Report of the 81st Anniversary Lunch held at The Brick House on 27th September 2026

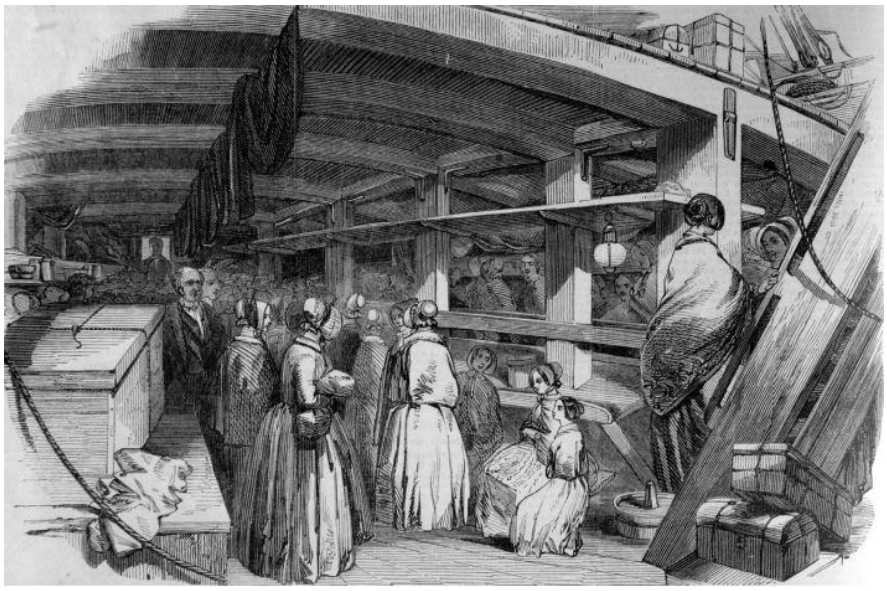
Life on a Five Pound Note

The guest speaker at the luncheon was Chris Mahoney who told us about his ancestor Sarah Smart who arrived in New Zealand in December 1850 on the Randolph, one of the first four ships organised by the Canterbury Association.



(SS Randolph)

Sarah and her husband William travelled with their twelve children in steerage. The conditions in steerage were bad with the passengers crowded into a small space between decks, sleeping in tiers of bunks. They were provided with a mattress but no bedding. There were no portholes, it was too dark to read and the air was very stuffy and damp.

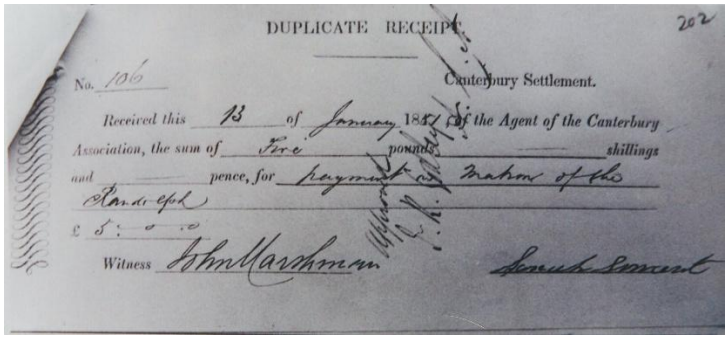


(On Board Ship)

Sarah was appointed as the ship's matron by the surgeon and her role was to nurse sick women and children, supervise the moral welfare of the young female passengers in steerage, supervise the education of the younger female passengers, and maintain order and sobriety. For this she received a payment of five pounds after they had arrived in New Zealand.



(Sarah Smart)



DUPLICATE RECEIPT

202

No. 106

Canterbury Settlement.

Received this 13 of January 1851 of the Agent of the Canterbury Association, the sum of Five pounds shillings and pence, for Payment as Matron of the Ramsgate

£ 5 : 0 : 0

Witness John Marchmont Sarah Smart

(Sarah Smart receipt)

Her son Horton also received five pounds for his work as a cook.

This money helped the family get established in Christchurch, which at that time was little more than a few houses and farms.

Sarah and William had a further two children born in New Zealand but William was killed in a timber milling accident in January 1853. As he had not worked the required five years to be allocated his own plot of land, Sarah was left to her own devices to provide for the family.

All fourteen of their children married and provided Sarah with 107 grandchildren.