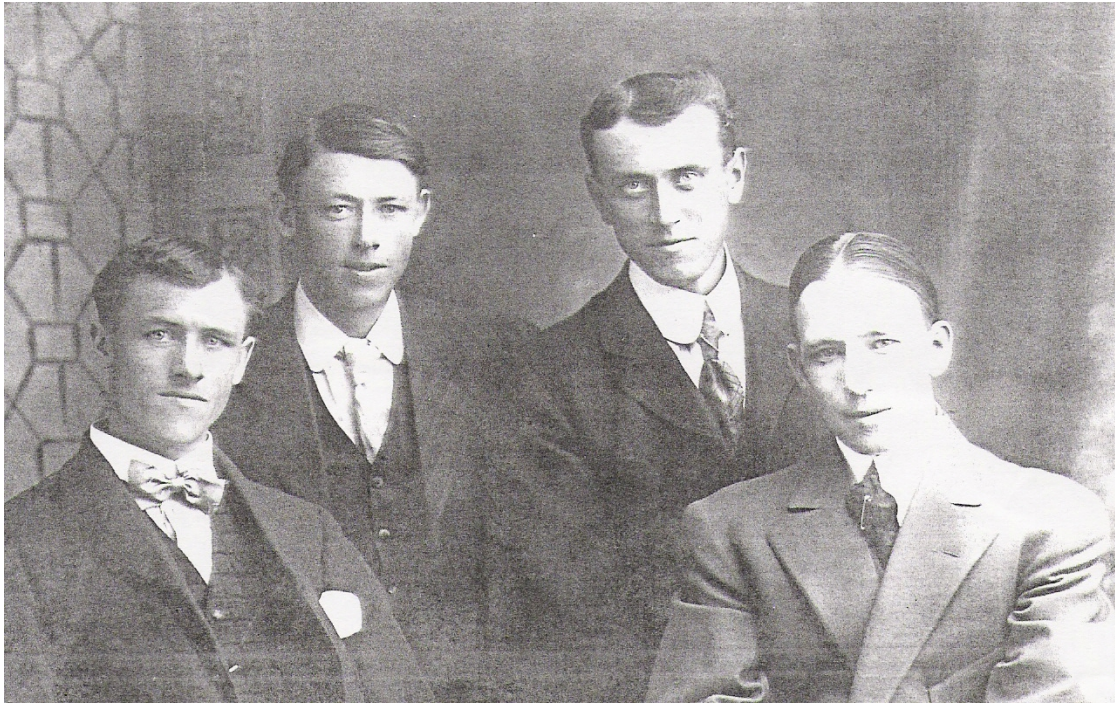


# Lost on the Titanic

Branch 4

Janet Few



**From the left: Lewis Richard, William James, Owen Harris and John Morcom Braund**

James and Elizabeth Braund née Harris (branch 4) farmed in Cornwall, first at Pigsdon Farm in Week St. Mary and later at Norton Farm, Bridgerule. They had four sons and a daughter. The record revealed by the documentary evidence conflicts slightly with the family evidence, some of which appears on the website [www.encyclopedia-titanica.org](http://www.encyclopedia-titanica.org). James and Elizabeth's eldest son, Lewis Richard, born 1883 and his younger brother William James [Jim] became farm labourers. According to the passenger lists, on the 10th May 1907, Lewis and Jim left for Canada from Liverpool on *The Victorian*. The Canadian passenger lists show that they arrived a week later and were bound for Winnipeg. Family sources say that they also spent time in Detroit.

Although the family story is that it was Jim who returned for other family members, the records show that it was in fact Lewis. This is born out by passenger lists and an unidentified newspaper cutting reporting the disaster, which makes no mention of Jim. There is no evidence that Jim also returned at this time, although he may have done so. Jim was supposed to have made his second trip to Canada from Liverpool, while other members of the party changed ship in order to travel on the new and unsinkable *Titanic* from Southampton. Certainly, some time after the disaster, William returned to the UK and joined his family who were by that time farming in Launceston. He married in 1934 in Holsworthy district.

What ever the truth of Jim's story. Lewis and his younger brother Owen Harris Braund, who had been working for an ironmonger in Plymouth, formed part of an extended family group who sailed on the *Titanic*. The others in the party were brothers William and Samuel Dennis or Dinnis, farm labourers from Week St. Mary and Devonians, John Henry [Jack] Perkin, son of a Holsworthy butcher and John Hall Lovell of Hatherleigh, who was joining his brother Leonard. All six men were supposed to be in some way related but precisely how has not been discovered. All the young men were in their twenties and all travelled third class. Lewis Braund paid £7 11d for his ticket and Owen paid £7 5/-, it is not known why the amounts were not the same. Lewis had an earlier ticket number, whereas the other men had consecutive ticket numbers, believed to have been purchased from the White Star Line agent in Bude. It is thought that a thirty seven year old Miss Susan Webber, a friend of the family, also travelled with them. Lewis and Owen were planning on setting in Qu'Appelle Valley, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, probably where Jim was farming.

According to [www.encyclopedia-titanica.org](http://www.encyclopedia-titanica.org) , the night before their departure for Southampton they attended a party at the home of Susan Webber, who was going to join her nephew in Harford, Connecticut. It is believed that the party travelled by train on the London and South Western Line, from Holsworthy, changing at Exeter and

Salisbury, to arrive in Southampton on the 9th of April, the day before the *Titanic* sailed. [www.encyclopedia-titanica.org](http://www.encyclopedia-titanica.org) states that they spent their last night on dry land at the Alliance Hotel in Southampton. Two postcards, sent by John Lovell, survive and he writes of spending the night at the Alliance Hotel. *'Dear Uncle, Just writing a few lines to let you know that I have got to Southampton all right. We got at Southampton about 7.30 in the evening and we all lodge at the Alliance Hotel, I could not sleep that night I am not downhearted yet I am happy. J Lovell'*. And later, from on board the ship, *'I am sending you a postcard of the Titanic. We started from Southampton about 12 o'clock last Wed. Sleep well the first night. I been on ship one and half I am not sea sick yet. I am enjoying myself fine. Good bye. J H Lovell'*

All six men perished when the *Titanic* went down. Susan Webber had two advantages, she was female and she had paid £13 for the privilege of travelling second class. She was rescued by lifeboat 12 and taken to the *Carpathia*. She lived with her nephew for another forty years.

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