



In Honour of a Pleasant Home and Family

James Phillis and family are credited with having named the area at the headwaters of the River Torrens *Mount Pleasant*, believed to be in honour of James' sister Pleasant. Mount Pleasant was also a farming property (and hill) near their Eastry home in Kent.

James married Susannah Chapman 14 October 1820, and by late 1838 they had eight children. Sadly, wife Susannah died on 30 December 1839, just after arriving in Adelaide on the *Duchess of Northumberland*, leaving James to care for his young children. He joined his sister and brother-in-law Charlotte and Henry Bushell, who had already come to South Australia on the *Africaine* in 1836, when they settled in Port Adelaide in 1840. James acted as a watchman at Old Port Adelaide landing while Charlotte Bushell helped care for the Phillis youngsters.

Land of the Eastern Sources of the Torrens Special Survey became available and energetic James bought land grant sections in the Hundreds of South Rhine and Talunga. Sons William, Thomas and George helped James prepare the Mt Pleasant land for farming in 1842 and built accommodation for the families. James and family moved to Mt Pleasant in 1843 and in that year they raised the district's first crop of wheat and carted it to market in Adelaide.

Gradually he added to his land holdings. Son William established *Ham Farm* on three sections and became a successful farmer and livestock breeder. Thomas died in 1851 and his father took over the *Updown Park* property with James jnr, just across from *The Pines and Ashby* farm. George farmed with his cousin and brother-in-law John Bushell until moving to his own property of *Spring Vale*. Henry and Charlotte Bushell farmed at *Kent Farm* for the remainder of their lives. All actively supported St John's Anglican Church and community groups in Mt Pleasant.

As a result of James' foresight, a large party of Phillis' (including his brothers and sisters) came to Mt Pleasant via Melbourne in 1855. James remarried in 1855 and on his wife Martha's death in 1875, he was cared for by his widowed sister, Frances Dixon, at *Updown Park* until his death aged 92 years in 1889. He left 194 living descendants, including two sons, four daughters, sixty-eight grandchildren, 117 great grandchildren and three great great grandchildren.



Eastry Church, Kent

James PHILLIS [1797-1889]

Married Susannah CHAPMAN
on 14 October 1820 at Eastry, Kent

Departed 6 August 1839 from London
Arrived 19 December 1839 at Port Adelaide

Duchess of Northumberland

Children of James & Susannah:

William (1821-1889) m Harriet Cox

Thomas (1823-1851)

George (1827-1909) m Caroline BUSHELL

Charlotte (1829-1907) m John BUSHELL

Eliza (1832-1902) m Thomas FULWOOD

Emma (1833 - 1926) m Henry PHILLIS

Harriet (1836-1915) m Samuel TAPSCOTT

James jnr (1838-1920) m Mary McBEATH

From information provided by Elizabeth Harris,
James' great-great-great granddaughter
March 2014

