Captain
William Stevenson TAPLEY
1813-1867

CAPE BORDA LIGHTHOUSE

Cape Borda Lighthouse in about 1900

Troubridge Light

William Stevenson TAPLEY was a Light Keeper at Troubridge Shoal when he drowned nearby at what became called Tapley Shoal.

155D WILLIAM STEVENSON TAPLEY (1813 - 1867)

William Stevenson TAPLEY was born in 1813, at Folkestone, and was baptized there on 11 July 1813. He was the thirteenth child of Richard TAPLEY (1770 - 1824), and Elizabeth TAPLEY, nee STEVENSON. (1)

William grew up in Folkestone, and he also took up a sea-faring career, becoming a sea Captain, and eventually he also settled in South Australia.

W. TAPLEY was a passenger on the Brig "DORSET", from Sydney arriving at Port Adelaide on 5 April 1840. The captain of the DORSET was a Captain J. ROBERTSON, and his vessel was a Brig of 81 tons. (2)

In the Census returns of 1841, he was shown as (along with his brother John) as living in the Port Adelaide District, and aged between 20 and 35 years. He would actually have been 27 years of age at this time. (3)

He was the Master of the following vessels in the Coastal and inter-colonial trade over the next few years.

In 1847 he was Master of the "Empress" from King George Sound and Swan River.

In 1849, he was master of the "BREEZE", and in 1852 to 1854 was the master of the "YATALA".(4)

The BREEZE was a 1-masted Cutter of 18 tons, and was built at Port Adelaide in 1848 . (5)

The YATALA was a schooner and it was used to serve the light at Cape Borda with mail and supplies, and also other lighthouses at Rivoli Bay and Cape Northumberland. (6)

William gave up sea-faring and also entered the service of the Maritime Board as a Light Keeper, and by 1862 was a Lighthouse Keeper at Cape Borda, on Kangaroo Island. (7)

The Cape Borda Lighthouse, officially known as the Flinders Light, was housed in a square masonry building which seems a surprisingly low structure for a lighthouse. The height of the site upon which it is built makes a high tower un-necessary, as the light is 510 feet above sea level and is visible for at least 30 miles. (8)

The light was lit at Cape Borda, on 13 July 1858. The light was alternately red and white, revolving one complete turn each minute. Three keepers tended the light, which consumed about 55 gallons of oil each month. (9).

The first head light keeper, Captain WOODWARD, tripped over a stump on August 12 1858, and had his right eye pierced and he died in September as a result. (10).

William was subsequently made Head Keeper at Cape Borda, and in 1860, when the Barque 'Fides' a vessel of 387 tons was wrecked at Snug Cove near Cape Borda on 22 May 1860. The survivors set out for the Cape Borda Lighthouse, some 15 miles distant, on 25 May 1860.

" … The distance as the crow flies was about 15 miles, but they made at least 20 of it, and had to pass two nights in the bush, living all the while on mutton and herrings. At 10 o'clock on Sunday 27th, they arrived, and were treated kindly by the men in charge, who, till that moment, knew nothing of the wreck. The names of the lighthouse keepers were, William Tapley, head keeper, Charles Johnson, 2nd keeper, Andrew Porteus, and Thomas Oman.

"At 9.30 am on Monday 28th, Mr Tapley, accompanied by the five shipwrecked men, left Harvey's Return for the scene of the disaster, which was at Snug Cove, 15 miles from the Cape Borda Lighthouse. At 3pm they arrived at the scene of the wreck. Proceeding along the rocks they could only find one of the bodies, which they interred using some of the fragments of the wreck, and surrounded it with large stones, some distance up the cliff. The vessel had broken up in small fragments…." – Kangaroo Island Shipwrecks, by Gifford D. Chapman-Roebuck Books, page 11 - 1973

William was a Lighthouse Keeper at Cape Borda, by 1862, as that was his occupation on 8 April 1862, when he married Henrietta CRANSTON, at St John's Church of England, Halifax Street, Adelaide. Henrietta was aged 19 years of Norwood, and William's age is recorded as 38 years, which is incorrect as he would have been 48 years of age at the time.

The Incumbent minister of the Church, B.J.H. HOBETION (?), performed the ceremony. Witnesses were Franny CRANSTON of Norwood (Henrietta's sister) and M. CRANSTON, publican, Norwood (her father). (11).

William was stationed shortly thereafter to the Light Ship at Port Adelaide, and they were living here by July 1864, when their only child was born.

155D1 Blanche Edith TAPLEY, was born on 25 July 1864. (12)

Soon after this William became Second Light Keeper at the Troubridge Shoal Lighthouse, and he was there by 1867.

Troubridge Shoal was discovered by Captain Matthew FLINDERS, and he named the Shoal after Admiral TROUBRIDGE. Two ships were lost on the Shoal in 1838, The Brig DART, and the PARSEE from Hobart with general cargo and thirty passengers. The RAPID went to the rescue of the PARSEE, and only one life was lost. The wreck of the Barque SULTANA in 1849, on the shore end of the Shoal (now Sultana Point), was the first of a series of half a dozen groundings which resulted in the erection of the Lighthouse in 1856. The Lighthouse was fully manned and homes were provided for the two keepers and their families. (13)

It was while stationed here as the Second Light Keeper, that William TAPLEY lost his life.
On 20 March 1867, William TAPLEY, aged 53 years, died of drowning caused when the boat he was in was upset in the Gulf of St. Vincent. His death was not officially registered with the registrar at Adelaide until some 5 years later. It was notified on 16 February 1872, by his nephew Daniel Thomas TAPLEY of Adelaide. (14)
It is quite likely that he lost his life in the vicinity of the Shoal 5 miles North East of Troubridge Shoal, that is named TAPLEY Shoal, probably after William. Tapley Shoal is mentioned in the Glenelg Historic Guide of 1883, as 29 miles West by South from Glenelg.
It is marked on the Admiralty Charts as about 5 miles N.E. of the old Troubridge Light. (15)

William was survived by his wife Henrietta, and daughter Blanche. Henrietta was to later marry again.

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REFERENCES:-

1. Information from Stuart E. TAPLEY
2. Early S.A. Records Prior to 1841, by E.A.D.OPIE, page 94
3. Information from Dr. R. SAWERS
4. Ibid, and HODGE Index
5. Port Lincoln Shipping, by Ronald PARSONS,
   p. 63
6. Kangaroo Island Past and Present p 39,
   and Lighthouses of South Australia-
   R.PARSONS, p5
7. Marriage Certificate
8. Kangaroo Island, by F.H. BAUER ,p.21
9. LightHouses of South Australia- R.PARSONS, p 5
10. Kangaroo Island Past and Present, p 39
11. Marriage Certificate of William TAPLEY
12. Birth Certificate of Blanche Edith TAPLEY
13. Yorke Peninsula Sketchbook ,p 26,27
14. Death Certificate of William TAPLEY
15. Admiralty Chart for Gulf of St Vincent

References for William S. TAPLEY

CERTIFICATE INFORMATION:

Marriage Certificate: (Index Ref 99 0049 195)
No 12 of 1862........   District of St. John's Adelaide
When Married........   .8 April 1862
Names................   William TAPLEY   Henrietta
                                                        CRANSTON
Age.................   38 years (sic)   19 years
Trade...............   Lighthouse Keeper   -----
Residence...........   Cape Borda   Norwood
Father..............   Richard TAPLEY   Matthew
                                                        CRANSTON
Place celebrated.....   St. John's Church
Witnesses...........   M. CRANSTON   Franny
                                                        CRANSTON
                            Publican   ----
                            Norwood   Norwood
Minister.............   D.J.H. HOBETION (?), Incumbent of St
                                Johns
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Death Certificate:-
1872 District of Adelaide (Index Ref 99 0045 405)
When died..........   20 March 1867
Name...............   .William TAPLEY
Sex and age........   Male   53 years
Trade or calling....   Second keeper of Troubridge Lighthouse
Usual Residence.....   Troubridge Lighthouse
Cause of Death......   Drowned by upsetting boat
Place of Death......   Gulf of St Vincent
Informant...........   Daniel Thomas TAPLEY of Adelaide
Registrar...........   John RIPPON, 16 February 1872.
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EXTRAXT FROM CHART SHOWING LOCATION OF TAPLEY SHOAL.
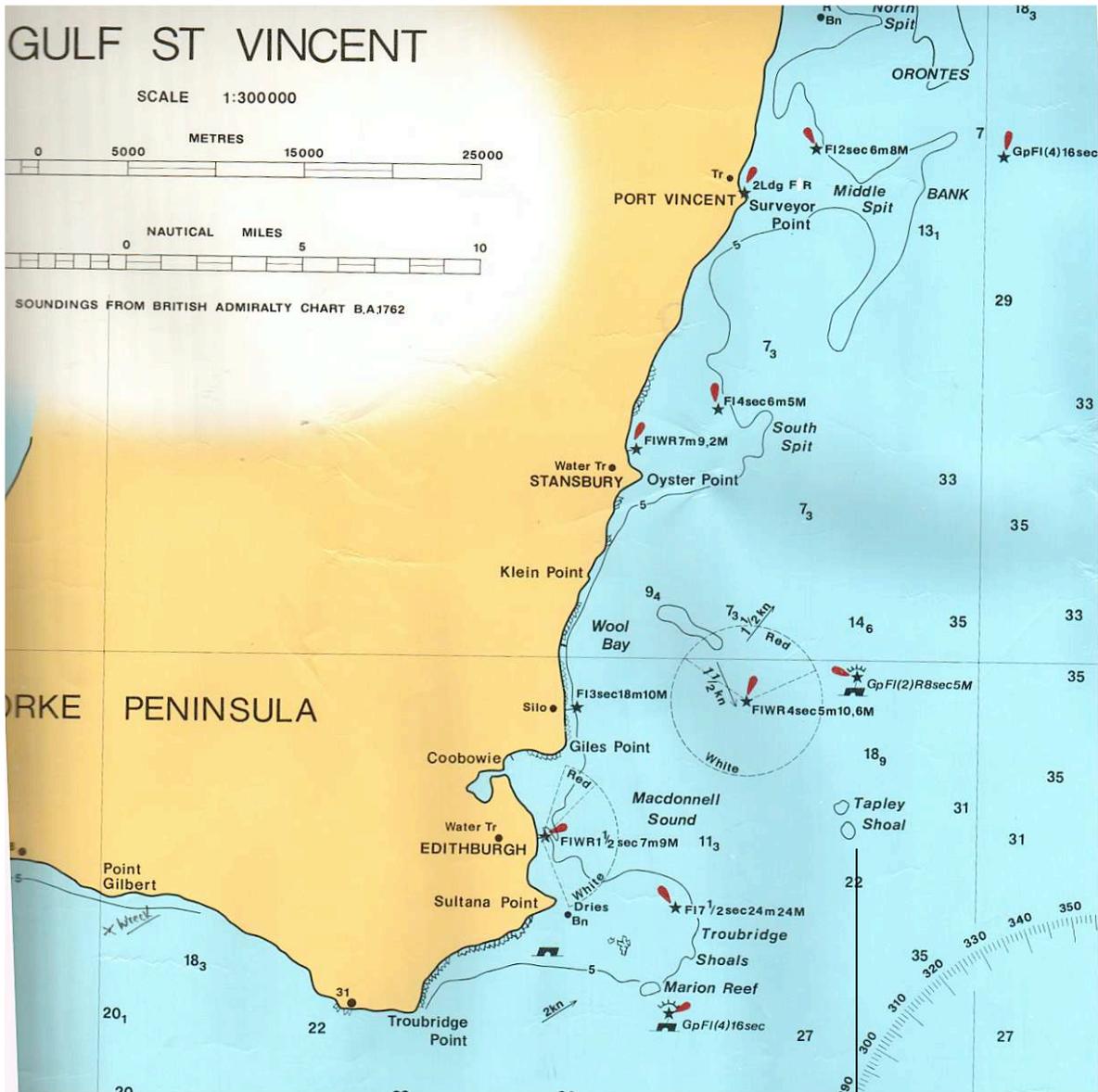
Tapley Shoal

Spouse of William Stevenson TAPLEY

Henrietta CRANSTON (1843 - 1883)

Henrietta CRANSTON was born in County Wicklow, Ireland on 20 November 1842. Her father was Matthew CRANSTON (1818- 1893), and her mother was Henrietta CRANSTON, nee BUNN (1819 - 1901).
The family arrived in South Australia in the ship CONSTANT in 1849. (1).

The Ship CONSTANT was a vessel of 535 tons, 3-masted ship rigged. It was built in 1843. It had left Plymouth on 9 September and arrived Port Adelaide on 23 December 1849. It was later wrecked at Portland, Victoria in 1855 while loading wool. (2)

Her father was variously a Publican, Surveyor, Teacher and Council Clerk. The family were living at Norwood, S.Aust in 1862.(3)
On 8 April 1862, Henrietta CRANSTON, 19 years, of Norwood, married William TAPLEY, aged 48 years a Lighthouse keeper of Cape Borda, at St John's Church, Adelaide.The minister was the incumbent of the church. Witnesses were M. CRANSTON, publican, Norwood, (her father), and Franny CRANSTON, (her sister Frances). (4)

By 1864, Henrietta and William were living at the Light ship off Port Adelaide, when their only child was born.

Blanche Edith TAPLEY was born on 25 July 1864.   (5)

Soon after this William became the Second Light Keeper on Troubridge Shoal, and it was here on 20 March 1867, that he was drowned when the boat he was in became upset. (6)

Henrietta was only 24 years of age at this time and now a widow with a child. It seems likely that she went to live with her family for a time following the death of her husband William. They were living at this time at Lyndoch, South Australia. (7)

It was here at Lyndoch, just over a year after her husband William's death, that Henrietta TAPLEY, widow, of Lyndoch Valley, married again. She married Edward KAESEHAGEN, of full age, a butcher of Tanunda at Trinity Church in the Lyndoch Valley, on 23 March 1868. The minister was Henry READ, M.A., the Incumbent of the church, Witnesses were Grizelda CRANSTON of Lyndoch,(her sister), M. CRANSTON, gentleman of Lyndoch,(her father), and Charles KAESEHAGEN, butcher of Lyndoch,(brother of Edward). (8)

From the Biographical Index of South Australians, it appears that Edward and Henrietta KAESEHAGEN, had two children.
They named them George KAESEHAGEN
        and Walter Scott KAESEHAGEN. (9)

Henrietta KAESEHAGEN died in 1883. (10)

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REFERENCES:-
    1.   Biographical Index of South Australians
    2.   Migrant Ships for South Australia, R.
            PARSONS p 87
    3.   Biog. Index, and Marriage Certificate
    4.   Marriage Certificate of Henrietta CRANSTON.
    5.   Birth Certificate of Blanche Edith TAPLEY
    6.   Death Certificate of William TAPLEY

7.   Marriage Certificate of Henrietta TAPLEY
8.   Ibid
9.   Biographical Index of South
      Australians,p872
10.   Ibid. p 872

REFERENCES FOR HENRIETTA CRANSTON---

Marriage Certificate:-
 To William TAPLEY - See William TAPLEY

Marriage Certificate:

1868.... Married in the District of Barossa, South Australia

No.................1

When married........	23 March 1868		
Names...............	Edward KAESEHAGEN	Henrietta TAPLEY	
Age.................	Full	Full	
Condition..........	Bachelor	Widow	
Trade or calling...	.Butcher	-----	
Residence...........	Tanunda	Lynedoch Valley (sic)	
Father..............	Leopold KAESEHAGEN	Matthew CRANSTON	
Place celebrated....	Trinity Church, Lyndoch Valley		
Witnesses......	Grizelda CRANSTON	Charles KAESEHAGEN	M.CRANSTON
	------	Butcher	Gentleman
	Lyndoch	Lyndoch	Lyndoch
Minister............	Henry READ, M.A., Incumbent		

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KAESEHAGEN, Edward   occ: Butcher res:Nuriootpa
m:23.3.1868/9 SA Mrs Henrietta TAPLEY nee
CRANSTON par: Matthew and Henrietta nee BUNN
b:20.11.1842 IRL d:1883 ch: Geo, Walter Scott

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CRANSTON Matthew par: John W.
b:23.4.1818 WIC IRL d:2.12.1893 Norwood SA
bd: Payneham SA   arr: 1849 CONSTANT
occ: Surveyor, Teacher, Council Clerk
res: Kapunda, Unley, Norwood
m:24.1.1838 Henrietta nee BUNN b:28.2.1819 IRL
d: 1.11.1901 Parkside SA occ: Teacher
ch: Frances OLIVER (1838 -), Henrietta TAPLEY,
KAESEHAGEN (1842-1883), Griselda SOBELS (1844-),
John Wm. (1846 -1867), Eliz. MUNT (1848-1921),
Matthew (1850-1926), Chas Edgar(1852-1935),
Emily (1855-1856), Walter Scott (1858-19?),
Florence Edith WEISE (1860-19 ?).
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Reference to some of these CRANSTON Children can be found also in the Biographical Index of South Australians.

155D1 BLANCHE EDITH TAPLEY (1864 -   ?)

Blanche Edith TAPLEY was born at Adelaide, South Australia on 25 July 1864. Her Father was William TAPLEY (1813-1867), Mariner of Light Ship , and her mother was Henrietta TAPLEY, nee CRANSTON (1842-1883). Her father William notified the birth on 1 August 1864. (1)

Blanche Edith TAPLEY, married about 1890 at the age of 26 years to John Albert MOORE, 27 years . John, and Engineman by trade, was the son of George Jackson MOORE and Eliza MOORE, nee GIBBS. No record of the marriage in South Australia is recorded in the Indexes. (2)

Blanche and John had 6 children over the following years between 1890 and 1900

155D11	Albert Edward MOORE, born on 3 November 1890 at Murray Bridge,
155D12	Unrecorded name, Male, born 19 November 1891 at Murray Bridge.
155D13	Muriel Tapley MOORE born 13 December 1893 at Murray Bridge.
155D14	Edith Blanche Vera MOORE born 30 June 1898 at Murray Bridge.
155D15	Edna Blanche MOORE born 30 Jun 1899 at Murray Bridge
155D16	Walter John MOORE, born 16 October 1900 at Murray Bridge (3)

Her husband John died on 27 April 1942 in the District of Hindmarsh. (4)

Blanche Edith MOORE died at the age of 79 years on 9 August 1943 in Adelaide, South Australia (5)

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REFERENCE:-
1. Birth Certificate of Blanche Edith TAPLEY
2. From Birth Records of Family
3. BDM References for Births of the Children.
4. BDM Death Reference 649/2031 District 2- 27.4.1942
5. BDM Reference – 666/3955 Dist 1- 9.8.1943

BIRTH CERTIFICATE DETAILS

No 1983 of 1864........   District of Adelaide
When born..............   25 July 1864
Name...................   Blanche Edith
Sex....................   Female
Father.................   William TAPLEY
Mother................   Henrietta TAPLEY formerly CRANSTON
Rank of Father.........   Mariner
Res of parents.........   Light Ship
Notified by............   William TAPLEY of Light Ship in the
                           District of Adelaide.
Registered.............   1 August 1864
Registrar..............   J. RIPPON.
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CHILDREN OF BLANCHE EDITH AND JOHN ALBERT MOORE

155D11 Albert Edward MOORE (1890-

Albert was born on 3 November 1890 at Murray BRIDGE

155D12 Un-named Son (1891-)

This child was born at Murray Bridge on 19 November 1891

155D13 Muriel Tapley MOORE (1893-

Muriel Tapley MOORE was born on 13 December 1893 at Murray Bridge.

155D14 Edith Blanche Vera MOORE (1898-

Edith Blanche Vera Moore born at Murray Bridge on 30 June 1898

155D15 Edna Blanche MOORE (1899-

Edna Blanche MOORE born on 3o June 1899 at Murray Bridge.

155D16 Walter John MOORE (1900-

Walter John MOORE was born on 16 October 1900 at Murray Bridge

No further detail on these children known

Information from BDM REFERENCES