



Captain James Fawthrop and his gold & silver medals.
Photo courtesy of Patricia Ellis (descendent).

Captain James Fawthrop was Portland's harbour master and was 55 years of age when he captained the lifeboat "Portland" rescuing 19 of the Admella survivors. His brother in law, **William Henry Rosevear**, and stepson, **Thomas Ward**, were also part of the brave crew.



Thomas Ward and his silver medal.
Photo courtesy of Patricia Ellis (descendent).

Henry Smith was also known by the names Harry Smith and Harry Wiggenhaggen. He was one of the brave volunteers to man the Admella lifeboat, patched with soap & canvas & captained by lighthouse keeper Captain Benjamin Germein. They were responsible for rescuing the first 3 people from the wreck including Capt McEwan, and they were also successful at retrieving another person from the wreck who tragically drowned after the lifeboat was overturned in the rough seas on the way back to shore. He was Chairman of the Beachport Council for 2 years, owned the Bellum Hotel (near Allendale East SA) for 1 year in 1868, and was a member of the Freemasons lodge for many years. He died in 1885 and is buried in the Lake Terrace Cemetery; Section E424.



One of 3 of Henry Smith's bravery Medals, which is in the care of a descendant.

Admella shipwreck medal, 1859

This medal is the Admella shipwreck bravery award. Medals were awarded to each of the 88 people involved in rescue attempts after the steamer Admella hit a reef during a storm and broke in two. Although the wreck was close to land, severe weather conditions meant that a week passed before the last of the 24 survivors (out of 114) could be rescued.



[Click to enlarge. \(94kb\)](#)

Obverse – Scene at the wreck site as rescuers attempt to launch their boats into heavy seas. The wrecked Admella lies just beyond the breaking waves. Other steamers stand off at sea unable to assist. Above on a ribbon wrapped around an anchor is the legend HOPE TO THE LAST. Around it is ADMELLA STEAMER WRECKED ON HER PASSAGE FROM ADELAIDE TO MELBOURNE OFF CAPE NORTHUMBERLAND (6 AUG. 1859).



[Click to enlarge. \(91kb\)](#)

Reverse – Within a wreath and beneath the All Seeing Eye is AWARDED TO CHARLES PATTERSON BY THE VICTORIAN COLONISTS FOR HEROIC EXERTIONS IN SAVING LIFE (UNDER DIVINE PROVIDENCE) FROM THE WRECK OF THE ADMELLA.

Donated by Wannemacher, about 1930.



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