

JAMES MARTIN HILLHOUSE TAYLOR

1814 – 25 Dec 1985

Born : BRISTOL, ENGLAND

Died : MORPETH NSW

Buried : MORPETH NSW



James was born about 1814, the only record known is that his mother's name was Jane but no surname, and no name for his father.

James arrived sometime about 1838 in Australia. He just seemed to have appeared in the Maitland/Morpeth area and was an Agent for the Hunter River Steamship Company.

Morpeth, an English name, was first used to describe the parish that included Wallis Plains (later Maitland), but the hills that run through Tenambit and East Maitland were known as the Green Hills (Illulaaung to the Aborigines). If it had not been for the coming of the steamship to Australia in 1831, Morpeth would not have been necessary, for the Hunter River between Maitland and Newcastle did not suit sailing vessels and Newcastle would have been the regional port as the colonial government had intended. However, the arrival in Port Jackson on 14 May 1831 of the *Sophia Jane*, the first paddle-steamer to reach the Australian colonies, and her employment on the Sydney-Morpeth run, transformed the area until the coming of the steam railway in the 1850s.

James Taylor was an Agent for the Hunter's River Steam Navigation Company, the company that played such an important part in the development of Morpeth. His interests included wool-broking and a shipping agency, as well as the wine and spirit business he ran in the bond store, which stands by the bridge across the Hunter in the centre of Swan Street. He is Morpeth's best remembered merchant, yet the details of his life are as hazy as his remembrance is strong. In 1850 when James had the Bonded Store built there is a reference to Taylor's Wharf near the end of Northumberland Street in the Morpeth Conservation Planning Study. The building is built of carefully chosen stone, clean and still colour bright as in the days when 'Squire' James Taylor walked from his residence, Marlborough House, accompanied by his servant to inspect the progress of the stores. Any stone which did not meet his approval was immediately rejected.

Marlborough House, set in magnificent gardens is on the opposite side of Swan Street to the bond store and the focal point of which is the setting of large elm trees, was built by James Taylor. The house had splendid two-storey stables at the rear, with an exit to the lane. Taylor's nicknames, 'Squire' and 'Lord Morpeth' suggest a degree of self-importance that is borne out by the legends that linger on in the town. Yet on one occasion, after being elected to the town council, Taylor protested that he had been nominated against his will and refused to take his place, declaring; "I here reiterate my former resolution and shall adhere to it irrespective of consequences. I will have nothing whatever to do with the Morpeth Municipality, and I trust that my name will not be mentioned in connection with the Mayoralty for I am so averse to anything of the kind that it would not only be a folly but a complete farce to do so."

On 18 March 1847 James married Mary Elizabeth King in the Church of England Church, West Maitland. James and Mary had 8 children --Robert Martin, James Francis, Alice Jane (Jane A.), Brereton C., Laura L., Reginald C., Ada Maria/Melise and George Berkly.

James died on 25 December 1875 at Morpeth, he had lived for 36 years in NSW. He died of inflammation from tumour near the testicle and mortification which had been evident for 2 weeks prior to his death.

James is buried in Morpeth cemetery in a family plot. His inscription on his headstone reads

To the memory of
James Taylor
who entered life eternal
on 25 December 1875
age 61 years
Jesu Mercy.

BIRTH REGISTRATION FACT FILE

NAME James Martin Hillhouse Taylor
SEX OF CHILD Male
DATE OF BIRTH Abt. 1814
PLACE Bristol, England

FATHER
OCCUPATION
BIRTH PLACE
AGE

DATE OF MARRIAGE
PLACE OF MARRIAGE

MOTHER Jane
OCCUPATION
BIRTH PLACE
AGE

NOTES

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BK Ref: 189
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MARRIAGE REGISTRATION FACT FILE

<u>GROOM</u>	James Taylor
STATUS	Bachelor
PLACE OF BIRTH	
OCCUPATION	
AGE	
USUAL RESIDENCE	Morpeth
FATHER	
OCCUPATION	
MOTHER	
<u>BRIDE</u>	Mary King
STATUS	Spinster
PLACE OF BIRTH	
OCCUPATION	
AGE	
USUAL RESIDENCE	Bolwarra
FATHER	
OCCUPATION	
MOTHER	
<u>DATE OF MARRIAGE</u>	18 March 1847
PLACE OF MARRIAGE	West Maitland
RELIGION	
WITNESSES	F.J. King, James S. Smith, Lydia Phillips
MINISTER	Robert C. Chapman

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BK Ref: 189
File Ref: Microfilm only

DEATH REGISTRATION FACT FILE

NAME	James Martin Hilhouse Taylor
DATE OF DEATH	25/12/1875
PLACE	Morpeth Nsw
OCCUPATION	Merchant
AGE	61
CONJUGAL STATUS	
PLACE OF BIRTH	Bristol, England
TIME IN AUST COLONIES	36 Years In Nsw
FATHER	9given Name Not Informed) Taylor
MOTHER	Jane (Surname Not Informed)
PLACE OF MARRIAGE	East Maitland Nsw
AGE AT MARRIAGE	31 (Altered From 18)
NAME OF SPOUSE	Mary Elizabeth King
CHILDREN OF MARRIAGE	Robert Martin 27, James Francis 25, Alice Jane 23, Brereton 20, Laura 18, Reginald 16, Ada 13, George Berkly 10, Living; 1 Female Deceased
INFORMANT	Mary Elizabeth Taylor, Late Wife, Morpeth
CAUSE OF DEATH	Inflammation From Tumour Near The Testicle And Mortification
LENGTH OF ILLNESS	2 Weeks ,
DATE OF BURIAL	26/12/1875
PLACE OF BURIAL	Morpeth C E Cemetery
MINISTER AND RELIGION	Coles Child, Church Of England
WITNESSES	John Neavey, T W White

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