

BUNINYONG CONNECTION WITH THE LITTLE FAMILY

James Little and Frances Anson of Cumberland, England, had 7 children. The second child was John Little, who migrated in 1851 to Victoria and was the ancestor of Fred Shade. The sixth child was Robert Little, who migrated to Victoria in 1884. It is very likely that John provided money to set Robert up in Buninyong, as by then John was quite wealthy.

Robert and his wife Jane were farmers and brought out three of their adult children, Frances, Robert and Edward. These all settled in Buninyong and remained single all of their lives, living for 91, 68 and 91 years.

Robert and his wife Jane both died in 1916. His obituary stated that he was one of the oldest residents of the Buninyong district; he was a keen judge of draught horses, and also a good judge of shorthorn cattle; he was a fine type of the English yeoman. He was a charitable man, always responding in a prompt manner to any deserving cause. Although 94 years of age, he expressed a strong desire to live until Great Britain had crushed her enemies.

After the death of both parents in 1916, the farm continued in the hands of their offspring, Frances, Robert and Edward.

Robert died first, in 1929, and left his estate to his brother Edward and sister Frances in equal shares. Frances when she died in 1943 left a large number of bequests to different friends and relatives, including money to the Trustees of Buninyong Cemetery for the upkeep of her grave and the Cemetery generally. Edward, who died last of the children, also left many bequests to friends and relatives, and one hundred pounds to the Trustees of the Cemetery.

Edward at the time of his death owned in real estate:

- (a) All those pieces of land containing 12 acres and 11 perches being Allotment 27 Township and Parish of Buninyong County of Grant and Allotment 111 Parish of Buninyong County of Grant upon which is erected a six roomed W.B. dwelling and usual outbuildings. Sold since date of death for sixteen hundred pounds.
- (b) All those pieces of land being Lots 23 and 24 on Plan of Subdivision No. 1995 lodged in the Office of Titles and being part of Crown Allotments A and B of Portion One Parish of Buninyong County of Grant containing 30 acres 3 roods 22 perches, also Allotments 138, 140, 141, 142 and part of 139 Parish of Buninyong County of Grant containing 75 acres 3 roods 8 perches. Sold since date of death for ten thousand, five hundred and fifty eight pounds, one shilling.

The exact situation of these properties has not been found, but some years ago a visit to the Council offices in Ballarat gave us the information that it was in the vicinity of Hedrick, Nolan and Somerville Streets, Buninyong.

Clearly they accumulated a large amount of capital over their lives and the source of this is not clear other than by a possibility that Robert's brother John made money from finding gold, and helped his brother out.

[Libby Shade 2012]