

Mark Fortune and Family

Source of the following: www.encyclopedia-titanica.org

Acknowledgments and Contributors

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C. Stewart (1998) *Crawford Gordon, His Fast Life and Times*, McGraw Hill

Alan Hustak (1999) *Titanic: The Canadian Story*. Vehicule Press, ISBN-1-55065-113-7

Contract Ticket List, White Star Line 1912 (National Archives, New York; NRAN-21-SDNYCIVCAS-55[279])

Please see web-site for complete editorial team and contributors

Photos of each member of the family who traveled on the Titanic are available at

www.encyclopedia-titanica.org

Traveling Companions (on same ticket):

Mr. Mark Fortune

Mrs. Mary Fortune

Miss Ethel Flora Fortune

Miss Alice Elizabeth Fortune

Miss Mabel Helen Fortune

Mr. Charles Alexander Fortune

A photo shows (www.encyclopedia-titanica.org):

Right: John Hugo Ross, Unknown, Thomas McCaffry, Mark Fortune and Thomson Beattie feed pigeons in St. Mark's Square, Venice, March 1912

Courtesy: Alan Hustak, Canada

Mr. Mark Fortune

He was born on Tuesday 2nd November 1847

When the *Titanic* sank Mark Fortune was aged 64 years

His last residence was in Winnipeg Manitoba Canada

Fortune died in the sinking. His body was never recovered.

About Mark Fortune

Mr. Mark Fortune was born on 2 November 1847 in Carluke, Wentworth County, Ontario, Canada.

The son of a farmer, Mark Fortune was a self made man with a bank account that matched the family name. Lured to California by inflated dreams when he was still a teenager, he spent several years in San Francisco. In 1871 he moved to the new Canadian province of Manitoba, where he married Mary McDougald from Portage la Prairie and they had six children: Robert, Clara, Ethel Flora, Alice Elizabeth, Mabel, and Charles Alexander. In 1910/1911 Fortune built a substantial 36 room tudor-style mansion, which although now converted into three condominiums, still stands at 393 Wellington Crescent, Winnipeg.

He made his money speculating in real-estate, buying property along the Assiniboine River. When Winnipeg's main thoroughfare, Portage Ave. was surveyed it ran through much of Fortune's property and his prosperity was assured. He served as a Winnipeg City Councilor and was a trustee of Knox Presbyterian Church. His contemporaries remembered him as brash and self confident, "probably the most expert of Winnipeg's curlers. His judgment was sound, his discrimination keen, his life purpose high."

Mark Fortune never traveled anywhere without a Winnipeg Buffalo Coat, a heavy, moth-eaten fur garment. His wife tried to talk him out of packing so useless a piece of clothing on a trip to Egypt, but he considered it a talisman and wouldn't listen. The night *Titanic* sank, he came up on deck wearing it, joking that the coat had indeed come in handy in the cold night.

In 1912 Mark and his family traveled through Europe on a vacation. The two eldest children {Robert Fortune and Clara Hutton} stayed behind. On the tour they met William T. Sloper who, it seems, was so taken with Alice that he decided to cancel his passage on the *Mauretania* and travel instead on the *Titanic*. The Fortune family boarded the *Titanic* at Southampton as first class passengers on Wednesday 10th April 1912, (ticket number 19950, £263). They occupied cabins C-23-25-27.

Mark and Charles were lost in the sinking, their bodies were never recovered.

The chimes which still peal in Winnipeg's Knox United Church were installed and dedicated to his memory.

Grave / Memorial for Mark Fortune

MEMORIAL PLAQUE at City Hall, 510 Main Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba:

Erected by the People of Winnipeg in memory of Their Fellow Citizens Mark Fortune; John Hugo Ross; Thompson Beattie; Charles A. Fortune; George E. Graham; and J. J. Borebank Who

with 1484 others lost their lives when the Steamship Titanic Foundered in mid-Atlantic April 15, 1912. They died that women and children might live.

Contributor

Brian J. Ticehurst

Mrs Mary Fortune (née McDougald)

She was born on Tuesday 6th May 1851

When the *Titanic* sank Mary Fortune was aged 60 years

Her last residence was in Winnipeg Manitoba Canada

Mary Fortune survived the sinking (boat 10) and was picked up by the *Carpathia* disembarking at New York City on Thursday 18th April 1912

She died on Friday 8th March 1929 (Cause Not Disclosed) and was buried at Mt. Pleasant Cemetery Toronto Ontario Canada

About Mary Fortune

Mary McDougald was born in Chinguacousy Township, Peel County, Ontario on 12 May 1851, the daughter of John MacDougald and his wife Mary. She grew up with her 14 brothers and sisters in Portage La Prairie, Manitoba.

Mary and her daughters were rescued in lifeboat 10.

Mary, did not remarry and died in Toronto on 8 March 1929, aged 76.

Toronto Daily Star**FORTUNE**

Saturday 9 March 1929

At her home, 2 Rose Park Crescent, Toronto, on Friday, March 8th, 1929, Mary Fortune, widow of the late Mark Fortune, formerly of Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Funeral service at Mount Pleasant Mausoleum Chapel Monday at 2 o'clock.

Montreal, Ottawa and Winnipeg papers please copy.

Mr Charles Alexander Fortune

He was born on Thursday 13th October 1892

When the *Titanic* sank Charles Alexander Fortune was aged 19 years

His last residence was in Winnipeg Manitoba Canada

Fortune died in the sinking. His body was never recovered.

About Charles Alexander Fortune

(Courtesy: Alan Hustak, Canada)

Mr Charles Alexander Fortune, 19, was born in Winnipeg, Manitoba, 13 October 1892, the second son of Mark and Mary Fortune. He had just graduated the year before from Bishop's College in Lennoxville, Quebec with citations of academic and athletic excellence. He was about to enroll in McGill University when he returned from a Grand Tour of Europe on the *Titanic*. He boarded at Southampton as a first class passenger. He traveled with his parents and three sisters, Ethel Flora, Alice Elizabeth, and Mabel.

Charles and his father lost their lives in the sinking, their bodies were never recovered.

Grave / Memorial for Charles Alexander Fortune

MEMORIAL PLAQUE at City Hall, 510 Main Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba

Miss Ethel Flora Fortune

She was born on Saturday 22nd September 1883

When the *Titanic* sank Ethel Flora Fortune was aged 28 years

Her last residence was in Winnipeg Manitoba Canada

Ethel Flora Fortune survived the sinking (boat 10) and was picked up by the *Carpathia* disembarking at New York City on Thursday 18th April 1912

She died on Tuesday 21st March 1961 (Cause Not Disclosed) and was buried at Mt. Pleasant Cemetery Toronto Ontario Canada

About Ethel Flora Fortune

(Courtesy: Alan Hustak, Canada)

Miss Ethel Flora Fortune, 28, was born in Winnipeg, Manitoba, 22 September 1883, the daughter of Mark and Mary Fortune. She had already announced her engagement to a rising Toronto banker, Crawford Gordon I, when her parents invited her to join the family on a Grand Tour of Europe. Ethel agreed to postpone her wedding so that she could shop for a trousseau in Europe and chaperone her younger siblings, Mabel, Alice and Charles. In Paris she bought gowns from the leading fashion house, Worth. Her grandson remembers her as "one of those headstrong women who sets their own goals and then pursues them vigorously."

Ethel almost never made it off *Titanic*. Initially she thought getting into a lifeboat was a waste of time, and left her two sisters on deck to return to the comfort of her cabin. Back in her cabin, a steward informed her that her mother had gone on deck, and escorted her to a lifeboat (either 7 or 10), just as it was being lowered. She had to jump into the boat. "The people in the boat caught me," she said later.

As *Titanic* sank Ethel was haunted by one last terrifying glimpse of her brother, Charles, "in the water, life jacket on, struggling to stay afloat." She couldn't possibly have seen him; it was too dark, and by the time *Titanic* went down the lifeboat was a mile away from the site. But the thought of Charles flailing about crying for someone to save him stayed with Ethel for the rest of her life.

She married Crawford Gordon in 1913. Seven years later, they moved to Jamaica, and then to London, England, when her husband was appointed manager of the Bank of Commerce in the U.K.

Their first born son, Crawford Gordon II became head of the Canadian aircraft manufacturing plant A. V. Roe, and in the 1950's was responsible for producing the prototype of the Avro Arrow aircraft, at the time the world's most advanced military aircraft.

Ethel Flora Gordon (née Fortune) died in Toronto 22nd March, 1961 and is buried in Mount Pleasant Cemetery (see obituary, below).

Toronto Daily Star
MRS. E.F. GORDON
Wednesday 22 March 1961
Page 36, Column 2

Private funeral services were held for Mrs. Ethel Flora Fortune Gordon, wife of the late Crawford Gordon, a former manager of a Toronto branch of the Canadian Bank of Commerce. Mrs. Gordon died yesterday. Born and educated in Winnipeg, she lived in Toronto more than 20 years, coming here from London, England; Kingston, Jamaica; and Ottawa. She was an active worker for the troops during World War II, and a member of Deer Park United Church. Her husband died in 1957. She leaves two sons, Crawford and William; three sisters, Mrs. Mabel Driscoll of Vancouver, Mrs. Clara Hutton of Sudbury, Mrs. Alice Allan of Halifax and six grandchildren.

Toronto Daily Star
ETHEL FLORA FORTUNE GORDON
Wednesday 22 March 1961
Page 36, column 6

On Tues., March 21, 1961, at her home, 1 Clarendon Ave., Toronto, Ethel F. Fortune, widow of Crawford Gordon, mother of Crawford Gordon and William Fortune Gordon. A private service was held at the funeral chapel of A. W. Miles, 30 St. Clair Ave. W., on Tuesday. Interment Mount Pleasant Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, a contribution to the Canadian Arthritis and Rheumatism society would be appreciated.

Miss Alice Elizabeth Fortune

She was born on Tuesday 10th May 1887

When the *Titanic* sank Alice Elizabeth Fortune was aged 24 years

She was single.

Her last residence was in Winnipeg Manitoba Canada

Alice Elizabeth Fortune survived the sinking (boat 10) and was picked up by the *Carpathia* disembarking at New York City on Thursday 18th April 1912

She died on Friday 7th April 1961 (Cause Not Disclosed).

About Alice Elizabeth Fortune

Miss Alice Elizabeth Fortune, 24, was born 10 May 1887, the daughter of Mark and Mary Fortune.

She was still living at home when she was invited by her parents on the Grand Tour. In 12 February, she was sitting on the veranda of Sheapheard's Hotel in Cario when she was approached by a fortune teller who warned her "You are in danger every time you travel on the sea, for I see you adrift in an open boat. You will lose everything but your life." William Sloper, who was there when it happened, wrote about it in his memoirs, and said Alice gave the soothsayer some money "and the little man disappeared into the teeming crowd."

At the time of the disaster Alice was engaged to Charles Holden Allen who was born in St. John, New Brunswick on August 28, 1880 and graduated from the University of New Brunswick. After the sinking, Alice and Charles Allen were married on June 8, 1912.

Charles quickly gained prominence in business and governmental affairs of Canada and for some years practiced law in Fredericton, New Brunswick and later was Assistant to the Canadian Manager and Director of National Surety Company in Montreal.

They were the parents of one daughter, Mary McDougald Norris (née Allen) who also lived in Chester, Nova Scotia.

Alice and Charles had a vacation home in Chester, Nova Scotia and it was to Chester that the couple retired. Alice died on 7 April 1961 and is buried in the cemetery in Chester.

Miss Mabel Helen Fortune

She was born on Saturday 3rd November 1888

When the *Titanic* sank Mabel Helen Fortune was aged 23 years

Her last residence was in Winnipeg Manitoba Canada

Mabel Helen Fortune survived the sinking (boat 10) and was picked up by the *Carpathia* disembarking at New York City on Thursday 18th April 1912

She died on Monday 19th February 1968 (Heart Failure / Disease) and was buried at Royal Oak Burial Park Victoria British Colombia Canada

About Mabel Helen Fortune

Miss Mabel Helen Fortune, 23, was born 3 November 1888, in Winnipeg, Manitoba, the daughter of Mark and Mary Fortune. Mabel was described as blithe, unselfconscious and highly strung, she was attractive but spoiled. Much to her parents chagrin, she had fallen in love with a jazz musician from Minnesota, Harrison Driscoll. By inviting her to come to Europe with the family, Mark and Mary Fortune had hoped to stifle the romance by taking Mabel away for several months.

After the disaster she married Driscoll in 1913 and they had a son, Robert. But the marriage didn't last long. Shortly afterwards, Mabel left her husband to live with another woman she had met in Ottawa, Charlotte Armstrong. She put her son in boarding school, and for the rest of her life lived with Armstrong in Victoria, British Columbia.

Mabel Driscoll (née Fortune), died in Victoria, British Columbia on February 19, 1968 at the age of 79.

Unidentified Newspaper

DRISCOLL

Wednesday 21 February 1968

In Victoria on Monday Feb. 19, 1968, Mrs. Mabel Fortune Driscoll, of 1630 York Place. She had been a resident of Victoria for some years. She leaves a son, Robert F. Driscoll, of Islington, Ontario. Rev. Dr. J.L.W. McLean will conduct the funeral service on Thursday, Feb. 23, at 1:30 P.M. in Chaplin's Funeral Chapel. Cremation. Flowers gratefully declined.

Related Articles

***New York Times* (1912) WOMEN REVEALED AS HEROINES BY WRECK 20th April 1912**

New York Times

WOMEN REVEALED AS HEROINES BY WRECK

Saturday 20 April 1912

Contributor: M. Baber

Mrs. Cornell Among Those Who Worked at the Oars

WOMEN MANNED LIFEBOATS

Forced to Oars by Lack of Proper Crew---Girl Who Gave Up Her Seat

Magistrate Robert C. Cornell said yesterday that his wife, who with her two sisters, Mrs. Edward Appleton and Mrs. John Murray Brown, were among the survivors, had passed a comfortable night and was in as good condition as could be expected. The mental strain on Mrs. Cornell, the Magistrate said, during the trip in on the Carpathia, was frightful.

"Mrs. Cornell," said the Magistrate, "is of the same opinion as many others of the survivors, that many of the lifeboats left the side of the Titanic before they had nearly their capacity.

"With Mrs. Appleton, she was assigned to a place in the second boat. This boat when it was lowered contained twenty-three persons, and she says there was room for at least seventeen more without overcrowding. In fact, all of the boats my wife says, could have carried many more passengers with safety.

"There were three oars in the boat which my wife and her sister were put in, and no food, water, nor covering of any sort to keep out the cold. The crew of this boat consisted of one sailor and one petty officer.

"When the boat was lowered into the water an Italian was seen struggling in the water and he was picked up. The three men then each took an oar and did the best they could.

"Mrs. Cornell and her sister, who have a slight knowledge of rowing, took turns at the oars, as did the other women in the boat, and after drifting about the sea for about four hours were picked up by the Carpathia.

"Miss Edith Evans, a niece of Mrs. Cornell and her sisters, was traveling with them, and she and Mrs. Brown were assigned to places in one of the boats which left after the one in which Mrs. Cornell and Mrs. Appleton were placed. When this boat was about to be lowered it was found that it contained one more passenger than it could carry. Then the question came as to who should leave.

Miss Evans, who was a splendid girl of 25, said to Mrs. Brown that she had children at home and should be the one to remain. Miss Evans left the boat, saying that she would take a chance of getting in a boat later. It seems that this brave girl never got that chance, but went down to her death with the other heroes and heroines on the Titanic."

Through her son-in-law, H. C. Hutton of Winnipeg, Manitoba, Mrs. Mark Fortune told how she and her three daughters, Lucille, Mabel and Alice, now stopping at the Hotel Belmont, were rescued from the Titanic and after being separated from her husband and son Charles, were placed in a boat with a Chinaman, an Italian stoker, and a man dressed in woman's clothing. Of all the occupants of this lifeboat, only one, the stoker, could row. Mrs. Fortune's daughters took turns at the oars.

Mrs. Fortune said that she was asleep in her cabin with her daughters when the collision occurred. She felt the great ship shiver violently. She heard her son knock on the door of her cabin and inform her that he was going up to find out what the trouble was. In a few minutes he returned with the information that the Titanic had struck an iceberg.

The women were not inclined to take things as calmly as the steward wanted them to, and hurriedly dressed. On their way up to the deck they were joined by Mr. Fortune and Charles Fortune. At the stairway to the boat deck, Fortune and his son were stopped by group of officers, who told them they would not be permitted to ascend further. The women were instructed to go up and get into the boats. At that time the women did not realize that the ship was

in danger, and did not even say good-bye to each other as they parted at the foot of the stairs. One of the Fortune girls, indeed, called back to Charles, 'Look after father.' That was the only message passed between them.

Mrs. Fortune and her three daughters were placed in the tenth boat that was lowered away. They said it was "terribly overcrowded." Four members of the crew who had been assigned to their boat, were transferred to another as soon as the craft struck the water.

The women saw changes being made in the loading of several other boats, and finally saw that the collapsible craft were proving unseaworthy. Some began to leak as soon as they stood away from the side of the liner, Mrs. Fortune asserted, and their occupants had to be taken into other boats.

There was consternation among the passengers on their boat, most of whom were women, when it was ascertained that four of the crew would have to be taken off to man another boat. That left but one member of the crew to navigate. The stoker knew how to handle an oar, but the Chinaman was of little use. The man dressed in woman's clothing did his best to row, but did not seem familiar with an oar. This man wore a woman's bonnet and a veil, in addition to a skirt and blouse, which he had evidently picked up in a hurry as he ran through the ship.

One of the Fortune girls and another girl got out an oar, and helped to pull away from the wreck. The family agreed that they were in the boat within one hour after the liner struck. About 2:30 o'clock, as far as they can remember, they saw the stern of the Titanic hoist itself in the air. A crowd could be seen struggling. Shrieks came across the water to the crew of the Fortune boat. The band continued playing to the last, some with life preservers on their arms as they worked their instruments, and others with the belts around their waists. Not one made an attempt to save himself.

Mrs. Fortune was of the opinion that no discrimination was made between passengers of the first, second, or third class in making allotments for seats in the boats. That rule applied only to the women, however. When the ship struck several men in the steerage tried to rush the officers in charge of the lifeboats, Mrs. Fortune remembered. At first the officers were able to keep them off by slugging them, but the passengers grew more terrified. Then the officers made use of their revolvers, first to fire in the air, and then to aim at the bodies of the men.

[Note: This is one of four articles that appeared under this general headline. The other three relate to (1) Margaret Brown, (2) the Countess of Rothes, and (3) the Graham family, and can be found through those passengers' summary pages at]

Washington Times (1912) **DRESSED IN SKIRTS MAN LEFT TITANIC 22nd April 1912**

Washington Times

DRESSED IN SKIRTS MAN LEFT TITANIC

Monday 22 April 1912

Mrs. Fortune and Daughter Say a Coward Was in Last Lifeboat

Contributor: M. Baber

NEW YORK, April 22---A man in women's clothes was among the survivors in lifeboat 10, **according to Mrs. Mark Fortune, Winnipeg**, who was rescued with her three daughters on the boat. Mrs. Fortune's husband, a Winnipeg real estate broker, and her son, Charles, were lost. They were not allowed to mount to the upper deck until the women and children were safely bestowed, according to her statement. Her daughters, Alice, Mabel, and Ethel, unite with her in saying that a man saved his life by his woman's dress, one of the daughters having the seat next to his in the lifeboat.

Mrs. Fortune and her daughters were quoted to this effect by H. C. Hutton, Mrs. Fortune's brother-in-law, also a real estate broker of Winnipeg. He told the women's story for them, saying that they were prostrated with grief and unable to see reporters. They are staying with Mr. Hutton at the Belmont Hotel and will return to Winnipeg on Tuesday if they have recovered sufficiently by that time.

The lifeboat, said Mrs. Fortune, was greatly overcrowded. Four of the survivors were in the boat and the rest were supposed to be women, with the exception of one stoker and a Chinaman. There was a figure forward dressed in a brown mackintosh with a shawl like that of a steerage passenger over its head. The face was completely hidden. Miss Alice Fortune sat directly beside the supposed woman.

Soon after the boat had left the ship the four sailors were transferred to another boat and at this time it was discovered that the figure was that of a man. When somebody asked who he was he refused to say.

Census Entries – Mark Fortune Family:

1881 Census – Winnipeg, Selkirk, MB

District 183, Subd C-5, pg 27, hhld 94

Microfilm Reel C-13282

The whole family is listed as Scottish, Presbyterian.

Mark Fortune, age 33, born Ontario, Land Agent

Mary Fortune, age 28, born Ontario

Robert W.H. Fortune, age 3, born Manitoba

Clara A. Fortune, age 1, born Manitoba

Robert Fortune, age 27, born Ontario, Trader { could be a brother of Mark? }

Jannett McDougal, age 21, born Ontario, Servant { could be a sister of Mary? }

1901 Census – Winnipeg MB

District: MB Winnipeg City #12

Subdistrict: Ward 2; B-6 Page 5 Line 21

NLA Microfilm Reel T-6435

308 Broadway

Fortune Mark, Nov 2 1847, age 53, Real Estate Agent

Fortune Mary M., May 12 1851, age 49

Fortune Robt W.H., July 1 1877, age 23, Clerk in Office

Fortune Clara A., Aug 22 1879, age 21

Fortune Flora E.E., Sep 22 1883, age 17

Fortune Alice E., May 10 1887, age 13

Fortune Mabel H., Nov 13 1888, age 12

Fortune Chas A., Oct 13 1892, age 8

1906 Census – Winnipeg MB

District: MB Winnipeg City #10

Subdistrict: Ward 2; 02-A Page 19

NLA Microfilm Reel T-18357

Fortune Mark age 60

Fortune Mary age 56

Fortune Robert age 30

Fortune Clara age 27

Fortune Ethel age 24

Fortune Alice age 19

Fortune Mabel age 16

Fortune Charlie age 13

1911 Census

District: Winnipeg (24)

Subd: 4

Page 2

Microfilm T-20346

393 Wellington

All members of the household are listed as Scotch, Canadian, Presbyterian

Mark Fortune, Nov 1848 Ont, age 63, Real Estate

Mary Fortune, May 1860, Ont, age 51

Isabelle Adamson, Aug 1886 Scotland, age 25, Domestic

Charles Fortune, Oct 1893 Man, age 18

Mable Fortune, Oct 1889 Man, age 22

Ethel Fortune, Aug 1884 Man, age 27

Alice E., May 1887 Man, age 24

Annie McMather?, Oct 1872 Man, age 34, Domestic