

Frank Couch

Frank Couch was born in 1884 in Port Isaac, North Cornwall, the son of Francis Couch (mariner and fisherman) and Hannah Marina Couch (née Fishley). Hannah was originally from Plymouth, Devon and this is where they were married on August 6th 1874. Frank was the fifth of ten children, the eldest two (as per the 1881 census) were Charles Olonza and Laura Ellen. Two others were Francis and Mary both of whom died as young children.



Frank signed-on the *Titanic* in Southampton on April 6th 1912, as an able-bodied seaman his monthly wages were £5. He gave no local address but indicated that he had previously served aboard the *Modwera*. Aged just 28. Frank was lost in the sinking. His body was later recovered by the *Mackay Bennett*.

NO.253 - MALE - ESTIMATED AGE, 27 - HAIR, MEDIUM CLOTHING - Black coat and vest; blue jersey; grey singlet; no socks.

TATTOO - Left arm, eagle on branch with flower; right arm, monument.

PROBABLY A SAILOR

Reported Port Isaac Victim

[Guardian](#)

[Friday 26th April 1912](#)

It is greatly feared that Mr. Frank Couch, registered in the *Titanic* as 28, A.B., of Port Isaac, is among the victims of that terrible disaster. On Saturday last there was a ray of hope, the name of Church appearing among the survivors, but a wire arrived and confirmed the name as F. Clinch. Out of the 30 A.B.'s on the ill-fated ship it appears 26 are saved. It is generally thought here that Couch was one of four reported to have died at the oars of the boats, through the terrible exposure. He was a very upright, kindly, and bright young man, always ready to help where needed. He was a member of the local Liberal Club. Much sympathy goes out to his father (Capt. F. Couch, of Canadian Terrace). Capt. Couch is feeling the blow heavily, not long ago having lost his wife, and but a few years ago his eldest son, the captain of the ill-fated schooner *Tregea*. Young Frank was at home only about two months since. He was for some considerable time a Naval Reserve man.

[COUCH, Mr Frank](#)
[28 Deck Crew](#)
[Southampton Able Seaman](#) [253]



Frank was subsequently buried in the Fairview Cemetery, Halifax Nova Scotia on May 6th 1912.

On April 10th 1912, The RMS *Titanic* embarked on its maiden voyage, sailing from Southampton to New York. One of the largest and most luxurious passenger liners at the time, the *Titanic* was considered by many to be unsinkable. However, on April 14th, the ship struck an iceberg and early the next day it sank. Some 1500 people perished.

On Monday September 12th 1887, The School Logbook records "Admitted F Couch"

| | | | |
|----------------------------|-----------|--|----|
| Sept 12 th 1887 | Monday 12 | Admitted F. Couch. | 55 |
| West 14 th | | Half holiday in the afternoon for Sunday School Exam. Mr. Clarke visited in the morning. | |
| Monday 19 | | Admitted H. Honey. | |
| Friday 30 | | School as usual. | |
| Oct 2 | | | |
| Monday 9 | | Admitted Mary L. Bouch. | |
| Friday 7 | | School as usual. | |
| Friday 14 | | School as usual. | |
| Monday 20 | | Admitted Wm. J. Welch. | |
| Friday 28 | | No school in the afternoon; new Life Boat arrived. | |
| Nov | | | |
| Friday 4 | | Attendance rather low this week owing to stormy weather. | |

Frank is mentioned on his parents gravestone in the parish churchyard of St Endellion, a few miles from Port Isaac, Cornwall. The inscription reads:

In Loving Memory of
Marina Couch
 who died April 5th 1910
 aged 57 years
also of Francis
 husband of the above
 who died April 14th 1919
 aged 65 years
 Also of their three sons
Francis
 who died June 13th 1880
 aged 13 months
Charles Olonza
 who was drowned at sea
 on or about November 18th 1905
 aged 29 years
Frank
 who was drowned in the
Titanic disaster April 15th 1912
 aged 28 years
 Also of Mary, their daughter
 died December 6th 1893 aged 2 years

The ten children of Francis and Hannah Couch were:

Charles Olonza (born 1876 - died 18 November 1905)

Laura Ellen (born 1878)

Francis (born 1879 - died 13 June 1880)

Annie (born 1882)

Frank (born 1884 - died on *Titanic*)

Martha (born 1886)

Ralph (born 1888)

Rebecca (born 1889)

