

## **ASHDOWN John, and PARFITT Margaret Elizabeth**

### **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 ...

**John ASHDOWN (jnr)**, son of **John ASHDOWN** and **Sarah BAWKETT**, was born at Bexley, Kent, England c.1804;

**Margaret Elizabeth PARFITT**, daughter of **John PARFITT** and **Caroline Matilda BAKER**, was born at Kent, England, c.1811.

Aged 18 years, **John (jnr)** enlisted with the *10 Regiment of Foot*, a unit of the British Army. He served with the Regiment for 21 years before being discharged in 1843, subject to tapeworm and general debility.

In 1842, shortly before his 1843 discharge, **John** (aged approximately 38) married **Margaret Elizabeth PARFITT**.

A few years later **John** enlisted with the *Royal New Zealand Fencible Corps*, and on 7 March 1849, together with **Margaret** and **one daughter** left London for New Zealand on the ship *Berhampore*, arriving in Auckland 16 June 1849.

The small family settled in Onehunga, where it seems that **John** worked in a variety of labouring roles.

The Ashdown home was in Selwyn Street, Onehunga, when **John ASHDOWN (jnr)** (aged 75) contracted gangrene (a serious condition that occurs when tissue dies due to a lack of blood flow). He was hospitalised at the Auckland Provincial Hospital where he died on 7 August 1879. His body was brought back to Onehunga where he was buried in **Saint Peter's Cemetery** on 9 August.

**Margaret Elizabeth ASHDOWN** (aged 75) was buried with her husband some years later (1886). She died (1 January 1886) in the home of her son, **John PARFITT**, in Trafalgar Street, Onehunga

(see PARFITT biography on this website)

**Who was the daughter of John and Margaret Ashdown  
who migrated with them to New Zealand (1849)?**