

Smith, Francis, Sir (1819-1909)

Sponsored: Susan Pye (Suffolk?, cook)



Francis Smith, at the time of Susan's arrival in Tasmania, was the fourth Premier of Tasmania (1857-1860) and Attorney General. In 1862 Francis was knighted and in 1870 he became the first Australian to hold office as a chief justice after having been a premier. Many of Francis' achievements included being an anti-transportationist, barrister, chief justice, crown solicitor, judge, Member of the Tasmanian Lower and Upper Houses, Premier, and solicitor general. (*Australian Dictionary of Biography*, Vol 6, 1976)

Picture copied from the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*.

Francis was born in Port-au-Prince, Haiti on 13 September 1819. His father, also named Francis, resided in Haiti for many years and was the confidential friend and private secretary of the Emperor Petion. His mother was a native of St Domingo. Francis Jun. returned to England and took his BA degree at London University. After some medical studies he took the Law course there and obtained honours. Sir Francis Smith owned and occupied 'Lindfield' in Holebrook Place.

In December 1883 Smith left Tasmania on twelve months leave. He retired in 1885 and remained in England, living in London and at Heathside, Tunbridge Wells. He died of senile asthenia and pneumonia on 17 January 1909 and was cremated at Golden Green. A plaque in the church of King Charles the Martyr, Tunbridge Wells, commemorates him. His estate was sworn for probate at £1390 in Tasmania and £116,470 in England. (*Australian Dictionary of Biography*, Vol 6, 1976)

Francis Smith applied for Immigrant Bounty Tickets at Hobart on 5 February 1857.