

# *Robert William Botting*

## *Patriarch of a New Zealand Botting Family*

*“History with its flickering lamp stumbles along the trail of the past,  
trying to reconstruct its scenes, to revive its echoes  
and kindle with pale gleams the passion of former days”*

*Sir Winston Leonard Spencer Churchill*

*Compiled by:*

*Russell Edward (Russ) Botting,  
(G. G. Grandson of Robert William Botting)*

*Christchurch, New Zealand.*

*December 2006*



*"Heave Away, Here us say,  
We're bound for South Australia"  
1830's sea shanty - Anonymous*

## Robert William Botting: The patriarch

Robert William (Bob) Botting was the forbear of a prolific Botting Family in New Zealand whose members have ranked highly for over 140 years in many professions and callings, trades and skills, and in sporting and cultural activities.

The Family has had numerous notable accomplishments not only in services to the nation but also to the benefit of many cities, towns and rural settings throughout the country. It has always been God-fearing and upright, and well respected in business.



**Robert William Botting** (circa 1870)  
 Photograph courtesy of the State Library  
 of South Australia (SLSA: B 6822)



Sarah Frances BOTTING  
 (nee BAKER)  
 Wife of William BOTTING  
 Mother of Robert William BOTTING

Born in London in 1818 Robert William (Bob) was the fifth child of William and Sarah Frances Botting (nee Baker).

His siblings were Thomas b. 1795, Jane b. 1805, William Thomas b. 1811, Frederick Henry (Fred) b. 1812, and Francis Joseph (Frank) b. 1819.

## The call of the Colonies: South Australia

In the 1830's the children of the family became interested in the opportunities being offered in the colony of South Australia. The Colonial Office in London had determined that South Australia was to be the first non-penal colony in Australia and in the British Empire, and indeed at Glenelg, Adelaide, on 28 December 1836 South Australia was proclaimed a British colony by Governor Hindmarsh.

This was a period in history when Great Britain was suffering from a post-Napoleonic-War financial recession and under-employment in the countryside and towns. The professions were

over supplied, middle class men were forced to take inferior jobs, and the working class faced job insecurity, seasonal unemployment and a declining standard of living.

There was the belief these pressures would be relieved by assisting a portion of people to emigrate, thus providing greater opportunities higher wages and improved living standards for the nation, and for the emigrants opportunities of a new life in a new land.

With this as the background, and over the period 1836 – 1846, four of the five children of William and Sarah emigrated on assisted passages to the distant continent of Australia, a journey by sailing ship of three to four months duration.

However one of the family, William Thomas, remained in London. He married Harriett (nee Evans) in 1843 and they had five children: Harriett Olivia, William Benjamin, Richard (Dick), Robert (Bob) and Alice Mary. William and Harriett owned a Soft Goods shop and residence at 52 Baker Street and their sons William and Dick, and daughter Alice, joined their parents in running that business.

Of interest is a letter written much later by the 22 year old Alice to her cousin in Adelaide, Frederick William Botting (son of Frederick Henry). In that letter dated 30 April 1873 she mentioned the family business at 52 Baker St, London W1, and also commented on her own father's health and "his joy at having recently received a letter from her 'Uncle Bob' (Robert William) in New Zealand".

It is presumed that the premises at 52 Baker Street were destroyed as a consequence of enemy action in World War II as was the fate of many other properties in the vicinity. Indeed, in correspondence dated 7 October 1976 with a retired staff member of DRUCE & COMPANY (Est.1822), Surveyors, Valuers, Auctioneers & Estate Agents (which during the War occupied the properties 54 - 60 Baker Street) it was confirmed that their premises were destroyed in 1941 but these were rebuilt there after the War. No details of the existing premises at 52 Baker Street are to hand.

Returning to 1836, Robert William was the first of the children of William Thomas and Frances Botting to leave England, sailing from the Port of Deal on the ship 'The Coromandel' on 26 September, and arriving at Glenelg, South Australia on 12 January 1837. On his Emigration application he had given his address as 4 Mill Hill Place, Welbeck Street, London, his occupation as "Carpenter and Joiner", and his age 20 (but it is likely he was only 18 years of age and falsely declared his age to gain passage).

However, Robert William was not the first 'Botting' to arrive in South Australia. Indeed, the two brothers Henry Francis and John Botting (sons of Henry and Caroline Botting nee Belton who lived at Henfield Village, West Sussex) arrived at Glenelg on the barque 'Tam-O-Shanter' on 30 November 1836 (three weeks before South Australia was proclaimed a British Colony).



Henry Francis Botting was a mason by trade, unmarried, and died in Adelaide on 4 January 1847 aged 61. His younger brother John was a bricklayer and worked and lived in North Adelaide. He married on 23 July 1849 aged 31 and died the same day. Nothing is known of his wife and there were no heirs.

Robert William was followed to South Australia by Jane his sister. She embarked from Gravesend on the ship 'The John Renwick' on 18 October 1836 and arrived in the new colony on 10 February 1837. Jane was noted on the passenger list as "Spinster of Sussex" and her occupation as "Servant" (presumably to her brother Robert and likely being the reason claimed in her application to qualify for an assisted passage).

Their brothers Fred and Frank followed on 'The Buckinghamshire' leaving England on 11 December 1838. Fred was accompanied by his wife Margaret, and Samuel their 10 year old son. They arrived at Glenelg on 22 March 1839. Fred and Frank were also in the carpentry trade.

The last of the family to emigrate was Thomas, a builder and a miner. In 1846 Thomas and his wife Susanah, and their eight children, departed England on 'The Canton' and arrived in South Australia on 31 July 1846.

Robert established a small carpentry business in Adelaide and his ability to make perfect window and door frames put him in great demand as both a carpenter and teacher of his trade. When Fred and Frank arrived in 1839 they helped Robert expand the business and together established a Carpentry and Joinery shop on the corner of Currie and Peel Streets. They were then involved in the construction of some of Adelaide's most prominent buildings which included The Blenheim Hotel and the Bank of Australasia.

## Marriage ..... to Jane Dungey

Jane Dungey was born in Cornwall in the late 1820s. She emigrated to South Australia in 1840 on 'The Waterloo' with her parents John and Catherine Anne Dungey, and seven siblings.

On 11 November 1843 Robert William Botting married Jane Dungey at St. Johns Church in Adelaide.

One of Jane's brothers Joshua David married Jane Botting the sister of Robert William Botting, about 1845 (there were no children from Joshua and Jane's marriage).

## ..... and Family

Robert William and Jane Botting in reading their Bible must have listened to God speaking through the Book of Genesis, where He said "*.... be fruitful and multiply upon the earth....*". They were faithful

to His command as sixteen children were to be born to Robert William and Jane during the next 20 years. By the time their fourteenth child, Garibaldi, was born Robert William was aged 42 and his wife Jane was 31 years of age.





#### About Garibaldi (Gari):

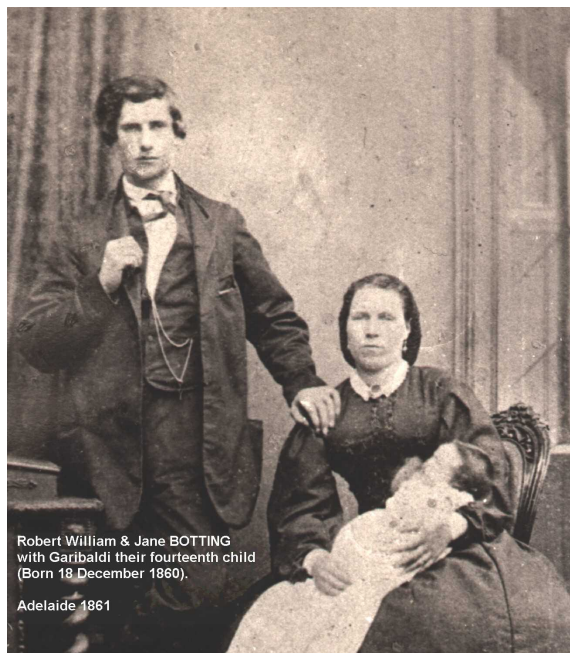
Garibaldi when aged 5 ½ years was to leave South Australia and travel with his mother and the children to New Zealand to join his father and eldest brother in Naseby.

On 20 August 1884, aged 24, he married Mary Elizabeth Moore in the Mt Ida Parish, Naseby. They were to have a family of seven daughters and one son. All except one of the children were born in Naseby.

In 1900 Mary moved to Dunedin to ensure their children received a good education. Garibaldi was away from home much of the time farming. Mary died December 1930.

Garibaldi retired to 'The Grange' a lovely homestead still standing in Opawa, Christchurch. He died in May 1943.

Garibaldi was remembered by his children as a gentle and loving father with a lovely singing voice. He was a devoted reader of the Bible.



Robert William & Jane BOTTING  
with Garibaldi their fourteenth child  
(Born 18 December 1860).  
Adelaide 1861

## Hard times

In 1844 a severe financial depression hit the Colony and the Botting Brothers' business suffered. Robert William and Jane moved to Morphett Vale, which is to the south of Adelaide, and where Robert continued in the building trade. The South Australia Almanack of 1847 listed Robert William Botting as "Carpenter and Joiner of Morphett Vale"

Their first child Catherine Anne was born there on 14 April 1844, followed by their second child Frances Jane on 5 July 1845, third child William John on 24 September 1846, fourth child Eleanor on 28 January 1848 and fifth child Christina on 14 May 1849.

In 1848 Robert William turned his hand to butchery and in 1849 established a shop in Morphett Vale.

Several years later Robert and Jane and their family of five returned to Adelaide where Robert established a butchers shop in Gouger Street near their home. Their sixth child, Robert Peter, was born on 20 January 1851.

## The lure of gold in Victoria

The Bendigo goldfield in Victoria was the next stop for Robert William and his family. The lure of gold held Robert and his family there for at least two years. Their seventh child James Frederick was born in 1852 and was the first white child to be born in the Bendigo goldfield.

## Farming on Hindmarsh Island

Robert William and Jane returned with their family to Adelaide where their eighth child Frederick Ritchard was born on 4 June 1854. They then moved south to Hindmarsh Island at the mouth of the Murray River where they took up farming. A further eight children were born here. In 1856 their ninth child John Francis, followed by their tenth child Sarah Frances on 20 April 1857, their eleventh child Henry later in 1857, their twelfth child Peter Pomeroy Dungey on 4 August 1858, followed by their thirteenth child Francis William on 22 November 1859.

On 18 December 1860 Garibaldi the fourteenth child was born, followed by Mary Ann Elizabeth the fifteenth child on 2 June 1862.

## **Back to Morphett Vale ..... and then to Adelaide**

The family then moved back to Morphett Vale. Mary Ann died nine months later on 27 March 1863 by which time Jane was expecting her sixteenth child, Leopold Henry Thomas.

It is thought that after the birth of Leopold (Leo), Jane and the children returned to Adelaide and worked in the butchery at Gouger St, where Robert Peter (now aged 12) helped his mother and likely gained his first interest in the trade. He and later eight of his nine sons were to become butchers and establish shops in Naseby, Dunedin and Balclutha. This interest in the trade has continued down through later generations.

## **The beginnings of a New Zealand Botting Family**

Prior to the birth of Leopold Henry Thomas at Morphett Vale on 22 August 1863, Robert William and his eldest son William John now aged seventeen crossed over to NZ leaving Jane to care for thirteen children aged between three and nineteen. Such was the attraction of gold and other opportunities in Otago that Robert William and son William John were never to return to live in South Australia, although it is thought possible they and other members of their family could have returned later for brief periods, for business or other reasons.

***The arrival of Robert and his son William at Port Otago, Dunedin, in 1863 marked the origins of the Robert William Botting family in New Zealand.***

Having first landed at Dunedin they then travelled further up the eastern coast of the Island to the mouth of the Waikouiti River. We are uncertain if at Dunedin they transferred to another vessel for that journey north, or travelled the track along the coast. However, it was from Waikouiti that their expedition inland would have begun.

It is believed that Robert William shipped a wagon and bullock team from South Australia. If they had sailed to Waikouiti this cargo would have been transferred onto a 'lighter' or barge and brought to the beach for unloading in shallow water, although it was common practice to let bullocks, horses and stock swim ashore. There the bullock team would have been yoked up and prepared for the long overland journey to The Maniototo, an expedition that would have taken Robert William and his son William John about a week.

On arriving in The Maniototo, Robert William was convinced by the locals to slaughter his bullocks because of a shortage of meat in the district. This was likely the beginning of Robert William's butchery business in the Naseby area as he was soon providing meat deliveries by horse and cart to the miners in the Hogburn Gully goldfields. The miners had poured in shortly after gold was discovered in the Hogburn Creek by William Parker in May 1863. Hogburn was later renamed Naseby.

Robert William established the 'Mt. Ida Butchery' in Leven Street in 1865. This was the first of four Botting family butchers shops to be in business in Naseby during the following years.

Garibaldi and Peter Pomeroy Dungey Botting were to each operate shops, Garibaldi's shop being situated at the corner of Tay and Derwent Streets. Peter Pomeroy's shop and residence were located in Derwent Street.

### The Journey inland to The Maniototo.

To reach Naseby from Waikouaiti in 1863 Robert William Botting and his son William John would have travelled over 'The Pigroot' and down onto the Maniototo Plains, from where they likely headed first to Ranfurly and then on up to Naseby.

The route over The Pigroot had not long been opened up. Only five years earlier, in 1858, had James and William Murison explored the Shag Valley and surveyed and built the road over The Pigroot Saddle.

Parts of The Pigroot were extremely difficult for the bullock wagons. The drivers (known as 'the bullockies') were renowned both for their skill with the whip and for their encouraging 'language' to the bullock teams! Fog was very common over undrained areas of the road and surrounding swamp lands so that in order not to stray from the track a rider had to keep to the wheel marks made by the wagons ahead. At times the road was cut axle deep by wagon traffic. On the steeper hills sometimes three teams were yoked together to pull the loaded wagons. It was said that "To stand behind them and watch the pitch and toss of the top-heavy loads was to expect a capsize every minute". The route was gradually upgraded and eventually became the safest and easiest route for the early settlers to take from the coast to the Maniototo Plains, and beyond.

In 1864 the road from Dunedin to Waikouaiti was ready for use. Cobb & Company took over the contract and ran coaches twice weekly from Dunedin up the Shag Valley to the Pigroot Hotel, where passengers transferred to other coaches for destinations further inland.



A horse drawn wagon train on the sodden Pigroot track near 'The Brothers'.

'The Brothers' are well known landmarks alongside today's sealed highway.



According to the "Mt Ida Chronical" Robert William Botting sold the 'Mt. Ida Butchery' to a Mr. De Latour in 1871. The business was bought back by Robert William in 1873 and operated by Robert Peter Botting then aged 22.

During the frantic 'gold rush' years Naseby grew to a busy township of nearly five thousand people. At one stage the population consisted of about three thousand Europeans and two thousand Chinese. It was well served by a large school, local hospital, courthouse, a number of churches, as mentioned four butcher's shops, and a sports field with an 'English' tree lined setting.

## Robert William's interests in Livingstone

It is known that Robert William bought land and built a house at Livingstone. That house was a 'first' for the town as the usual dwellings in the area were built of clay and tussock (known as 'cob'). Robert William's house was constructed from timber although at the time this was relatively scarce in the district and therefore expensive.

W. H. S. Roberts in his 'History of North Otago from 1853' noted that on 8 December 1874: *"The town sections of the township of Livingstone, formerly known as Ramsay, Maerewhenua, were submitted to public auction, by Mr Barron, Govt Surveyor. Nearly all the front sections sold at prices ranging from five pounds to ten pounds per section..... the back sections realised three pounds..."*

Robert William's home was situated in "the Upper Township" which was about a mile above Livingstone. At this point it is not known when he acquired the land.

## Arrival of the rest of the family

On 30 April 1866 Jane Botting and some of her children left South Australia to join Robert William and son William John in New Zealand. Jane and children arrived at Dunedin on the ship 'Alhambra' on 26 May 1866.

'Alhambra' was one of several vessels owned by the Otago Steam Navigation Company of Melbourne which were operating between Adelaide and Melbourne and Port Chalmers.

PASSENGER LISTS - VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA OUTWARDS TO NEW ZEALAND PORTS, 1852 ONWARDS: ALPHABETICAL LISTING - 1866-1870 Page 37

YEAR	NUMBER	NAME	AGE	ST	SEX	OCCUPATION	CTRY	ACCOM	SHIP	PORT DEPART	DATE DEPART	PORT ARRIVED	RECORD SOURCE	LD5FILM
1866	8165	BOSSE Fredk.	29	S	M	Miner/Lab'r	UK	Fore	ALEXANDRA	Melbourne	12 Oct 1866	Hokitika	PROV VPRS 948	0284498
1866	1429	BOSWICK Mathew	31	S	M	Miner	SCT	Fore	GOTHENBURG	Melbourne	27 Mar 1866	Hokitika	PROV VPRS 948	0284498
1866	6060	BOTHLEY Thomas	31	S	M	Miner	IRL	Fore	OMEO	Melbourne	20 Sep 1866	Hokitika	PROV VPRS 948	0284498
1869	4516	BOTTLER J.	22	S	M	Miner	ENG	Fore	GOTHENBURG	Melbourne	29 Nov 1869	Otago	PROV VPRS 948	0284501
1870	1969	BOTTIERI J.	24	S	M	Miner	ENG	Fore	CLAUD HAMILTON	Melbourne	06 Jun 1870	Greymouth	PROV VPRS 948	0284502
1867	7432	BOTTLEBA Frank	32	S	M	Miner	ENG	Fore	GOTHENBURG	Melbourne	27 Dec 1867	Hokitika	PROV VPRS 948	0284499
1866	2230	BOTTING Ellen	18	S	F		UK	Aft	ALHAMBRA	Melbourne	30 Apr 1866	Port Chalmers	PROV VPRS 948	0284498
1866	2237	BOTTING Frances	06	S	F		UK	Aft	ALHAMBRA	Melbourne	30 Apr 1866	Port Chalmers	PROV VPRS 948	0284498
1866	2233	BOTTING Frederick	11	S	M		UK	Aft	ALHAMBRA	Melbourne	30 Apr 1866	Port Chalmers	PROV VPRS 948	0284498
1866	2238	BOTTING Garabaldi	05	S	M		UK	Aft	ALHAMBRA	Melbourne	30 Apr 1866	Port Chalmers	PROV VPRS 948	0284498
1866	2232	BOTTING James	13	S	M		UK	Aft	ALHAMBRA	Melbourne	30 Apr 1866	Port Chalmers	PROV VPRS 948	0284498
1866	2234	BOTTING John	10	S	M		UK	Aft	ALHAMBRA	Melbourne	30 Apr 1866	Port Chalmers	PROV VPRS 948	0284498
1866	2239	BOTTING Leopold	02	S	M		UK	Aft	ALHAMBRA	Melbourne	30 Apr 1866	Port Chalmers	PROV VPRS 948	0284498
1866	2229	BOTTING M. Mrs	35	S	F		UK	Aft	ALHAMBRA	Melbourne	30 Apr 1866	Port Chalmers	PROV VPRS 948	0284498
1866	2236	BOTTING Peter	07	S	M		UK	Aft	ALHAMBRA	Melbourne	30 Apr 1866	Port Chalmers	PROV VPRS 948	0284498
1866	2231	BOTTING Robert	15	S	M		UK	Aft	ALHAMBRA	Melbourne	30 Apr 1866	Port Chalmers	PROV VPRS 948	0284498
1866	2235	BOTTING Sarah	08	S	F		UK	Aft	ALHAMBRA	Melbourne	30 Apr 1866	Port Chalmers	PROV VPRS 948	0284498
1867	6453	BOTTOM Jane	06	S	F		SCT	Fore	ALHAMBRA	Melbourne	02 Nov 1867	Hokitika	PROV VPRS 948	0284499
1867	6452	BOTTOM Mary	09	S	F		SCT	Fore	ALHAMBRA	Melbourne	02 Nov 1867	Hokitika	PROV VPRS 948	0284499

Extract from:

PASSENGER LISTS - VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA OUTWARDS TO NEW ZEALAND PORTS, 1852 ONWARDS:  
Alphabetical listing - 1866 - 1870. Pg 37

The Passenger List records the names and ages of the Botting Family travellers as:

*“Mrs M Botting (35), Ellen (18), Robert (15), James (13), Frederick (11), John (10), Sarah (8), Peter (7), Francis (6), Garibaldi (5), Leopold (2)”*

It is not understood at this point why Jane travelled as ‘Mrs M. Botting’ and why her four other children were not travelling with her: Catherine Anne (who would have been aged 22), Frances Jane (aged 21), Christina (aged 17), and Henry (aged 9). Perhaps the three girls had already married and settled in South Australia? Nothing further is known of Henry.....perhaps he had died as an infant? We do know that Mary Ann Elizabeth had died at nine months.

Further research will be required in order to clarify the location and situation in May 1866 of Catherine Anne, Frances Jane, Christina and Henry Botting.

No record has been found to date of how the travellers, Jane and her family, would have completed the first part of their journey from Dunedin. But it has been suggested that their journey up to Naseby would have been by bullock wagon, as Robert William and William John had travelled about three years earlier.

At night female members of the party would have slept in the dray and males underneath. As the story has it, for the evening meal they could have lived largely off the land by killing weka’s with a stick.

## **Robert William’s Naseby home**

Robert William and family lived at their residence in Leven Street opposite their business premises ‘Mt. Ida Butchery’

John O’Neil wrote in his ‘Naseby: History 1863 – 1976’ that *“One must mention the outstanding contribution made in Naseby’s early days by the Botting family. Arriving here among the first settlers Robert William Botting and his wife Jane together with their 12 children left an ever-lasting mark on the history of the town. Although they themselves stayed for only five years their sons continued to link with Naseby up until recent years. They were a Christian family who channelled their beliefs and ideals into the community at a time when they were most needed. They led by example and by token of hard work and an eye to the future were all successful businessmen.”*

Robert and Jane’s daughter Eleanor (Ellen) married Jacob Lory at her parent’s home on 6 September 1869. She was the first of their children to marry.

The ‘Cyclopedia of New Zealand 1904’ noted that *“Mr Jacob Lory, who represented Mount Ida riding in the Maniototo County Council for three years, was born in Cornwall in 1845, bought up to the drapery trade, and came to Port Chalmers in November 1862, by the ship “Chilli”. Till 1880 Mr Lory was chiefly engaged in goldmining, in which he had fair success. In the latter year he acquired a farm at Maruimato, Wedderburn, and has worked it since. He has 915 acres, of which 268 acres are freehold tenure and the balance under lease in perpetuity. Mr Lory has served as a member of the local school committee, and as an Oddfellow he is attached to the Naseby Lodge, M. U., I. O. O. F., of which he is a Past Grand Master, and at present a trustee. He married, in 1869, to a daughter of the late Mr. R. W. Botting, of Adelaide.”*

Thirty-seven years later in Ellen’s obituary appearing in August 1906 in “The Mt. Ida Chronical” it was said that *“..... All through the years of her residence here (Naseby) Mrs Lory was a consistent Christian and was one of our first Sunday School teachers, her service in that*

*capacity being given in the old Union Church (now the Athenaeum). She will be missed in the neighbourhood for she was ever a kind friend to those in trouble and was one of the first to proffer her aid in times of illness. Many deeds of charity were also done by her in a quiet, unostentatious way – so quietly indeed that frequently they were unknown by any but the recipient and the giver. ....the house she came to on arriving here is the one she died in, although between events, it has changed hands several times...”*

Jacob Lory returned to Cornwall after her death. There were no children. According to “Witness” 1919 he died on 26 May 1919 after a short illness at his residence Penrose House, Gwininean, Hayle, Cornwall.

In the 1870’s Robert William and some of his family shifted to Dunedin where they lived for a year before moving back to The Maniototo to work in the goldfields.

## The lure of gold in Livingstone

In Livingstone they found and worked the ‘hard claim: hard on account of the solid nature of the ground. The diggings from the claims were sluiced with water taken from reservoirs they built near to their claims, and which were usually supplied from water races bringing water from other catchment areas.

Robert William’s sons Henry Thomas, Peter Pomeroy Dungey and Francis William Botting all worked registered claims in the Livingstone goldfield (in fact Francis William worked two claims). Their brother-in-law Joseph Neale (Sarah’s husband) also worked a claim.

### Ballad written by David McKee Wright, 1897

There’s snow on the hills and the creeks are strong,  
and the big dam brimming full,  
And the Digger’s face is as broad and bright  
as a boy’s when he comes from school.  
The frosts were hard on the winter-time  
and the summer long and dry.  
But the nozzles play on the big face now  
and the tail-race is roaring by.

These claims were the richest in the district and from them the family mined 1,300 ounces of gold. It is of interest that with gold at the time fetching three pounds seventeen shillings and six pence per ounce the total value of the gold extracted from the Botting family claims was five thousand pounds. It was generally known that no-one ever made a fortune from mining the Livingstone goldfield but for many it at least provided a living, although sometimes at a tragic cost ..... on 10 October 1882 Frederick Richard Botting (age 28) was killed in an earth-fall while working a sluicing claim at the Maerewhenua Diggings in the Livingstone area. He was buried in the Livingston Cemetery Botting Family plot with his mother Jane who had died in January 1876.

In those barren and dry hills of Livingstone supplies of water for gold sluicing were not easily found and at one stage the Botting men decided to draw their sluicing water from the headwaters of the Kakanui River, in order to work their claims at Livingstone. Three summers and two winters were spent by Robert William and his sons on the laborious task of cutting the race. But misfortune struck when the owners of a flour mill near the main road at Maheno served an injunction on the Botting family to prevent them taking water from the river. As the mill was driven by waterpower (and as there was no such thing as "water rights") the court had no option but to restrain the family from drawing water from that river to supply their claims.

Evidence still remains of a water race the Botting men built over farmland in the vicinity of the

gold field. The water race starts at a point behind an existing woolshed and has water in it at times. But the goldfield claims it so effectively supplied 140 years ago is now a barren landscape that will never again reverberate with the frenzy of activity of the thousands of men who were determined to expose its sparkling crown of gold to make their fortunes ... some did ... but many failed.

## **..... back to Naseby**

It is thought that Robert William and Jane returned to live in Naseby again in the mid-1870s. By then Robert William was getting too old for hard physical work and Jane's health was deteriorating. She died in January 1876 and was buried in the Livingstone Cemetery Botting Family plot. Her age on the inscription of the gravestone was given as 47 years.<sup>1</sup>

## **..... Robert Williams last years of life**

Robert William was chairman of the Livingstone Cemetery Trust over the period 1878-1888. The Livingstone Cemetery Committee Minute Book provides interesting information.<sup>2</sup>

Robert William Botting died in Naseby on 23 February 1890 aged 72 years.

There was a further note made in the Cemetery Committee Minute Book that "*... on 25 February 1890 an internment fee of £1/2/6 was paid for Robert William Botting...*". He was buried in the Botting Family plot on that day.

Robert William's Death Certificate recorded his occupation as '*Butcher*' although in his lifetime not only did he have a number of other skills and occupations that included: Carpenter and Joiner, farmer, and gold miner, but he was also a good and well respected businessman.

He was also a man with vision and imagination. On one occasion he took some drawings to a blacksmith with instructions for them to be translated into steel. The blacksmith did so, and realising the value of the Robert William's invention, patented what is now known as the revolving coulter of every plough.

Robert William also had a reputation for being clever at carving, and modeling toys in wood and metal. He made toys for his grandchildren and one in particular they threw through the air ..... and it carried some distance before falling to the ground. He said that some day it would go through the air by itself – perhaps he had built the model of an aeroplane many years ahead of its time?

## **..... their greatest legacy**

Not only should Robert William and Jane be acknowledged as the pioneers of a New Zealand Botting Family but must also be recognised for their steadfast family-making ... and accorded the greatest respect and admiration for establishing a family of very good stock: a family of healthy, resourceful, independent, God-fearing and upright individuals.

<sup>1</sup> That would suggest she was born after January 1828 and that when she married in November 1843 she was 15 years of age going 16. The detail of her age at marriage may be clarified by information on her Death Certificate a copy of which may be sought.

<sup>2</sup> . "In 1878 there was a subscription list for a project to enclose the cemetery. Frederick, Francis, Peter, John and James Botting all gave £1. On 13 May 1882, Francis Botting was paid £1/10/- for thistle cutting in the cemetery. In 1885 the Cemetery Trust held a concert and charged 3/- for a double ticket and 2/- for a single. Proceeds were £4/15/6. Robert William Botting gave a donation of 10/-..... ( and down a little further) ..... he was refunded 5/- "





Back row:				
Leopold Henry Thomas (Leo) 16 <sup>th</sup> child 1863 – 1921 (58 years)	Inset – Robert Peter (Bob) 6 <sup>th</sup> child 1851 - 1925 (74 years)	John Francis (John) 9 <sup>th</sup> child 1856 – 1947 (91 years)	Peter Pomeroy Dungey (Peter) 12 <sup>th</sup> child 1858 – 1946 (88 years)	
Front row:				
Garibaldi (Gari) 14 <sup>th</sup> child 1860 – 1943 (83 years)	James Frederick (Jim) 7 <sup>th</sup> child 1852 – 1943 (91 years)	Sarah Frances (Sarah) 10 <sup>th</sup> child 1857 – 1952 (95 years)	Francis William (Frank) 13 <sup>th</sup> child 1859 – 1921 (62 years)	William John (Bill) 3 <sup>rd</sup> child 1846 – 1919 (73 years)

The children of Robert William and Jane appeared in general to exercise more moderation than their parents in their family-making. The following are the statistics of their progeny:

Children of Robert William & Jane Botting (who settled in NZ) and their issues:	Issues (Grand children of Robt. Wm.)	G.Grandchildren of Robt. Wm.	Surviving G.Grandchildren of Robt. Wm.
<b>William John (Bill) &amp; Anne</b>	none	-	-
<b>Eleanor (Ellen) &amp; Jacob Lory</b>	none	-	-
<b>Robert Peter (Bob) &amp; Elizabeth Ann (nee Moore)</b>	14	40	7
<b>James Frederick (Jim) (not married)</b>	-	-	-
<b>Frederick Richard (not married)</b>	-	-	-
<b>John Frances (John) &amp; Grace (nee Selby)</b>	9	12	6
<b>Sarah Frances (Sarah) &amp; Joseph Neale</b>	8	28	6
<b>Peter Pomeroy Dungey (Peter) &amp; Catherine (nee Sharkey)</b>	1	1	0
<b>Frances William (Frank) &amp; Bessey (nee McQuade)</b>	7	21	4
<b>Garibaldi (Gari) &amp; Mary Elizabeth (nee Moore)</b>	8	14	9
<b>Leopold Henry Thomas (Leo) &amp; Lydia Louisa (nee Mortimer)</b>	11	43	22
<b>Totals</b>	<b>58*</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>54</b>

- All deceased

The New Zealand Botting family line has descended to the eighth generation of Robert William and Jane Botting and the youngest children of the family are their g.g.g.g.g. grand sons and grand daughters. It is believed the pedigree of the youngest children of the Robert William (New Zealand) Botting Family can at this point in time be traced back fourteen generations to William Botting (born 1597 in Slaughtam, Sussex, England) and his wife Mary.

The 'senior line' from Robert William Botting at present comes down through Robert Peter Botting, as follows:

1. Robert Peter Botting (Robert William's eldest son) died 1925
2. Robert James Botting (Robert Peter's eldest son) died 1938
3. Robert James Edgar Botting (Robert James' only son) died 20 October 2002
4. Katherine Adair Botting (eldest daughter of Robert James Edgar Botting).

Katherine Adair Botting married her third cousin Russell Edward (Russ) Botting. They 'share' the same great-grandfather Robert Peter Botting and this detail has slightly complicated the NZ Botting Family Tree (as they, their children and grand children get to appear twice!).

## BOTTING Family Reunions in New Zealand

*With* a sense of belonging we came together as a Family of BOTTING

*With* the pride engendered through association with something of great value

*With* profound respect for our forbears, for their pioneering lives and for their achievements over the years availing Family, Community and Country

*With* the strong desire to retain, treasure and safeguard for the benefit of future generations of BOTTING the cherished values of family life and love which Robert William and Jane Botting created for our New Zealand BOTTING Family.



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