



**HAROLD LIVINGSTONE TAPLEY**  
(1875-1932)

## Children of Edward Charles and Mary Harriet TAPLEY

### 155E21 Harold Livingstone TAPLEY (1875-1932)

Harold Livingstone TAPLEY was born on 25 January 1875 at Semaphore, South Australia. His father was Edward Charles TAPLEY (1845-1884), a Merchant's Clerk, and his mother was Mary Harriet TAPLEY, nee BROCK (1855- 1927). The birth was registered by David REID on 4 March 1875. (1)

Livingstone, as he was known, was brought up and educated in South Australia, and his father died at Woodville, South Australia when Harold was only 9 years old. (2)

He became an Insurance Agent by occupation, working for the North Queensland Fire and Marine Insurance Company in South Australia. (3)

He was interested in Military affairs, and joined the Volunteer Militia Service in South Australia and became a Captain in the South Australian A Company, Second Regiment .(4)

In 1893, he was transferred with his company (North Queensland Insurance) , to the city of Dunedin in the South Island of New Zealand, in Otago Province. He continued to work for the Insurance company there for the next four years. (5)

Almost as soon as he arrived in New Zealand, he joined the local Volunteer Defence Forces, the Dunedin Naval Artillery, with the rank of Lieutenant. (6)

In 1897, Harold Livingstone TAPLEY left the Insurance Company and went to work for the firm, W.E. REYNOLDS and Co. (7)

In 1899, he was made a Junior Lieutenant of B Battery, in the New Zealand Field Artillery. (8)

In 1900 he set up his own business, H.L. TAPLEY and Co at 14 Crawford Street, Dunedin. It was a Shipping, Stevedore, Grain Merchant, and Insurance Agency. (9)

Also about this time in the Year 1900, he married at the age of 25 Years, to Jean Brodie BURT, daughter of Thomas BURT of "Grant's Braes", Dunedin. (10)

They were to have a family of 6 children over the next 20 years-

155E211 Reginald Livingstone TAPLEY, born at Dunedin in 1901. (11)

155E212 Guy Livingstone TAPLEY, also born at Dunedin in 1902. (12)

In the year 1903, H. Livingstone TAPLEY was appointed Captain of B Battery, in the New Zealand Field Artillery, following the retirement of Major T. CHALMERS. (13)

Livingstone took an active interest in community affairs and was involved in athletics and sport.

He became a member of the Otago Golf Club, the Dunedin Hockey Club, was Captain of the Carisbrook Cricket Club D Team, and was also Secretary of the Otago Lawn Tennis Association. (14)

155E213 Colin Livingstone TAPLEY, their third son was born in 1905 at Dunedin. (15)

In 1907, H. Livingstone was elected to the Dunedin City Council, serving a term on the Council until 1911. (16)

In 1908, he became a member of the Otago Hospital and Charitable Aid Board. (17)

155E214 John Livingstone TAPLEY, another son was born in Dunedin in 1909. (18)

In 1913, he became a member of the Otago Harbor Board, a position he held until 1920. In 1919 and 1920 he was the chairman of the board. (19)

155E215 Brian Livingstone TAPLEY, another son, was born in 1916 at Dunedin. (20)

155E216 Jocelyn TAPLEY, their last child and only daughter was born at Dunedin. (21)

In 1921, Livingstone was elected to the City Council of Dunedin once again, serving on the council until 1927. Also from 1921 to 1927 he served as President of the Overseas Club in Dunedin, and was a member of the Ocean Beach Domain Board. (22)

In 1923, H. Livingstone TAPLEY was elected Mayor of Dunedin. He held that office until 1927. Also from 1923 to 1927, he was Governor of the High Schools and Technical College. (23)

On Anzac Day of 1924, Mayor H. L. TAPLEY laid a foundation stone in the Queen's Garden for a monument that was to be erected on the spot occupied by the Wolff HARRIS Fountain.

Also in April of 1924, the City of Dunedin was visited by its namesake, the cruiser H.M.S. DUNEDIN, which later made other visits also while she was attached to the New Zealand Squadron. On this first occasion, the Mayor, H.L. TAPLEY, sailed in her to Auckland as the guest of the Captain. (24)

In 1925, H. L. TAPLEY was elected as Member of Parliament for the electorate of Dunedin North, a seat which he held until 1928. (25)

Also in 1925, he was promoter of the Exhibition in Dunedin for 1925-26, and was Vice Patron of the Exhibition. (26)

In 1926, in recognition for his services to the community, Harold Livingstone TAPLEY was invested as C.M.G. (Commander of St Michael and St George). (27)

In 1931, H. Livingstone was once more elected to the City Council, and was still serving in that capacity at the time of his death in 1932. During the whole of his association with the City Council he enjoyed the esteem and respect of his fellow members, not only for his work as a councillor, but also because of his personal attributes. (28)

His wife Jean had predeceased him some time prior to 1932.

Harold Livingstone TAPLEY, 57 years, died at Onslow House, St Kilda, Dunedin, on 21 December 1932, suddenly of Cardiac Failure. He had previously had an heart attack in April of 1921. He was buried at Andersons Bay, and as a mark of respect to the memory of their late colleague the Mayor and councillors attended the funeral on 23rd December as did the Town Clerk and the Heads of Departments of the City Council.

He was survived by his 6 children, Reginald (31 yrs), Guy (30 yrs), Colin (27 yrs), John (23 yrs), Brian (16 yrs) and Jocelyn (11 yrs). (29)

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#### REFERENCES:

1. Birth Certificate of Harold L. TAPLEY
2. Death Cert of his Father
3. Cyclopaedia of New Zealand Vol 4., p 129
4. Ibid
5. Ibid
6. Ibid

7. Ibid
8. Ibid
9. Dictionary of New Zealand Biography p 364
10. Ibid
11. From I.FARQUHAR and Death Cert
12. Ibid.
13. Cyclopaedia of New Zealand, Vol 4, p129
14. Ibid
15. From I.FARQUHAR and Death Cert.
16. City of Dunedin Reports 1932/33
17. Dictionary of N.Z. Biography p364
18. From I. FARQUHAR and Death Cert.
19. City of DUNEDIN by K.C. McDONALD & Dict. of  
NZ Biography
20. From I.FARQUHAR and Death Certificate
21. Ibid
22. Dictionary Of NZ Biography
23. Ibid
24. CITY OF DUNEDIN, By K.C. MCDONALD
25. Dictionary of NZ Biography
26. Ibid
27. Ibid
28. City of Dunedin Departmental Reports
29. Ibid and Death certificate

## REFERENCES FOR Harold Livingstone TAPLEY

### BIRTH CERTIFICATE

No47 1875 District of PORT ADELAIDE  
When Born.....25 Jan 1875  
Names.....Harold Livingstone  
Sex.....Male  
Father.....Edward Charles TAPLEY  
Mother.....Mary Harriet TAPLEY formerly BROCK  
Rank of Father.....Merchant's Clerk  
Informant.....David REID  
When Registered.....4 March 1875  
Registrar.....Edward ALGER, Port Adelaide.

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### DEATH CERTIFICATE

Place of Registration.....DUNEDIN No. 909  
When Died.....21 December 1932  
Where died.....Onslow House, St Kilda  
Usual Res.....--  
Name.....Harold Livingston TAPLEY  
Occupation.....Shipping Agent.  
Sex and Age.....M 57yrs  
Causes of Death.....Cardiac Failure - Sudden  
Coronary Thrombosis - 21/4/1931  
Medical Attendant/Last seen.. J.A.JENKINS 24/3/1931  
Father's name.....Edward Charles TAPLEY  
Occupation.....Merchant  
Mother's name/Maiden Name...Mary Harriet TAPLEY /BROCK  
When Buried & Where.....23 December 1932 Andersons Bay  
Minister/Religion.....W.H.JOHNSON Anglican  
Where Born.....Adelaide, South Australia  
How long in NZ.....40 years  
Where married & Age.....DUNEDIN 25 Years  
To whom Married.....Jean Brodie BURT  
Age of Widow.....No widow.  
Age and sex of Living issue.. M:31, 30, 27, 23, 16 F:11  
Informant.....G.HOPE, Undertaker, Dunedin.  
Registrar.....----- 28/12/1932

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**REFERENCE:- CYCLOPEDIA of NEW ZEALAND, Vol 4: Grain and Provision Merchants  
"TAPLEY, HAROLD LIVINGSTONE.**

Grain merchant and Insurance Agent, 14 Crawford Street, Dunedin. Mr Tapley was born and educated in South Australia and came to Otago in 1893 as representative of the North Queensland Fire and Marine Insurance Co. He continued to represent that Company until 1897, when he joined the firm of Messrs W. E. REYNOLDS and Co., and four years later, established his present business. Mr Tapley is further referred to in the military section of this volume."

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**REFERENCE:- CYCLOPEDIA of NEW ZEALAND, Vol 4-Military Section p 129**

**"CAPTAIN H. LIVINGSTONE TAPLEY**, of the B Battery, New Zealand Field Artillery was born and educated in South Australia, and came to New Zealand in 1893. He was a captain in the A Company Second Regiment, South Australia, and on his arrival in New Zealand joined the Dunedin Naval Artillery as Lieutenant. In 1899 he was elected junior lieutenant of B Battery, and in 1903, on the retirement of Major T. CHALMER he was appointed to his present position. Captain Tapley takes a keen interest in athletics; he is a member of the Otago Golf Club, and the Dunedin Hockey Club, and was Captain of the D Team, Carisbrook Cricket Club, and Secretary of the Otago Lawn Tennis Association. He married Miss Jean Brodie Burt, daughter of the late Mr Thomas Burt, "Grant's Braes", Dunedin. "

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**REFERENCE:- DICTIONARY OF N.Z. BIOGRAPHY, Scholefield, page364**

**"TAPLEY, HAROLD LIVINGSTONE (1875-1932)**, who was born at Semaphore, South Australia, and educated in that colony, came to New Zealand in 1893 as representative of an insurance company, and in 1900 established his own business as shipping, stevedore and insurance agents. He was a member of the Dunedin City Council (1907-11), of the Otago Hospital and Charitable aid board (1908-11) and of the Otago harbour board (1913-20;chairman 1919-20). In 1921 he was again elected to the City Council, and was Mayor (1923-27). Tapley was a governor of the High Schools and Technical College (1923-27), and a member of the Ocean Beach domain board, and President of the Overseas Club (1921-27). He was a promoter of the Exhibition in Dunedin (1925-26), a director of the company and vice-patron of the Exhibition. (C.M.G. 1926). In 1925 he was elected member of Parliament for Dunedin North, but was defeated in 1928. In 1900 he married Jean Brodie, daughter of Thomas Burt, Dunedin. He died on 21 Dec 1932."

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**REFERENCE: City of Dunedin Departmental Reports 1932-33 page 91**

**"DEATH OF COUNCILLOR H. LIVINGSTONE TAPLEY, C.M.G.**

By the sudden death of Mr. Councillor H. Livingstone Tapley, C.M.G., on 20th December, the Council was deprived of a member who had rendered valuable service over a long period of years, both as a Mayor and a Councillor. He was first elected to the Council in 1907, serving on that occasion for four years, and was again elected in 1921. Two years later he was elected Mayor of the City, and on expiration of his term in 1923 (25?), was elected for a further term of two years. He again became a member of the Council in 1931, and was serving in that office at the time of his death. During the whole of his association with the City Council, the late Mr Tapley enjoyed the highest respect and esteem of fellow members, not only on account of his work as a Councillor, but for his many admirable personal qualities. As a mark of respect to the memory of their late colleague, the Mayor and Councillors attended the funeral, and the staff were also represented by the Heads of Departments."

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**REFERENCE:- City of DUNEDIN By K.C. McDONALD**

" H. Livingstone TAPLEY, elected Mayor in 1923, and again in 1925, was a South Australian by birth, and had established a successful shipping, stevedore and insurance business in Dunedin.

He was also for a time Chairman of the Harbour Board, and from 1925 to 1928 he represented a Dunedin electorate in Parliament.

Mayor H.L.TAPLEY, on Anzac Day 1924, laid a Foundation Stone in Queen's Garden for a Monument that was to be erected on the spot occupied by the Wolff Harris fountain.

.... meanwhile local politics, in the general turmoil of the time, became more partisan. H.L. TAPLEY, the Mayor at the time of the Exhibition, was invested as C.M.G. in recognition of his Services. His successor, W.B. TAVERNOR, a public accountant, was elected unopposed in 1927. Tapley, during his term, had become a member of Parliament for Dunedin North....

.... In April 1924, the city was proud to welcome its namesake, the cruiser, H.M.S. DUNEDIN, which later made other visits while she was attached to the New Zealand Squadron. On the first occasion, the Mayor, H.L. TAPLEY, sailed in her to Auckland as the guest of the Captain..."

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**REFERENCE: Letter of I.J. FARQUHAR**, Shipping Manager, TAPLEY SWIFT SHIPPING AGENCIES LTD., DUNEDIN 8 Jan 1980.

" We do not have a great deal of information on the early history of this firm but its founder - Harold Livingstone Tapley was born at Semaphore, South Australia in 1875 - the son of Edward C. Tapley of Adelaide. He came to Dunedin in 1893 and set up his own business as a commission agent in 1899/1900.

He traded as H.L. Tapley and Co. and soon acquired a number of shipping agencies - many of these are still held by the present company. In 1927 a limited liability company was formed as H.L. Tapley and Co. Ltd and in 1949 the name was changed to Tapley Swift Shipping Agencies Ltd. with the amalgamation of J.W. SWIFT and Co. In 1955 the Tapley family sold their interest in the firm to a Timaru company.

H.L. TAPLEY was prominent in civic affairs and was a member of the Dunedin City Council from 1907-11, the Otago Hospital Board 1908-11, Dunedin City Council 1921-23, Mayor of Dunedin 1923-27, Dunedin City Council 1929 until his death 21/12/1932. He was a member of the Otago Harbour Board 1913-1920 and was Chairman of the Board 1919-20.

He was also active in military circles and joined the Dunedin Naval Artillery shortly after his arrival in Dunedin in 1893. Six years later he was a Lieutenant of B. Battery, N.Z. Field Artillery and he subsequently rose to command the B. Battery with the Rank of Captain.

In 1900 he married Miss Jean Brodie Burt, a daughter of one of the founders of A & T Burt Ltd. They had a family of six- Reginald, Guy, Colin, John, Brian, and Jocelyn. All the boys incorporated the family name of Livingstone amongst their Christian names.

A younger brother of H.L. Tapley also came to Dunedin about 1900 and subsequently went to Invercargill and looked after the branch of H.L. Tapley and Co there for many years. He was Cecil Brock Tapley (died 1965). He also was involved in public affairs and served on the Invercargill City Council, Bluff Harbour Board and the Chamber of Commerce.

There are no members of the Tapley family now in Dunedin and of H.L. Tapley's family we can only advise the following:-

Reginald- died two or three years ago but his widow may still be residing at ... Hoon Hay, Christchurch with her two sons - Halcombe and Reginald.

Guy- Died 6/7/1955. He had two sons-

Richard Tapley resides at... Harwood, Christchurch

Tony farms on Banks Peninsula in the Pigeon Bay area.

Colin- went overseas acting in plays, films, etc and was latterly residing in U.K.

John- Used to work for Ballins Industries- could still be resident at...St. Albans, Christchurch

Brian- Was farming in the Ashburton area.

Jocelyn- Married K.G. King - a partner in Dalhoff and King Ltd and as Mrs K.G. King, presently resides...Wellington.

I am not sure of the whereabouts of the family of Cecil Tapley but understand his daughter married Jack HAZLETT- the former New Zealand High Commissioner in Canberra and I think E.C. Tapley was in the Christchurch area.."

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## **Spouse of Harold Livingstone TAPLEY**

### **Jean Brodie BURT ( - )**

Jean Brodie BURT was the daughter of Thomas BURT, one of the founders of the firm A & T. BURT Ltd in Dunedin.

In 1900, Jean Brodie BURT, of "Grant's Braes", Dunedin, married Harold Livingstone TAPLEY, also of Dunedin.

Over the following twenty years they had six children.

1. Reginald Livingstone TAPLEY born 1901
2. Guy Livingstone TAPLEY born 1902.
3. Colin Livingstone TAPLEY born 1905
4. John Livingstone TAPLEY born 1909.
5. Brian Livingstone TAPLEY born 1916.
6. Jocelyn TAPLEY born 1921

It is not known when Jean died, but it was prior to her husband Harold in 1932.

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#### **REFERENCES:**

See Harold Livingstone TAPLEY

**Children of Harold Livingstone and Jean Brodie TAPLEY**

**155E211 Reginald Livingstone TAPLEY (1901- c 1977)**

Reginald was born in Dunedin, New Zealand about 1901. His father was Harold Livingstone TAPLEY (1875 - 1932) and Jean Brodie TAPLEY, nee BURT. (1)

Reginald Lived at Hoon Hay, Christchurch, and married and had two children, both sons.

155E2111 Halcombe TAPLEY.

155E2112 Reginald TAPLEY.

His wife's name is not known, nor any other details, except that Reginald Livingstone TAPLEY died about 1977. (2)

No details of his children known.

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**REFERENCES:**

1. Information from I.J. FARQUHAR, and Death of H.L TAPLEY.
2. From I.J. FARQUHAR and J.A.SHARPE

**CHILDREN of Harold L and Jean B TAPLEY- Continued**

**155E212 Guy Livingstone TAPLEY (1902 - 1955)**

Guy Livingstone Tapley was born in 1902 at Dunedin, New Zealand, the second child of Harold Livingstone TAPLEY (1875-1932), and Jean Brodie TAPLEY, nee BURT.

It is not known who Guy married, but he had two sons from his marriage.

155E2121 Richard L. TAPLEY- known as Rick.

155E2122 Anthony D.L. TAPLEY- known as Tony.

Guy Livingstone TAPLEY died on 6 July 1955, aged 53 years.

No other information known at this time.

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**REFERENCES:**

All information from I.J. FARQUHAR and Death Certificate of Harold L. TAPLEY, and J.A.SHARPE.

## CHILDREN OF GUY LIVINGSTONE TAPLEY

### - 155E2121 Richard L(ivingstone?) TAPLEY

Richard L. TAPLEY was born in New Zealand, and is the son of Guy Livingstone TAPLEY.

Richard, or Rick as he is known has a Plastics Manufacturing Company in Christchurch, New Zealand, and lived at Yaldhurst Rd, Harewood , Christchurch.

He is married to Hillary.

Rick TAPLEY has Photography as a hobby.

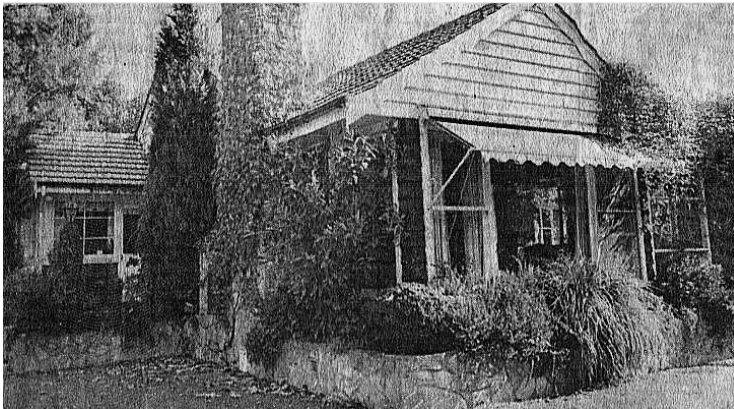
He and Hillary also collect art and antiques. Their home was featured in a Newspaper Article of 14 April 1983.

They had at least two children, names not known.

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#### REFERENCES:

Information from I.J.FARQUHAR and Clipping from the New Zealand newspaper 'THE PRESS, 14 April 1983', and J.A.SHARPE.



< Rick TAPLEY Home



**Children of Guy Livingstone TAPLEY- continued**

**155E2122 Anthony David Livingstone TAPLEY**

Anthony D. L. TAPLEY is the second son of Guy Livingstone TAPLEY.  
Born on 15 November 1928.  
He was educated at Lincoln College, New Zealand.

Lincoln College is just south of Christchurch, New Zealand, and is one of the two great agricultural Universities in New Zealand.

Tony TAPLEY was a farmer at Pigeon Bay, New Zealand, on the Banks Peninsula, and was for a time a member of the Pigeon Bay Domain Board.

He was a member of the South Island Branch of the New Zealand Protea Growers Association.

He was the father of three children.

No details known about his wife or children.

Tony died on 11 Feb 1998, and died of heart trouble following a back Operation.

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**REFERENCES:**

From I.J. FARQUHAR and Newspaper clipping, and J.A.SHARPE  
Dates of Birth and Death from Bryan TICHBORNE, Akaroa, NZ

Tony TAPLEY >



**CHILDREN OF HAROLD L AND JEAN B TAPLEY- Continued**

**155E213 Colin Livingstone TAPLEY (1905 - )**

Colin Livingstone TAPLEY was the third child of Harold Livingstone TAPLEY (1875-1932), and Jean Brodie TAPLEY, nee BURT, born in Dunedin, on 7 May 1909.

Colin was educated in New Zealand, and in the early 1930's won a contest which had as the prize a Hollywood Audition.

He was a supporting actor in several Paramount and Metro Goldwyn Mayer Films in the 1930's.

When war broke out in 1939, he went to Canada and Joined the Air force, later transferring to Britain, and served in a non-combatant role in the RAF until the end of the War.

He had taken up flying prior to the war, and because he had to parachute from an "ailing" aircraft, he became a member of the "Caterpillar Club". Membership was awarded as a small jewellery Caterpillar by the manufacturer of the Parachute to all those whose lives were saved by one of their parachutes.

Colin returned briefly to New Zealand after the war intending to settle at Wanaka., but decided to resume his acting career in films and Television.

One of his roles was in the 1954 film "The Dam Busters".

He married Patricia (Patsie) LYON, nee HAMBRO.

He retired from acting in 1983, and settled in the village of Coates in the Cotswolds in Gloucestershire, not far from the city of Cirester.

He died on 23 November 1995, and was survived by his wife, a son, and a step-daughter.

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**REFERENCE:**

Information from Newspaper clipping and I.J.FARQUHAR, and J.A.SHARPE  
Obituary Notice and dates of Birth and Death from Bryan TICHBORNE.

**155E214 John Livingstone TAPLEY (1909 - )**

John Livingstone TAPLEY was born at Dunedin New Zealand in 1909, and was the fourth child of Harold Livingstone TAPLEY (1875-1932) and Jean Brodie TAPLEY, nee BURT.

John went to work for Ballins Industries Ltd. and was living at St Albans, Christchurch.

No further details known.

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**REFERENCES:**

Information from I.J.FARQUHAR, and J.A.SHARPE

**155E215 Brian Livingstone TAPLEY (1916- )**

Brian Livingstone TAPLEY was born at Dunedin in 1916, and was the fifth child of Harold Livingstone TAPLEY (1875-1932), and Jean Brodie TAPLEY, nee BURT.

Brian went farming in the Ashburton area of the Canterbury Plains, new Zealand. He lived at Wakanui.

No further details known.

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REFERENCES:

Information from I. J. FARQUHAR, and J.A. SHARPE.

**155E216 Jocelyn TAPLEY (1921- )**

Jocelyn TAPLEY was born at Dunedin New Zealand in about 1921. Her father was Harold Livingstone TAPLEY (1875-1932), and her Mother was Jean Brodie TAPLEY, nee BURT.

Jocelyn married K.G.KING, who was a partner in the firm of Dalhoff and King Ltd.

She lives at Waikanae, Wellington, New Zealand.

No further details of her life are known.

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REFERENCES:

Information from I.J.FARQUHAR and J.A. SHARPE.