

Herbert Wilberforce RAY

Date of Birth (<i>Baptism</i>)	10/07/1834
Place of Birth (<i>From</i>)	Sittingbourne, Kent
Role on Ship	Chief Cabin Passenger
Journey Outcome	Lost

Notes:

Herbert Wilberforce Ray was a twenty-one-year-old passenger born on July 10, 1834, in Milton-next-Sittingbourne, Kent. He was the son of George Ray, a non-conformist surgeon and General Practitioner, and Elizabeth Hutchinson. Herbert was one of at least eleven children; his family was deeply rooted in the medical profession, and by the 1851 census, he was serving as an "assistant pupil" to his older brother, Edward Rutley Ray, a surgeon in Sittingbourne.

Herbert's presence on the *Josephine Willis* must have been linked to the owners of the vessel. His sister, Emily Ray, was married to Thomas Keddy Fletcher, a partner in Fletcher Brothers, the firm that owned the ship. He was traveling to New Zealand alongside his older brother, Henry Grey Ray, (he had been the Chief Officer on the ship's maiden voyage) who was accompanied by his wife. The purpose of their journey is not known at the time of writing.

During the *Josephine Willis* disaster, Herbert was reported to have made an effort to rescue a fellow lady passenger, whose identity remains unnamed in the accounts. While his brother Henry and sister-in-law survived the wreck and were later listed among the saved chief cabin passengers, Herbert perished in the sinking.