

George LAMB

Date of Birth (<i>Baptism</i>)	c.1789-1796 (?)
Place of Birth (<i>From</i>)	Maidenhead
Role on Ship	Crew (Baker)
Journey Outcome	Lost

Notes:

George Lamb was born in Maidenhead, Berkshire, around 1789. His early adult life was defined by his trade as a baker, a profession he practiced in the Maidenhead and Cookham areas following his marriage to Sarah Brown in 1813. This craft provided the livelihood for his growing family, which included four children: Mary, born in 1814; Sarah, born in 1822; William, born in 1824; and Elizabeth Besden, born in 1830. George's occupation as a baker remained a constant during this period, as evidenced by the literal christening records for all three of his daughters.

As George entered middle age, his life took a significant spiritual turn. By the time of the 1841 census, and again in 1851, he had transitioned from his commercial trade to serve as a Town or Home Missionary. He was deeply involved with the Home Missionary efforts of the Henley Congregationalists, a community closely aligned with the Baptist faith. His work in this capacity was a central part of his identity for over a decade, marking him as a man of deep conviction and service to his neighbours. Following the death of his first wife, George's personal life saw a new chapter when he married Sarah Milward in May 1853 at the Baptist Chapel in Windsor.

The family's connection to New Zealand began through his eldest daughter, Mary. She had married Joseph Brown, a noted musician who served as the organist at Trinity Church in Windsor before the couple emigrated to Auckland. In New Zealand, Joseph became a prominent figure in the colonial cultural scene, serving as a professor of music and the conductor of the Auckland Choral Society. It was to reunite with Mary and Joseph that George decided to emigrate in early 1856.

At the age of approximately 67—though he was listed as 60 years old on the official crew list, an age at odds with various census records—George took a remarkable step to facilitate the journey. To provide for the passage of his wife, Sarah, and his youngest daughter, Elizabeth, he returned to his original trade and signed on as the ship's baker for the *Josephine Willis*. This was a practical necessity, as he had no previous history of maritime service and was likely working his passage to enable his family to accompany him.

The journey was cut tragically short. On February 3, 1856, just one day after leaving port, the *Josephine Willis* was involved in a devastating collision with the steamer *Mangerton* off the coast of Folkestone. George, his wife Sarah, and Elizabeth all perished in the disaster. The news of the loss was met with profound grief in Auckland, where Joseph and Mary Brown had been eagerly awaiting their arrival. Despite the tragedy, the family legacy continued through Mary in New Zealand and through George's son, William, and daughter, Sarah, who remained in England.