WILLIAM OLD

1. [**1841 Census**](http://www.famnet.org.nz/docs_pages_NoReg/DocsGeneral.aspx?DOCid=2B5E24AB-6508-4018-822F-E13C261BC1D6)

William Old was born on 7th September 1824 at Retallick Mills, Cornwall, the fourth son of Richard Old & Jane Liddicoat. In the 1841 Census he is listed as a 15 year-old Agricultural Labourer living at Carlesfork, Cornwall, a Servant of R. Cowlin.

He arrived with his parents and siblings on the 'Essex' on the 20th January, 1843.

1. [**Marriage Certificate**](http://www.famnet.org.nz/docs_pages_NoReg/DocsGeneral.aspx?DOCid=172D9387-8DD4-4ECB-950C-D9B4EB8341DF)

On the 27th Nov, 1849 William Old married Harriet White Foreman, in New Plymouth, New Zealand. Between the years 1850 and 1875 William and Harriet had 13 children.

The Marriage record reads:

“William Old of this Parish Bachelor and Harriet Foreman of this Parish Spinster were married in this Church by Banns this twenty seventh day of November 1849. By Rev Harry Govett. In the Presence of James Foreman & Ann Foreman”

William and Harriet Old lived and farmed from a home in Lemon Street for a while, then in 1855 William is recorded on the Juror’s List as farming in Omata.

In 1859 – 1860 William is recorded as farming in Bell Block.

During the first Maori Wars Harriet and the children went to Nelson, departing on the 1st September, 1860 on the 'Airedale', and returning to New Plymouth on the 'Airedale' on the 27th May, 1861.

1. [**Painting of soldiers**](http://www.famnet.org.nz/docs_pages_NoReg/DocsGeneral.aspx?DOCid=5B28F265-9A6C-441D-8FA7-0B916EC7A17F)

William joined the Volunteers and served as a Private during the Taranaki Māori Wars from 1861.

This painting by Edwin Harris is of the Volunteer Rifles going on duty, New Plymouth, 1860.

When he was with Company No. 2 at Fort Niger, William reported sick on 14th April 1865 and was discharged on 25th April 1865, Surgeons Remarks: Unfit for work.

1. [**Map Sentry Hill Lepperton land**](http://www.famnet.org.nz/docs_pages_NoReg/DocsGeneral.aspx?DOCid=470A9EA5-84C6-49CE-8080-C3CFDE0766D9)

William received a land grant for being a dispatch rider during the Maori Wars. The family moved to the allocated farm land, between what is now Mountain Road and Clearview Road - about three miles from Sentry Hill, and near Lepperton on the site of an old native settlement.

They farmed on this land for many years. The farm was one of the last clearings in the bush that stretched unbroken from Sentry Hill to Normanby. Here the supplies for the founders of Inglewood were deposited and distributed, and it was a stopping off place for weary travellers. The hill top was called Old's Trig.

They built a house on the Hill top which had a great view of the area. Over the years William and Harriet and their family increased the size of the farmland along the Mountain Road, and stretching back to Hursthouse Road.  Land was also acquired on the corner of Little Lepper Road and Hursthouse Road

1. [**Argus Fund**](http://www.famnet.org.nz/docs_pages_NoReg/DocsGeneral.aspx?DOCid=FD19926D-31BD-410C-854C-F2347BD2E6F4)

William Old made a claim for £123 on 30.11.1867. The claim stated that he had a family of six children, one of them crippled; he had joined the military settlers as a Private, and had been obliged to borrow £50 to pay accounts.

On various Electoral Rolls and Taranaki Almanacs between 1866 and 1873 William Old is noted as Farming at Hua (in Bell Block), Lemon Street in New Plymouth, Manutahi (near Sentry Hill) and Bell Block.

1. [**William Old Death Notice**](http://www.famnet.org.nz/docs_pages_NoReg/DocsGeneral.aspx?DOCid=DEFDF6BC-0B3D-4BEA-801E-BC75A62AA107)

From the Taranaki Herald 17th October, 1894

Sudden Death at Lepperton

Mr William Old dropped dead. An old and much respected settler, Mr William Old, a farmer at Lepperton, dropped dead at his home early this (Wednesday) morning. It seems that Mr Old, who was about 74 years of age, complained to his wife of pain in the chest and dizziness in the head when he arose this morning. Mrs Old, thinking it was an attack of indigestion her husband was suffering from, suggested that he should take some exercise to take it away, and then went to prepare him some tea. She had only left her husband for a brief period, when she heard him fall, and on going to the kitchen she found him lying in the pantry. Mr Old gave a couple of groans and then expired. Mr Henry Old, son of the deceased, came into town this morning and reported the matter to the police. The cause of death is supposed to be failure of the hearts action.

1. [**William’s Headstone**](http://www.famnet.org.nz/docs_pages_NoReg/DocsGeneral.aspx?DOCid=836E2CC9-F986-4389-9DB0-E7FD3D3F6DEB)

William is buried at Te Henui Cemetery - Old Anglican Row 3, Lot 3, Plot 3.

1. [**HARRIET WHITE FOREMAN:**](http://www.famnet.org.nz/docs_pages_NoReg/DocsGeneral.aspx?DOCid=D650C199-A78C-4195-B776-1B10B058D260)

The following Obituary for William’s wife Harriet gives a lot of interesting information on their life.

OLD, Mrs William (Taranaki Herald 14th July, 1907)

The late Mrs William Old - nee Harriet White Foreman - who passed away after a short and painless illness at the residence of her son-in-law, Mr Sangster, Urenui, on Sunday last, was one of the pioneers of Taranaki, having landed here from the ship ‘Oriental’ in November, 1841, with her father, the late Richard Foreman and other members of a large family. She endured the hardships of the early settlers having been a pioneer settler in the Hua district, and after the termination of the native troubles she, with her late husband, made their home on the Lepper Road on the site of an old Native settlement inland about three miles from Sentry Hill. The homestead commanded one of the finest prospects in North Taranaki, and was a beautiful site naturally and was improved by the care and labour of the late Mr Old. Here on the outpost of civilisation in the early 70’s the deceased dispensed the hospitality that was a feature of Taranaki’s early settlers. When the Moa Block was opened in 1874, Mr Old’s farm was the last clearing in the forest that then stretched unbroken from Sentry Hill to Normanby, and here the supplies for the founders of Inglewood were deposited and distributed. Mr and Mrs Old gained a name during this time for kindness of heart and attention that the ‘new chums’ of those days have never forgotten and many is the story I have heard around the camp fires of the Moa Block in 1874-75 of the goodness of the deceased and her kindness of heart. The writer, as a cadet in the old Provincial Service had often reason to thank the ever ready offer of hospitality given by the late Mrs Old when settlers were few and far between.

The deceased leaves a large grownup family to mourn her loss, and the scene at the cemetery on Wednesday was a striking one. Such a sight of stalwart manhood, sons and grandsons that gathered around the open grave is rarely witnessed. Thus passes another link with the early history of Taranaki. W.H.S

1. [**Photo William Old**](http://www.famnet.org.nz/docs_pages_NoReg/DocsGeneral.aspx?DOCid=2E0D480F-CBF3-4830-9A73-03E7719C43C5)