MARTHA OLD

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

Martha Old was the third daughter of Richard Old & Jane Liddicoat, born 2nd June 1828 in St Mawgan in Pyder, Cornwall. She was aged 14 when the Old family arrived in New Plymouth on the ship 'Essex ' on the 20th January, 1843.

Martha had an illegitimate son, born on the 12th November, 1848, whom she named John Old.   John was born a year before her marriage to David Sole.  It is not known if David Sole is the father, but John later took on the Sole surname.

David was the third son of Edward Sole and Susannah Gore, born on the 4th June, 1822 in St Nicholas, Isle of Thanet, Kent.  After the death of his father, his mother Susannah was remarried to Richard White Foreman in 1838, himself a widower, and the two blended families then emigrated to New Zealand.

David Sole was 19 when he arrived on the ship 'Oriental' on the 7th November 1841, with his brothers and the Foreman family.  On arriving in New Plymouth he was employed on the original survey of the settlement under Frederick Alonzo Carrington.

1. [**St Mary’s Anglican Church**](http://www.famnet.org.nz/docs_pages_NoReg/DocsGeneral.aspx?DOCid=260D8AD4-43E3-4376-B818-47336231042B)

Martha married David Sole on the 27th November, 1849, at St Mary's Anglican Church in New Plymouth.     Between 1851 and 1871 Martha and David had 8 children.

1. [**Map David St, New Plymouth**](http://www.famnet.org.nz/docs_pages_NoReg/DocsGeneral.aspx?DOCid=AC256F68-820C-45D4-A38A-7428214148D5)

David Street in Westown, a suburb of New Plymouth, is named after David Sole, as it was here in the late 1840's that he and his wife Martha began farming the land over which the street now runs. The 1852 Census indicates that David and Martha Sole had 28 acres of land under cultivation.  Of this land only 3 acres were fenced, but there were 12 1/2 acres in crops, 1 acre of wheat, 2 1/2 acres in oats, 1 1/2 acres in potatoes, 1 acre in turnips, 1/2 acre in garden and 6 acres in grass. They owned 5 horned cattle and 1 pig.  At that time David and Martha had two sons under seven years of age.

They lived in a house of sawn timber with a thatched roof - 25 by 24 feet.  There were four rooms, and the chimney was built of stone.  They had two out-buildings, one served as a barn and the other as a potato house. Both were built of timber.

1. [**Map Aubrey and Mt Edgecumbe Sts**](http://www.famnet.org.nz/docs_pages_NoReg/DocsGeneral.aspx?DOCid=3FE93B73-BDEE-4172-AB11-5CAE6E18269A)

In 1861 David Sole was granted Section 189 in New Plymouth under his contract with the New Zealand Company.  This section is the one on which his mother, Susannah, and his step father, Richard White Foreman lived. It was situated on the corner of Aubrey and Mt Edgecumbe Streets.

On the 4th March 1868, David Sole was officially granted title to his 25 acres and 25 perches under the New Zealand Company agreement.

1. [**Nelson**](http://www.famnet.org.nz/docs_pages_NoReg/DocsGeneral.aspx?DOCid=B382B4CC-68B1-4078-A22F-990C3D3CEF73)

During the Taranaki Wars, David served as a private with the volunteers in 3M Company.  Martha and four children sailed on the Airedale on the 1st September, 1860 for Nelson, but were back in New Plymouth in July 1861.

The Statement of Expenditure for Rations that covers the period June to October 1860, indicates that Martha was entitled, with one exception, to regular weekly payments of £1. 5d per week from the 21st September until 26th October that year.  The exception occurs when David is recorded as visiting Nelson, and only 11s. 8d is entered for that week, 28th September, 1860.

1. [**Cartoon**](http://www.famnet.org.nz/docs_pages_NoReg/DocsGeneral.aspx?DOCid=B0E8C4BE-33CF-41D6-B969-75F843563F8D)

Here’s a cartoon from [*Taranaki Punch*](https://nzhistory.govt.nz/node/14669)*,*early 1861. It shows a British colonel ordering troops to a distant stockade while ignoring the fact that nearby houses are being attacked. During the war Taranaki settlers regularly criticised the Imperial military leadership for its inability or unwillingness to deal with the constant attacks on settler property and farms.

Tensions also emerged during the war between the Imperial forces and the settler militia and Volunteers. This was highlighted by the confused fighting at Waireka on 28 March 1860, when many of New Plymouth's inhabitants felt that their men had been abandoned by Colonel Murray in their hour of need.

In the final months of the war there was criticism that Major-General Pratt focused too much on capturing pā - often temporary fortifications that Māori abandoned before a final assault - while ignoring the continuing raids on settler farms.

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

David and Martha claimed compensation for damages to property as a result of the Taranaki Wars. They included damage to the house which had been burnt by the Maoris, which was estimated at £80, the out-buildings £10, loss of the bullocks at £30 a pair, the heifers at £8 each and the cow at £10 – as well as loss of the crops in the ground and an infestation of thistles which had grown. In total his losses amounted to £309.

1. [**Headstone**](http://www.famnet.org.nz/docs_pages_NoReg/DocsGeneral.aspx?DOCid=EF91CFAA-0116-4DAF-8B31-698FCF5E12CE)

Martha Sole died on the 8th December, 1898. David Sole kept good health until he died in his sleep on 24 May 1915, a few days before his  93rd birthday. They are buried together at the Te Henui Cemetery, New Plymouth in the Anglican Block B, Row 28.

The Headstone says:

Sacred. In Memory of Martha the beloved wife of David Sole who died 8th December 1898, aged 70 years.  Also David Sole who died 24th May 1915, aged 93 years.  And William, died 25th September 1873, aged 21 years.  John died 11th December 1874, aged 26 years.  Sons of the above. Thy will be done.

1. [**Photo: Martha Old**](http://www.famnet.org.nz/docs_pages_NoReg/DocsGeneral.aspx?DOCid=21364B66-CE02-4C14-A526-4F6A3ABA7400)