



## BROMFIELD James Astley

**Parents:** John Davenport Bromfield and Margaret Mawdsley

**Siblings:**

1. John Davenport b 1818 d 1870 m 1851  
Elizabeth Peter d 1908
2. Charles b 1820
3. Benjamin b 1828 d 1894 (5th son)
4. Elizabeth Emma (4th daughter)
5. Frances Bromfield (youngest daughter)

**Birth:** 6 February 1823 Netherton, Worcester  
England

**Death:** 4 March 1903 Ashton Power Street  
Hawthorn

**Marriage:**

1. 29 June 1854 Adelaide SA Grace Bennett b 1833 d 22 October 1864
2. 27 March 1866 Jessie Lockhart Robertson b 27 September 1830 d 23 September 1903

**Immigration:** departed London 9 July 1852 and arrived Port Phillip 11 October 1852 on the *Himalaya*

**Children:**

- 1.1 John Astley b 4 July 1855 d 13 September 1855
- 1.2 Fanny Grace b 1856 d 1947
- 1.3 Charles Astley b 30 September 1857 d 1937 m 1890 Mary Josephine Agnes Molan b 1877
- 1.4 Emma Margaret b 30 May 1859 d 23 October 1922
- 1.5 Son b 31 October 1860
- 1.6 John Mawdsley b 1861 d 14 June 1911
- 1.7 Davenport b 2 July 1862 d 1954 m 1884 to Mary Hickling (Ware) b 1852
- 2.1 Stillborn son 26 August 1867
- 2.2 Sarah Mawdsley b 1868 m 1890 Robert Riddle Donaldson b Grafton
- 2.3 Benjamin Thomas b 2 March 1870
- 2.4 Eliza Mary b 27 September 1871 d 1958 m 1894 William Arthur Dodd b 1859 d 1902

**Place of Residence:** with his brother John Davenport at first (Western District) - owned numerous properties in Warrnambool. Ashton, Canterbury Road Warrnambool

**Education:** Oxford Man?

**Death and Burial:** On the 4th inst, (March 1903), at his late residence, *Ashton*, Power Street, Hawthorne, James Astley Bromfield, fourth son of John Davenport Bromfield, of Pershore, Worcestershire, England, aged 80 years. (No flowers by request). The funeral will leave the Warrnambool Railway Station on the arrival of the 1.45 pm train this day (Thursday) for the Warrnambool Cemetery, via the Church of England, where a short service will be held.

Buried 5 March 1903 Warrnambool Cemetery, Church of England Section, Row 27, Grave 017. Grace, who died 22 October 1864 is in the same grave. Jessie's grave is Row 27, Grave 016

**Obituary:**

*The Warrnambool Standard*, 5 March, 1903

A day or two ago we informed the public that Mr J A Bromfield was lying dangerously ill at his home in Hawthorn, and that his death was hourly expected. The end came yesterday morning, and when the news was received in Warrnambool general regret was expressed by all who knew him. It is only the older residents of the town and district, however, who can appreciate his worth, and the active interest he took in promoting the welfare of the local community. Thirteen years have elapsed since he removed to Melbourne, but for very many years prior to that period he was one of the most prominent residents of the town, and ably filled a number of public positions. The deceased gentleman was born at Pershore, Worcestershire, England, in 1823, and at the age of 29 he came to Victoria. This was in 1852, and consequently he passed through some of the most stirring periods of Victorian history. A chemist by profession, he came to Warrnambool a few years after his arrival in the State and opened a business in Timor Street, between Liebig and Banyan Streets. He subsequently removed into the premises now occupied by the Colonial Bank, and on the bank taking over the building he erected the shop now occupied by Mr G LeCouteur, and continued to follow the occupation of a chemist until about twenty years ago, when he retired. About this time he purchased an extensive building site in Canterbury Road and erected thereon a fine, commodious building known as *Ashton*, in which he resided for a number of years. Eventually he sold the property to Mr Scott, who utilised it for the purpose of the Warrnambool College, and which a few months ago was leased to the Misses Easson of Hohenlohe College. The deceased had since resided in Hawthorn, and died there yesterday at the residence which he named after his Warrnambool home. He had attained to the venerable age of 80 years, and brought up a family of four sons and four daughters. He was twice married, and leaves a widow and grown up family.

**Life:** During the 35 years James Astley lived in Warrnambool he was for a considerable proportion of the time a moving spirit in public affairs and was always to the fore in the promotion of any industrial enterprise calculated to promote the prosperity of the town and district. He held a seat in the Warrnambool Shire Council for nine years, for six of which he filled the Presidential chair. He was also a member of the Borough Council for a similar period, and during his occupancy of the chair performed the important function of turning the first sod in the Merri River deviation cutting, which work was carried out by the Government. He was also a Justice of the Peace, trustee of the Savings Bank, chairman of the Steam Navigation Company, director of the gasworks, a member of the Harbour committee, a committeeman of the Agricultural Society, a member of the Racing Club committee, and a trustee of the Racecourse. He was closely identified with Christ Church, and held the office of church warden. James also found time to engage in grazing pursuits and the breeding of horses. He bred the steeplechasers, Lone Hand and Lady Ashton, and other winners on the turf.

Bromfield Street was named after James Astley