

DOUGLAS William Marlborough and MALONE Ruth and son also named William Marlborough Douglas

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William Marlborough DOUGLAS was born c. 1826, at Knockbawn, Baltinglass, County Wicklow, Ireland, where his family had farmed for several generations.

Ruth MALONE was born c. 1827, in Rathmore, County Carlow, Ireland. Her father, **Joseph MALONE** had a mill on the River Slaney in County Carlow, where the Malone family had milled for several generations.

William and **Ruth** married 27 January 1848 at Saint Mary's Church of Ireland, Rathvilly, County Carlow, Ireland.

William carried on his family's farming tradition and leased 47 acres of land from Lisnavagh Estate, Rathvilly, County Carlow, while raising his family of seven children. Several family members had migrated to New Zealand and were farming in the South Island. Perhaps this influenced William to move his family to New Zealand.

William, Ruth, and their children, **Alice, Sarah, Anne, William, Mary, Jane**, and **Elizabeth (Lillie)** sailed to New Zealand aboard the *Aloe* from England on 14 February 1863 and as reported in the 'Southern Cross' on 8 June, arrived in Auckland on 7 June 1863, a voyage of almost four months.

They arrived as the Army was recruiting help with the Waikato Land War and **William** was employed in a civilian capacity as an engineer/surveyor for them to conduct a survey for the future route of a road south to be built between Mercer and Hamilton. South of Mercer was mostly swamp or wetlands and working through the winter in waist-deep slush and water he became ill with pneumonia. He made his way back to his family in Onehunga where he died on 22 July 1864, just over a year since arriving in Auckland with his wife and family. On 4 June 1866, **Alice**, the eldest daughter, married **Joseph Stephens**; however, he had deserted the marriage by the time of **Ruth's** death from typhus fever on 27 April 1867, aged about 40 years. **Alice** later married **Samuel Phipps**.

Both **William** and **Ruth** were buried at **Saint Peter's Cemetery**.

Alice wrote to family in Ireland for help in their sad situation but in the meantime, she had been put in touch with a **Mr** and **Mrs Lewis**, who were the proprietors of *Shortland House Boarding School*, Shortland Street, Auckland. The **Lewis** family agreed to look after the whole family and educate the youngest members in return for the older members helping with the work of the school. This worked out quite well, with the younger girls being very well-educated and all the girls being very good cooks and housekeepers. There was a small pension that was also paid to Mrs Lewis.

This photo is of the children taken shortly after their mother's death in 1867.



William and Ruth's only son, also named **William Marlborough DOUGLAS**, is remembered on their tombstone at **Saint Peter's Cemetery** after he drowned on the Manukau Harbour after falling off the cutter **Dante** in a stormy sea in the early hours of the morning of 12 June 1876, aged 22 years. It is believed he was swept out to sea, his body never recovered. (*NZ Herald*, 13 June 1876)

One of **William** and **Ruth's** grandsons, **David Harold PHIPPS**, born 5 September 1885 and died 28 March 1890, is buried with them at **Saint Peter's Cemetery**.

He was the second son of **Samuel PHIPPS** and **Alice PHIPPS** née **DOUGLAS** ([see the biography of David and his parents on this website](#))