CHRISTIANNA OLD

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

Christianna Old was the fourth daughter of Richard Old & Jane Liddicoat.  She was christened on the 10th November, 1832 in the Parish Church of St Mawgan in Pydar, Cornwall. She is listed in the shipping records as being 8 years of age when the family emigrated to New Zealand. However, her parents Richard and Jane Old, had falsified their own ages to qualify for the migration scheme, and Christianna would have had her 10th birthday aboard the Essex.

1. [**Te Henui Chapel**](http://www.famnet.org.nz/docs_pages_NoReg/DocsGeneral.aspx?DOCid=89F82305-5A82-4E42-B3F3-40E16422F001)

Christianna was 18 when she married Christian Theodore Nelson aged 32, on the 5th August, 1851 at Te Henui Chapel, in New Plymouth. Christian Nelson was born about 1819 in Norway. He had arrived about 1850 in New Zealand and found his way to New Plymouth.

Unfortunately we have no information on, or photos of Christianna, but some information on Christian’s working life gives an insight into Christianna’s life as well.

1. [**Primative Church Headstone**](http://www.famnet.org.nz/docs_pages_NoReg/DocsGeneral.aspx?DOCid=40CF9B28-80B6-43CC-9335-E66FDF0B6A07)

Christian Nelson was first recorded as a farm servant.

Between 1852 and 1874 he and Christianna had 11 children including a set of twins, but four of them died young. Three were buried in the grounds of the Primitive Methodist Church, Fitzroy which is located to the east of the New Plymouth city centre.  The original church is no longer there but a Headstone names the settlers who were buried there between 1847 and 1871. The names include the Nelson children Clara, Hannah and Robert who died aged 1, 11 and 6 respectively. Daughter Hannah drowned in the Waitara River aged 11. The fourth and last child was born in 1874 and only lived for 9 days. It’s not known where he was buried.

Christian was a Private during the Taranaki Wars of the 1860’s, and like so many others, Christianna and their first 4 children went to Nelson during the Taranaki Wars. Christian was granted leave to go to Nelson to visit Christianna and the children on 22nd June, 1861 - To return at first opportunity.

1. [**Map of Section 1581**](http://www.famnet.org.nz/docs_pages_NoReg/DocsGeneral.aspx?DOCid=E1F46C1D-FF62-47CC-8EA4-19E30FB140B0)

In the 1866-67 Electoral Roll, Christian Nelson is recorded as living in New Plymouth on section 1581 on Lemon St. Christian was then the Waitara Harbour Master for several years.

1. [**Waitara River Punt**](http://www.famnet.org.nz/docs_pages_NoReg/DocsGeneral.aspx?DOCid=378EDF87-3459-4221-A0F3-973DAFBCED98)

The early pioneers relied on a ferry punt service to cross the mighty Waitara River. Christian Nelson was contracted by the military in 1867 to run the ferry service. He wound a flat-bottomed punt similar to this one shown, to and fro across the river near the mouth, which was completely at the mercy of the weather and the tides, from 1867 to 1872.

The only other crossing anywhere near the fledgling town was at the upstream "Karaka" ford, which was used by the settlers of the Tikorangi district. It gave quicker access to their inland properties but was both difficult and at times treacherous compared with the ferry punt.

Nelson and Christianna lived in the ferryman's cottage on the west side of the river and he would wind the punt across, charging a shilling a crossing. The bulk of the passengers were soldiers marching north to the Pukearuhe redoubt, or settlers and storekeepers travelling to properties along the northern coastline.

1. [**Photo early Waitara**](http://www.famnet.org.nz/docs_pages_NoReg/DocsGeneral.aspx?DOCid=97B67CBD-37B0-43BA-8CF2-ACAEC83D4DE2)

Back then Waitara was a small scattering of cottages, a hotel, a post and telegraph office, customs office, and a warehouse and wharf owned by Webster's. As the town grew, the need for a river bridge became increasingly important and in 1872 the new town bridge made with puriri piles and kauri planking, was officially opened.

1. [**Map Raleigh St, Waitara**](http://www.famnet.org.nz/docs_pages_NoReg/DocsGeneral.aspx?DOCid=4C23D19B-4334-4E91-9D79-A23C5FE16FED)

In 1875, Christian and Christianna were living on Raleigh Street in Waitara.

Christian Nelson died on the 13th May, 1883 aged 64 years, and is buried in the Waitara Cemetery.

In the 1896 Electoral Roll Christianna is recorded as a widow living in Stratford with her sons Harold who was a Labourer and James who was a Butcher.

1. [**Christianna’s grave**](http://www.famnet.org.nz/docs_pages_NoReg/DocsGeneral.aspx?DOCid=77D9FE75-5D62-488A-ABDB-F8BF09FEF8BB)

There is still a little mystery around Christianna’s move to Auckland. Her Death Notice says she died “on 31 January 1914 at the residence of her grand-daughter Mrs Billingham, Avondale.” Her daughters Ellen and we assume Emma (the mother of Mrs Billingham), were both living in Auckland.

The headstone on her grave incorrectly records her name as Christina Nelson and also incorrectly, her date of death as 29 January 1914.

She is buried at the Waikumete Cemetery, Auckland, ANGLICAN DIVISION F Row 7, Plot 65.