## **BROTCHIE, John Alexander Rainy**

John A. R. Brotchie was born 27th October 1848 at Kintore, Aberdeen, Scotland, the son of John & Ann (nee Rainy) Brotchie.

He took his M.A. degree at Aberdeen University, and was a licentiate of the Church of Scotland.

In 1881 he was living at Cullen, Banffshire, Scotland.**1**

He ‘came to Australia under commission from the Church of Scotland in the year 1883, and was almost immediately called, and became the minister of the Tweed River charge, where he remained for many years. Later he became the minister of the Carcoar church.’**2**

In early 1898 he was a Presbyterian Minister in Murwillumbah, Tweed River area, N.S.W.**3**

He was soon after transferred to Carcoar N.S.W.

In November 1906, whilst still a Minister at Carcoar, he was ‘filling the pulpit of the Beecroft-Thornleigh Presbyterian Church to the entire satisfaction of the residents.’**4**

In January 1907 he was officially released from Carcoar Presbyterian Church to take up his new position at Beecroft Presbyterian Church. He was presented by the residents of the Carcoar district with a substantial purse of sovereigns. He was inducted by the Presbytery of Sydney to Beecroft-Thornleigh in February 1907 and given a formal welcome at Beecroft later that month.**5**

In early September 1908 ‘residents of the district are much concerned at the serious illness of the Rev. J. Brotchie, M.A., who has charge of the Presbyterian parishes of Beecroft and Thornleigh. The reverend gentleman is an inmate of St. Bernard's Private Hospital, at Burwood, suffering from pneumonia with other complications. His present condition is most serious, and the anxiety of many friends is proved by the continued phone enquiries made from all parts of his parishes.’**6**

On 3rd September 1908 John Alexander Rainy Brotchie died in hospital. His last words, in his delirium, were, "Come away, children, let us now sing,"

It was noted that he was a man of ripe scholarly attainments, and possessed a valuable library. He had no relatives in Australia, and was a bachelor.

‘The Rev. J. Brotchie was an earnest, eloquent and scholarly preacher. In private life the deceased was simply beloved by all sorts and conditions of men, women and children. No one, whether of his own actual flock or otherwise, who was reported to be sick and suffering, was left unvisited by this kind pastor and friend. His closing moments demonstrated his kind love and thought for the children.’**7**

On 19th September 1908 ‘the foundation stone of the Beecroft church was laid by Mrs. Chorley, of Mount Pleasant, Cheltenham. It was announced that the late Rev. J. R. Brotchie had bequeathed £250 towards the new church.’**8**

John Alexander Rainy Brotchy is buried at Rookwood Presbyterian Cemetery, Section 3C Row 3.

A fund was inaugurated ‘for the purpose of erecting a monument over Mr. Brotchie's resting place, with the proposal that the monument should be of Aberdeenshire granite, that being the country in which the deceased was born, and that it should bear an inscription setting forth the fact that it was erected by the joint subscriptions of the members and adherents of the three parishes in the church in which Mr. Brotchie had been settled.’

An inscription was duly erected by Friends in the parishes of Tweed River, Carcoar, Beecroft and Thornleigh.**9**

**Bibliography**

1 Ancestry.com; Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 5 September 1908, page 4

2 Sydney Morning Herald (NSW: 1842 - 1954), Saturday 5 September 1908, page 13

3 Government Gazettes 1853-1899

4 Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 24 November 1906, page 10

5 Sydney Morning Herald (NSW: 1842 - 1954), Friday 8 February 1907, page 8; Watchman (Sydney, NSW: 1902 - 1926), Thursday 21 February 1907, page 8; Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 23 February 1907, page 4

6 Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Wednesday 2 September 1908, page 2

7 Sydney Morning Herald (NSW: 1842 - 1954), Friday 4 September 1908, page 6; Daily Telegraph (Sydney, NSW: 1883 - 1930), Saturday 5 September 1908, page 9

8 Maitland Daily Mercury (NSW: 1894 - 1939), Friday 2 October 1908, page 6

9 Sydney Cemetery Headstone Transcriptions, 1837-2003; Northern Star (Lismore, NSW: 1876 - 1954), Tuesday 15 September 1908, page 2