

day! (Of interest is the fact that when Ann's son, Henry Hancock disembarked, he now disembarked as Henry Brewer.)

John and Ann took up farm land in East Brighton, (now Bentleigh), and became prosperous market gardeners. The road to their property became known as Brewer's Road, a name which still remains today. Brewer's Road runs east to west between Jasper Road and Nepean Highway. The Brewers named their farm 'Eumemmering', which is an local aboriginal word approximately meaning "contemplation of a pleasant prospect". They remained on the property until at least 1858.

In 1851 John Brewer, a devout and religious man, helped to establish the Baptist Church in the Brighton area. A prominent citizen of his day, John was also chosen as one of the Trustees for the new Brighton Cemetery, to represent the Baptist religion. During the 1850s cemeteries were developed in association with particular churches, and meetings of concerned citizens. In the 1850s disposal of the dead was still considered a function of the church. But establishing the Brighton Cemetery was to be fraught with difficulties, due to government blunders and funding issues. The cemetery was finally opened in 1855.

John and Ann prospered over the years as the gold rush population in the 1850s drove up the prices all foodstuffs, including vegetables, and the little colony of Port Phillip blossomed and developed with the surging population. The Brewers went on to have a large family. After Thirza, (born in England), came Elizabeth who was born in 1843, John in 1845, Isabella in 1847, Thomas in 1848, Robert in 1852/3, Amelia in 1855, Ebenezer in 1858, Sarah Jane in 1860, and finally Martha Annie in 1863. Ebenezer Street in Bentleigh was named after John and Ann's son, but has since been re-named Milton Street.

Sadly, neither John or Ann ever saw their English homeland again, instead they made a new and prosperous life, helping to shape the then "little settlement" of East Brighton, (now Bentleigh) into a thriving community.

John Brewer passed away on 26th March 1864, and Ann Brewer on 4th June in 1897. Both are buried in the Baptist Section of the Brighton General Cemetery.



Annie Bertha BREWER and George Percy NICHOLLS

#### Acknowledgements:

Details of John and Ann Brewer and their family, were kindly donated by a Brewer descendant, Mrs. Barb. Atkinson, NSW.

Details of the Brighton General Cemetery history are available on "The Cemeterian's" website.

Details of the emigrant ship the *Gilmore*, are from Frances Chuk's book "The Somerset Years", Pg 63.

Passenger Lists of the *Gilmore* were provided by the PROV "Assisted British Immigrants" 1839-1871, of John, Ann, Henry Hancock and Thirza Brewer.

Photo is of Annie Bertha Brewer, born in 1877, the daughter of John Brewer (Junior), and Margaret Brewer nee Gordon. Annie married George Percy Nicholls in 1904.