

**BRADLEY Sarah (nee Bethal),  
her two sons William and Joseph (jnr),  
and two grandchildren William (jnr) and Arthur.**

**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 ...

**Sarah (Bethal) BRADLEY** married **Joseph BRADLEY** (sometimes known as **Jacob**).

**Joseph BRADLEY** (born c.1799) came from Wexford, a town situated in the south-east of Ireland.

He served in 94<sup>th</sup> Regiment of the British Army, where he gained the rank of Sergeant.

He married **Sarah BETHAL** (born c.1821, Ireland) and they raised four children in Ireland.

Shortly after his discharge from the British Army, Joseph signed up as a *Royal New Zealand Fencible*, and on 13 June 1852 the couple set sail for New Zealand on the ship *Berwick Castle*, arriving in Auckland, 13 December 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).

**Joseph, Sarah** and their **four children** sailed to New Zealand on the *Berhampore*, setting sail from London on 7 March 1849, and arriving in Auckland on 16 June 1849. They settled in Onehunga, where Joseph was licensed to graze four heads of cattle, and also worked as ferryman plying the ferry between Onehunga and Mangere. Later he owned a section of land in Papakura/Drury area.

In Onehunga **Sarah** gave birth to three more children:

Joseph	b. 8 Oct 1849
Samuel	b. 24 June 1852
Sarah	b. 27 Sept 1855

**BRADLEY Deaths and Burials at Saint Peter's Cemetery, Onehunga (in the order of their death) Plot 114:**

- 1. William BRADLEY (jnr)**, born 20 January 1874, son of **William** and **Matilda BRADLEY**, twin brother of **Arthur BRADLEY**, grandson of **Joseph and Sarah BRADLEY**, died aged but 3 months on 1 May 1874, and was buried three days later in Plot 114.
- 2. William BRADLEY**, son of **Joseph** and **Sarah BRADLEY**, father of **William BRADLEY jnr** (see above), aged but 30 years, died on 22 July 1875.
- 3. Joseph BRADLEY**, son of **Joseph** and **Sarah BRADLEY**, brother of **William BRADLEY**, aged but 33 years, died 19 October 1877. (Query: 'aged 33' would mean that he was born 1844, yet Joseph was born in 1849 ??)
- 4. Arthur BRADLEY**, twin brother of **William BRADLEY (jnr)** (see above), aged but 20 years, died 20 June 1894, and buried two days later.
- 5. Sarah BRADLEY (nee Bethal)**, wife of **Joseph BRADLEY**, aged 89 years, dies 27 November 1910 and was buried the following day, with her two sons, and two grandchildren.

**Joseph BRADLEY (snr)** (husband of Sarah), aged 77 years,  
died at Drury on 9 July 1876,  
and was buried in Otahuhu Cemetery the following day.