

# William Henry RIPLEY

Date of Birth ( <i>Baptism</i> )	16/07/1829
Place of Birth ( <i>From</i> )	Leeds
Role on Ship	Second Cabin Passenger
Journey Outcome	Saved

## Notes:

William Henry Ripley was 26 years of age when he joined the *Josephine Willis* as a Second Cabin Passenger.

As the son of Robert Ripley and Sarah Wainman Mortimer, William was born in Leeds on June 14, 1829, and baptized at St. Peter's on August 29, 1830. His father served as the hall porter at the Albion Club in Leeds for 32 years.

In February 1856, during the wreck of the *Josephine Willis*, William was injured in the leg while attempting to rescue fellow passenger Maria Parkhouse. After the vessel was struck, he returned to the cabin to find her, only to discover the area half full of water; he later heard her cries from the rigging but was unable to reach her before she was swept away. William survived by clinging to a mast until his rescue at 11:00 PM. I

Following his survival in the wreck the members of the Leeds Albion Club raised £30 to help him replace his lost traveling "outfit" and belongings.

Once his leg injury healed sufficiently, William again set out to New Zealand, departing Gravesend on April 18, 1856, on the *Lord Burleigh* and arriving in Auckland on August 8, 1856. On February 6, 1858, he married Helena Collins—the 17-year-old daughter of Patrick Collins—at the Roman Catholic Church in Auckland. At the time, William was recorded as a farmer.

In Auckland, William later became a hotelier, managing the York Hotel (later York House) in Newton, and worked for the New Zealand Timber Company. His life in the colony included providing court testimony in 1883 regarding the murder of Hugh Hamilton, who had visited the York Hotel on the night he was killed.

Together, William and Helena had six children:

- Walter Ripley: Born in 1858; died September 15, 1936.
- Henry Robert Ripley: Born in 1860; died in 1864.
- Helena Annie Ripley: Born in 1862; died in 1936.
- Matilda Kate Ripley: Born in 1864; died in 1949.
- Amy Ripley: Born in 1865; died April 17, 1915.
- Ada Rose Ripley: Born in 1872; died April 4, 1904.

William Henry Ripley died on January 12, 1913, at the age of 83. His obituary in the *New Zealand Herald* contained several inaccuracies, erroneously claiming the *Josephine Willis* had burned at sea and that he was the sole survivor.