

William A Samuel HAMILTON

Date of Birth (<i>Baptism</i>)	c1850
Place of Birth (<i>From</i>)	Dalkeith, Scotland
Role on Ship	Second Cabin Passenger
Journey Outcome	Lost

Notes:

William A. Samuel Hamilton was born around 1850 in Dalkeith, Scotland, the eldest son of Samuel Hamilton and Sarah Sharman. His early childhood was marked by the global nature of his parents' missionary work; by the age of six, he had already lived in both Scotland, England and Newfoundland, where his parents served as missionary teachers under the Wesleyan Missionary Committee for approximately three years.

In early 1856, William joined his parents and his younger siblings, Agnes and James, on the *Josephine Willis* for a voyage to Aotea, New Zealand. This journey was intended to be a relocation to support the New Zealand missions. Stowed in the ship's hold was a significant cargo that William's family was helping to escort: three cases of Bibles from the British and Foreign Bible Society, as well as educational and religious materials from the Church Missionary Society and the Religious Tract Society.

William's life was cut short on the night of February 3, 1856, when the *Josephine Willis* collided with the steamer *Mangerton* off the coast of Folkestone. At just six years of age, William perished alongside his parents and siblings, leaving no survivors of the Hamilton family.