

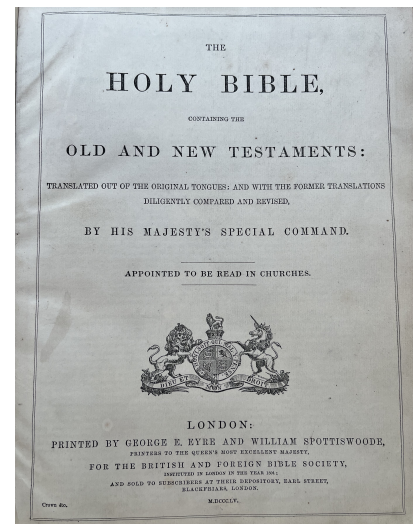
Samuel HAMILTON

Date of Birth (<i>Baptism</i>)	c1814
Place of Birth (<i>From</i>)	Dunbartonshire, Scotland
Role on Ship	Second Cabin Passenger
Journey Outcome	Lost

Notes:

Samuel Hamilton was born in Alexandria, Dunbartonshire, Scotland, around 1814, the son of James and Elizabeth Hamilton. A career educator, he and his wife, Sarah Sharman—whom he married at the Sheffield Cathedral in 1849—dedicated their lives to teaching and missionary work. For several years, the couple served as teachers at the Red Hill Day Schools before Samuel was engaged by the Wesleyan Missionary Committee to serve in Newfoundland. After three years in Newfoundland, the family returned to England in late 1855 for Samuel to recruit his health, but they soon prepared for a new appointment in Aotea, New Zealand.

The Hamiltons embarked on the *Josephine Willis* with their three children: William A. Samuel, Agnes, and James. Their mission to Aotea was supported by multiple religious organizations; they traveled under the auspices of the Wesleyan Missionary Society, carrying a vital cargo of spiritual resources. Specifically, the ship carried three cases of Bibles provided by the British and Foreign Bible Society, as well as additional materials from the Church Missionary Society and the Religious Tract Society, some of these books, were salvaged from the wreck by divers in late 1856. Three bibles from the wreck, published by the British and Foreign Bible Society, have been identified as still in existence. These books have been preserved by having been used as “family bibles” by relatives of those who worked on salvaging the wreck. The families recorded within the covers of their respective copies are Rigden, Holness and Wilkins. More about those families will be recorded elsewhere under the section on divers and salvage. It is also noted a copy of a Book of Common Prayer is listed as being salvaged from the *Josephine Willis*, held in the Highland Archive Centre, but it’s provenance is unclear at the time of writing.



The Hamilton family’s final days in England were marked by a failed attempt to secure their financial security. Only a week before the disaster, Samuel and Sarah had applied for life insurance policies totalling £500, but the application was rejected on a technicality. On February 3, 1856, the entire family perished when the *Josephine Willis* sank off the coast of Folkestone.

