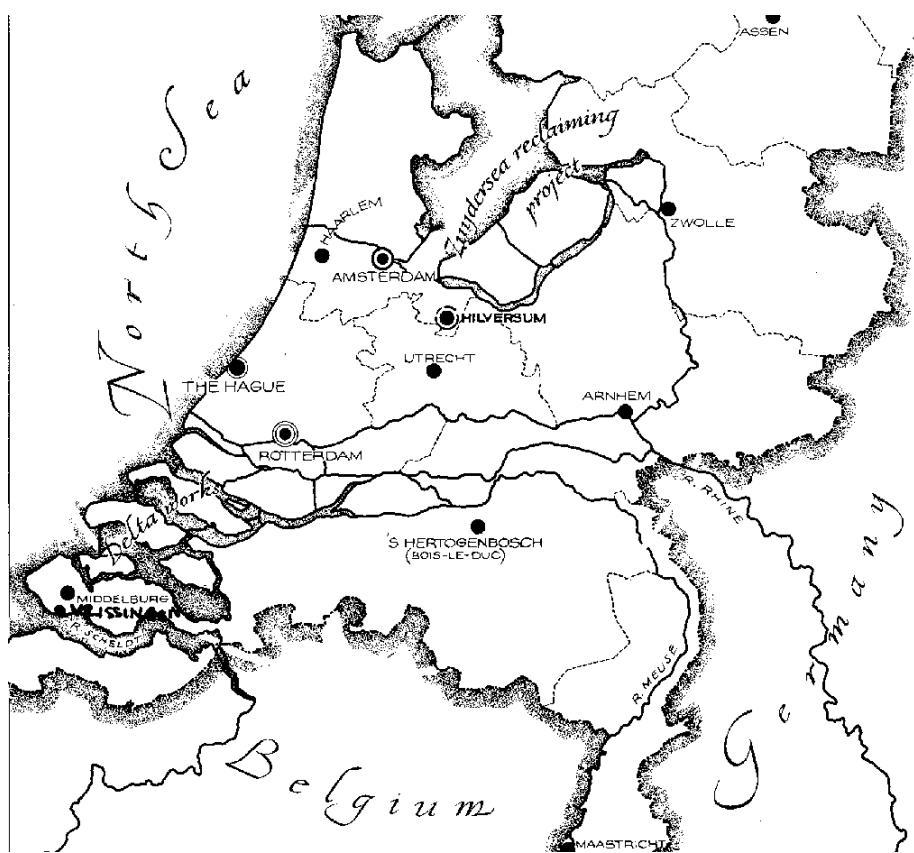


THOMAS TAPLEY

1789 – 1856



1551 THOMAS TAPLEY (1789 - 1856)

Thomas TAPLEY was born at Folkestone, Kent, in England in 1789 and baptised there on 5 August 1789, the first child of Richard TAPLEY (1770-1824), a tailor of Folkestone, and Elizabeth TAPLEY, nee STEVENSON.(1)

Thomas grew up in Folkestone, the family living in Dover Street, Folkestone, not far from the waterfront. Whether Thomas succumbed to the call of the sea, as did his brothers, is uncertain. In his earlier years he may have been apprenticed to a baker, as he was to later follow that trade. (2)

Thomas TAPLEY, married at the age of 22 years on 26 February 1811, at the Folkestone Parish Church to Mary MORFORD, aged 19 years, the daughter of James MORFORD of Folkestone. (3)

Thomas and Mary went to live at Dover, where Thomas was listed as a Freeman in August of 1811. Their first child was born later that same year.

DOVER, in Kent, stands where the once broad River Dour breaks through the cliffs. The 500 foot high Chalk cliffs of Dover have always had a symbolic significance for the English. They are the portals of the traditional Gateway to England from the Continent. "The town has changed shape and size many times over the centuries... The Saxons built several Churches, of which St Mary-In Castra, in the castle grounds, still survives. Built in the late 10th and early 11th centuries..... The Port owes its importance to its closeness to the French coastline. It is only 21 miles (34km) from Calais, and 25 miles from Boulogne. Lying in one of the world's largest artificial harbours-- about 850 acres in area and protected by massive breakwaters- it consists of two complexes: the old docks to the west of the town.. and the modern car-ferry terminal and hoverport to the east... Dover's proximity to the French coast led to the building of cavernous brick shelters on the western heights during the Napoleonic wars, to house British troops in case Napoleon invaded. Crabble Mill built in 1812 as a water mill, was used to provide flour for them.." (4)

15511 Richard Edward TAPLEY, the first child of Thomas and Mary TAPLEY was born in 1811, and baptised at Dover on 27 December 1811. (5)

Not long after this they moved back to Folkestone in about May of 1813, possibly because of the threat of invasion, and it was here that their second child was born.

15512 Katherine (Kitty) TAPLEY, their second child, was born at Folkestone on 23 July 1813 and baptised there on 13 August 1813. She was more generally known as Kitty TAPLEY. (6)

It is interesting to note that every alternate child of Thomas and Mary TAPLEY was to be given only one Christian name. No reason is known for this unusual occurrence, which they continued for the remaining children, except for Susan (Susanna).

15513 Elizabeth Stevenson TAPLEY was their next child, baptised at Folkestone on 17 December 1815. Elizabeth died a few months later on 13 July 1816 at Folkestone. (7)

15514 Thomas TAPLEY, named after his father, was born at Folkestone in 1817, and baptised there on 4 June 1817. (8)

15515 James Morford TAPLEY, their next child was also born at Folkestone on 17 March 1819. He was baptised there on 2 April 1819. (9)

James was the last child of Thomas and Mary to be born in England, as shortly after this they moved with their young family to Holland, settling at Vlissingen (Flushing), on 14 November 1820, where Thomas was to spend the next few years working as a baker.

According to family notes gathered by several members of the Tapley Family in South Australia in about 1940, Thomas was rumoured to have been associated with smuggling activities in this earlier part of his life, and as a consequence of this, he exiled himself and family from England to Holland.

VLISSINGEN (Flushing), Holland, is a seaport and resort town in the Zeeland Province, on the south coast of Walcheren Island, at the mouth of the West Scheldt. Ship Building, Engineering and fishing are the chief industries. Vlissingen was closely associated with the Dutch struggle for independence in the 16th century. (10)

15516 Elizabeth TAPLEY, their next child, was born at Vlissingen, on 25 October 1821, at the seventh hour of the evening. Thomas Tapley was aged 32 yrs, and was listed as a baker, and Mary was listed as 28 years at this time. (11)

15517 Susanna TAPLEY, was the name chosen for their next child who was also born at Vlissingen, Holland on 21 January 1824. (12)

15518 Margaret Ann TAPLEY was born in the following year, at Vlissingen, on 7 November 1825. (13)

A few years later, on 6 October 1829, the TAPLEY family moved from Vlissingen, to the larger city of Rotterdam, in Holland. (14)

ROTTERDAM, Holland, is the country's chief sea port in the south Holland province of New Maas River. The city was chartered in 1328. It is also an important industrial centre with ship yards, engineering, brewing, distilling, soap making, chemicals, margarine and other food products being manufactured there.. (15)

Thomas continued as a Baker in Rotterdam and was living at 115 Wynstaat according to Census records.

15519 John TAPLEY, was born just over a month later, at Rotterdam on 18 November 1829. (16)

This son, John was the ancestor of Peter Douglas PORTER (son of the author), on whom this story is based as one of his ancestors. John TAPLEY is also the ancestor of some of the SHARPE family in New Zealand, in particular, Jeffrey Stannard SHARPE, whose wife Jacqueline has supplied much family information for both the TAPLEY and SHARPE Families.

1551A Mary Jane TAPLEY, a daughter, was the next child of Thomas and Mary born at Rotterdam on 22 June 1833. (17)

1551B Hannah TAPLEY, their last child, was born also at Rotterdam on 27 August 1836. (18)

Not long after this, the family moved from Holland back to England as they were living there by 1837. Apparently the political atmosphere in Holland became uncertain about this time, with war being threatened, and conscription was being introduced. According to family oral history, this was a determining factor in the family selling up their interests in Holland, going back to England, with the intention of emigrating to America, but there was considerable delay involved in this so they emigrated to South Australia. (19)

Just prior to their departure for South Australia, on 3 July 1838, some of the family members were listed as living at Old Gravel Lane, Ratcliff Highway (possibly in Folkestone, but this is not certain). They were Elizabeth, James, Kitty, Susan and Thomas. (20)

In July 1838 Thomas purchased 480 acres of land in South Australia from James Waddell and Company

The eldest son of the family, Richard Edward was aged 26 at this time and had already embarked on his own career. He was later to emigrate to South Australia (1844) from Mauritius.

So Thomas and Mary TAPLEY with their remaining children emigrated to South Australia.

The ship that they travelled on was the RAJASTHAN, a barque of 601 tons. It was built of Teak in Bombay, India. It was commissioned in June 1837, for its owner, FLEMING, of Glasgow, Scotland. The Captain of the vessel for its first trip to Australia from London, was Captain D. RITCHIE. (21)

As indicated the family sailed from London, England, in the RAJASTHAN, arriving in South Australia on 16 November 1838. (22)

Soon after their arrival, in early 1839, Thomas TAPLEY, his wife Mary, and family, moved south of Adelaide, taking up land for farming in the Happy Valley area. (23)

They then moved to the area that became known as Tapley's Hill, the name being given to the area because of the TAPLEY family. (24)

By 1841, the family were well established in the area, and in the 1841 CENSUS, the TAPLEY family were listed as follows ---

Living in the District B (South of the Onkaparinga)	(25)
Thomas.....above 50	(actually 52)
Mary.....under 50	(" 49)
Catherine.....under 35	(Kitty- " 28)
Thomas.....under 35	(" 24)
James.....under 21	(" 21)
Elizabeth.....under 21	(" 20)
Susan.....under 21	(Susanna " 17)
Margaret.....under 21	(" 16)
John.....under 14	(" 12)
Mary Ann.....under 7	(" 7)
Anna.....under 7	(Hannah " 4)

By the year 1844, the family was well established in the Hotel business, with Thomas TAPLEY having taken out a license, being the Licensee of the Victoria Inn, on O'Halloran Hill. (26)

Thomas TAPLEY was the first licensee of the Victoria Hotel, or Inn as it was called at that time, from 1840 to 1847 (27)

The harness room associated with the Hotel, contained only two rooms above ground, but had a large basement area, with cellar over three levels, and a series of trap-doors through the various levels. It was reputed to have been connected with smuggling of liquor during the early days of the colony of South Australia, according to an old family legend. (28)

In 1844 the Tapley Family had 45 acres of wheat, 9 acres of barley and 13 acres of oats under cultivation, and half an acre of potatoes, and 1 acre of garden. They also had the following stock- 750 ewes, 250 wethers, 96 cattle, 3 horses, and 8 pigs. (29)

The property consisted of about 716 acres, and comprised sections 72, 73, 75, 76, and 129. (30)

Thomas only kept the Inn a few years, and had relinquished the license by the late 1840's, as by 1850 it was in the hands of H.HAY. (31)

After selling the Inn, Thomas TAPLEY went back to farming, living on a farm he called ROSENBERG, at O'Halloran Hill, described as follows-

"Rosenberg,. the farm of Mr TAPLEY, lately the proprietor of the Inn here, consisting of about seven or eight sections, two of which we understood to be in cultivation; and a good house, of apparently recent erection, with a garden. near it is the Victoria Inn or Hotel, kept by Mr. HAY...." (32)

Thomas TAPLEY'S farm, ROSENBERG, was opposite that of Major Thomas S. O'HALLORAN, Commissioner of Police. It seems unlikely that under these circumstances that the smuggling story has any truth to it.

Thomas TAPLEY apparently suffered from failing eyesight during his latter years, as in March 1851, he wrote to the Colonial Secretary seeking restitution for some overpaid Dray Tax. He blamed his failing eyesight 'of late years' for not being able to read the entry properly. His application was refused by Captain FREELING. (33)

At this time, Thomas was 61 years of age, and not long later, possibly in 1854, when his sons James and John married, he left the farm and retired to the city of Adelaide, taking up residence on South Terrace.

The farm appears to have been taken over by his son, James Morford TAPLEY, as James continued to farm at Tapley's Hill until some thirty years later. (34)

Thomas TAPLEY died at his residence on South Terrace, Adelaide, of apoplexy (a stroke), on Saturday, 14 June 1856. He was aged 66 years. (35)

Thomas Tapley was buried in a Family Plot in the West Terrace Cemetery, located Road area 1-2, Row 23W .(36)

On his death his property was divided between his six surviving daughters and four sons. The property included the Victoria Hotel, a Half Acre of land in the city of Adelaide, and 1450 acres of grazing and agricultural land .

His wife Mary lived for another ten years before she died aged 76 years, on 20 January 1867. (37)

REFERENCES:-

1. Information from S.E. TAPLEY and J.SHARPE
2. From birth cert of Elizabeth TAPLEY.
3. Information from S.E. TAPLEY and J.SHARPE
4. AA Book of British Towns, pp 122,123
5. From J. SHARPE and clipping of Life of R.E.TAPLEY
6. Ibid
7. Information from J.SHARPE and S.E. TAPLEY
8. Ibid
9. Ibid.
10. Penguin Encyclopedia of Places, page 267
11. Birth cerTificate of Elizabeth TAPLEY.
12. Information J.SHARPE and S.E. TAPLEY
13. Ibid
14. Letter from Archivist at Vlissingen to David Kerr.
15. Penguin Encyclopaedia of Places, page 625.
16. Information from J. SHARPE and S.E. TAPLEY

17. Ibid.
18. Ibid.
19. From Letter of E.J SHARPE (Bess) to Iris,1
Sep 1876.
20. From J. SHARPE
21. Letter of Ian Farquhar(Tapley Swift
Shipping)-17Jan 1980.
22. Pioneers Priests and People,By Alice Miller-page 14
Colonists, Copper and Corn, By E.M. YELLAND-page 100
23. Pioneers Priests and People - page 14
24. Colonists Copper and Corn- page 100
25. Census 1841- S.A. Archives.
26. S.A. Almanack & Colonist Copper and Corn-p 100.
27. Meadows Heritage, page 278
28. Ibid page29
29. 1844 Almanack of S A.
30. Meadows Heritage p 273.
31. Colonists Copper and Corn- p 100.
32. Ibid
33. Letter of Thomas TAPLEY to Colonial Sec-28 March 1851.
34. See James Morford TAPLEY
35. Death Certificate and Obituary.
36. Death Certificate of Mary TAPLEY.
37. West Terrace Cemetery Microfiche- S. A. Genealogy Society Inc.

An Article by STUART E. TAPLEY appeared on pages 29 to 33 in Volume 24, No 1, February 1997 edition of SOUTH AUSTRALIAN GENEALOGIST Magazine. The article was titled -
THOMAS TAPLEY: THE FOUNDER OF TAPLEY'S HILL

Some of the information in the Narrative of Thomas TAPLEY'S life was from Stuart TAPLEY who is acknowledged as one of my sources of Family Information.

THOMAS TAPLEY - REFERENCES

REFERENCE: Copy of Letter of Thomas TAPLEY to the Colonial Secretary- From SA Archives.

29th March 1851

Sir,

On seeing the advertisement in the Government Gazette stating that those parties who paid taxes for their carts and drays would have the amount refunded to them. I applied about 5 weeks since for the £3 which I had paid. On presenting the receipts for the same I was informed by Mr. Smith the clerk that there was only 50/- due. As I was standing in the sun and my eyesight having become dimmed of late years I could not be positive that it was more and accepted the 50/- on further consideration however I became satisfied that I should have received £3 and on looking at the book in the office I perceive the £3 is signed for.

I have taken the liberty of stating these facts as I do not consider that such imposition should remain unnoticed.

I have the honor to be Sir
Your Obedient Servant
The Honorable Thos TAPLEY
Colonial Secretary. Tapley Hill.

Central Road Board
Office
Adelaide April 2nd/51

Sir,

I have the honor to return you herewith the letter of Mr. Thos Tapley relative to a repayment of Carriage Licenses, paid by him last year.

Mr Smith (To whom Mr Tapley's letter has been referred) denies altogether having told Mr Tapley that only 50/- was due to him; which statement is corroborated by Mr Tapley's own admission in the Office, a few days ago, "that until he reached home he "imagined he had received £3..."

Mr Tapley has signed the receipts for £3.0.0 ; and the Board are of the opinion that they cannot recognise Mr. Tapley as having any further claim -----

I have the honor to be Sir
Your obedient servant,
A.H. FREELING, Capt. R.E.
Chairman.

DEATH CERTIFICATE:

1856 Deaths in the District of Adelaide.
No.....4119
When died.....14 June 1856
Name.....Thomas TAPLEY
Age.....66 years
Cause of Death.....Apoplexy
Rank or profession.....Gentleman
Informant.....James CONIGROVE, Undertaker

Rundle street
When Registered.....16 June 1856
Registrar.....John F. CLELAND

OBITUARY MOTICE:-

S.A. REGISTER, Monday 16 June 1856

DIED

On Saturday morning, at 3 O'Clock, at his residence, South terrace, Thomas Tapley, sem, Esq. (formerly of Tapley's Hill) in his 66th Year, of Apoplexy, deeply regretted by his friends and relatives.

WEST TERRACE CEMETERY-INSRIPTIONS - Road area 1-2 Row 23 W

1st side:-

TAPLEY

Thomas snr died 14.6.1856 aged 66
Mary died 20.1.1867 aged 76 (wife of above)
Richard Edward died 7.6.1891 aged 79
(eldest son of above)
Kitty died 10.5.1903 aged 89
(eldest daughter of above)

2nd side:

Thomas died 3.7.1862 aged 45
Jane died 8.11.1855 aged 33(wife of above)
Mary Ann died 12.8.1867 aged 23 (eldest daughter of above)

Front:

John SAUERBIER died 16.9.1882 aged 61
Hannah died 2.9.1912 aged 75 wife of above.

MARY MORFORD
1790 – 1867



SPOUSE OF THOMAS TAPLEY

Mary MORFORD (1790 - 1867)

Mary MORFORD was born at Folkestone, Kent, in England on 1 September 1790. Her father was James MORFORD, and her mother was Kitty MORFORD, nee DANIEL. (1)

Nothing further is known of her parents.

Mary MORFORD, at the age of 20 years married on 26 February 1811, to Thomas TAPLEY, aged 21 years, also of Folkestone. (2)

Thomas and Mary went to live at Dover at first, where their first child was born, later moving back to Folkestone, where the next four children were born.

1. Richard Edward TAPLEY born Dover, Kent, 1811.
2. Katherine (Kitty) TAPLEY born at Folkestone, Kent - 1813
3. Elizabeth Stevenson TAPLEY born at Folkestone 1815, died aged about 6 months in 1816.
4. Thomas TAPLEY born at Folkestone in 1817.
5. James Morford TAPLEY born Folkestone 1819.

They moved about this time to Vlissingen in Holland, where they stayed for several years and the next three children were born there.

6. Elizabeth TAPLEY born at Vlissingen in 1821.
7. Susanna TAPLEY born at Vlissingen in 1824
8. Margaret Ann TAPLEY born Vlissingen in 1825.

Soon after this, they moved from Vlissingen to Rotterdam in Holland, and the last three children were born there.

9. John TAPLEY was born at Rotterdam in 1829.
- A (10) Mary Jane TAPLEY born at Rotterdam in 1833.
- B(11) Hannah TAPLEY, their last child was born at Rotterdam in 1837.(3)

Soon after this the family left Holland and returned to England prior to migrating to South Australia in 1838, on the ship RAJASTHAN.

They settled at Tapley's Hill (named for her husband) where they kept a farm, and ran the Victoria Inn for several years.

They retired in the early 1850's to a house on South Terrace, Adelaide and lived there by 1856. (4)

Her husband Thomas died there of a stroke, on 14 June 1856.(5)

Mary continued to live on at the house on South Terrace for another ten years before she died, and had her unmarried daughters living there with her and also some of her grandchildren, following her son Thomas' death in 1862.

Mary TAPLEY died at the age of 76 years at Adelaide on 20 January 1867 of Serious Effusion. The informant of her death was the Undertaker, Benjamin Norwich CONIGROVE of Adelaide. (6)

She is buried with her husband in the family grave at West Terrace Cemetery. (7)

REFERENCES:

1. Information from Shirley ANTHONY
2. See life of Thomas TAPLEY
3. Information from S.E. TAPLEY and J.A. SHARPE
4. See life of Thomas TAPLEY
5. Death Certificate of Thomas TAPLEY
6. Death Certificate of Mary TAPLEY
7. West Terrace Cemetery Microfiche Records.

CERTIFICATE INFORMATION FOR MARY TAPLEY

Death Certificate

No. 3190.....of 1867..District of Adelaide

When Died.....20 January 1867

Name.....Mary TAPLEY

Sex and Age.....Female 76 years

Trade or calling...Widow

Usual residence....Adelaide

Cause of Death.....Serious Effusion

Place of Death.....Adelaide

Informant

Cause of Death.....Serious Effusion

Place of Death.....Adelaide

Informant.....Benjamin Norwich CONIGROVE

Registered.....21 January 1867

J. RIPPON.

THE MORFORD FAMILY See also the Section Following)

James MORFORD (c.1720 -)

James MORFORD was born approximately 1720 in Folkestone, Kent, in England.

He married on 13 January 1745 at Folkestone, Kent, to Susan BOXER, also of Folkestone.

They had a son James MORFORD, born at Folkestone in 1761.

James MORFORD (1761-1833)

James MORFORD was born at Folkestone Kent and baptised there on 4 March 1761. His father was James MORFORD (1720 -) and his mother was Susan BOXER(c 1720 -).

James was married on 31 January 1785 at Folkestone, Kent, to Kitty Morland DANIEL.

They had three known children as follows -

1. Mary MORFORD, born 1 September 1790, at Folkestone.
2. Kitty MORFORD, baptised 10 August 1792 at Folkestone.
3. Harriett MORFORD baptised 22 October 1794 at Folkestone, Kent.

James MORFORD died in 1833, aged 72 years, and was buried at Folkestone, Kent on 6 January 1833.

Information from Stuart TAPLEY and Shirley ANTHONY.

FOLKESTONE, KENT.

Folkestone, had one church, St Mary's and St Eanswythe, mostly built c 1474 and half ruined by 1840. Much rebuilt in 1851-56. It had a Grammar School which was founded in 1764. Folkestone Harbour was built 1809 and had 3 Martello Towers shortly afterwards, a legacy of the Napoleonic scare.

Information from Shirley P. Anthony