

**BARTLETT George and LAWRENCE Frances,
son William BARTLETT,
and granddaughter Mabel Emma BARTLETT**

Royal New Zealand Fencible Corps

these biographical notes were curated by John McAlpine,
and they await confirmation/correction, and further detail/expansion from family descendants ...

George BARTLETT, son of **William BARTLETT** (1770-1846) and **Catherine McPHERSON** (1777-1873), was born on 13 November 1814, in Sittingbourne, Kent, England.

Frances Elizabeth LAWRENCE, daughter of **William LAWRENCE** and **Jane MORTON**, was born 8 August 1819, in Wheaton, Ashton, Staffordshire, England, and baptised on 28 Dec 1822, at Lapley, Staffordshire, England.

Come 1833, **George** (aged 19) joined the British Army's Royal Marines Artillery (eventually rising to the rank of Sergeant).

Come 1847, he married **Frances LAWRENCE** (a dressmaker) in Staffordshire, England.

Sometime after his discharge from the Marines, he signed up as a *Royal New Zealand Fencible*, and on 14 January 1852, **George, Frances** (his heavily pregnant wife - she gave birth to their second child six days later) and young son **George Henry**, set sail for New Zealand on the ship *Inchinnan*, arriving in Auckland, 27 May 1852. (The Royal New Zealand Fencible Corps were retired soldiers from Britain and Ireland, often referred to as 'pensioners', who enlisted as a military reserve to act as a 'defence force' for the protection of the early settlers in the fledgling town of Auckland. The word 'Fencible' comes from the word 'defence' which this detachment of retired soldiers was required to do, as opposed to a unit of fighting men).

The family of four settled in Onehunga.

George and Frances gave birth to five children:

| | | | |
|----------------|---|---|-------------------------|
| George Henry | b. 10 April 1849 (in Gillingham, Kent, England) | | d. 1915 |
| Fanny | b. 20 Jan 1852 (at sea) | bapt. 4 Sept 1853 (St Peters, Onehunga) | d. 1934 |
| Mary Ann | b. 29 Aug 1854 (in NZ) | bapt. 31 Dec 1854 | “ d. 1922 |
| William | b. 29 Mar 1857 | “ bapt. 17 May 1857 | “ d. 13 May 1875 |
| Catherine Jane | b. 24 Oct 1860 | “ bapt. d. 23 Dec 1860 | “ d. 1913 |

In the order of their death and burial:

George BARTLETT died, aged 50 years old, suffering from inflammation of his lungs. He died on 10 December 1860 and was buried two days later in Plot 106 at **Saint Peter's Cemetery, Onehunga**. The Burial Records for that year have been missing since 1898, but it is highly likely that George was buried in this cemetery, particularly because other members of his family were buried in this Plot in following years.

Frances made a claim for a Crown Grant in 1863 on behalf of her dead husband **George** and was granted land at Kariori (Raglan), 70 acres, and Forty Pounds on the 27th of October 1863.

William BARTLETT, George and Frances' son, died on 13 May 1875. He was aged but 19 years. His body was buried in Plot 106.

Auckland Star, 14 May 1875:

Bartlett: On May 13, at Onehunga, Mr William Bartlett, second son of Mr Bartlett; aged 19 years. The funeral will leave at 4 pm tomorrow.

Mabel Emma BARTLETT, daughter of **George Henry BARTLETT** (eldest son of George and Frances BARTLETT) and **Margaret Jane McDOWELL**, was born 28 Mar 1883 and baptised at St Peter's Church on 29 April 1883.

Aged but one year and seven months, **Mabel** died on 12 November 1884. She was buried the following day in Plot 106, together with her grandfather George, and her uncle William.

NZ Herald, 13 November 1884:

Bartlett: *On the 12th instant, Mabel Emma, aged one year and seven months, the infant daughter of G Bartlett, Princess Street, Onehunga. Interment at three o'clock.*



Frances Elizabeth BARTLETT (nee Lawrence) wife of **George BARTLETT**, died of paralysis and bed sores. Aged 74, She died on 8 August 1891 and was buried two days later in Plot 106, with her husband **George**, son **William**, and granddaughter **Mabel Emma**.

'Courage plus': 8 years in a new country, widowed, with five children: the eldest aged 13 and the youngest aged only 2 months!