

Sarah HAMILTON

Date of Birth (<i>Baptism</i>)	C1821
Place of Birth (<i>From</i>)	Norfolk, England
Role on Ship	Second Cabin Passenger
Journey Outcome	Lost

Notes:

Sarah Hamilton was born around 1821 in Norfolk, England, though her baptismal records from Walsham Le Willows, Suffolk, date back to September 11, 1817. She was the daughter of Isaac Sharman and Elizabeth Hatton. Her professional life was defined by her work as an educator and her commitment to the Wesleyan faith. For several years, she and her husband, Samuel Hamilton, served as teachers at the Red Hill Day Schools.

On July 12, 1849, Sarah married Samuel at the Cathedral Church of St Peter and St Paul in Sheffield. Following their marriage, the couple's teaching career evolved into missionary service under the Wesleyan Missionary Committee. Sarah traveled with her husband to Newfoundland, where they served as missionary teachers for approximately three years before returning to England in late 1855.

At the time of her final voyage, Sarah was a mother of three young children: William A. Samuel (born in Dalkeith, Scotland), Agnes, and James. The family embarked on the *Josephine Willis* in February 1856, bound for Aotea, New Zealand, where Sarah was to continue her work as a missionary teacher under the auspices of the Wesleyan Missionary Society. Their departure followed a distressing financial setback; only a week before sailing, Sarah and Samuel had applied to an assurance society for life insurance policies amounting to £500, but they were refused on technical grounds.

Tragically, Sarah's life and mission ended when the *Josephine Willis* was lost following a collision off the coast of Folkestone on February 3, 1856. Sarah perished alongside her husband and all three of their children, as well as the cargo of Bibles and religious materials they were carrying to the New Zealand mission.

