



**JOHN HILLS** was born in Sudbury, Suffolk, England, on 26th March, 1835. In 1857, with his younger brother Samuel, he left England for Australia as a seaman. In 1859 John joined the crew of the S.S. Admella as Second Steward for the fateful voyage from Adelaide to Melbourne. The attached photograph taken in Sydney in 1858/9 shows John in his Stewards uniform.

Ian Mudie describes the loss of John Hills in his book 'Wreck of the Admella' page 88:

*"John Hills, the second steward, was also drowned on Wednesday. Although he was still weak through loss of blood from a cut on the head and other injuries he received when the vessel broke up, he volunteered to try to reach the shore. A raft of some sort was put together for him; then he put on one of the remaining lifebuoys and jumped overboard. When the raft was thrown to him he hesitated, and in that moment it drifted away. He recovered himself, and, being a strong swimmer, made after it. When he had almost reached it he suddenly disappeared, without a cry or an arm flung up for help. Although those aboard had not seen a fin, it seemed to them as if he had been taken by a shark. After his disappearance there was no talk of anyone else trying to reach the shore."*

Still in existence are an 1852 family photograph of John, his parents and 9 of his siblings (including Jonathon Hills' G.G. Grandfather Edward) & Letters from Samuel to his family in England referring to the wreck and of sending home John's pocket book.

Information and photo provided by descendant Jonathan Hills, Surrey.