

Frank John William Goldsmith (Frank Goldsmith Jr)

Frank John William Goldsmith Jr. (19 December 1902 — 27 January 1982), was a young third-class passenger of the [RMS *Titanic*](#) and a survivor of the [sinking in 1912](#). He later wrote a book about his experiences on the ship, entitled *Echoes In the Night: Memories of a Titanic Survivor* (1991),

Master Frank John William Goldsmith was born in Strood, Kent, England on 19 December 1902.

He was the son of Kent natives **Frank John Goldsmith** (b. 1879) and **Emily Alice Brown** (b. 1880) who had married the year prior to his birth. He had a younger brother, Albert John (b. 1905).

Frank and his family appear on the 1911 census living at 22 Hone Street, Strood. Before the close of the year Frankie lost his younger brother Albert to diphtheria aged just 6.

His maternal grandparents and several aunts and uncles had emigrated and settled in Detroit, Michigan around 1910 and it was decided that the Goldsmiths would also settle there. The family boarded the *Titanic* at Southampton on 10 April 1912 as third class passengers (ticket number 363291 which cost £20, 10s, 6d). Also travelling with them from Strood was an acquaintance, **Thomas Theobald** and another from Surrey, **Alfred Rush**. Rush commemorated his 16th birthday on 14 April on board the ship, celebrating his transformation from a boy to a man as he no longer had to wear shorts, but was now to wear long pants

On board the ship Frank made friends with similarly-aged boys and spent the days running wild around the ship; he recalled them popping their heads into a stokehold and saw the firemen busy at work, singing and banging their shovels in time with the music. Only Frank and one other of his friends survived.

On the night of the sinking the family were in their cabin; Frankie slept through the impact and it was his father who wakened him. The family then made for the upper decks with Thomas Theobald and Alfred Rush and managed, along with several of their other shipboard acquaintances to find their way to the forward end of the starboard boat deck where four collapsible boats were being prepared for launch. Frank bade farewell to his wife and son and saw them off in collapsible C. Young Alfred Rush was also offered a place but he declined, preferring to remain with the men; young Frankie recalled how Thomas Theobald, sensing the hopelessness of the situation, gave his wedding ring to Emily so that she might send it on to his wife back in England.

Frankie and his mother survived; his father was among the lost. Aboard *Carpathia* he became acquainted with several of the surviving crew, including fireman **John "Sam" Collins** who helped lift his spirits. He and his mother arrived in New York and were cared for by the Salvation Army before being shuttled off to Detroit where his family were waiting.

Frankie's mother was remarried in 1914 to another Strood man, becoming Mrs Harry Illman and she would later die in 1955. Growing up in Detroit Frankie's house was situated close to a baseball stadium; he later recalled that every time a home run was scored the roar of the crowd reminded him of the sound made by the hundreds of people struggling in the water. This haunted him so much that he never brought his own children to a baseball game.

Frank would often become quiet over the period of April each year, perhaps dwelling on his memories of the disaster.

As per his own wishes, Frank was cremated. Following an orchestration of events between many people, his remains were scattered from a Coast Guard reconnaissance plane on Thursday 15 April 1982 over the spot where *Titanic* was estimated to have foundered.