



## BROMFIELD John Davenport

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

**Siblings:**

1. Charles b 1820 Pershore
2. Jas Astley b 6 February 1823 d 4 March 1903
3. Frances
4. Elizabeth Emma
5. Benjamin b 1828 d 1894

**Birth:** 1818 Liverpool

**Death:** 20 May 1870 Birregurra

**Marriage:** 1851 Warrnambool to Elizabeth Peter d 1908

**Immigration:** sailed from Gravesend 14 August 1837 - date of arrival in Victoria not known

**Children:** no issue

**Place of Residence:** Birregurra District - *Elliminook*

**Education:** Oxford Man?

**Death and Burial:**

*The Argus*, Wednesday 25 May 1870

BROMFIELD.- On the 20<sup>th</sup> inst, at Birregurra, near Colac, from aneurism of the aorta, after a lingering illness, John Davenport Bromfield, aged 52; arrived in the colony 1837; eldest son of the late John Davenport Bromfield, formerly of Pershore, Worcestershire, England - buried Colac Cemetery Grave 2772 - Elizabeth is in Grave 2773.

Similar notices in *Geelong Advertiser* and other papers.

**Life:** In 1837 J D Bromfield arrived in the colony and took up land west of Geelong. John first pitched camp on the present site of the Birregurra Christ Church. In 1838 he was granted a licence to 'depasture' stock in the SW Geelong region in the area originally known as *Bowden's Point* and later known as *Birregurra on the Barwon*.

John wrote of Aboriginal conflict which occurred 31 May 1842 between Barrabool Hills natives and a Mt Rouse tribe close to his station.

John remained in the area and in 1860 he was appointed as a Territorial Magistrate for the Colac District as well as a Trustee of the Colac Cemetery. In January 1864 he was appointed as a returning Officer for the District of Polwarth and South Grenville. He resigned the position in 1870.

In 1865 he built his home *Elliminook* at Birregurra. In 1867 he was appointed as one of the trustees for land set aside for Church of England purposes at Birregurra. In January 1869 he was appointed as a magistrate for the general sessions district of Geelong.

On 6 April 1870 he laid the foundation stone of the Christ Church at Birregurra, which a short time later contained his lasting memorial stained glass window commissioned by his widow. He died less than 6 weeks later.

Three years after his death his widow Eliza married William Edmundson.