed in 1882 and finalized in 1902, restricted the Chinese from immigrating to the U.S. The six Chinese men who survived the sinking never left Carpathia and were deported the day after arriving in New York.

In an interview on the train home to Denver, Margaret's story included her frustrations with the wealthy survivors who refused to help her aid Titanic's immigrants and crew. When she approached these "nabobs," as she called them, who "were stretched out at their ease on the lounges" of the Carpathia deck to ask them to support her relief fund, they assured her not to worry and that all would be taken care of. Margaret responded that the penniless immigrants and crew would "not have a Ritz-Carlton or a Waldorf to receive them."

Margaret was quick to dismiss the idea that a tragedy like that of the Titanic makes all humans equal across social classes. "Even in the face of death," she said, "the 'aristocrats' held themselves apart." She was criticized for this belief, and many years later she remembered things differently, saying there actually was "a social leveling" that took place.

Giving up on the snobs, Margaret added her own \$500 to the fund, which she had pocketed before boarding her lifeboat. It wasn't until she formed the Titanic Survivors' Committee, and posted lists of those who had given money and those who had not, that she gained more support. By the time she disembarked Carpathia, she had raised somewhere between \$5- and \$10,000.

Part of the fund was used to thank the captain and crew of Carpathia for their heroism in caring for Titanic survivors. As head of the Survivors' Committee, Margaret was asked a few weeks later to present Captain Rostron and his crew with a trophy and medals in a widely-publicized ceremony. You can see one of these medals on display here.

In the spirit of the Carpathia crew's heroism and Margaret's compassion, what could you do to help those less fortunate?

SUN ROOM

Here in this small sitting room or Sun Room, Margaret entertained close friends or family, wrote letters, and planned events. On the wall to the left of the sofa you'll see a family photo taken when they still lived in Leadville, and additional family photos down the hallway. One of the photos is of the Browns taken in 1909 just before boarding the Lusitania, a ship which later sank during WWI.

Not having to attend to her own family, Margaret spent the night on the Carpathia when it docked in New York City. She helped make arrangements for "the friendless" as she called them, and spoke to the immigrant survivors in French and German. She said, "I thought it was brutal to turn the strange women, young and old, over to the Chelsea hotel with no guarantee whatever except a penciled note from the White Star Line asking for their care."

After a sleepless night on the rescue ship, she invited one survivor to stay with her at the Ritz Carlton Hotel, a young Russian woman whom Margaret comforted while efforts were made to connect her with family. This woman had lost her husband and everything she owned. The two sat with their arms around each other in the lobby of the Ritz Carlton speaking in German, their common language, while Margaret was interviewed by reporters. We know this woman was either Miriam Kantor or Anna Abelson, both young Russian survivors who lost their husbands that night. The photograph on display is of Anna Abelson some years after she survived the

sinking. During her stay in New York, Margaret worked with different Consuls to help some of Titanic's immigrants find friends in a strange land.

Margaret was called "Heroine of the Titanic" by Denver reporters for her work nursing the survivors and starting a relief fund, a name that stuck with her through her lifetime. She thanked the hours of rowing for keeping her warm and healthy, and thanked the great luck that her daughter Helen was safe in Paris so that her "hands and mind were free," as she said, to care for others who needed her.

To the title of "Heroine," Margaret insisted, "I simply did my duty as I saw it. I knew that I was healthy and strong and was able to nurse the suffering. I am sure that there was nothing I did throughout the whole affair that anyone else wouldn't have done."

If you were starting a new life in a new land, what precious family photo or memento would you take with you?

HELEN'S ROOM

This bedroom belonged to daughter Helen, who was about to turn five when the family moved here in April 1894. At the beginning of 1912, at age 23, Helen was studying at the Sorbonne in Paris, a famous university that didn't admit women until 1893. There were only a few women in attendance even in Helen's time. As a reporter noted in January of 1912, men "were rather loath to give women the right to invade the sacred precincts of the Sorbonne."

When her mother arrived in Europe on the Olympic with the Astors at the end of January, they took a trip to Egypt and had themselves photographed on camels in front of the pyramids. After this memorable trip, Helen went back to her studies where she wrote plays and even acted in a few of them, while her mother left on the Titanic.

For days after the sinking, it was unknown if Helen had been on the ship with her mother, and family members were worried. She had sent a letter to her sister-in-law, Eileen Horton Brown, two weeks prior, which comforted many to know Helen must still be in Paris. But her letter also gave proof that Margaret was on Titanic.

The letter read:

“I intend to remain in Paris until I have completed my studies. Mother intends to return by the Titanic, and I thought of going, but I decided yesterday that I would remain here until sometime in June. I am doing so well with my work that it would be extremely foolish for me to break off just now.”

Helen, meanwhile, was frantic with worry about her mother’s safety. Carpathia’s Marconi system was so backed up with survivors’ messages to family members that Helen did not get a telegram from her mother until three days after the disaster. She wrote an emotional letter back, which Margaret received when she arrived in Denver at the Brown Palace Hotel. It read:

“Dear Mother: What a perfectly horrible, dreadful time you have been having! When your wireless message from the Carpathia came it was 6:30 in the morning, after I had passed three utterly sleepless nights. It has been a frightful ordeal for me, but, oh, the relief your message gave me! Thank God you are safe. How you must have suffered from the cold.”

Helen soon after married and settled in New York, raising two sons, James and George Peter. It was through daughter Helen and grandson James that we have great stories about daily life for the Browns in this home. Helen passed away in 1970 just before the call was raised to save this house and turn it into a museum.

MARGARET’S ROOM

In this private retreat you can see clues about Margaret’s interests and beliefs including a prayer kneeler, personal stationery, and family photos. At her desk she would have planned her charitable work and written her travel articles. Margaret may have colored some details of her Titanic experience as she continued to recall them in her mind, but there was one point that she never changed in her many interviews and written account: her firm belief in equal rights at sea.

Margaret had progressive views on equal rights. She believed women should not only have the same privileges as men, but also the same duties. Women, she believed, should be involved in politics and war with men, and even give up their seat on a lifeboat as men were expected to do.

She had a belief in “human rights” that carried across everything she accomplished in her lifetime. She supported children’s welfare through fundraisers for Judge Ben

Lindsey, the man who started Denver's Juvenile Court; the rights of miners when she spoke out against the corporation who massacred striking families in Ludlow, CO; and the rights of women, who she supported in hosting suffrage meetings and when she considered a bid for U.S. Senate. When asked about the classes on Titanic, she said, "They were all human being, in my estimation."

The horror of seeing so many men go down with the ship when there were plenty of seats available on the lifeboats fired up Margaret's views on equality. She was shocked to watch Ida Straus refuse to get into a lifeboat so she could go down with her husband who was not given the chance to survive. Margaret said the men "who were saved almost apologized as though the caring for themselves in such a case was a blight on their manhood."

She began speaking out about the cruelty of the "women and children first" motto of the sea as soon as she left the Carpathia. She said, "In this day and age, when women are demanding equality, I believe that it should extend to the sea. The law of the sea is archaic and I hope that women will, in gaining powers of legislation, effect a change in this unjust ruling."

Back home in Denver, she appealed to the Denver Women's Club to start a petition to erase this maritime code, believing the women of Colorado could lead the movement, just as they had with women's votes. She carried on these views a couple of years later in 1914 when she formed a women's militia to stand ground at the Mexican Border War, and again when she campaigned to run for United States Senate that same year, before women had the right to vote.

JJ'S ROOM

Margaret's husband, James Joseph, was a successful mine owner, caretaker, and humanitarian. His wealth from the Little Johnny Mine allowed him to fully support not only his immediate family, but a larger extended one. He also took care of the orphaned boys at St. Vincent's Hospital in Leadville. He believed he owed them something for the loss of their fathers in the mines.

Margaret and J.J. had decided to separate in 1909. In a letter to his colleague, J.J. said, "Mrs. B wanted to patch it up again. I wanted to settle for all time. It is a sad affair at my time of life, but it was unbearable." He gave Margaret this house at 1340 Pennsylvania and continued to support her financially. He moved to Tucson, Arizona where he continued his work in mining.

Early in 1912, J.J. purchased land and began building a new home. Shortly after hearing of his wife's passage on Titanic, he was set to leave for New York to find out whether she was safe but he probably didn't make the trip. He likely heard of her well-being from a relative.

Later that year, J.J. met daughter Helen at the Brown Palace Hotel where she stayed after returning home from Paris. They went together to visit J.J.'s son Larry, and his wife and new baby boy. Over the winter months, Helen lived with her father in his new Tucson home. It was here that she announced her marriage to a publisher from New York, George Benziger.

LARRY'S ROOM

At age 24, the Browns' son Larry was newly wed to Eileen Horton from Kansas City and he was a new father to a baby boy, Lawrence Palmer Jr. In early 1912, he moved his family to Victor, Colorado where he worked for a short time at the Portland Mine as a mucker. The newspapers had a heyday printing the story of a millionaire's son cut off from the family fortune, forced to work as a mucker. They said it was his parents' revenge for not approving of his new wife.

But Larry insisted the story wasn't true and that his parents were fond of Eileen. In an interview he said, "I was always led to understand that I should have to make my own living and I am doing so. My father has by no means neglected me. I am proud to start life as did my father before me."

As he worked in the Portland Mine, Larry's health began to decline. He took a new job in Medford, Oregon stretching fence on a ranch where the fresh air agreed with him. His wife, Eileen and the baby were in Colorado Springs and were set to join Larry in Medford, but news of the Titanic delayed Eileen's plans.

Through recent letters with Margaret and Helen in Paris, Eileen had mentioned the baby's ill health. She knew from Helen's response that Helen had stayed behind in Paris, but that Margaret had booked passage on the doomed ship. Eileen went to Denver where she told reporters all she knew about Helen's and Margaret's whereabouts.

While out working the ranch in Medford, Larry received a wire from Eileen that the Titanic had sunk and his mother was a passenger. He was "in misery" until he got his mother's telegram saying she was unharmed and on the Carpathia. He returned her message at once, saying "Thank god you are safe," which reached her when

they docked in New York. This telegram from Larry can be seen on display in Margaret's room.

He also wrote an emotional letter to her, expressing his relief and his eternal gratitude. He said:

“God has surely been good to me. He has saved from a horrible death one of my greatest treasures and I will never cease thanking him. This nightmare has awakened a better manhood in your son and all his life will be spent in showing his gratefulness to his creator.”

“You must come by before you do another thing. I must see you and I must hold you in my arms.”

And, as you're surely wondering... Larry and Eileen's sick baby, who encouraged Margaret to book passage on Titanic, recovered just fine.

GUEST ROOM

Stories of the Titanic have fascinated the public for 110 years. Books, plays, and movies have reenacted the events of that night to entertain audiences. These stories created many myths of the Titanic – myths about the ship, its passengers, and the timeline of events.

But as we have seen, inconsistencies in survivor stories began immediately after the wreck, creating confusion about the events of that night the very same month they happened. In fact, survivor and actor Dorothy Gibson, co-wrote and starred in a dramatic film about the tragedy which debuted just a month after the sinking and likely added to the differing opinions about what happened.

Margaret Brown was called “The Unsinkable Molly” in one of her obituaries, and the name stuck in books, plays, and movies written about her since her death. In the 1964 movie *The Unsinkable Molly Brown* starring Debbie Reynolds, “Molly” strips down to her corset and slaps a hysterical woman across the face while in the lifeboat. Just as Margaret may have exaggerated her own experiences a bit, Hollywood stretched her story even further with this memorable scene.

About three decades later, James Cameron remade the 1958 British film, *A Night to Remember* in his 11-oscars winning film, *Titanic*. After the wreckage was discovered

in 1985, Cameron took multiple trips to the ship himself, hoping to uncover the secrets of one of the most well-known wrecks in history.

When the shipwreck was discovered, the bow section was found lying about half a mile north of the stern section, proving that at some point, the ship broke in two. Cameron added this new evidence in his movie, but how exactly the Titanic broke in half is still a point of debate today. Scientists currently believe the ship broke from the bottom-up, and the split was never seen above the surface.

“Molly” Brown was also a character in Cameron’s *Titanic*, played by Kathy Bates. “Molly” was trying to fit into an upper-class society that spoke to her with their nose in the air, and called her “new money.” Cameron’s “Molly” may capture some of the real Mrs. Brown’s spirit, including her knack for helping those less fortunate. But his character is not quite the highly-educated, philanthropist *Margaret* Brown of real life, who rowed all night in the lifeboat until her “head was sick,” and who fought for equal rights at sea.

Please take your time through this exhibit space to find some answers to those major Titanic questions from the voices of survivors, filmmakers, and experts. Discover just how complicated it can be to know what really happened!

KITCHEN AND PANTRIES

You just came down the servant’s stairs to the Kitchen. Just as on the Titanic with its separate areas for cooks, porters, and maids, this would have been a center of servant activity, as they prepared meals, managed the household, and received deliveries. This kitchen also includes two pantries, one for the china and silver, and one for canned goods and pots and pans.

In the 1900 census the Brown’s had five servants, including a cook, a maid, and a hostler who cared for the horses. Those servants lived here on site, while others were ‘day help’ and had homes of their own to return to in the evening. We know, for instance, that a Mary O’Fallon was the Brown’s cook in 1904 and she was paid about \$40 per month in wages. Margaret treated her servants well - she paid them better and offered tutors for those without a basic education.

Many of the crew of the Titanic, such as the postal clerk Oscar Woody, went down with the ship. Titanic’s Captain Edward J. Smith was last seen on the bridge of his sinking ship where a total of 696 of the 908 crew were lost, including over 244 engineers who were down in the engine rooms. 549 of those crew who were lost

came from Southampton, England, leaving a city in mourning. Only a quarter of the stewards and stewardesses survived, 13 of the cooks, and 2 of the restaurant staff. None of the postal clerks survived, and as we know, the entire band played to their death.

You can find a full list of the Titanic's crew and passengers when you continue your experience in the museum's lowest level exhibit space. You'll also find more information on Margaret's Titanic story, see detailed plans of the ship, and learn where else in the world you can find stories of the people who travelled on the Titanic.

BACK PORCH

When thinking about what makes Margaret Brown extraordinary, perhaps it is how, time and again, her compassion drove her to care for those affected by crisis, including during the Titanic disaster, then seek justice by speaking out publicly and raising funds.

Before the Titanic disaster, the press called the ship unsinkable. After the disaster, they called Margaret its "Heroine" due to her determination, perseverance, and kindness - and that nickname has endured. Margaret Brown died in her New York City apartment in October of 1932. Obituaries told of a full life dedicated to humanitarian and social justice causes as a community leader and activist. Those obituaries also invented new stories about her life.

After her death, the legends created in those obituaries grew larger than life. While these fictional accounts of "Molly Brown" are inaccurate, they sparked interest in preserving her home. Thanks to the movie *The Unsinkable Molly Brown*, Denverites knew of the house's history and its famous owner. They created Historic Denver to preserve the home, and this grassroots community work sparked a citywide preservation movement still going strong today.

Today we know that Margaret and J.J. Brown left a legacy for Colorado, and due to Margaret's Titanic heroism, we might say the world. We hope that you are inspired by this story, as it shows the powerful impact helping others can have and how it is possible for each one of us to leave a lasting legacy.



Thank you so much for visiting and supporting Historic Denver's Molly Brown House Museum. Become a member today at HistoricDenver.org!