MARGARET OLD

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

Margaret Old was the second daughter of Richard Old & Jane Liddicoat. She was born in the last quarter of 1822 and christened on the 11th January, 1823 in St Mawgan in Pydar, Cornwall, England. She arrived in New Plymouth, New Zealand on the 20th January, 1843 on the "Essex" along with her parents and siblings.

1. [**Photo Ngamotu church**](http://www.famnet.org.nz/docs_pages_NoReg/DocsGeneral.aspx?DOCid=1D76A2DA-E809-4702-A877-0D5B0B4B9626)

Three months after her sister Jane, Margaret was also married in the Wesleyan Chapel below Paritutu. She married John Hicks who had arrived on the ship 'William Bryan’ on the 31 March 1841.

1. [**Photo: Marriage Certificate**](http://www.famnet.org.nz/docs_pages_NoReg/DocsGeneral.aspx?DOCid=2D462E5F-8BE2-4C03-8F9A-7717C382B343)

Margaret and John’s Marriage Certificate says: **Solemnization of marriage between John Hicks Bachelor, (Labourer) and Margaret Old, Spinster, both of New Plymouth, Taranaki New Zealand. Solemnized at Ngamotu on the 17th day of June 1843. Signed by the Officiating Minister Charles Creed. John Hicks, Margaret Old, and Richard Old as Witness all made their Marks with a X as none of them were literate.**

Together Margaret and John had 10 children.

1. [**Map: Wilson St = Brooklands**](http://www.famnet.org.nz/docs_pages_NoReg/DocsGeneral.aspx?DOCid=CA9BF31F-FD09-4A08-BA49-F3F9B8080DC7)**?**

On the 3rd Aug 1854 Margaret Hicks and 4 small children left New Plymouth on the schooner “Governor Grey”, to settle in Wanganui. John Hicks had gone ahead to Wanganui earlier and obtained farmland named “Brooklands” on the bank of the Whanganui River.

There is practically no information on Margaret’s life except what we can build around small details that are available.

The 1867-68 Electoral Roll recorded John Hicks, Wanganui, freehold, right bank, 40 acres adjoining sections 236 & 237, Wilson Street., section 239. Looking at the Google map of Wilson St, Wanganui today, it’s likely that the 40 acres named “Brooklands” was in the vicinity of the red flag.

1. [**Photo: House from Wilson St Wanganui**](http://www.famnet.org.nz/docs_pages_NoReg/DocsGeneral.aspx?DOCid=37A7F5D8-6F1F-4331-97AC-DCE378390330)

This photo is of Tylee Cottage, built in 1853, and one of Wanganui’s oldest homes. It is named after Thomas Tylee, a Wanganui pioneer who was in charge of the commissariat for the 65th Regiment. The cottage was originally situated in Wilson Street.

So that shows us what kind of house Margaret may have lived in.

Sometime after that, John Hicks returned to England where he married again to Mary Bennett on the 7th October, 1879 in Stoke Damerel, Devon. We don’t have any information about a divorce and John Hicks stated he was a bachelor on the wedding certificate.

In about 1880, after hearing of the marriage of her ex-husband, Margaret returned to England to obtain ownership of the land in New Zealand and money for her daughters. This was quite some feat in those days – another 4 month sea voyage.

1. [**Photo:1881 England Census record**](http://www.famnet.org.nz/docs_pages_NoReg/DocsGeneral.aspx?DOCid=2B389233-CE94-45EC-B369-595D2235ED8A)

In the 1881 UK Census Margaret is recorded as living as a Visitor at 7 Union Rd, St Austell, Cornwall.

After negotiations with her former husband a Trust was set up for each daughter, each of whom were to receive 400 pounds. Margaret returned to NZ and bought land with the money. On Margaret's death the daughters went to the Court of Appeal to obtain their 400 pounds. The court case failed and it is believed that the daughters did not get all the money they had hoped for.

1. [**Photo: George St, Hawera late 19th century**](http://www.famnet.org.nz/docs_pages_NoReg/DocsGeneral.aspx?DOCid=543A6613-97EC-4C4C-9243-756849FF5F0B)

In the 1896 Electoral Roll it records Margaret Hicks as **Hawera, domestic, residential.** This photo shows George St, Hawera in the late 1800’s. Perhaps Margaret attended that Church.

Margaret died on the 24th April, 1906.

Her Obituary in the Hawera and Normanby Star (24 Apr 1906, Pg 7 ) says:

DEATH OF MRS JOHN HICKS.

A very old identity of this district, in the person of Mrs John Hicks, was removed by death this morning. Born in Cornwall, England, in 1820, the deceased lady came to this colony 64 years ago (1842), with the early settlers for New Plymouth. She remained there for a time, but afterwards went to the Hutt and next to Wanganui before finally settling in Hawera 30 years ago. The deceased lady had a heavy part in the troubled times of the pioneers and on account of the native risings had to leave her home on two or three occasions. Mrs Hicks, who had a family of 10, was predeceased by her husband by 20 years. (It went on to name 9 of her children who were still living). ….. Mrs Hicks had suffered from a painful malady for the past 18 months, but a couple of months ago became more seriously ill, and had to remain in bed. At the advanced age (86) death was not unexpected, but a wide circle of friends will sympathise with the various members of the family in their bereavement. The funeral takes place on Thursday afternoon at 2.30 o'clock at the Hawera Cemetery.

1. [**Photo Margaret’s Grave**](http://www.famnet.org.nz/docs_pages_NoReg/DocsGeneral.aspx?DOCid=5DD90B45-EFCA-44D2-A798-D6BE21F4D649)

Margaret is buried in the Hawera Cemetery. The Inscription on the Headstone reads: "Sacred to the memory of MARGARET HICKS who died 24th April 1906 aged 85 years; also JAMES HICKS who died 5th January 1908 aged 50 years. Commit the keeping of their souls to himself in well doing as unto a Faithful creator."

1. [**Photo Margaret Old**](http://www.famnet.org.nz/docs_pages_NoReg/DocsGeneral.aspx?DOCid=18274660-8FF4-4556-8AB6-8EEE18BAC8D1)