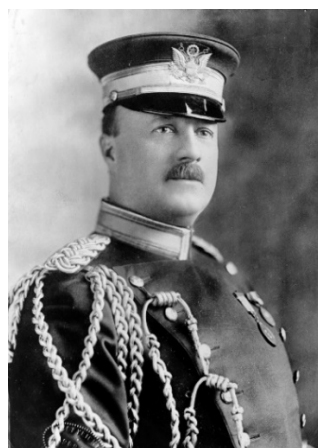


A QUIET SEA
RMS TITANIC



VEILED LIVES

TITANIC: VEILED LIVES

In the early 20th century, non-traditional relationships, although not openly recognized, were quietly accepted in the upper classes; prodding into the personal lives of brilliant and distinguished people was considered unseemly. This unspoken agreement provided some sanctuary from the existing laws. Before the 16th century, erotic fluidity was more acceptable, but the 1533 Sodomy Laws of King Henry VIII drove unconventional lifestyles underground, punishable by imprisonment and even execution. Hideous rituals, such as passing the hands of the corpse over young women's bosoms, were disguised as cures for various ailments to further justify the murders; this practice ceased in the 1820s. Evidence against the accused was generally sketchy, received through gossip, betrayal or invasive peering. Unwitting accomplices were also imprisoned. Violating "buggery" laws was a capital offense, punishable by death until 1861 (James Pratt and John Smith were the last two men executed in Britain in 1835). The Sodomy Laws were superseded by the Offences against the Person Act of 1828. The 1957 Wolfenden Committee Report decriminalized relationships previously deemed immoral and deserving of punishment. The Offences Act was finally repealed in England in 1967.



Franklin Millet
Credit: WOW Report

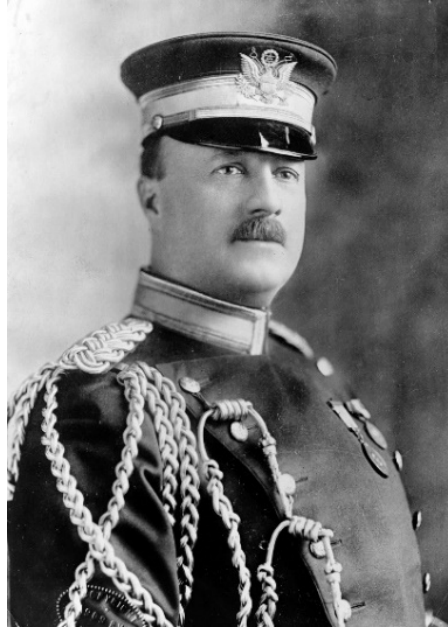


Elizabeth Millet
by John Singer Sargent
Credit: Wikipedia

FRANKLIN MILLET

Franklin Davis Millet, the acclaimed and prolific American painter, was born in Massachusetts in 1848. As a teenager, he followed his father, a surgeon, into the Civil War as a drummer boy for the 60th Massachusetts Infantry Regiment. Mark Twain was his best man when he married Elizabeth Merrill in 1879. Other friends included sculptor Augustus St. Gaudens, members of Congress and the Supreme Court and President William Howard Taft. During the Russo-Turkish War in 1877, Millet was a combat artist for the *London Graphic* and was decorated by Russia for his courage under fire and care of the wounded. He covered the Spanish American

War for several newspapers, wrote fiction and translated Tolstoy. In addition to these accomplishments, he helped found the School of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston. Several years before his marriage, he had an intimate relationship with author Charles Warren Stoddard. When it became apparent that Stoddard didn't want a domestic relationship, Millet was devastated. It is not clear whether or not he had liaisons with other men during his marriage. However, around 1910, after his wife had moved to their home in Italy, he took up residence with Major Archibald Butt.



Major Archibald Butt
Credit: Wikipedia

ARCHIBALD BUTT

Major Archibald Willingham Butt, born 1865 in Georgia, was a valued military aide to presidents Theodore Roosevelt and William Howard Taft. After graduating from college in Tennessee, he reported for Southern newspapers and, along with a retired Confederate general, worked in the Mexican Embassy. Joining the army in 1898, Butt served first in the Spanish American War, then in the Philippines. Around 1908, he joined the Roosevelt administration. As the 1912 presidential election approached, he tried to remain neutral, as he had a good relationship with both Theodore Roosevelt and William Howard Taft, who were engaged in an intense feud. However, the clash took a serious toll on Butt's health. Millet interceded with Taft and suggested Butt join him for a 6-week tour of Europe. Major Butt left his position and took a working vacation, visiting various embassies and spending time with his brother in England. The European tour was newsworthy because of Butt's position as Taft's military aide. Butt also met with Pope Pius X and was to deliver a personal letter from the Pope to President Taft. At this time, Major Butt and Millet lived in a mansion in Washington, DC, where they threw large parties. Their guests included politicians, judges, President Taft and other Washington notables. Butt referred to Millet as, "my artist friend who lives with me." Given his choice of flamboyant clothing, Butt was considered something of a dandy, wearing a variety of outfits every day (he had taken 7 trunks of clothing on his European trip). Though it is reported that he hoped one day to marry, he remained a bachelor.

ON TITANIC

Records vary as to where Millet and Butt boarded Titanic (Southampton or Cherbourg) and whether together or separately. Millet seemed to loathe a particular class of passenger, writing to a friend from Queenstown, Ireland, where Titanic stopped before crossing for New York: "*Queer lot of people on the ship. There are a number of obnoxious, ostentatious American women, the scourge of any place they infest and worse on shipboard than anywhere*". Even pets and husbands didn't escape his wrath: "*Many of them carry tiny dogs, and lead husbands around like pet lambs.*" The two men had separate cabins in First Class, enjoyed the ship's amenities and dined with Captain Smith. Late on the night of April 14, Butt and Millet were playing cards in the First-Class smoke room. Oblivious to the collision, they continued their game for another hour, until the increasingly perilous condition of the ship caught their attention. What they did then is uncertain. Millet was seen helping women and children into the lifeboats and giving his lifejacket to a woman entering a boat. He was reported to have survived but did not; the mortuary ship, Mackay Bennett, recovered his body. His remains were buried in Massachusetts. Mark Twain said of his friend, "Millet was the cause of lovable qualities in people, and he admired and loved those persons for the very qualities which he (without knowing it) had created in them." Major Butt's body was never recovered. A number of endings were reported, all heroic. In one, he calmly and politely escorted panicked women into lifeboats. In another, he stood guard over women and children with an iron bar, protecting them from desperate male steerage passengers. It also was said that he stood quietly on the sinking deck with millionaire John Jacob Astor. Admiral Dewey considered Butt one of nature's noblemen, and President Taft delivered a heartfelt eulogy for the aide whom he considered a son. To commemorate the two men, their friends provided funds for the Millet-Butt Memorial Fountain, erected in Washington, DC in 1913.



Ella Holmes (R) Marie Young (L)

Credit: GSN

ELLA HOLMES

Ella Bertha Holmes was born in New York in 1856. Her father Edwin owned the Holmes Electric Protective Company, an early burglar alarm business in Boston. He moved his firm to Brooklyn, NY in 1859 and became very wealthy. When Holmes was 38, she married John

Stuart White, but the childless marriage was short-lived. Stuart died a few years later at age 52, and Holmes returned to live with her parents. Considered somewhat eccentric and outspoken, Holmes began a relationship with Marie Grice Young. They lived in Westchester, NY and in New York City's Waldorf Astoria and Plaza hotels for more than 30 years, traveling the world. When Holmes died at age 86, she left her estate and a trust that would provide Young \$250 a month, a considerable sum at the time.

MARIE YOUNG

Marie Grice Young was born in Washington, DC in 1876. Young later lived in Brooklyn, NY, went to convent schools and studied music. Her father made his fortune in mining but wrote music and was a talented baritone. After suffering a head injury, he began drinking and was committed to an asylum, eventually committing suicide. Young, a talented pianist and music teacher, was hired to tutor the children of President Theodore Roosevelt. Devoted to her mother Maggie, they lived together until her mother's death in 1910. While deep in her grief, Young met Holmes, who assumed the role of surrogate mother, and the two embarked on a lifelong relationship. After a vacation in Rome, they decided to return to New York on the Titanic. After the disaster, they returned to Westchester and eventually resumed their travels. After moving to a retirement home in Amsterdam, NY Young continued playing piano, despite worsening arthritis. She died in 1959 at age 83 and was buried in Westchester.

ON TITANIC

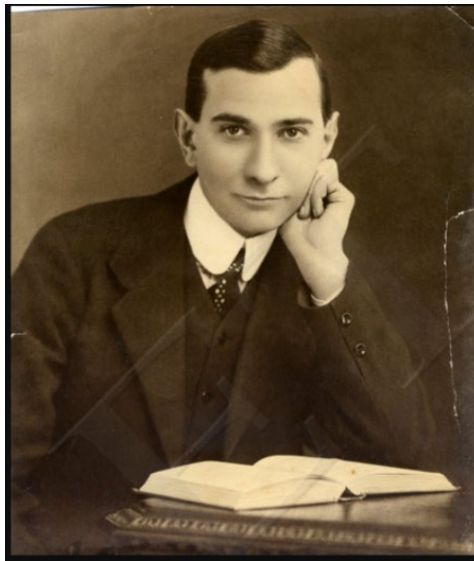
The two women boarded Titanic in Cherbourg, accompanied by their maid, Nellie Bessette and manservant, Sante Righini. They were happy to reconnect with friends on board who were from Washington, DC. Holmes had injured her ankle a few days earlier and was sporting a cane provided with an electric light. They purchased some exotic French chickens, and Young asked the ship's carpenter, John Hutchinson, to take her to the hold to check on them daily. After the collision, and suspecting trouble, the four went up on deck where Holmes, Young and Bessette boarded lifeboat #8, leaving the ship about 1 AM. Mr. Righini, not permitted to board the lifeboat, was lost. The press reported that Young was the last woman from First Class to leave the ship, and that she had had a conversation with Major Butt. However, neither story was true. Knowing that Major Butt and President Taft were close, she wrote Taft to set the record straight. Tales of the women taking charge of boat #8 to return to the scene and save those in the water were also false. At the Senate inquiry, the outspoken Holmes complained about the inept and rude crew in the lifeboat, while complimenting the brave male passengers who perished. {She said that the women rowed and steered, as the stewards assigned to the boat were incapable of handling the oars.} Holmes had put her electric cane to good use, waving it wildly to signal the rescue ship, Carpathia, and draw attention to the lifeboat.



Ella Holmes and her electric cane
Credit: Guernsey's

WILLIAM GASKELL & JOSEPH FYNNEY

William Gaskell, 18, and Joseph Fynney, 35, were Second-Class passengers on Titanic. Little is known of them. Joseph was an apprentice cooper. Fynney was a rubber merchant and worked with delinquents at his church. Both were traveling to Canada to see Fynney's family. When visiting his mother in Montreal, Fynney was always accompanied by a different young man. His neighbors noted the time he spent in the company of younger men and complained of his late-night parties. Neither man survived, and if their bodies were found, they were not identified.



Joseph Fynney
Credit: Encyclopedia Titanica

Sources: The WOW Report, Will Kohler, Find a Grave, Encyclopedia Titanica, Library of Congress, The Met, Wikipedia, Live Science, A Night to Remember by Walter Lord

In remembrance of Eddie Elias