

BUCKLAND Arthur

these biographical notes were curated by John McAlpine,
and they await confirmation/correction, and further detail/expansion from family descendants ...

Arthur BUCKLAND (aged 27) married **Mary Ann THOMPSON** (aged 17) in Lyttelton on December 30, 1863.

At the time of their marriage, **Arthur** was working as a 'wharfinger' in Lyttelton. (A wharfinger is the owner, manager, or operator of a commercial wharf or dock, responsible for handling cargo, overseeing loading/unloading, and collecting docking fees).

Tragedy struck in July of 1868.

At the time **Arthur** and **Mary Ann** were living in Onehunga, and Arthur worked as 'third mate' on board the 'SS Airedale' - (a 'third mate is a licensed junior deck officer, often fourth-in-command, responsible for navigating the vessel, acting as safety officer, and managing firefighting/lifesaving equipment.)

Daily Southern Cross: 16 July 1868

ONEHUNGA. SUDDEN DEATH

*A most melancholy and sudden death occurred at Onehunga. on Tuesday night last. A person named **Arthur Buckland**, who had been third mate on board the 'SS Airedale', returned home apparently in perfect health. He ate his tea and supper as usual and was in excellent spirits when he retired to bed, shortly after nine. At about a quarter to ten o'clock he complained to his wife of having a distressing pain in his head, and immediately afterwards the wife heard the unfortunate man was breathing very heavily. She spoke to him, and upon receding no answer rushed into the next-door neighbour's house, and upon her return with her friends, life was extinct. Dr. Purchas was immediately sent for and upon his arrival pronounced him dead. An inquest was held yesterday upon the body at the Royal Exchange Hotel, before T. M. Philson, Esq., M.D., coroner, and a respectable jury. The deceased leaves a wife, but no family, to mourn her lot. He was much respected by all who knew him. The 'Airedale' and other vessels in harbour hosted their flags half-mast. The funeral takes place this day.*

Daily Southern Cross: 1 August 1868

... An inquest was held on the body of deceased. The jury returned a verdict that the deceased died suddenly from disease of the heart.

Arthur was buried in **Saint Peter's Cemetery** on 16 July 1868.