

A body of a very young child was one of the first bodies recovered by seamen from the cable ship *MacKay Bennett* at the location of the sinking of *Titanic*. Moved by this sad event, the crew of the *MacKay Bennett* asked to sponsor a memorial service for the Unknown Child, for whom they also purchased a headstone. The Coroner's records and passenger list combined to identify the child as Gösta Leonard Pålsson, aged two. He was the youngest of four Swedish children who embarked at Southampton with their mother Alma Pålsson, who is also buried in Fairview as Alma Paulson.

This did not, however, solve the child's mystery. In 2004, based on modern DNA research, the Unknown Child was recognized as the 13-month-old Eino Panula, whose mother and four brothers also drowned with *Titanic*. But doubts still remained. A pair of leather shoes recovered from the unknown child caused the researchers to question the identification, as the shoes were too large for a 13-month-old to wear. New research led to new identification in 2007, and the Unknown Child is now believed to be 19-month-old Sidney Leslie Goodwin from England.

*Markku Henriksson is the McDonnell Douglas Chair for American Studies Emeritus at the University of Helsinki.*



*Titanic Grave Site, Fairview Cemetery, Halifax, Nova Scotia, 2013. Photo: Markku Henriksson*