

The Nothlings of Teutoberg

The first member of the Nothling family to take up land on the Blackall Range was **Martin Julius Nothling** (known as Julius). He had migrated with his family from Prussia (now part of Germany) in 1880. He settled first in the Beenleigh area and then shifted and took up land at Witta (formerly known as Teutoberg) in 1887.

A few years later his three adult sons Carl (**Chas**), **Bernard** and **Martin** also took up a sizeable land holding in the same area. The land was cleared, fruit trees planted, herds of cattle and flocks of sheep were established. Macadamia trees planted by Chas Nothling are still bearing nuts to this day. So Julius could be classified as the patriarch of the family. He lived to a ripe old age of 98 and dropped dead suddenly at his home at Witta in 1932 and is buried at Witta Cemetery.

A magnificent piano that travelled with the family to Australia in 1880 is a treasured family heirloom. His granddaughter **Olga Webster**, an accomplished pianist, is now the proud possessor of the piano. Of the second generation, Olga's parents, Bernard and **Ida Nothling** were integral and much respected members of the Witta community. Bernard was a gifted and multi talented musician and was the church organist at Witta Lutheran Church for over 60 years. He and Ida as well as running the farm also ran the local Witta Post Office and telephone exchange for over 30 years until 1963 when the Post Office was closed and the exchange became automatic.

The children of the 3rd generation all rode their ponies to school at Curramore and Witta and Olga recalls wonderful family get-togethers around the piano. One member of the 3rd generation, **Otto Nothling** gained distinction as being the only Australian sportsman to represent his country in both cricket and Rugby Union.

At the last count in 2004, the descendants of Julius numbered 1350. Olga Webster is the last remaining member of the 3rd generation living in Maleny and her children and the **Lowe** family of Curramore are 4th generation members still living in the district.



**“Pineville” Witta built 1907.
Home of Bernard Julius Nothling & Ida Marie Nothling**