

## Royal Lodge of Friendship – Famous Brethren



### **Bro. Arthur Frederick Pickard VC, CB.**

(Back right, with Prince Arthur, Duke of Connaught (seated) & Arthur Peel, army officer)  
(4 April 1841 – 1 March 1880)

From the London Gazette, September 23, 1864.

*Assistant-Surgeon William Temple and Lieutenant Arthur Frederick Pickard.*

*Date of Acts of Bravery, November 20th, 1863.*

*“For gallant conduct during the assault on the enemy's position at Rangiriri, in New Zealand, on the 20th of November last, in exposing their lives to imminent danger, in crossing the entrance of the Maori keep, at a point upon which the enemy had concentrated their fire, with a view to render assistance to the wounded, and, more especially to the late Captain Mercer, of the Royal Artillery.*

*Lieutenant Pickard, it is stated, crossed, and re-crossed the parapet, to procure water for the wounded, when none of the men could be induced to perform this service, the space over which he traversed being exposed to a cross-fire; and testimony is borne to the calmness displayed by him, and Assistant-Surgeon Temple, under the trying circumstances in which they were placed.”*

Arthur Frederick Pickard was born 4 April 1841, little is known about his early life though it appears he was born in Forest Hill, Northamptonshire.

He served as a Lieutenant with the Royal Artillery during the New Zealand Wars where he was awarded the Victoria Cross for his outstanding gallantry. He was invested with his Victoria Cross by

Major-General Ridley at the Royal Barracks, Dublin, Ireland, on the 13th April 1865.

Bro. Pickard was initiated into the Friends of Council Lodge No. 1383 on 27 July 1872, was passed on 3 October 1872 and raised on 8 April 1873. He became a joining member of the Lodge of Friendship (now The Royal Lodge of Friendship) in 1875, by which time he had been promoted to Major. He “called off” from Friendship in January 1876 (calling off was a common practice for military brethren which meant they could return to a lodge without the need for ballot should they return at a future date).

Arthur Frederick Pickard was eventually promoted Colonel, and created a Companion of the Order of the Bath (CB). He was Equerry to H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught (also a member of Friendship) and later Equerry to Her Majesty Queen Victoria. He died on 1st March 1880, in Cannes, France, from tuberculosis, and is buried in the Cimetière du Grand Jas de Cannes, Provence-Alpes-Cote d'Azur Region, France



Bro. Colonel Arthur Frederick Pickard VC, CB.  
Cimetière du Grand Jas de Cannes.