



James Morford Tapley  
1819 - 1881

## **Child of Thomas and Mary TAPLEY**

### **15515 JAMES MORFORD TAPLEY (1819 - 1881)**

James Morford TAPLEY was born on Saturday 6 March 1819 at Folkestone, Kent, in England, and was baptised there on 2 April 1819. His Father was Thomas TAPLEY (1789-1856), and his mother was Mary TAPLEY, nee MORFORD (1791-1867). (1)

Early in his life, the family moved from Folkestone to Vlissingen (Flushing), in Holland. The family moved later to Rotterdam in Holland, where they remained until about 1837.(2)

They moved back to England briefly, where on 3 July 1838, just prior to the family's departure for Australia, James, aged 19 years, was listed at Old Gravel Lane, Ratcliff Highway, with other members of the Family. James was listed as a Labourer. (3)

The Family embarked on the Ship RAJASTHAN during July 1838, and James was engaged as a Ship's Cook for the journey to Australia. On 17 July the ship sailed from St Katherine's Dock, London, and by 27 July was off Plymouth. It eventually weighed anchor on 31 July 1838, for the 108 day journey to South Australia.

By 16 August, the vessel was at the Canary Islands, and while off Tenerife a 5 month old child on board, died. James TAPLEY was selected by the Master of the ship to take the child's body ashore for burial. (4)

The RAJASTHAN arrived off Holdfast Bay, South Australia on 16 November 1838. The Tapley Family disembarked and by early 1839, had selected land for a farm they named ROSENBERG, south of Adelaide, on the hill that became known as Tapleys Hill, where they also established the Victoria Inn. (5)

By 1841 the family was well established, and in the Census taken in that year, James was listed as living in District B, and his age as under 21. He was actually aged 21 by this time. (6)

James became a Farmer by occupation, and worked on the family farm.

From time to time, inquests were held in the Victoria Inn, either in the presence of the Stipendiary Magistrate, or of the O'Halloran Hill, General Storekeeper, Thomas YOUNG, J.P. On one occasion James M. TAPLEY was the jury foreman when the body of a David DUNN was brought to the hotel in his dray, which had overturned on a stump in the road, killing him. (7)

During the 1840s, James' older brother Thomas married, and moved to Black Springs, and when their father retired to South Terrace, Adelaide during the early 1850s, James took over the family farm at Tapleys Hill.

Not far from the TAPLEY farm, George Henry SHARPE had a farm and had married James' sister Elizabeth TAPLEY. George had two sisters, probably staying with him. They were Mary and Hannah SHARPE.

On 28 September 1854, these two sisters, were to marry at a double wedding to James Morford TAPLEY and John TAPLEY (James' younger brother) respectively. James was 35 years of age, and Mary SHARPE was 24 years of age, when they married at Christ Church, Church of England, O'Halloran Hill. The minister for this occasion was the incumbent, the Rev R. STRONG. Witnesses to the marriage were--

Richard TAPLEY (an Uncle), R.E. TAPLEY (Richard Edward who was a brother of James), Kitty TAPLEY and Margaret Ann TAPLEY (younger sisters of James), and P.M. TAPLEY (possibly R.M. TAPLEY, a cousin). (8)

James and Mary TAPLEY remained living at the TAPLEY farm and over the following years were to have ten children-

155151 Lucy Jane TAPLEY, born 16 December 1855 at Tapleys Hill. (9)

155152 Alice Emma TAPLEY, born 15 October 1857. (10)

155153 Alma TAPLEY, born 16 May 1859. (11)

155154 Richard James TAPLEY, born 23 July 1861. (12)

155155 Alfred Morford TAPLEY, born 11 May 1863. (13)

155156 Arthur TAPLEY, born 13 February 1865. James was listed as a Yeoman on this occasion. (14)

155157 Mary Ellen TAPLEY, born 13 July 1867. (15)

155158 Edith TAPLEY, born 17 June 1869. (16)

155159 Thomas TAPLEY, born 12 November 1871, and died a day later on 13 November. (17)

15515A Annie Mabel TAPLEY, born 19 May 1875, the last of the children. (18)

The Tapley family attended the Christ Church, Anglican church at O'Halloran Hill, and in 1869, James Morford TAPLEY was appointed as a sidesman at Christ Church. He was also on the Committee which worked for the establishment of the Christ Church Day School. (19)

On 28 April 1880, James was a witness at the marriage of his daughter Lucy to William Shakespeare GARDNER. (20)

Just over a year later, James Morford TAPLEY died at the age of 62 years on 30 July 1881, at his home at Tapleys Hill. The cause of his death was given as Gout, and he was listed as gentleman on the Death Certificate. The undertaker was J.M. SHEPHERD of Darlington. (21)

He was survived by his widow, Mary, and 9 children, the youngest, Annie Mabel, was only 6 years old at the time.

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#### REFERENCES--

- 1 Information from Family Bible and S E TAPLEY.
- 2 See life of his father (Thomas TAPLEY).
3. RAJASTHAN Booklet, by Helen Scarborough.
4. Ibid.pp 8-11
- 5 Pioneers Priests and People, by Alice MILLER
6. S A ARCHIVES-CENSUS 1841
7. History of Marion on the Sturt, Alison DOLLING,p21
8. Marriage Certificates of James and Mary, and John and Hannah.
- 9 SA. BDM Microfiche, and S.E.TAPLEY
- 10 Ibid
- 11 Ibid
- 12 Birth Certificate of Richard James TAPLEY
- 13 Birth Certificate of Alfred Morford TAPLEY.
- 14 Birth Certificate of Arthur TAPLEY
- 15 Info from S.E.TAPLEY
- 16 Ibid
- 17 Ibid
- 18 Ibid
- 19 Pioneers Priests and People page 14.
- 20 Marriage Certificate of Lucy Jane TAPLEY
- 21 Death Certificate of James Morford TAPLEY

## James Morford TAPLEY- References

### MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE

1854 Marriages in the District of Christ Church OHalloran Hill

No.....	15		
When Married.....	28 September 1854		
Where.....	Christ Church, OHalloran Hill		
Names.....	James Morford TAPLEY	Mary SHARPE	
Age.....	Of Full age	Of Full Age	
Rank.....	Farmer	----	
Description.....	Bachelor	Spinster	
Clergyman.....	R STRONG, Incumbent		
When Registered...	October 29		
Registrar.....	R. STRONG, Incumbent		
Witnesses.....	Richd TAPLEY	R.E. TAPLEY	
	P. M. TAPLEY	Kitty TAPLEY	
	Margaret Ann TAPLEY		

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### DEATH CERTIFICATE

1881 District of Adelaide

No	396
When Died.....	30 July 1881
Name.....	James Morford TAPLEY
Sex & Age.....	M 62 yrs
Rank.....	Gentleman
Usual Residence...	Tapleys Hill
Cause of Death....	Gout
Place of Death....	Tapleys Hill
Informant.....	J.M. SHEPHERD, Undertaker, Darlington.
Registered.....	3 August 1881
Registrar.....	John PLUNKETT.

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Mary Sharpe  
1830 - 1893

## **SPOUSE OF James Morford TAPLEY**

### **Mary SHARPE (1830 - 1893)**

Mary SHARPE was born at Sandy Bay, Tasmania on 13 September 1830, and was baptized at St David's Church, Hobart on 17 October 1830. Her Father was James SHARP(E), (1767-1840), a settler of Sandy Bay, and her mother was Hannah (1798-1818).<sup>1</sup>

Mary was only 9 years old when her father died at Sandy Bay in May 1840.<sup>2</sup>

Her mother, Hannah married a James BALDWIN in December 1841.<sup>3</sup>

Some time during the next ten years, Mary went to South Australia, where her brother, George Henry SHARPE had settled following the death of their father. It was possibly on 4 May 1845, on the Schooner 'SISTER' As a Mary SHARP reported as arrived on the that day from Hobart, Tasmania.<sup>4</sup>

Mary would have been 15 years of age at this time, and she undoubtedly stayed with her brother George at Tapleys Hill where his farm was located near that of the TAPLEY Family. Her sister Hannah, a couple of years younger, also came to South Australia.<sup>5</sup>

The TAPLEY and SHARPE Families became connected when Mary's brother George, married Elizabeth TAPLEY in 1848.<sup>6</sup>

Both Mary and Hannah SHARPE were to also marry into the TAPLEY Family, when on 28 September 1854, Mary, of full age (24), married James Morford TAPLEY, of full age (35), a farmer, at Christ Church, Church of England, O'Halloran Hill. The officiating minister was the incumbent of the Church, Rev R. STRONG. Witnesses were members of the TAPLEY family.<sup>7</sup>

8 On the same day, probably in a double Ceremony, her younger sister Hannah married John TAPLEY.

Mary and her husband James continued to live at Tapley's Hill, and had ten Children over the following years-

1. Lucy Jane TAPLEY born 1855.
2. Alice Emma TAPLEY born 1857.
3. Alma TAPLEY born 1859.
4. Richard James TAPLEY born 1861.
5. Alfred Morford TAPLEY born 1863.
6. Arthur TAPLEY born 1865.
7. Mary Ellen TAPLEY, born 1867.
8. Edith TAPLEY born 1869.
9. Thomas TAPLEY born 1871, and only lived a day.
- A. Annie Mabel TAPLEY born 1875.<sup>9</sup>

Mary and James M TAPLEY were active members of the Christ Church congregation.

Her husband, James, died of Gout, on 30 July 1881 at Tapleys Hill, aged 62 years, and was buried in the Church Cemetery at O'Halloran Hill.<sup>10</sup>

Mary was appointed during 1885 to the Ladies Committee of Christ Church, at O'Halloran Hill.<sup>11</sup>

Some time in the following years, Mary left Tapleys Hill and went to live at Glenelg, where on 24 April 1893, she died at the age of 63 years, of a Cerebral Haemorrhage.<sup>12</sup>

Mary was buried with her husband in the church graveyard at O'Halloran Hill, S Aust. The Tombstone Inscription giving her age at death as only 58yrs.<sup>13</sup>

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## REFERENCES-

1. Tasmania Archives query 81/1106
2. Death of James SHARP(E).
3. Marriage of Hannah to James BALDWIN
4. South Australian Newspaper- 9 May 1845.
5. From Life of George Henry SHARPE.
6. Marriage of George to Elizabeth TAPLEY
7. Marriage of Mary SHARPE to James M TAPLEY
8. Marriage of Hannah SHARPE to John TAPLEY.
9. See references under James Morford TAPLEY
10. Death Certificate of James M TAPLEY
11. Pioneers Priests and People- page 54
12. Death Certificate of Mary TAPLEY
13. Graveyard Inscription.

## References-Mary TAPLEY (nee SHARPE)

### DEATH CERTIFICATE

1893.....District of ADELAIDE  
When Died.....24 April 1893  
Name.....Mary TAPLEY  
Sex and Age.....F 58yrs  
Rank.....Widow of James Morford TAPLEY, Farmer  
Usual Residence.....Glenelg  
Cause of Death.....Cerebral Haemorrhage  
Place of Death.....Glenelg  
Informant.....J. E. GIBSON, Undertaker, Glenelg  
Registrar.....W. HITCHENS  
Registered.....28 April 1893  
District Registrar.....Adrian J. KORFF

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### TOMBSTONE INSCRIPTION

Christ Church Cemetery, O'Halloran Hill

IN LOVING REMEMBRANCE OF  
JAMES MORFORD TAPLEY  
Died July 31st 1881  
Aged 63 years  
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"For Ever With The Lord"  
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Also  
MARY  
Beloved wife of the above  
Died April 24th 1893, Aged 58  
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In the midst of life we are in death  
Also  
RICHARD JAMES  
Eldest Son of above  
And husband of Sarah Tapley  
Died 8 December 1926  
Aged 65 years  
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Resting

SARAH JANE  
Wife of Above  
Died 21 November 1952  
Aged 86 years.  
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