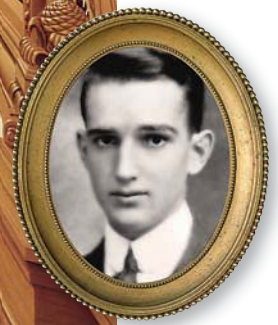




Ruth Becker



Jack Thayer

Illustration of grand staircase © Ken Marschall, from *On Board the Titanic*, a Hyperion/Madison Press Book.

family was sailing to New York to find medical help for young Richard, who had developed a serious illness in India. They had booked second-class tickets on the *Titanic*.

60 Twelve-year-old Ruth was delighted with the ship. As she pushed her little brother about the decks in a stroller, she was impressed with what she saw. “Everything was new. New!” she recalled. “Our cabin was just like a hotel room, it was so big. The dining room was beautiful—the linens, all the bright, polished silver you can imagine.”

Meanwhile, seventeen-year-old Jack Thayer from Philadelphia was trying out the soft mattress on the large bed in his cabin. The first-class rooms his family had reserved for themselves and their maid had thick carpets, carved wooden panels on the walls, and marble sinks. As his parents were getting settled in their **adjoining** stateroom,⁴ Jack decided
70 to explore this fantastic ship. **D**

On A Deck, he stepped into the Verandah and Palm Court and admired the white wicker furniture and the ivy growing up the trellised walls. On the lower decks, Jack discovered the squash court,⁵ the swimming pool, and the Turkish bath⁶ decorated like a room in a sultan’s palace. In the gymnasium, the instructor was showing passengers the

ANALYZE VISUALS

The photographs of Ruth Becker and Jack Thayer are **source material**. How does seeing the faces of these young passengers affect the way you read the selection?

adjoining (ə-joi’ning)
adj. next to or in contact with **adjoin v.**

D NARRATIVE NONFICTION

What details about the **setting** do you learn from firsthand observations of people on the ship?

4. **stateroom:** a private cabin on a ship.

5. **squash court:** a walled court or room for playing squash, in which a rubber ball is hit off the walls.

6. **Turkish bath:** steam bath.