

## Agnes M HAMILTON

Date of Birth ( <i>Baptism</i> )	c1851
Place of Birth ( <i>From</i> )	Unknown
Role on Ship	Second Cabin Passenger
Journey Outcome	Lost

### Notes:

While the historical record for children is often less detailed than that of their parents, the available documents allow us to reconstruct the brief life of Agnes Hamilton within the context of her family's missionary journey.

Agnes Hamilton was born around 1851, the daughter of Samuel Hamilton and Sarah Sharman, though her specific birthplace is not known. The family was residing in Sheffield, Yorkshire for the 1851 census but Agnes is not shown there so it must be presumed she was born after the census was taken. There is no birth registered matching her name in the English records but it is possible she was born in Dalkeith, Scotland as that is where her older brother William was born.

Agnes's life was defined by the mobile and faith-driven nature of her parents' work as missionary teachers. Before she was five years old, she had already experienced international travel, as the family had recently returned to England from a three-year posting in Newfoundland.

In February 1856, Agnes was part of the "whole family" that embarked on the *Josephine Willis*, bound for a new life in Aotea, New Zealand. She traveled alongside her parents and her two brothers, William and James. The family carried with them a significant cargo of Bibles and religious texts from the British and Foreign Bible Society, intended for the mission schools where her parents were to teach.

Agnes perished at the age of approximately six (according to newspaper reports) when the vessel sank following a collision off the coast of Folkestone on February 3, 1856. She was lost at sea along with her entire family.