



EDWARD JOHN SMITH **CAPTAIN ON THE TITANIC**

BY LINDA D WILDING

Edward John Smith the Captain of the Titanic was a frequent visitor to Runcorn; to stay with his old friend. We have evidence of this with the 1901 census (a census is a document which is taken every 10 years showing who was staying in that particular house on that particular night, giving details of status, age, children, occupation, where born and can only be viewed every 100 years) it shows Edward age 50 from Handley, Stafford, with his wife Sarah age 39, form Newton-le-Willows, and their 2 year old Daughter Helen. They were staying at 32 Leinster Gardens with Edwards good friend Thomas Jones age 47, a Spirit Merchant and his wife Ada age 37 and daughter Nora age 11 all born in Runcorn

During the early 1900s Leinster Gardens was very prosperous, with many house holds having a Domestic servants. It was the “in place to live” for those who could afford.

Edward was no stranger to Runcorn and was a regular drinker at the Navigation Inn, 33 Canal Street.

The Navigation Inn belonged to William Salkeld who in 1860 leased it to Thomas Jones the Runcorn brewer. It was then owned by Marstons' Brewery in 1910. The first licensee of the Navigation Inn being Samuel Wood.



Above the Navigation as it stands today