

1976 letter from Mrs. Snyder about her experience on Titanic

by Dennis Foley

Dear Mr. Foley: I only wish you were here so I could talk to you as I have so many people the last sixty years. I am glad you have done a lot of research on the Titanic for it would be most difficult to tell you the whole story.

Your idea of some personal things that happened to us and some of the feelings we had about the Titanic will help condense this letter.

First I must tell you that Captain Smith was the captain of this ship we took to Europe to start our wedding trip. Upon leaving New York, he gave orders to go ahead before he gave orders to urde from the port. Not too serious but a little frightening as we almost took the whole pier with us! Secondly, when we arrived in Gibraltar, Captain Smith ran on a sand bar so it was impossible for us to go ashore, and most disappointing. Our next stop was Naples and we were mighty glad to leave the ship for we had a feeling Captain Smith would have a hard night.

Also, recalling these events in Europe, we arrived in Southampton and found our reservations for our return home had been transferred to the Titanic, "The Greatest Ship in the World". Our only concern was who the captain might be. We were told we would have the notice at dinner the day of departure. To our horror, it was Captain Smith!

We never saw the apples and the "Right to Remember" his first and last night!

We were very fortunate for as a lady woman and children are saved first but everyone had heard that the Titanic was unsinkable so refused to get into the lifeboats. Captain Smith was frantic and finally asked us ten brides and grooms to set an example and get in the lifeboat. It was frightening as the ship was falling so much we had to be literally thrown out to the lifeboat and lowered by the ship. Consequently, the boat didn't take with us when it hit our lives. Many people froze to death. The lifeboats came to us to rescue us from the water and we brides and grooms and many others were pulled up to the lifeboats on the ice. Captain Smith never left alone either. Not just on the floor and deck. Finally you could become very pleased and told us about having had her fortune told in Cairo. She was told she would be in a shipwreck then an earthquake and finally an automobile accident. We all became more cheerful and realized we had to get to dry land sooner or later to be in an earthquake. It gave us a new lease on life and we could hardly wait to hear whether the Capetels were going to a foreign country or New York. New York was decided upon and in four or five days we were on home land. I know you have read all about our arrival which was so sad for money and joyful for others.

What a wonderful letter from two wonderful ladies. I am very happy to share this with my friends at Titanica. Cheers.....Dennis

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