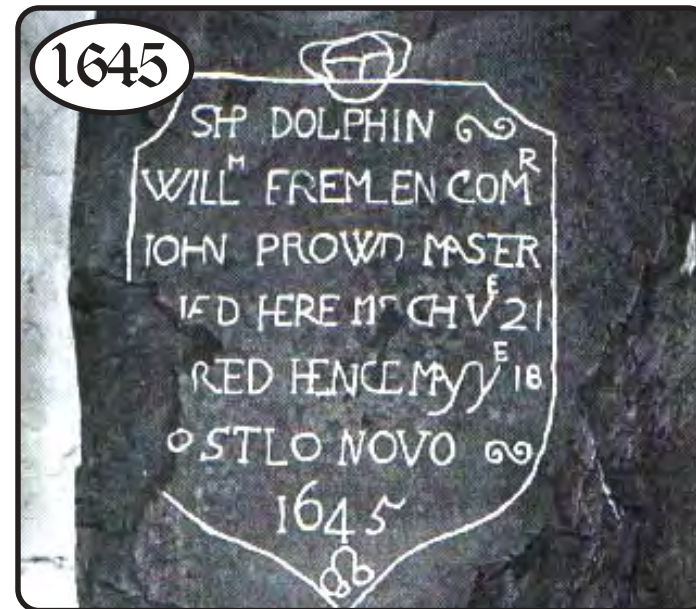


# 1502 ~ St Helena Timeline Souvenir ~ 2002

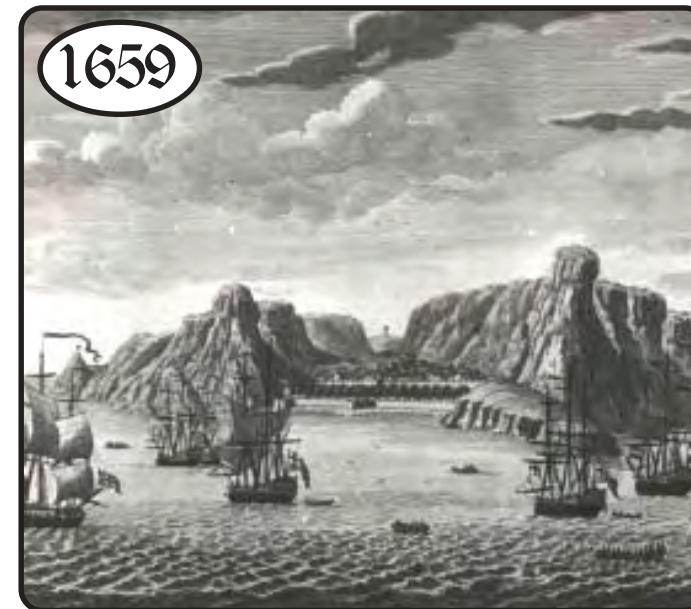
*In this week's St Helena Herald we celebrate 500 years of Island history in pictures. We have tried to cover as many significant events as possible but obviously cannot cover all. We hope that you will enjoy this souvenir and keep it for the next 500 years! A very happy quincentenary holiday to everyone. Ed.*



**1502**  
Joao da Nova Castella discovered the Island on 21<sup>st</sup> May 1502 and named it St Helena whose feast day falls on that date. The originality of the seal above is in some dispute amongst historians.



**1645**  
The Dolphin Stone is the earliest known tangible evidence of a visit by an English ship. Its original location is unknown; it now resides outside the Castle Gate.



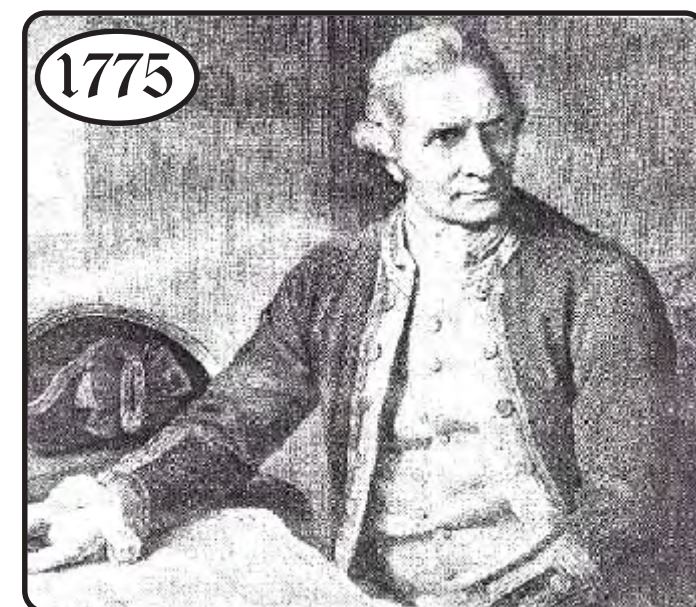
**1659**  
The English East India Company begin to settle the Island under Captain John Dutton, the first Governor, who had instructions to plant and fortify St Helena.



**1676**  
Edmond Halley visited St Helena to catalogue the southern stars and also to observe the Transit of Mercury; he was twenty at the time and later became the Astronomer Royal.



**1760**  
Rev. Nevil Maskelyne and Mr Robert Waddington arrive under the King's patronage to observe the Transit of Venus "over the sun's disk" but saw less than hoped due to rainy, cloudy weather conditions.



**1775**  
Captain James Cook arrived on the sloop *Resolution* making this his second visit to St Helena during his circumnavigation of the world.



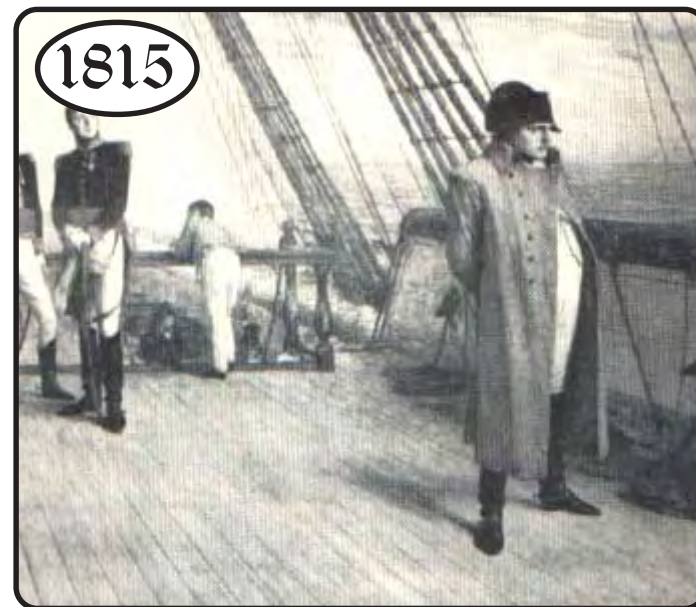
**1792**  
Captain William Bligh (of *Bounty* fame) visited for several days with his ships *Providence* and *Assistant* returning to England from his second voyage to the South Seas. It may be that he left fruit plants on the Island including breadfruit.



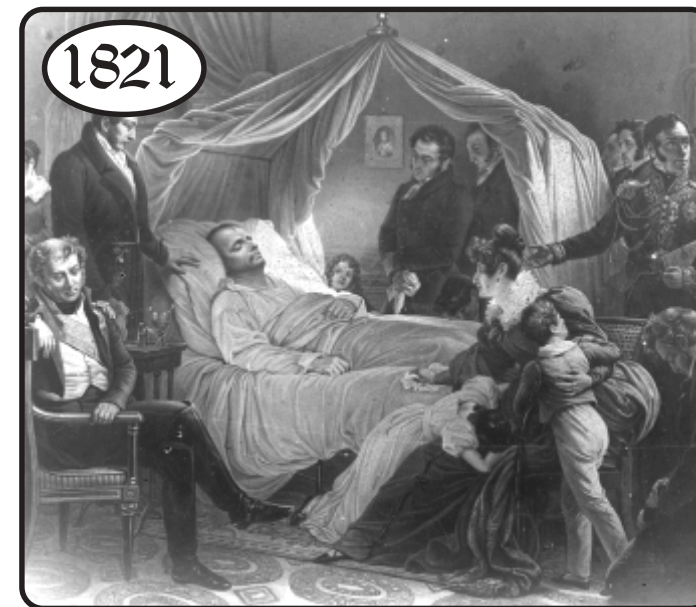
**1805**  
Sir Arthur Wellesley (later the Duke of Wellington) passed through St Helena after distinguished service in India. He went on to greater glories in the Napoleonic/Peninsula Wars.



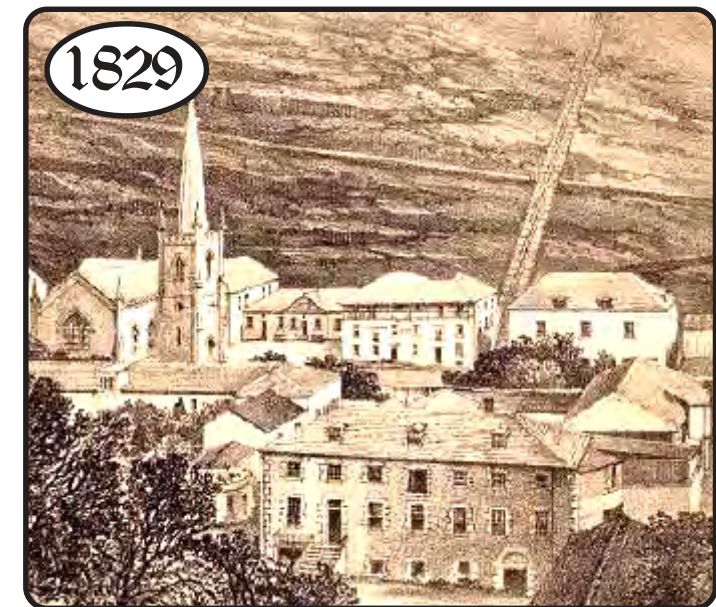
1810  
First consignment of **Chinese** indentured labourers arrived from Canton. This was a tremendous success, particularly in agriculture, and at one time the Chinese colony grew to 650.



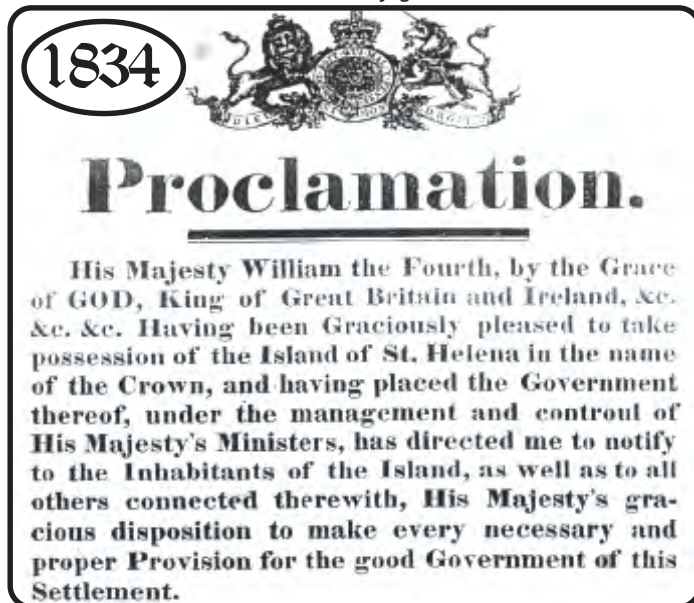
1815  
**Napoleon Bonaparte**, Emperor of the French arrives 15<sup>th</sup> October 1815 with his retinue. Exiled by the British to St Helena aboard HMS *Northumberland* after defeat at Waterloo by British and



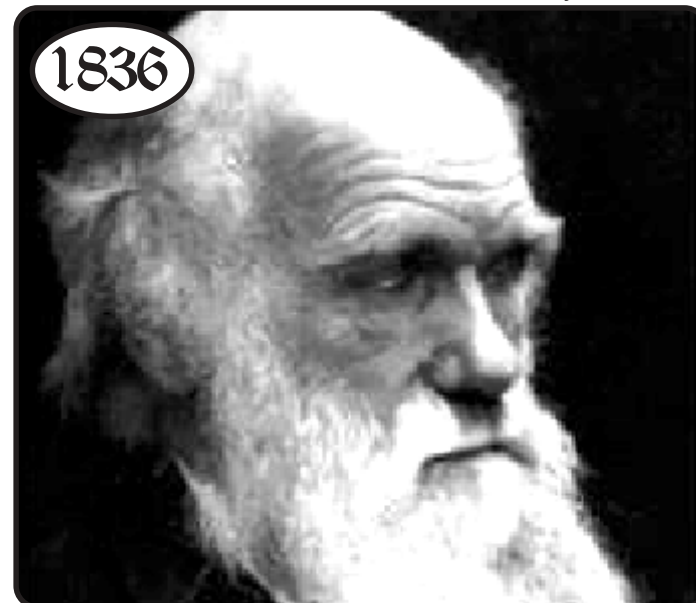
1821  
Prussian armies under the command of the Marshal Blucher. He lives mainly at Longwood until his death on 5<sup>th</sup> May 1821 aged 52.



1829  
Work begins on the **Inclined Plane** (Jacob's Ladder) in January and is completed in December. Used to transport supplies to Jamestown via tramways pulled by capstan and mule.



1834  
Island of St Helena transferred from East India Company to **British Government**. The East India Company to administer the Island in the name of the Crown for one year.



1836  
**Charles Darwin** arrives in the *Beagle* and stays for six days during which he records 746 species of plant 52 of which are indigenous.



1840  
**Napoleon's** remains exhumed and returned to France on the French frigate *La Belle Poule* departing on 8<sup>th</sup> October. Napoleon re-entombed at Les Invalides, Paris.



1846  
**Heavy seas** and rollers in February greatly damage the sea defence wall and the Wharf and demolish 13 ships.



1859  
**Bishop Piers Claughton** becomes the first Bishop of St Helena. And served between 1859 and 1862



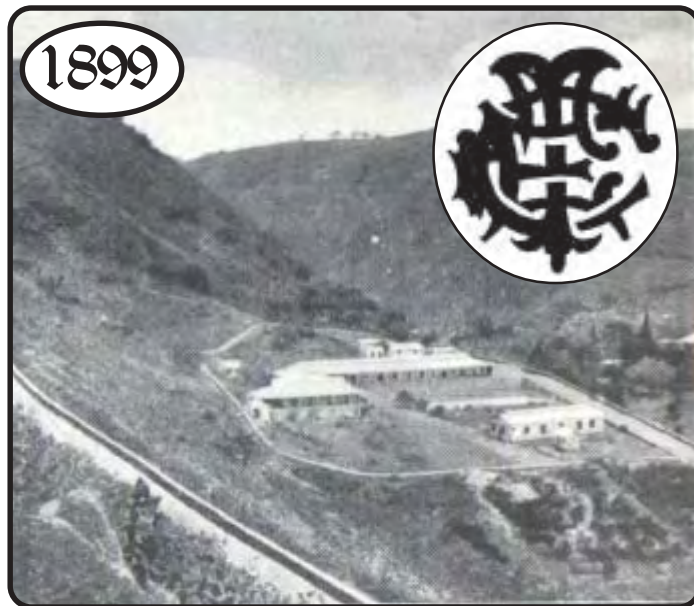
1869  
**Suez Canal** opens November 16<sup>th</sup> providing a faster route to and from the East. St Helena's strategic importance diminishes and the local economy goes into decline and eventually collapses.



1890  
**Dinizulu**, son of Cetewayo, arrives with his retinue 25<sup>th</sup> February and is quartered at Francis Plain House during his imprisonment on St Helena.



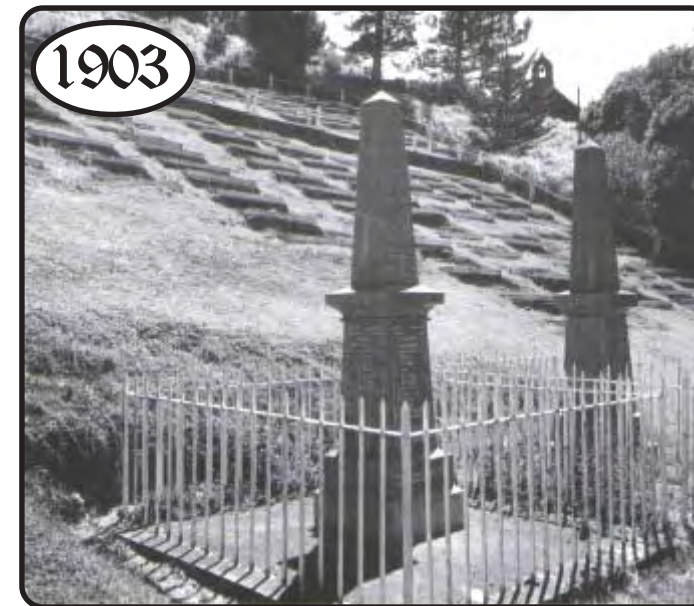
1898  
**Captain Joshua Slocum** arrives in April. The first man to single-handedly circumnavigate the world gives a lecture to Islander's in the Garden Hall about his voyage.



**1899**  
**Eastern Telegraph Company** lays submarine cable from Cape Town to St Helena (Ruperts Valley) then to Ascension Island. (Cable Station at the Briars completed in 1903)



**1900**  
 First shipment of **Boer Prisoners** including **General Cronje** and his wife arrive 10<sup>th</sup> April 1900. During the next three years over 5000 prisoners were encamped at Deadwood and Broad Bottom.



**1903**  
 96 prisoners die of enteric fever and other illnesses and are buried at Knollcombes. In June 1903 the last Boer prisoners who wished to be repatriated left the Island.



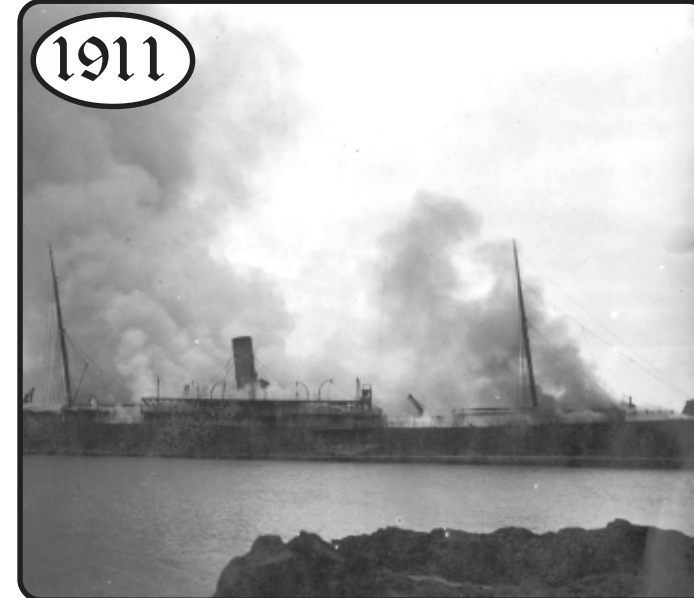
**1905**  
 The Prosperous Bay Murderers were hanged in a building near the prison on 2nd February. This was St Helena's last hanging.



**1907**  
**New Zealand Flax** (*phormium tenax*) introduced to the Island, several flax mills open. Flax exported for use by the Post Office as parcel string leading to a brief revival in the Island's economy.



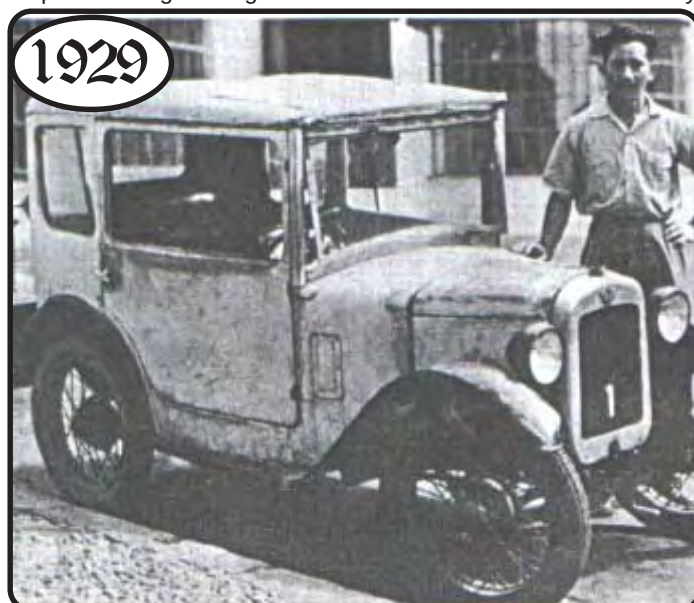
**1907**  
 The Flax industry collapses in 1966 because of a large wage increase granted to the workforce also by the Post Office moving to the use of man-made fibres.



**1911**  
**SS Papanui**, en route to Australia, puts into James Bay on 11<sup>th</sup> September on fire, she burns out after an explosion and sinks. The 364 emigrants were carried to Freemantle by SS *Opawa*.



**1922**  
**Ascension Island** becomes a dependency of St Helena on 12<sup>th</sup> September.



**1929**  
**Mr Homfray Solomon** imports an Austin Seven, the first motor car to run on Island roads; registration number No. 1.



**1941**  
**RFA Darkdale** torpedoed in James Bay on 22<sup>nd</sup> October by German submarine U68. The ship burnt for three hours and then sank. There were two survivors out of a crew of 46.



**1947**  
**King George VI** and Queen Elizabeth with Royal Princesses Elizabeth and Margaret visit St Helena on HMS *Vanguard*. They tour the Island and present a Royal Standard to the Island.



**1957**  
 HRH **The Duke of Edinburgh** visits the Island aboard HM Yacht *Britannia*.



Crown coin minted to commemorate the **Tercentenary of the Royal Charter** granted by King Charles II. (Value 25 pence)



**Arrival of RMS St Helena** on maiden voyage on 5<sup>th</sup> October. The ship was formerly known as the *Northland Prince*.



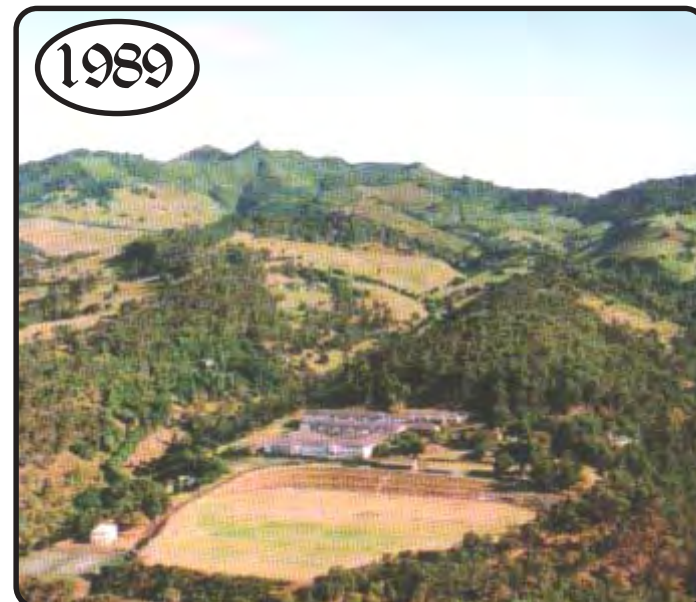
**RMS St Helena** requisitioned by Ministry of Defence to take part in the Falkland Islands conflict. 20 St Helena crewmembers volunteered for service during the Navy's charter.



**HRH Prince Andrew** visits aboard HMS *Herald* to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Island as a Crown Colony. A great welcoming ceremony and two days of celebrations took place.



The **New Power Station** at Ruperts Valley opened on the 7th March.



**Prince Andrew School** opened officially by John Mark Taylor MP on 5<sup>th</sup> June. The school was named after HRH Prince Andrew.



**New RMS St Helena** arrives on 30<sup>th</sup> November on her maiden voyage from Cardiff. (Old and new stern to stern)



**New sea defence wall** completed and named Hoole's Wall after Governor Alan Hoole. Constructed by a local work force under the supervision of Irishenco it also contains a time capsule.



**Satellite Television Service** officially launched by Governor Alan Hoole at the Briars on 31<sup>st</sup> March. Pictured here with George Stevens, Cable & Wireless Manager displaying the license.



**White Lion Cannon** raised by RAF Dive team and presented to HE Governor Smallman on behalf of the Island.



First Saints to crew yachts, *Group 4* and *Sprint*, in the Governor's Cup Race from Cape Town to St Helena.



21<sup>st</sup> May will be the commencement date for the restoration of British Citizenship to St Helenians and all other BOTC's who wish it.