

Sidney William BECK

Date of Birth (<i>Baptism</i>)	21/10/1819
Place of Birth (<i>From</i>)	Norfolk, England (<i>London</i>)
Role on Ship	Second Cabin Passenger
Journey Outcome	Lost

Notes:

Sidney William Beck was born on October 21, 1819, in Mileham, Norfolk. He was the son of William Beck, a farmer and land agent who managed the 320-acre Weasenham Hall, and Ellen Moon. While his roots were in the Norfolk agricultural community, Sidney moved to London, where he established himself as an importer of spirits. He married Mary Hannah Smith in 1848, but her death in 1853 left him a widower with two young sons.

In early 1856, Sidney boarded the *Josephine Willis* as a second cabin passenger. His experience of the collision on February 3 was brief; his berth was situated abreast of the exact point where the steamer *Mangerton* struck the vessel. Due to this positioning, it is reported that he was crushed to death instantly upon impact.

Sidney's death left his two sons, William Sidney and Charles Smedley, as orphans. They were subsequently raised by their aunt, Ellen Beck. His eldest son, William Sidney, became a mechanical engineer and lived for a time in Canada before returning to England, where he died at age 89. His younger son, Charles Smedley, became an architectural surveyor and died at age 82.