

FURLEY Samuel and WEBB Matilda.

Contributed by great-great-grandchildren Ruth Ellison and William Joseph Richardson bilric@kinect.co.nz

Samuel FURLEY was born 17 June 1810 at Mitchenhampton, a town in Gloucestershire, England, while **Matilda WEBB** was born 30 May 1813 at North Nibley, a nearby village in Gloucestershire, England.

The Webb family owned woollen mills at Dursley, a market town in southern Gloucestershire, England.

Matilda worked in those mills before marrying Samuel. Samuel's trade was a weaver. They married 9 May 1835 at Oldham, Manchester, England.

In September 1837 the couple sailed from London and Falmouth on the "*Royal Admiral*", arriving at Adelaide, South Australia, on 19 Jan 1838. At Adelaide, Matilda caught an aborigine stealing sugar, stuck him with a poker and killed him. They fled South Australia to avoid retribution and sailed from Tasmania to Auckland on the "*Minerva*" arriving 14 February 1842. (There is a suggestion in family stories that this may have been 1840). They spent their first few nights at Auckland sleeping under ships canvas on the beach.

They established a store in Queen Street, Auckland, and lived first in Princess Street, then at Mechanics Bay.

They moved to Onehunga in 1844 and built at the corner of Princess and Queen St., Onehunga.

Matilda FURLEY was a prominent businesswoman in Onehunga. At times she was described as a store owner, at others a baker or butcher. She bought stock and farm produce from local Māori and had contracts to supply the military garrison. She was also benevolent to poorer settler families. Because of her previous experience she was able to assist with the setup of machinery in the *Onehunga Woollen Mills* when they opened in 1886.

Samuel FURLEY was owner, and sometimes licensee, of *The Royal Exchange Hotel*, which adjoined Matilda's shop and their home. Their premises (seven buildings) were destroyed in a fire in 1871 and subsequently rebuilt.

Samuel also helped with the surveying of Auckland City and was sometimes a land agent there. He was one of the first to acquire a farm block (150 acres) at Onehunga. This land was owned by the family until 1904.

The **FURLEYS** had three daughters:

- **Matilda** born 6 January 1850; married **William HEYERS** (Matilda, was born the same day as her parents' marriage)
- **Sarah Ann** born 7 July 1852; married **Capt. Isaac WILSON**
- **Mary** born 2 November 1858; married **Robert FARRELL**

Samuel FURLEY died on 9 February 1878 and **Matilda FURLEY** on 22 October 1899. They are buried at Saint Peter's Cemetery, Onehunga.

Also interred in the same Plot as Samuel and Matilda at Saint Peter's Cemetery are:

- daughter **Matilda HEYERS** (m. William Heyers)
- grandson **Samuel H HEYERS** (son of Matilda and William Heyers)
- daughter **Sarah WILSON** (m. Isaac Wilson)
- granddaughter **Mildred Althea WILSON** (daughter of Isaac and Sarah Anne Wilson)

Matilda's brother **Elijah WEBB** with his wife and family also migrated to New Zealand, arriving at Auckland on 17 October 1855 aboard the "*Joseph Fletcher*".

Matilda's widowed sister **Mary Anne BIRCH** (nee WEBB) with one of her children, came to Onehunga where she married **Nelson SPAULDING** in 1857.