

# Sarah LAMB

Date of Birth ( <i>Baptism</i> )	c.1804
Place of Birth ( <i>From</i> )	Middlesex
Role on Ship	Steerage Passenger
Journey Outcome	Lost

## Notes:

Sarah Lamb, previously Milward (née HARRIS), whilst born in Middlesex she was a resident of Eton, Buckinghamshire for the 1851 census, where she lived with her husband William Milward, a Cordwainer and Habadasher. William died in 1852. George Lamb is recorded on William Milward's death certificate as being present at the death so was obviously already familiar to Sarah, she is identified in contemporary records as "Mrs. Sarah Milward," when she and George wed on May 25, 1853. They married at the Baptist Chapel on Victoria Street in Windsor, a location that reflected the couple's shared religious convictions. Through this marriage, Sarah became the stepmother to George's four children: Mary, Sarah, William, and Elizabeth Besden.

In early 1856, Sarah prepared for a major transition as she and George decided to emigrate to Auckland, New Zealand. The primary motivation for this journey was to reunite with George's eldest daughter, Mary, and her husband, Joseph Brown. Joseph was a prominent figure in the Windsor community, having served as the organist of Trinity Church before moving to Auckland to become a professor of music. Sarah and George were also accompanied on this voyage by George's youngest daughter, Elizabeth Besden Lamb.

To ensure Sarah and Elizabeth could make the passage, George returned to his trade as a baker and signed onto the crew of the *Josephine Willis*. The ship departed in early February 1856, but the voyage ended in catastrophe on February 3. While navigating the English Channel off Folkestone, the *Josephine Willis* was involved in a midship collision with the steamer *Mangerton*, which nearly cut the vessel in two.

Sarah, her husband George, and her stepdaughter Elizabeth all perished in the disaster. The tragedy was widely reported in their home region of Windsor and Eton, with local papers paying tribute to the "unfortunate family". News of the loss eventually reached Auckland, where Mary and Joseph Brown, as well as the local New Zealand community, had been awaiting their arrival. Though Sarah's journey was cut short, she remains linked to the Lamb family history through this final, fateful attempt to join her relatives in the colonies.