

15511 RICHARD EDWARD TAPLEY (1811-1891)

Richard Edward TAPLEY was born at Dover in the County of Kent, England in 1811, being baptized there on 27 December 1811. His father was Thomas TAPLEY (1789-1856), and his mother was Mary TAPLEY, nee MORFORD (1791-1867). (1)

Richard was brought up for the first few years of his life in the sea-side towns of Dover and Folkestone, in Kent, and later at Vlissingen in Holland, when his parents and the family moved there about 1820. His father was a Baker at Vlissingen(also known as Flushing).(2)

Richard went to sea early in life, and followed that occupation for several years, becoming skilled in the art of navigation during this time.

After his years at sea, Richard settled on the island of Mauritius in the Indian Ocean, taking up trading interests there.(3)

MAURITIUS- is an island in the Indian Ocean. It is a volcanic island fringed with coral reefs, and is about 550 miles east of the Malagasy Republic. It has an area of 720 square miles. Its capital is Port Louis, and it was formerly a British Crown Colony. The economy depends upon the sugar crop, sugar accounting for about 95% of its exports. The island was discovered by the portuguese in 1505, and was held by the Dutch from 1598 to 1710, and it was they who named it Mauritius. From 1715-1810 it was held by the French, and they named it Ile de France. It was ceded to the British in the year 1814. (4)

After being in the trading business on Mauritius for several years, Richard TAPLEY became a teacher to the natives there, and continued in this line of work for about seven years. During this time the emancipation of the natives from slavery took place there. (5)

Whether Richard returned to England or not after the time he spent on Mauritius, I do not know, but he met and married his first wife in Port Louis, Mauritius in 1836.

According to the Register of Acts of Civil Status of the District of Port Louis, Mauritius of 1836 -

At the administration office of Curl in Port Louis, on the morning of 7 July 1836, Richard TAPLEY, clerk, born at Dover on 2 December 1811, married Arabella McDONALD, widow, daughter of John McDONALD, born at Berampure, India on 13 June 1908. Performing the Ceremony was Jean Baptiste Marie ROMEFORT, Commissioner of Curl at Port Louis. Witnesses were the bride's father John McDONALD, William George BLACKBURN, Govt employee aged 54, Henry Hunt FURY, Govt Employee aged 48, Henry GRUSS, Naval Officer age 21, and James WHITE, Corporal in the 22nd British Regiment, aged 29, all residents of Mauritius. (6)

Richard and Arabella had only one known child, and he was born in 1837.

155111 John Edward TAPLEY was born in 1837, on Mauritius. (7)

Richard and his family emigrated to Adelaide, South Australia in the early 1840s, about 1843/44 where he took up farming for a couple of years, and was established in South Australia by 1844. (8)

After a couple of years at farming, Richard became aware of the lack of any Fire Insurance Company in the city of Adelaide, so he conceived the idea of forming a Company.

After some initial difficulties, he succeeded in establishing the South Australian Mutual Fire Insurance Company, which was the first Mutual Insurance Company to be formed in the colonies.

Business was started on 8 May 1846, and was begun without any capital beyond the Premiums promised by various citizens, which were allowed to accumulate. On 1 September 1846, they were collected, and the first batch of policies (30 in number) were issued. The Company continued to become a great success and Marine Insurance was soon added. (9)

In about the year 1848, Richard Edward TAPLEY was appointed as Relieving Officer to the South Australian Colonial Storekeeper, a position that he held for some years. (10)

Richard was also appointed as Secretary to the Destitute Board, and was also Assistant Clerk to Mr. MOORHOUSE in the Orphan Department.

In June 1851, Richard resigned as Assistant Clerk of the Orphan Board, due to his changed status in the Destitute Board of which he was Secretary. He also had to move onto the premises to personally Superintend the operations of the new Asylum. He gave this as the reason for his resignation. (11)

On 28 September 1854, Richard was a witness to the marriages of two of his brothers at Christ Church (Anglican), O'Halloran Hill. His brother James Morford TAPLEY married Mary SHARPE, and his brother John TAPLEY married Hannah, the sister of Mary SHARPE. (12)

On 29 December 1854, Richard applied for the position of Colonial Storekeeper, following the retirement of Thomas GILBERT. Richard was at the time the Relieving Officer for the position, and was still the Secretary of the Destitute Board. (13)

On 25 December 1857, Richard Edward TAPLEY, Accountant of Adelaide, was a witness at the marriage of his son John Edward TAPLEY, to Ellen Masters BAKER, at Hillside House, Morphett Vale. This was the residence of Ellen's father, the Reverend Edward BAKER, who had been a minister at Madagascar, and possibly Richard had known the BAKER Family from his years in Mauritius. (14)

On 6 September 1864, Richard registered the Death of His Grand-daughter Ruth Evelyn TAPLEY (daughter of John and Ellen). The death of Ruth occurred the previous day of Bronchitis, at Morphett Vale. (15)

On 19 June 1869, Richard was living at Norwood, when he registered the Birth of his niece, Mary Frances TAPLEY. Mary was the daughter of his Brother John of Wartaka Station near Port Augusta at this time. (16)

Richard's wife Arabella, had contracted Paralysis, and died at their home at Kent Town, South Australia at the age of 70 years on 22 May 1875. Richard was described as an Accountant still at this time. (17)

Richard wasted no time in getting married again, as about six weeks later on 8 July 1875, Richard Edward TAPLEY, Widower, Accountant of Adelaide, married Emma Elizabeth WHITEHORN, of full age, spinster of Adelaide, at St Paul's Church, Adelaide. The Minister was the Rev RUSSELL, and witnesses were Wm. FISK, Plumber of Adelaide, and Jessie RUSSELL, of St Paul's Vicarage. (18)

Richard was 64 years of age at this time, and Emma was only about 17 years old at this time. (19)

In 1881, on his 70th birthday, Richard was presented with a portrait of himself, depicting him lecturing on Navigation, and a complimentary Address by the Directors and Shareholders of the South Australian Insurance Company of which he was still the Secretary. (20)

Richard had retained his interest in the sea, and delivered some "excellent lectures" on the "science of navigation". (21)

By 1883, Richard Edward TAPLEY, Accountant of Adelaide, was residing at Saltram Road Glenelg. (22)

By 1891, he had moved back into the city of Adelaide. In the Public Streets Register, TAPLEY Street, in the City of Adelaide was named in October of 1872, by one of the abutting owners, but no record of who and why. (23)
It seems likely that this was Richard Edward TAPLEY.

Tapley Street is located just off King William Street, along Gilbert Street, Adelaide.

Richard Edward TAPLEY died on 7 June 1891, at the age of 79 years, of Acute Cystitis, and Uraemia, at his home in Adelaide, described as "off King William Street, Zony Ward" on his death certificate. He was described as gentleman at the time of his death. The Undertaker was J.E. ASHBY of Goodwood, and the death was registered by F. LEAK with the District of Adelaide Registrar, Adrian J. KORFF on 10 June 1891. (24)

Richard Edward TAPLEY is buried in the Family Grave at West Terrace Cemetery. (25)

He was survived by his widow Emma Elizabeth TAPLEY.

REFERENCES:-

1. Information from S.E.TAPLEY and J.A. SHARPE.
2. See Thomas TAPLEY.
3. Clipping about Richard E. TAPLEY
4. Penguin Encyclopedia of Places.
5. Clipping about R.E.TAPLEY
6. Marriage extract- 1836, Vol 1, Folio 16
District of Port Louis, Mauritius.
7. Marriage of John Edward TAPLEY

8. Clipping of R.E.TAPLEY
9. Ibid.
10. Letter of R.E.TAPLEY to A/g Governor
FINNISS.
11. Letter of R.E.TAPLEY to Mr MOORHOUSE-1851
12. Marriages of James and John TAPLEY.
13. Letter of R.E.TAPLEY to a/g Governor
FINNISS.
14. Marriage of John Edward TAPLEY.
15. Death Certificate of Ruth Evelyn TAPLEY.
16. Birth Certificate of Mary Frances TAPLEY.
17. Death Certificate of Arabella TAPLEY.
18. Marriage of Richard to Emma E. WHITEHORN.
19. Marriage of Emma to William NOVICE.
20. Clipping of R.E.TAPLEY
21. Representative Men of S.Aust- G.F. LOYAU
22. Glenelg Historic Guide & Directory 1883.
23. Letter from Advertiser-"What's Your
Problem"
24. Death Certificate of Richard Edward TAPLEY
25. West Terrace Cemetery Microfiche . Gravestone Inscriptions.

RICHARD E. TAPLEY - REFERENCES

CERTIFICATE INFORMATION

FIRST MARRIAGE

MARRIAGE EXTRACT-Port Louis, Mauritius (Translation from French supplied by Mrs Phyllis OAKES)

District of Port LOUIS Mauritius - 1836 Vol. 1 Folio 16.

ACTE DE MARIAGE

At the administration office of Curl in the town of Port Louis 7 July 1836 in the morning.

Marriage between

Richard Tapley, clerk, born at Dover in England, elder son, legitimate of Mr Thomas Tapley and Mrs Mary (illegible) and Belle McDonald, widow of Sergeant Rittefort of the 36th British Regiment, born at Berampure in India, elder daughter, legitimate, of Mr John McDonald and Mrs Mary Hannummer, in the presence of witnesses, afternamed and undersigned asked to witness their marriage.

Having seen the Publications (banns?) of their promise to marry, made without opposition, at the administration office at Curl, Residence of the contracted ones under the dates of Sunday 26th June last and the 3 preceding.

The act of evidence for the supplying to him the written certificate of the contracted ones passed by the justice of the peace of this town on 8th June last, of which he stated that Richard Tapley was born on 2nd November 1811 and that he has not been previously married, that the birth of the contracted one (Belle) was 13 June 1808.

According to Chapter 6 of the act of marriage given by the undersigned administration office, according to the law.

The two present declared to take in marriage..

Richard Tapley - Belle McDonald for his wife, and

Belle McDonald - Richard Tapley fir her husband.

in presence of and with the consent of the bride's father,

Mr William George Blackburn, employee of the government aged 54 years,

Henry Hunt Fury, employee of the government aged 48 years,

Henry GRUSSES, Naval Officer aged 21 years, and

James White, Corporal in the 22nd British Regiment aged 29 years, all residents of the island (Mauritius).

After which declaration we, Jean Baptiste Marie Romefort, Commissioner/Administrator of Curl at Port Louis, performing the functions of a civil officer have declared in the name of the law that the couple are united in marriage. The witnesses have signed with us after declring that the father of the contactante had avowed that he knew of this act.

SIGNED by () Mcdonald , Richard Tapley, W.G. Blackburn, Henry H.Fury, Henry gruss, James White

Reference: REPRESENTATIVE MEN OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA (1883), by G.E. LOYAU

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TAPLEY, R. E.

An early colonist, and one of the founders of the South Australian Insurance Company, of which he is still Secretary. On attaining his 70th birthday, Mr TAPLEY was presented by the Directors and Shareholders of the Company with a fine oil-painting of himself, and a complementary address. Mr. TAPLEY in early life was associated with the sea-faring profession, and the science of navigation, on which he has delivered some excellent lectures, is his favourite study. The South Australian Insurance Company, with which he has been connected since its commencement, has ever since been one of the most prosperous Societies in the colony.

CLIPPING about R.E. TAPLEY

RICHARD EDWARD TAPLEY is one of the early arrivals in the colony, and the son of a still earlier colonist, his father being Thomas TAPLEY, who arrived from England in 1837, and settled down as a farmer at Tapley's Hill. The subject of this sketch was born at Dover in 1811, and in his early life followed the sea for a number of years, during which period he settled in Mauritius in trade, subsequently becoming a teacher to the natives for about seven years. He arrived in Adelaide in 1844, and began farming. Two years afterwards, seeing the absence of any Fire Insurance Company in the city, he conceived the idea of forming a company, and after some trouble succeeded in organizing the South Australian Mutual Fire Insurance Company, which undoubtedly was the first Mutual Insurance Company to start in the colonies, if not the first in the world on these principles. Business was started on the 8th May, 1846, and simply began without any capital beyond the premiums promised by various citizens, which were allowed to accumulate, when, on 1st September, 1846, they were collected, and the first batch of 30 policies issued. The company has had an uninterrupted career of success, though from time to time, many changes have been made, and Marine Insurance added. Now it has a paid up capital of 162,500, with a Reserve Fund of \$50,000, all accumulated from profits, besides paying dividends regularly to shareholders. This successful undertaking will of necessity perpetuate Mr TAPLEY's name to future generations. He is now held in especial esteem by the community, and on his 70th birthday was presented with a portrait of himself, depicted as lecturing on navigation. He has for some time enjoyed a handsome annuity from the company. Mr TAPLEY's teaching in Mauritius began during the slavery, and emancipation took place during his career there.

**REFERENCES:From S.Aust Archives--
Letter of R.E. TAPLEY to the colonial Secretary**

Destitute Board Office, Flinders Street
Adelaide. 4th June 1851

Sir,

The duties devolving on me from the Destitute Department occupy so much of my time, that I feel it necessary respectfully to decline continuing beyond the current month, as Assistant Clerk to Mr Moorhouse for the Orphan's Department.

I take this step under the conviction that I am not able to do justice to Mr Moorhouse who requires (at times) an Assistant entirely at his service, especially when he is out of town.

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your obedient humble servant

the Honorable

The Colonial Secretary. R.E. TAPLEY
Secretary to the Destitute Board.

Letter of Richard Edward TAPLEY to the Secretary of the Orphan Board-

Destitute Board Office
5th June 1851

Sir,

You are aware that the increase of Destitution has caused the Board to procure increased accomodation for the poor, and as I have promised the Board to live on the premises and personally superintend the operations of the New Asylum I am compelled in justice to my own Department to resign the assistant Clerkship to the Orphan Immigrants. Whilst I was in your office you and Mr Ross aided me in my office duties, when I was absent visiting the Destitute, but as I am now removed to different premises, I could not undertake to render you any further assistance after the expiration of the current month.

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your Respectful servant

R.E. TAPLEY

Assistant Clerk

Mr Moorhouse Esq
Secretary to the Orphan Board

Letter of R. E. TAPLEY to Acting Governor B.T. FINNISS

Destitute Board Office
29th December 1854

Sir,

Having heard that Mr. T. Gilbert is about to retire from active service, and that the situation of Colonial Storekeeper will consequently become vacant, I beg respectfully to solicit your favourable consideration for the vacancy - having been for nearly six years in my present capacity as Relieving Officer.

I have the honor to be

Sir,

Your most obedient servant

R.E. TAPLEY

Secretary to the Destitute Board.

The Honorable B.T. FINNISS

Acting Governor, &c, &c.

Richard E. TAPLEY -Spouse 1/2

Arabella MCDONALD - (1808 - 1875)

Arabella was born at Berampure, India on 13 June 1808. Her Father was John McDONALD, and her mother was Mary McDONALD, nee HANNUMMER, (1)

Arabella was married twice. First to a Sergeant RITTEFORT of the 36th British Regiment. Where this marriage occurred and when and how her husband died is unknown.

When she married Richard Edward Tapley, on 7 July 1836, at Curl, Port Louis, Mauritius, she was a widow, aged 28 years. Her Father was a witness at this second marriage, at which she used the name McDONALD as her surname.(2)

They had only one known child, born in Mauritius in 1837, and they named him John Edward TAPLEY. (3)

They emigrated to South Australia in about 1844.

Towards the end of her life, Arabella suffered from some form of Paralysis, which led to her death at the age of 67 yearsr (70 years on the Death Certificate) on 22 May 1875 at her home at Kent Town, South Australia. (4)

REFERENCES:

1. Marriage Certificate to Richard TAPLEY.
2. Marriage Extract, Port Louis, Mauritius.
3. See Life of Richard Edward TAPLEY
4. Death Certificate of Arabella TAPLEY

DEATH CERTIFICATE

1875.....	District of Adelaide
When Died.....	22 May 1875
Name.....	Arabella TAPLEY
Sex and Age.....	Female 70 years
Rank.....	Wife of Richard Edward TAPLEY, Accountant
Usual Residence....	Kent Town
Cause of Death....	.Paralysis
Place of Death....	Kent Town
Informant.....	William PENGELLY, Undertaker, Adelaide
Asst Registrar.....	Josiah WITCOMBE, Adelaide
REGISTRAR.....	John RIPPON, 24 May 1875

Richard Edward TAPLEY - Spouse 2/2

Emma Elizabeth WHITEHORN - (1859 - 1925)

Emma Elizabeth WHITEHORN was born in 1859, possibly in England. Her Father was Joseph WHITEHORN, and her mother is not known. (1)

It seems likely that Emma was engaged by Richard Edward TAPLEY to care for his ailing wife Arabella, as Emma was only about 17 years of age at most in 1875. Arabella TAPLEY died of paralysis on 22 May 1875 at Kent Town. (2)

It was only about 6 weeks later that Richard Edward TAPLEY, listed as Full age (actually 64 years old), and accountant, widower, married Emma Elizabeth WHITEHORN, also listed as of full age (actually only 16 or 17 years). The marriage took place at St Paul's Church, Adelaide, the minister being the Rev. RUSSELL. Witnesses were William FISK, a plumber of Adelaide, and Jessie RUSSELL of St Paul's Vicarage. (3)

Her husband Richard died on 7 June 1891, and Emma was widowed at the age of 32 years. (4)

Emma wasted little time in marrying again as a few months later, on 3 March 1892, Emma Elizabeth TAPLEY, 33 years, widow of Adelaide, married William NOVICE (formerly MAYNARD), 60 years, widower, agent of Adelaide. The marriage took place in the Registry Office, Victoria Square, Adelaide, and was conducted by the Registrar, John PLUNKETT. Witnesses were Edward DAVIES, Architect of Plympton, and Fannie O'NEILL, Matron, of Adelaide. (5)

Her 2nd Husband William NOVICE died in Sydney in 1908, but nothing further is known of Emma. (6)

It is likely that she died in South Australia, as in the West Terrace Cemetery in the EYRE section an Emma NOVICE is Buried, who died 2 November 1925. No age is given, but also buried there is Annie, daughter of William NOVICE. Emma would have been aged 66 years at this time. (7)

REFERENCES:-

1. Calculated from Marriage certificate 1892
2. Death of Arabella TAPLEY
3. Marriage Certificate
4. Death Certificate of Richard Edward TAPLEY
5. Marriage Certificate of Emma Elizabeth TAPLEY
6. From B.I.S.A. p 1199
7. West Terrace Cemetery Microfiche records

REFERENCES FOR EMMA ELIZABETH WHITEHORN MARRIAGE To Richard Edward TAPLEY-

See Richard Edward TAPLEY - References

MARRIAGE to Willam NOVICE

1892... Married in the District of Adelaide

When Married.....	3 March 1892	
Names.....	William NOVICE (formerly MAYNARD)	Emma Elizabeth TAPLEY
Age.....	60 years	33 years
Condition.....	Widower	Widow
Trade.....	Agent	---
Res at Time.....	Adelaide	Adelaide
Father.....	Daniel MAYNARD	Joseph WHITEHORN
Place celebrated...	Office of Registrar General, Victoria Square	
Witnesses.....	Edward DAVIES	Fannie O'NEILL
	Architect Plympton	Matron Adelaide
Marriage performed by....	John PLUNKETT, Deputy Registrar.	

WEST TERRACE CEMETERY- Microfiche

EYRE: r.6.E

NOVICE, Emma d. 2.11.1925

Annie d. 14.3.1965 aged 95

William NOVICE 1824-1908)

Reference: Notable South Australians , by E.LOYAU (1885)-page 161

William NOVICE,

Is a native of London, where he was born in 1831. He arrived in South Australia in 1862, and entered into pastoral and farming pursuits at Booborowie, where he was fairly successful, in spite of the difficulties which beset the husbandman in those primitive times. Possessed of a logical mind and inventive talent, Mr Novice has endeavoured at various times to interst the Government and capitalists in his numerous discoveries and inventions, but up to the present has received small encouragement. He has been a voluminous contributor to the press, and his most notable productions are "The Conditions of the Working Classes in the Bush"; "The Burra and its Peculiarities"; "Farming Jumbles"; Farming Coloquies", and many others. Who knows that the suggestions which these contained may not have led to the establishment of the Bushmen's Club, or even of the now flourishing Agricultural College? Mr. Novice considers that in the latter the core of South Australia's future stability is forming. He is now devoting his leisure to experiments with the steam-engine "

REFERENCE: Biographical Index of South Australians p 1199

NOVICE, William

par. MAYNARD

b. Sept 1824

d. c.1908, Sydney, NSW

arr 1862

occ. Pastoralist, Council clerk Res. Booborowie

M. 27.8.1853 MDX, England

Spouse: Mary Anne nee GRIFFITHS

b. 18.9.1828 d. Sydney NSW

Ch: Willie (1856-), Julia Maria RULE (1858-1897), Geo Alfred (1860 -1877), Ed. (1863-1877), Ernest (1865-1956), Ada (1867-), Annie (1869-1965).

William NOVICE married a second time, as recorded to Emma Elizabeth TAPLEY, widow of Richard Edward TAPLEY, in 1892, at Adelaide. (see Emma for details)
