

Eleanor Roosevelt 1884 - 1962

Eleanor was a shy child who lost her mother when she was eight years old and was sent to live with her grandmother, a strict woman not known for her warmth. She excelled in academics and gained confidence in her abilities after studying in France with an encouraging teacher. In 1905 she married Franklin D. Roosevelt who was later to become president of the United States. Eleanor became his eyes and ears as she traveled the country, seeing first hand the extreme poverty during the Depression years. In World War II she reported on conditions in the troops and on the home front. She worked to improve hospitals for the mentally ill and equal rights and better working conditions for women. Following her husband's death she was appointed a delegate to the United Nations and as chairperson of the Commission on Human Rights, helped to write the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Molly (Margaret) Tobin Brown 1867 - 1932

Molly was born in Hannibal, Missouri, one of six children of poor Irish immigrants. As a young woman she worked as a waitress, then went to Colorado where she met and married James J. Brown and had two children. In 1912 Molly Brown, while touring Europe, boarded the *Titanic* to return to the United States where her grandson was gravely ill. On day five of the voyage, the ship hit an iceberg and began to sink. Molly was thrown into a lifeboat with 14 other women and a sailor who told them they were sure to die, for when the *Titanic* went down it would pull them down with it. Molly took charge and got the women singing and rowing, and they were eventually picked up by a rescue ship, the *Carpathia*. She organized rescue efforts on the ship and raised money for victims of the disaster. When asked by reporters how she was able to survive the disaster she stated that she was “unsinkable.”