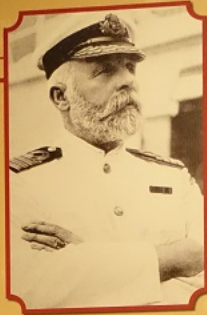


Las Vegas (8)

LUXOR - TITANIC





Captain Edward J. Smith
Commodore, White Star Line

From his humble origins as a potter's son, Smith, 62, had steadily climbed the ranks within White Star Line and had become Commodore of the White Star Fleet in 1904. By 1908, company tradition called for Smith to command White Star Line's newest ships on their maiden voyages. Charismatic and quietly flamboyant, Smith captured the hearts of countless travelers; in fact, many White Star Line passengers only sailed on ships commanded by Smith. Captain Smith was planning to retire in 1911, but White Star Line convinced him to stay in order to oversee *Titanic's* first transatlantic crossing. Smith promised his wife Eleanor and his daughter Helen that he would retire after *Titanic's* much-anticipated first voyage.





