



Said to be original builder's plans for the **Samuel Cawood**, 1877.

COURTESY PHIL THOMAS AND JACK ASH

If the *Albany* proved a disappointment, her successor the *Samuel Cawood* was a disgrace. Named to honour a redoubtable local ivory hunter turned politician turned cotton grower, the iron-hulled paddle steamer arrived in the Kowie on May 7, 1878, some seven months after the demise of her predecessor. The customary 'tiffin' was arranged and a ceremonial trip arranged up the muddy river to a bend known as The Mansfield. Anyone who was anyone came along for the ride: the Hon Samuel Cawood himself, James Black, Captain Clifford, Civil Commissioner C.H. Huntley, and a host of pretty and eligible girls, one of whom 'christened' the tug. The vessel appeared to be spooked, however, for just two weeks later the body of her captain was washed up at the mouth of the Rufane river, and mutterings about skulduggery abounded in the hot, idle port. Just over two years later, after many a hair-raising effort to go or leave port, the *Cawood* got what was coming to her: she grounded heavily on the western pier and stuck fast. Every urgent endeavour was made to free her. Within weeks she was awash and almost unrecognizable, a headache for the locals and 'an imponderable' for the district Commissioner of Public Works, John X. Merriman. She was eventually removed only after another tug, equally unfortunate, had landed on top of her.

SAMUEL CAWOOD (1877-1880)

Builders:	C. Mitchell and Co, Newcastle-on-Tyne
Owners:	Port Alfred Shipping and Landing Company
Dimensions:	70 x 18 x 5,6
Engines:	Two NHP 48 IHP 80
Hull:	Iron. One mast. Ketch rigging. Paddle steamer
Wrecked on the stones inside the west pier, Port Alfred, February 9, 1880	
Registration notes: The <i>Samuel Cawood</i> was not registered at a South African port	