

# The Captain's Cabin



**Edward John Smith,**  
RD, RNR  
(27 January 1850 – 15 April 1912)

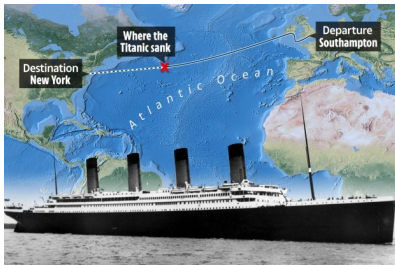
**Edward John Smith**, RD, RNR (27 January 1850 – 15 April 1912) was an English naval reserve officer. He served as commanding officer of numerous White Star Line vessels. He is best known as the captain of the RMS *Titanic*, perishing when the ship sank on its maiden voyage. Smith was one of the best captains of his time. When he died, he left a widow, Eleanor Smith, and one daughter, Helen.

*"I cannot imagine any condition which would cause a ship to founder.  
I cannot conceive of any vital disaster happening to this vessel.  
Modern shipbuilding has gone beyond that."*

. On the maiden voyage of the *Adriatic* in New York, 1907

Raised in a working environment, he left school early to join the Royal Naval Reserve. After earning his master, he entered the service of the White Star Line, a prestigious British company. He quickly rose through the ranks, and graduated in 1887 his first command aboard the SS *Celtic*. He served as commanding officer of numerous White Star Line vessels, including the *Majestic* (which he commanded for nine years) and attracted a strong and loyal following amongst passengers.

In 1904, Smith became the commodore of the White Star Line, and was responsible for controlling its flagships. He successfully commanded the *Baltic*, *Adriatic* and the *Olympic*. In 1912, he was the captain of the maiden voyage of the RMS *Titanic*, which struck an iceberg and sank on 15 April 1912; Smith and over 1,500 others perished in the sinking.





# Captain John Macgregor Skinner



1761—1832



Born in the Province of New Jersey, North America in 1761, John Macgregor Skinner was raised in the town of Perth Amboy. After losing an eye in a childhood accident, the young Skinner entered the British Navy in February, 1776 at the outbreak of the American Revolution.

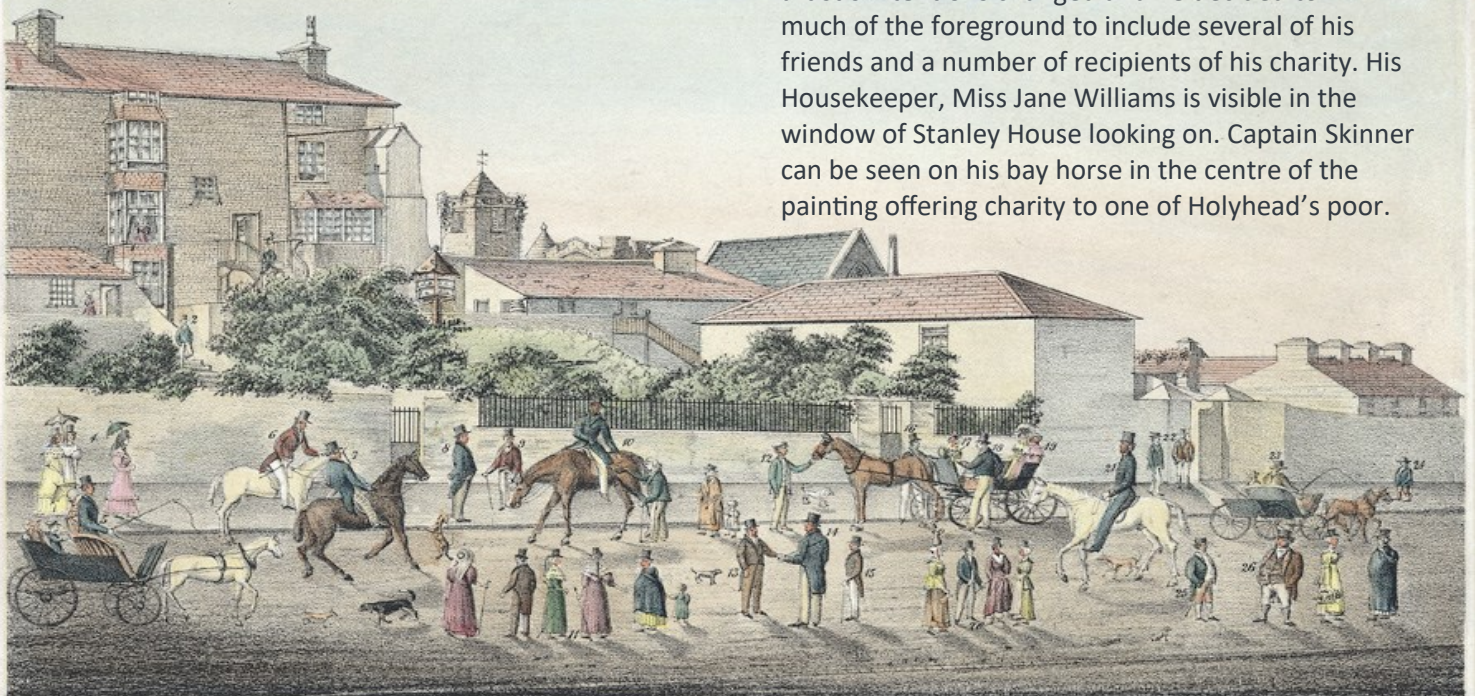
Whilst serving as a midshipman aboard HMS Phoenix, in October of that year he lost an arm after coming under attack whilst passing Fort Washington on the Hudson River. In 1793 he left the Navy and joined the Post Office service and moved to Holyhead. He served as master on packet ships crossing the Irish Sea. Captain Skinner campaigned vigorously to improve the management of the Post Office service and the condition of their ships.

Unfortunately he lost his life, aged 70, when washed overboard from his ship the **Escape** in 1832. He was loved and respected by rich and poor alike of the town as a man of endless goodwill and generosity.

As a mark of respect an obelisk to his memory was erected by public subscription on a dominating rock overlooking Holyhead Harbour. As well as commemorating a significant character in Holyhead's maritime history it provides a highly visible landmark for mariners approaching the harbour.



The oil painting is of Stanley House, Captain's Skinner's residence. It was said that Sparrow's original intention was to portray several humorous incidents concerning Skinner himself. However, following the captain's untimely death in 1832, the artist's intentions changed and he decided to fill much of the foreground to include several of his friends and a number of recipients of his charity. His Housekeeper, Miss Jane Williams is visible in the window of Stanley House looking on. Captain Skinner can be seen on his bay horse in the centre of the painting offering charity to one of Holyhead's poor.



HOUSE OF CAPT. SKINNER, HOLYHEAD, 1828, BY JS SPARROW.

1. Jane Williams  
2. T. O. Williams  
3. Capt. A. M. Judd  
4. Miss Gething  
5. Capt. Stevens

6. J. G. Johnston  
7. H. H. Jones Esq.  
8. Tom Jones  
9. Capt. Jones  
10. Capt. Skinner & Rover

11. Lady Maria Stanley,  
Bishop of Norwich.  
Two Miss Stanleys  
12. Hugh the Oxler  
13. Lord Stanley of Alderley

14. Lord Gillingham  
15. M. Fenn  
16. J. Sparrow  
17. M. Barberie  
18. R. T. Griffiths Esq.

19. Misses Goddard,  
and Judd  
20. Rev. A. F. & M. Williams  
21. Capt. Davis  
22. Dick Flury & Son

23. M. Spencer  
24. Owen Hughes  
25. John Ellis  
26. Richard Jones