

The background to this story is that in July, 1879, the General Cemetery Commission recommended a 3000-acre site at Frankston in preference to the present site of the Springvale Necropolis and the Police Paddocks. ~~The~~ However, although Springvale was very adversely reported on, the fact remained that the Government had already purchased that land for no less than £9 an acre. That must have weighed heavily in its favor, and Springvale won the day.

Great rivalry existed between ~~Oakleigh~~ Spring Vale, Frankston -- and later Dandenong -- when a site was being considered for a new cemetery this side of Melbourne. The wonder was that SpringVale was ever chosen, because the official report on the present site was damning. But chosen it was -- and what an excellent choice it proved to be. However, back in 1896, when the battle of the rival sites was at its peak, there were hints of some "dirty work at the crossroads". The "Advertiser" in reporting a public meeting at Oakleigh said ." Cr. W. H. Thomson remarked, 'He hoped Oakleigh would show they had men of better stuff than Dandenong, who held a large public meeting and passed resolutions but did nothing. There was a man living in Spring Vale who would be prepared to give sworn evidence before any competent tribunal that, during the midnight hour, he saw a well-known resident come to the trial holes with a barrel of water on a dray and pour water into the holes, which, on inspection after, caused the condemnation of the site. Colonel Hutton whose property was opposite had sunk 50 feet and could not get water."