

WATERFORD ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL SOCIETY



**Patrick O'Keefe: Survivor of the *RMS Titanic***

Born in 1890, Patrick O'Keefe, who lived in 2 Spring Garden, Waterford city boarded the *Titanic* at Queenstown aged 22 after a month holiday. Originally to return on the *Baltic*, O'Keefe's brother persuaded him to stay and enjoy the Easter holidays in Ireland. It is believed that O'Keefe first came to America in 1904 aged thirteen. Having made several trips home to Ireland over the years, he worked as a hotel porter in New York. It is reported that he was very apprehensive of his return trip after having a premonition of the ominous fate that awaited the *Titanic*. He travelled alone as a third class passenger, and remained aboard the ship up until its submersion, when he and several passengers and crew managed to avoid going down with the ship by untying Collapsible B. The raft became infamous as it was turned upside down, and thirty survivors were rescued the following morning.

It was a number of weeks before Patrick O'Keefe returned to work, needing time to recover from his injuries. He was one of only 69 men out of five hundred from third class who survived the disaster. He continued to work as a hotel porter in New York, and married Ann Nolan in September 1923. They had two children. He died aged forty-eight in 1939, plagued by the disaster of the 'unsinkable' *Titanic*.

**Cian Manning**