FANNY OLD

1. [**St Mawgan in Pydar**](http://www.famnet.org.nz/docs_pages_NoReg/DocsGeneral.aspx?DOCid=9BF87871-BF1F-4DB9-B695-76B9869C169F)

Fanny Old was the youngest daughter of Richard Old & Jane Liddicoat. She was christened at St Mawgan in Pydar on the 23rd August, 1835 and was aged 8 when she arrived in New Plymouth on the ship 'Essex' on the 20th January 1843 with her parents and siblings.

1. [**Photo Devon St 1860’s**](http://www.famnet.org.nz/docs_pages_NoReg/DocsGeneral.aspx?DOCid=3F292240-3C86-4F8F-914F-38243C83C1B7)

We have no information on Fanny’s life before her marriage to Benjamin Leverick Fox on 1 September 1851, or confirmation of where they were married. Apparently the Marriage record noted that Fanny Old was a Spinster aged 16 years; and Benjamin Fox was a Bachelor aged 29, Occupation: Seaman - but he was a Bushman when he met Fanny. He is recorded as owning Freehold, a house & 1acre of land, part section No. 2521, Waimate. His residence at the time of his Marriage was New Plymouth.

This photo of Devon St, New Plymouth in the 1860’s shows what the town was like during this next period of their life.

During the Maori Wars, Benjamin Fox was a Private.

Between 1852 and 1865 Fanny and Benjamin had seven children. The youngest was just 5 months old when Benjamin died.

1. [**Photo of Surf Boat**](http://www.famnet.org.nz/docs_pages_NoReg/DocsGeneral.aspx?DOCid=AFBF063F-8D06-44ED-8330-82380A870E02)

In the New Plymouth Jury Lists 1842-1862, Benjamin Fox’s occupation is recorded as a Boatman.

This photo is an example of the type of Surf Boat Benjamin would have been employed on as a Boatman. The crew ferried ashore passengers and goods from ships anchored offshore. Ben Fox Jnr is the 4th man from the bow of the surf boat.

The following two Newspaper articles from Papers Past suggest that Benjamin was not well for some time before his death at the age of almost 39:

“Provincial Council Tuesday 4 Apr 1865 .... Arrangement had been entered into with boatmen .... The sum of £141 guaranteed for pilot would not probably be required, and the same might be said of £133 for B Fox (on Sick list).”

and “Provincial Council 24 Apr 1865 ....... The following items were then passed: Clerk (Harbour Department) £150; Assistant Clerk, £78; Storekeeper, £144; Carpenters work, £144; Signalman, £132; and B Fox ( on sick list), £132.”

1. [**Headstone Benjamin Fox**](http://www.famnet.org.nz/docs_pages_NoReg/DocsGeneral.aspx?DOCid=7346C5A0-EA79-4EC8-8247-2A15BCF71479)

Benjamin died in New Plymouth on 27 October 1865 and is buried at Te Henui cemetery.

Fanny then married Alexander James Boswell on 13 October 1866 – he had been born about 1833 in Scotland – and together they had six children.

In the 1869 Taranaki Almanac, Alexander Boswell is listed as a Boatman, residence Gover Street.

In 1875 Alexander Boswell is listed as living Freehold, Raleigh West, 1, Block 92. Raleigh was the former name for Waitara.

1. [**Historical photo of Boat at Mokau Coal Mine**](http://www.famnet.org.nz/docs_pages_NoReg/DocsGeneral.aspx?DOCid=91E98803-EA94-4F9B-90F9-044EAA1E15E7)

Alexander also Captained a boat called 'Irishman' which arrived in Taranaki from Wanganui in March 1882, with which he did the Waitara - Mokau run. He was a share-holder of the Mokau Coal Company Ltd., Registered July 1885.

This photo is an historical one taken at the Landing Stage at the coal mines on the Mokau River.

In 1880 Alexander Boswell is listed as: Freehold, New Plymouth, Occupation: Lighterman, Town Sections 1099, 1100

A “Lighterman” is a worker who operates a “Lighter”, or type of flat-bottomed Barge.

1. [**Papers Past articles**](http://www.famnet.org.nz/docs_pages_NoReg/DocsGeneral.aspx?DOCid=C1E4DE8F-66FB-46FE-8B90-04B2441D7A0E)

Between 1880 and 1886 Alexander had a rather colourful life.

On 28 July 1880 it was recorded: A two-roomed cottage in Molesworth Street was burnt down at about 1 o'clock last night. It was owned by Alexander Boswell, and insured in the Standard for £75. This is the first house that has been destroyed by fire in New Plymouth for ten years.

On 27 September 1883: Alexander Boswell, late of the Lighter Company, was arrested last evening on a charge of embezzling a cheque, the property of the Lighter Company. The case is now occupying the court.

On 26 October 1883: Alexander Boswell, late manager of the Lighter Company, was charged at the Police Court yesterday with fraudulently inducing Mr M. Council to sign a cheque for £37. He was committed for trial.

On 17 May 1886: The inquest was continued after we went to press yesterday afternoon (before C. B. Rawson, Esq., Coroner), into the circumstances connected with the fire by which Alexander Boswell's residence was destroyed on 17th May. (This was the second house owned by Alexander Boswell which was destroyed by fire, the other one being in 1880.)

These reported exploits lead one to believe that he was of somewhat dubious character, but it has been said that he wasn’t particularly well liked and just found himself on the wrong end of several accusations which were never substantiated. But of course the Newspapers never report that!

1. [**Photo: Buller St NP**](http://www.famnet.org.nz/docs_pages_NoReg/DocsGeneral.aspx?DOCid=D83DDBFF-04B8-41A6-B4FF-E80E3675DA46)

From 1905 Alexander and Fanny lived at Buller St, New Plymouth – just a stone’s throw from where we are today.

Alexander went on to live until he was 79, passing away on 16 November 1912.

He was buried at Te Henui Cemetery - Presbyterian Block - Row 4 Lot 3 Plot 2.

1. [**Fanny and Alexander Headstone**](http://www.famnet.org.nz/docs_pages_NoReg/DocsGeneral.aspx?DOCid=74B03E19-B59C-49EE-A6D2-9428FC59A89B)

Fanny passed away on 25 February 1920 and is buried with Alexander at Te Henui Cemetery, Presbyterian Block - Row 4 Lot 3 Plot 3.

Funeral Notice:

The funeral of the late Fanny Boswell left the residence of Mrs Tuohy, Brougham Street, today (Thursday, February 26th) at 3pm for the Te Henui Cemetery. Friends will kindly accept this invitation. Boon Bros. Ltd Undertakers.

1. [**Photo of Fanny Old**](http://www.famnet.org.nz/docs_pages_NoReg/DocsGeneral.aspx?DOCid=6BEBE5EF-BD65-4542-B737-F551AED4D852)