

VETERAN GREAT LAKES SEAMAN PASSES AWAY

DETROIT, Mich. May 25.—(AP) —Funeral services are to be held here today for Captain Alfred C. Smith, veteran Great Lakes seaman who died at Amherstburg, Ont., Saturday. Captain Smith, who was 81 years old, retired 10 years ago.

Taking command of the mystic in 1865 on Lake Superior, Captain Smith remained in the Great Lakes service for various companies until 1905 when he went to the Pacific coast. He retired in 1914 and returned to Amherstburg.

He was the first member of the Ship Master's association and was identified with many other marine organizations.



CAPTAIN A. C. SMITH

Captain A.C. Smith, of Detroit, Mich., was born May 16, 1844, in the township of Raleigh, Ont., near the shore of Lake Erie, where his parents were at that time residing. They were Americans by birth, and the Captain can trace his ancestry back to the Pennsylvania and Connecticut Colonists. His father was a farmer, and Alfred is the only member of the family who has followed the occupation of a sailor. He first went on the lakes in 1862, and sailed as a boy during that season on the schooner Northern Belle, afterward sailing for six years before the mast on the Imperial, Young America, and several other schooners. Captain Smith later became wheelsman on the steamer Henry Howard, and first rose to command on the steamer Mystic, on which he shipped as mate. Leaving the Mystic he sailed the tug Brady for three seasons for J. M. Jones, of Detroit, commanded the steambarge Mary Gerecki two seasons, and sailed different schooners for Captain Bradley during the three years following. Captain Smith then sailed the schooner Dot for two seasons, after which he commanded the Propeller Favorite for one season, the steambarge P. H. Birkhead, three seasons, and the steambarge George L. Colwell four seasons. He superintended the building of the George Farwell, which he brought out in the season of 1895, and in 1896 he brought out the schooner P. P. Dobbins, with which he is still connected.

Captain Smith is married and has four children, who are attending the Detroit schools. He is a member of the Ship Masters Association, Branch No. 7, of Detroit, Michigan.

