

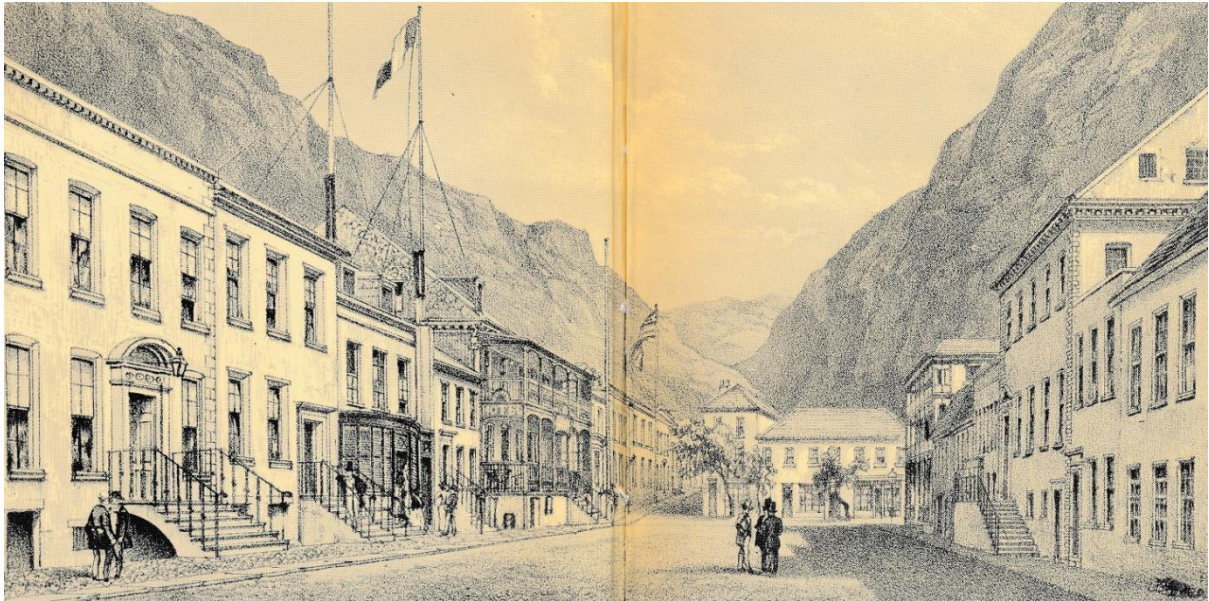


THE DOVETONS OF ST. HELENA

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THE DOVETONS OF ST. HELENA

A FAMILY HISTORY

COMPILED BY EDWARD CARTER
PRIVATELY PRINTED IN CAPE TOWN 1973

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The illustration on the title page is of the upper part of Main Street, Jamestown.

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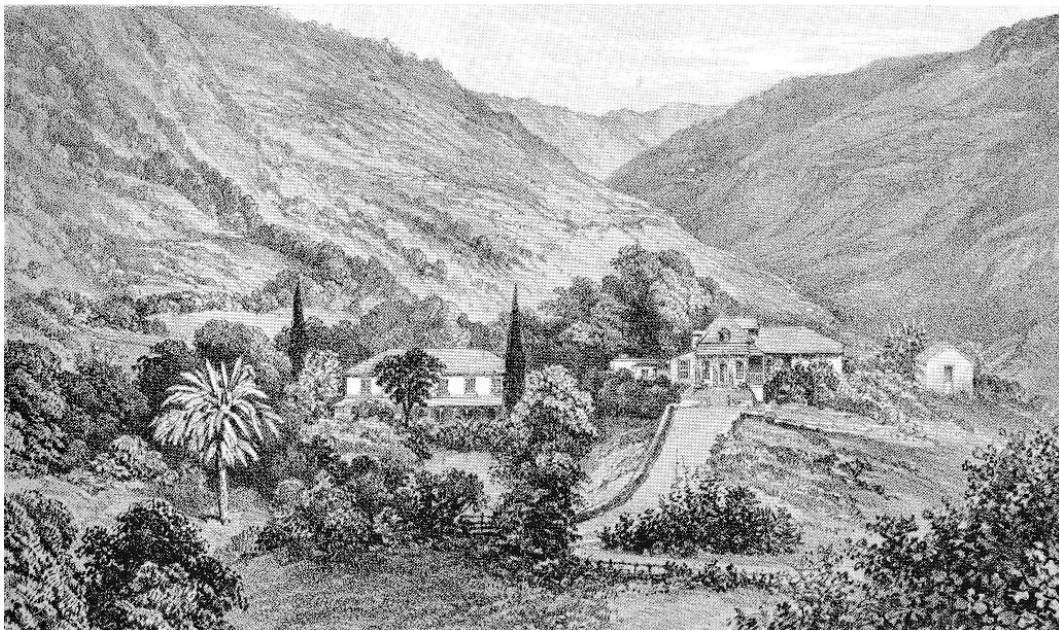
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A comprehensive family record accompanies this book



'The Briars', once owned by Samuel Doveton, was occupied by Napoleon while 'Longwood' was being prepared for his reception.

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This brings me to Eric Rosenthal, whom I asked for some in-

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formation. His collaboration in producing this book has been invaluable.

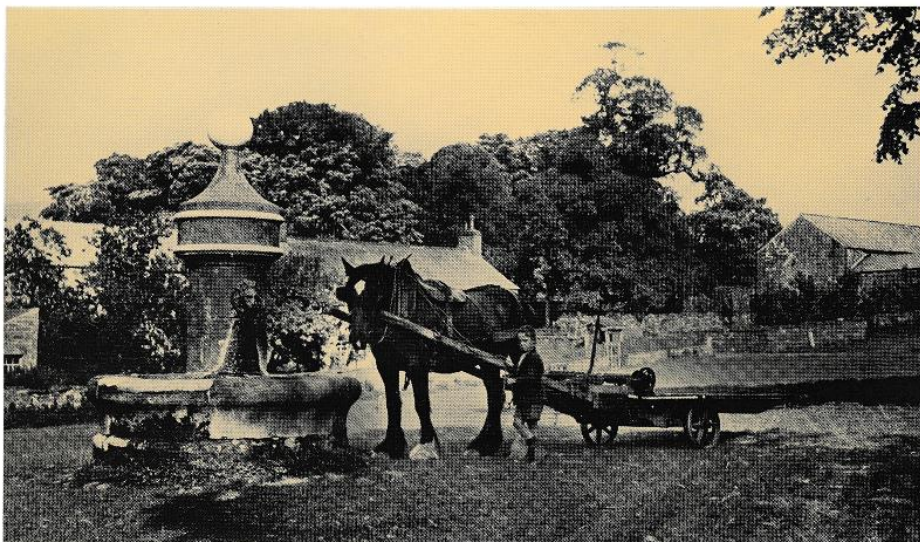
Quite unexpectedly we have met Miriam Janisch, whose family shared with ours the early days of St. Helena and whose grandfather, Hudson Janisch, was appointed Governor of St. Helena in 1873. He was, in the words of Philip Gosse, 'a man greatly venerated and loved by all during his lifetime'.

It was Betty More who handed me the genealogical tree which enabled the chapter on the English branch to be as comprehensive as it is, even though it and other chapters in the book may be quite inadequate. Colin Lawton, too, has been of great help in unravelling family connections. This brings me to Guy and Doreen McDonald, who prepared the first comprehensive genealogical tree on a large sheet of brown paper which accompanied us to St. Helena. With my wife's invaluable help, this sheet was enlarged upon and altered in the Archives in the Castle at St. Helena, where, too, I express thanks to Mr. Maggott for turning up old records, wills, etc., and for his work in their preservation. It was from the aforesaid sheet of brown paper and the authenticated pedigrees compiled by Wilfrid Tatham and printed at the end of this book that Guy and Doreen produced the comprehensive genealogical record which accompanies the book. The contents are a tribute to their skill, patience and interest while its production reflects the artistic ability and craftsmanship of Mr. Jack Lowe, to whom I am grateful.

My thanks, too, to Ralph Sanicroft Baker and David Philip for their part in the final production. At this stage also my thanks to my secretary, Miss Ailsa Blackwood, whose hours of typing outside her normal office activities helped so much to produce an orderly record of some 200 years of life on St. Helena.

EDWARD CARTER

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The Green, Dufton.

Stag Inn and Dufton Pike.



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THE DUFTONS AND THE DOVETONS

Whether — as is still open to some argument — the Doveton family originated in England or in Scotland, there is no question but that it hails from the northern part of the British Isles. Derived from the Gaelic word *dubh* ('dark'), later corrupted into Duff, the name can be traced back to the year 1275, when, according to the 'Charters of the Priory of Beaulieu', a certain Duncan Duff signed as a witness. Later there is mention of a place called Dufftown in the parish of Mortlach, Banffshire, the home of a family known as Dufton, from whom was descended, in the eighteenth century, a certain John Dufton of the Gartly Volunteers.

The authoritative *History and Antiquities of the Counties of Westmoreland and Cumberland*, by Joseph Nicolson Esq., and Richard Burn LL.D., published in London in 1777, carries an entry headed 'Parish of Dufton': 'Duff is anciently a name in Scotland and perhaps also in England. MacDuff is a name well known; which means "the Son of Duff", and it is not improbable that [Dufto, Duff, Duff's Town] might be so called from the same person of that name.'

Dufton lies three and a quarter miles north of Appleby and, according to Nicolson,

is bounded on the East by the Parishes of Middleton in the County of Durham, Ronald-Kirk in the County of York and Brough in the County of Westmoreland; on the South by the Parish of St. Michael's Appleby; on the West by the Parish of Morton; and on the North by the Parish of Auston in the County of Cumberland, and the said Parish of Middleton. It contains, in the whole, about 63 families.

Samuel Lewis, in his *Topographical Dictionary of England*, issued in 1883, gives the population as 554 and in ecclesiastical terminology described it as 'a living discharged Rectory in the Archdeaconry and Diocese of Carlisle'.

In the 'King's Books' of that date, the patron controlling the

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living is given as the Earl of Thanet, and Dufton Church itself (still standing) is described as 'a plain structure dedicated to St. Cuthbert and lying half a mile north of the village, near a Wesleyan Chapel, erected in 1820'. The population drew most of its earnings from the important mines operated by the London Lead Company. There was also an ancient Free School, founded in 1670 by Christopher Walker and more recently rebuilt. Among the neighbouring hills, Dufton Pike, rising to a height of 1,000 feet, like its two neighbours Knock Pike and Merton Pike, was 'supposed to be an artificial mound raised over the relics of ancient British heroes of rank, or for some related purpose'.

Out of the mists of the past there first emerges, back in 1332, the name of Thomas de Dufton, from the nearby town of Penrith, who, according to the records of King Edward III, possessed goods to the substantial value of £2 13s. 8d., apart from interests in the village of Ulnesby (Ousby). The family had headquarters in Melkinthorpe, Lowther Parish, four miles south of Penrith and eight miles from Dufton. From 1540 a succession of William, Christopher, Thomas and John Duftons appear in the local church registers, ending with William Dufton, whose will was proved in Carlisle in 1637. Another William was born in 1653. This is the family from which is believed to have been descended one of the original settlers on St. Helena, the island associated for all time with Napoleon Bonaparte, who 170 years later died there in exile.

Just as the Cape of Good Hope was the recognised halfway house used on the voyages to and from the East by the fleets of the Dutch East India Company, so the fleets of its English counterpart chose St. Helena for that purpose. Like the Cape — but a little later, in 1502 — this island was discovered by the Portuguese, when Juan de Nova Castella, in command of a squadron from Lisbon, dropped anchor there on the Festival of St. Helena, whence its name.

In 1513 Fernando Lopez, a Portuguese nobleman, was marooned

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with negro slaves and some domestic animals. After four years, however, he was allowed to return to his native land, leaving St. Helena once more uninhabited. But not for long. Seventy years later, when British ships made their first appearance there in 1588, Captain John Cavendish discovered a Roman Catholic Church as well as other amenities already established by the Portuguese. With the declining fortunes of that nation, the Dutch set up an outpost that operated for many years, but, after founding a settlement in Table Bay in 1652, they transferred their efforts to the mainland, leaving St. Helena available for the 'Company of Merchants Trading to the East Indies', better known as the English East India Company. Already in operation since 1600, this body was granted a charter by King Charles II on 3 April 1661:

And that it shall and may be lawful to and for the said Governor and Company, and their successors from time to time, and at all times from henceforth, to erect and build such castles, fortifications, forts, garrisons, colonies, or plantations, at St. Helena; as also elsewhere within the limits and bounds of trade granted unto the said Governor and Company as aforesaid, as they in their discretion shall think fit and require, and for the supplying of such as shall be requisite to keep and be in the same, to send out of this

kingdom to the said castles, fortifications, forts, garrisons, colonies, or plantations, all kind of clothing, provision of victuals, ammunition, and implements necessary for such purpose, without paying of any custom, subsidy, or other duty, for the same: as also to transport and carry over such number of men (being willing thereunto) as they shall think fit; as also to govern them in such legal and reasonable manner as the said Governor and Company shall think fit; and to inflict punishment for misdemeanors, or impose such fines upon them for breach of their orders, as in these presents are formerly expressed.

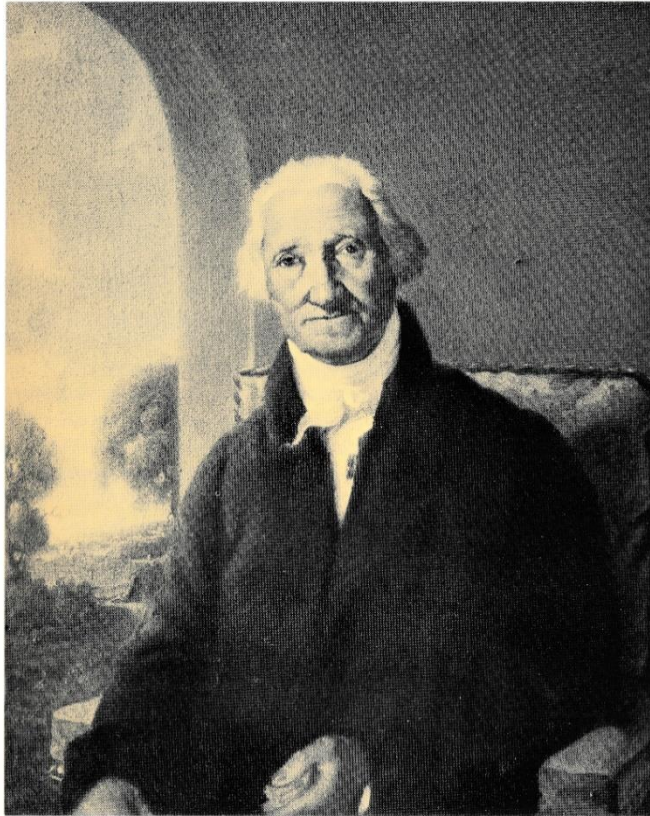
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THE DOVETON LINE OF DESCENT

Although the first William Dufton (1653-1707) reached the island of St. Helena at the age of 20 in 1673, there are no details of his earliest activities there, since not only have the first volumes of the 'Consultations', or Civil Records, been lost but also the earliest ones of St. James Church. From other documents, however, we find that he married Anne Wild in 1678 and that they had four children, of whom Jonathan (born 1679) was progenitor of the Doveton family that still exists. He was followed by William in 1682 and by Andrew in 1684. The second marriage of William Doveton (as we may call him for reasons of convenience) took place in 1685 to Susannah Isaac, by whom he had six more children, with whom we are not here concerned. Though attention need only be paid to Jonathan, his affairs are confused, owing to the fact that he was married no fewer than four times — to Mary Coulson, to Mary Foulis, to Eleanor Coulson (presumably his first wife's sister), and finally to Elizabeth Draper. To make matters worse, of his numerous progeny no fewer than three bore the name of William — one born in 1710, another in 1714 and a third in 1718! Elizabeth Draper, however, had only three children, the eldest and from our point of view the most important being John, born in 1724. He and his wife, Mary Worrall, had in their turn six children, of whom we in this history are concerned with only two — William Webber, born in 1753, and John, born in 1758. Among John's four children was Bazet, who married Ellen Maria Bond; their daughter Ella (born 1819) became the mother of Sir Henry Rider Haggard, author of *King Solomon's Mines*, *She*, *Alan Quatermain* and many other famous African romances.* William Webber, who may be called the founder of the Military Branch, married Eleanor Beale. Of their 9 children, Maria, born in 1781, had a daughter, also named Maria, born in 1814, who married Captain Sturdee, father of the famous British Admiral in World War One, Sir Doveton Sturdee (born 1859),

* See also page 98.

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Sir William Webber Doveton.

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A first view of St. Helena.

who fought in the historic Battle of the Falkland Islands.*

But it was William Webber Doveton's eldest son, Gabriel, born in 1775 and married Mary Anne Kennedy, who must be regarded as the direct ancestor of the present-day Doveton family in South Africa. Of their seven children, we are concerned with the eldest, William Kennedy, born in 1799 (twice married – first to Eliza Desfountain and secondly to Mary Anne Ashton), and with John Gabriel (1801), who married Catherine Chadwick and to whom reference is made on page 59.

William Kennedy and his wife Mary Anne had no fewer than twelve children, of whom we are concerned with the second, Onesiphorus Bagley Doveton, born in 1838 and married to Emily M. Ellert Beale in 1860, and also with Eliza Charlotte (1845), who married Donald McDonald. The descendants of these Dovetons provide our main link with the present day, particularly in South Africa. The family trees of the Dovetons and the Beales may be found at the end of this book.

* See also page 97.

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DAY BY DAY IN ST. HELENA

Having in the foregoing chapter hacked our way through the 'genealogical jungle', we may now turn back to the individual achievements and characters of the various ancestors, starting with the original William Dufton.

Several official documents make reference to his matrimonial affairs. These begin on 14 March 1680 with instructions received from the East India Company, laying down the difference in status of a settler marrying the widow of a planter – and so entitled to his inheritance of ten acres and a cow – and that of a man who married a planter's daughter or a woman sent out to St. Helena from England, who enjoyed the advantage of receiving twenty acres and two cows. (A single man, released from the service of the Company, might also acquire ten acres and a cow.) Later in the same year, on 30 August 1680, an entry begins: 'Richard Leach, Wm. Doveton, Jn. Duffield, freemen, having as single men formally received each of them . . . 10 acres of land and a cow, and now being married to English women sent thither by the Honble. Company, now desiring to have additional land . . .' Some weeks after, on 22 September 1680, there was a further note: 'Wm. Doveton, planter having married an English woman, who came over in ye "Johannah" in 1678 and now desiring to have 10 acres of land for his wife, according to ye Honble. Company's instruction sent hither this year . . .

Further details of the property awarded to him are found in a Book of Leases, 'Accounts of Lands Allotted and Sold' under the date 26 September 1682:

William Dufton Souldier bath Twenty Acres of Land lying nigh the head of Chappell Valley next adjoining to Grace Coulson's gumwood land and the lands of Leonard Hunt; which said Twenty Acres of Land was formerly one Edward Gardner's (deceased) who, as is said, gave the same to Robert Marsh, a son of William Marsh, who in behalfe and for the use

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and benefitt of the said son Robert sold the said Twenty Acres of Land to the said William Dufton, in whose possession it now is. . . .

Not many weeks later, on 20 November 1682, William Doveton (to use the spelling henceforth followed), described as a 'free planter', was granted another lease, for two years, of half an acre lying between his own ground and that of John Hemon.

No mention is made of him for two years: on 11 December 1684 William, being ordered to deliver up to the authorities the carbine he had received from the stores, explained that he could not do so as the weapon had been stolen from him.

Fresh troubles in the household were referred to in December 1687:

William Duften complainer of Kirkpatrick, soldier, of going to his house and assaulting his wife with criminal intent. Kirkpatrick confesseth that he hath had something to do with Duften's wife, which stood him in about £6 (in presents of clothes, etc.). Calls her a whore etc. – has been ordered to ride the Wooden Horse three times.

Further unpleasantness occurred on 7 January 1695:

Robert Exeter, for saying Mrs. Wm. Dufton's three last children were his, fined only one dollar, Mrs Dufton being always counted a very light woman.

Happily the wronged husband does not seem to have suffered in status.

The final reference to this pioneer occurs in a document completed by him shortly before his passing, at the age of 54.

In The Name of God Amen

The Seavent day of Aprill 1707 I William Dufton Senior of the Island of St. Helena free planter being sick and weak in body but of sound mind and memory thanks be to Almighty

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God do make and ordain this my last Will and Testament in manner and form following that is to say First and principally I commend my soul into the hands of Almighty God hoping through the merits death and passion of my Saviour Jesus Christ for a full and ffree pardon and forgiveness of all my sins And I committ my body to the Earth to be decently buried at the discretion of my Executors hereinafter named And as touching all my temporall Estate which it has pleased God to bestow upon me I give and dispose thereof in manner and form following

First I will that all my debts and funeral expenses be paid and discharged

Item I give and bequeath unto my youngest daughter Susannah Dufton one Black Negro Slave named Peter

Item I give unto my Grandson Samuel Dufton son of Jonathan Dufton ffree planter five Dollars towards buying a Ring

Item I give and bequeath unto my wife Susannah Dufton what the law allows her and no more

And as to the rest and Residue of my Estate both reall and personall of what kind or quality whatsoever and not herein before mentioned and disposed of my will and pleasure is that the same be appraised by my Executors hereinafter named or any two persons whom they shall appoint in some convenient time after my Decease And that all and every of my children namely Jonathan Dufton Samuell Dufton William Dufton and Michael Dufton Mary Elizabeth and Susannah Dufton do and shall receive an equall share part or dividend thereof as they are or come of age or marriage And as for those of my children which are under age and in their minority I commit them

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to And my will and pleasure is that they are wholly under the care tuition and at the disposall of my Executors and that the part share or dividend of Each and Every of them be employed and disposed and laid out by my Executors aforesaid for their benefitt and to the best advantage

Item It is my desire and my will is that my son Jonathan Duff-ton *[sic]* have my Black named Dick making good in lieu of him thirty pounds to the Estate

And lastly I appoint Jonathan Dufton ffree planter and Daniell Griffith ffree planter Executors of this my will and Testament Revoking and Annulling all and every former will and wills heretofore by me made by word or writing confirming and ratifying this to be my last will and Testament In witness whereof I have hereunto sett my hand and seale the day and year abovewritten

Signed sealed published and delivered in the presence of

Leonard Hunt	Signed
John Jones	Willi[am] T. Dufton Senior
Henri Q. Batchelor	

Of Jonathan Doveton (whose name seems to have been written uniformly in this fashion in the old records), the earliest reference occurs at the age of 17 on 10 July 1694, when he petitioned for enrolment as a soldier in the service of the English East India Company. Obviously he was in good standing with the authorities, for on 18 October 1702 and again on 29 January 1706 he was mentioned as a juror. On 4 April of that year he was included in the list of St. Helena inhabitants, along with his brothers Samuel and William Jnr., and less than a fortnight later he figured as a churchwarden, in the East Division of the island. Five years later

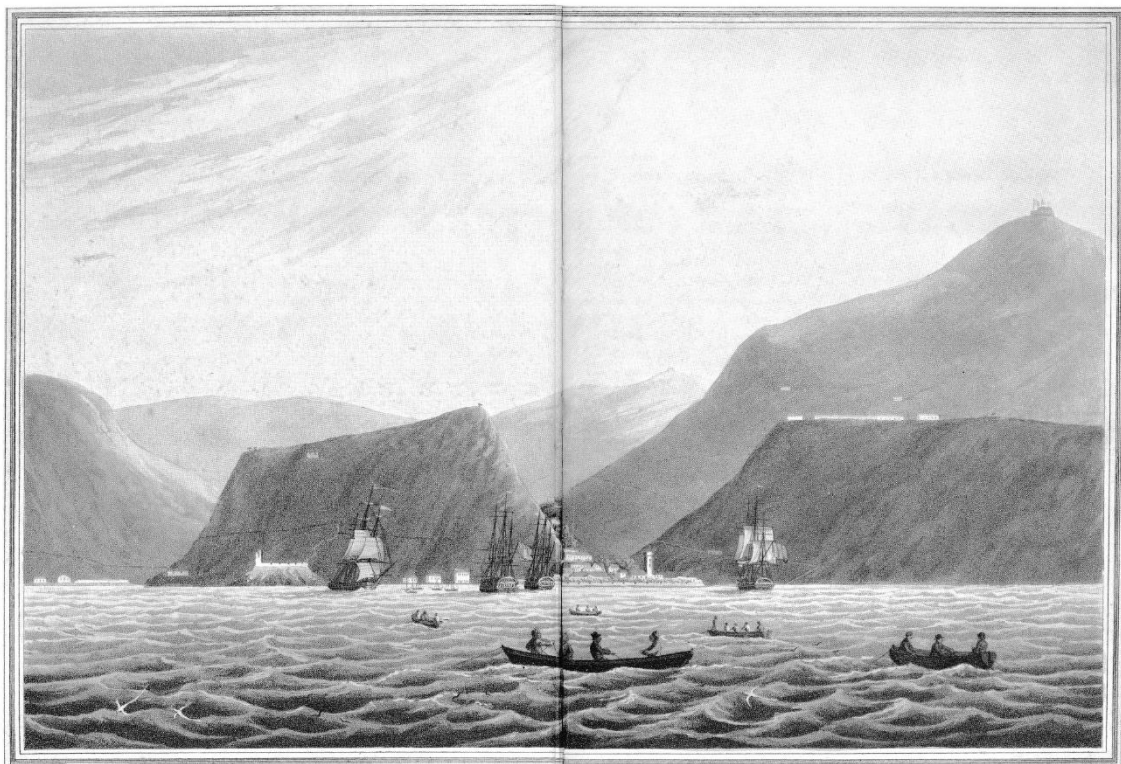
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he still held that office.

As a man of substance, Jonathan on 23 September 1707 asked leave to hire from the East India Company its waste ground lying between 'his father Dufton's Land and the Land formerly Leonard Coulson's and also one acre more which John Coulson formerly had granted'. This petition was acceded to, his rising prosperity again being reflected on 12 April 1709, when he was listed among the '36 principal inhabitants'. Diligent in improving his property, he was recorded on 23 January 1710 as having, 'after abundant hard labour, now fenced in all his land, both his own and all the Land hired of the Rt. Hon'ble Company . . .', with the result that fresh leases of the hired land were issued to him. On 30 March of the following year a notice appeared that Jonathan was established in his title as a Freeholder. During a census taken on 9 June 1730, his household comprised two Whites and six Blacks.

Although over six years had passed since, on 2 July 1707, the will of William Dufton had been brought before the Governor by Jonathan Doveton and Daniell Griffith as Executors, his estate had not yet been wound up on 13 October 1713, when a petition was lodged by his son Jonathan, in the same capacity, claiming certain debts from Hugh Bodley on behalf of his sister Elizabeth. Described as an orphan, she is reported as having been 'putt out as a maid servant to Hugh Bodley for Terme of years with a Sume of money, But she not likeing his service, he being very moross and using her beyond measure, Quitted his service.' Whether the petition succeeded is not clear, but on 2 November 1714 Jonathan himself was involved in a dispute concerning a debt of £125 to the East India Company. One amusing sidelight on the currency situation on the island is provided by the fact that he 'promised to deliver three or four cattle, 10,000 yams and five dozen pairs of shoes in settlement of this debt'! That he carried out his obligation is proved by a discharge issued to him on 24 May 1715.

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St. Helena from the sea, an early impression.

The authorities exercised another privilege in December that year when they called upon Jonathan to provide labour for road construction. In 'a list of Whites and their Blacks, to Work at the High Ways Two Days at least', he gives, under his name, one White and four Blacks. Financially he was in good standing, since, in an 'Abstract of Debts due to the Company' dated 25 March 1716, his liabilities are given as nil. Another census of the population showed his household to consist of 'One man, one woman, and five children'.

Jonathan was in court again on 29 July 1717, complaining that Henry Batchelor had fathered a child by his slave-girl Pegg, but on coming before the jury the case was dropped as 'no Black might be allowed as a Witness against a White man'.

By this time Jonathan's sister had passed away, a fact brought out when on 6 August 1717 his half-brother Michael Doveton, a soldier, complained that he (Jonathan) had held back a share of the money given to Hugh Bodley, 'upon account of his sister Elizabeth, deceased, who, being bound out apprentice to Hugh Bodley, was taken from him by reason of her master's ill ways'. From the ensuing proceedings it appeared that, since Bodley died bankrupt, no money had ever been received. Michael's case was dismissed.

Jonathan Doveton was a member of the jury on 22 March 1718, when an inquest was held on a certain John Adams, who had died 'by suffocation, following excessive drinking', one of the witnesses incidentally being his other half-brother Samuel Doveton. Only three days later he purchased a house in James Valley by Bill of Sale from a certain John Goodwin. A communal stocktaking showed his prosperity as still increasing, for the household comprised 'One man, one woman, one maiden, one boy, one girl, six black men, three black women, three black boys, two black girls'. Then came 'one bull, 18 cows, 12 bullocks, six heifers, seven steers, 18 calves', all on 142½ acres of free land, and 9 acres of hired land (a very considerable area in the 47 square miles of St. Helena). For

the construction and maintenance of public roads one white and four blacks were again compulsorily recruited.

The year 1719 brought anxiety to Jonathan from an unusual cause, for on 2 May a waterspout burst upon the island, washing away much fertile topsoil. A list of losses sustained included: 'Mr. Doveton: about 30,000 [yams] lost and four large ships and the soil washed away'. Measures of reconstruction are implied in an arrangement made by Governor Isaac Pyke on 12 May 1719 'with Mr. Doveton for takeing downe a small Enclosure that is before his [Doveton's] House that comes out into the Street and for Satisfaction to Build up the same stones in another place on one side of his House'.

Still anxious to enlarge his property, Jonathan on 12 January 1720 lodged a petition for a lease of three or four acres of waste land 'lying under Halley's Mount and adjoining his Cabbage Tree Lane on three sides, and also a lease of a piece of land adjoining his house in James Valley'. This was duly granted. Still a churchwarden for the East Division, he was in that capacity obliged, on 17 January 1721, to make a complaint that he and his colleague John Coles suspected 'Margaret Swallow, Singlewoman, to be with child which when born will be a Bastard and may be Chargeable to the Island'. Whereupon it was ordered that she be examined by 'Doctor Scrimshire, Chief Surgeon, Mr. Beal, his assistant, and Mary Shreve midwife'.

Even in those days and in such a tiny community the problem of unclaimed money already existed. This underlies a petition on 28 March 1721 signed by Jonathan Doveton along with Francis and James Leech. It advised the authorities that Richard Leech, an orphan, had left the island twenty-one years earlier (i.e. about 1700), being then under age.

The dividend due to him from his father's estate was credited in the Company's books, but he had never been heard of

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again. Doveton now requests that in right of his wife, the sister of the said Richard Leech, and with the said Richard's brothers Francis and James, the dividend of £52 1s. 4d. be divided between them in three equal shares.

This matter was, however, considered to be of such importance and to involve such matters of principle, that it was referred to the Court of Directors of the English East India Company in London.

Some weeks later, on 14 April 1721, Jonathan sat on a jury that tried Sultan, slave of John Coles, for the murder of his said master by strangulation. Being found guilty, he was sentenced 'to be hung on the gallows in the valley, and then his body to be placed in the gibbet on the top of Fort Hill'.

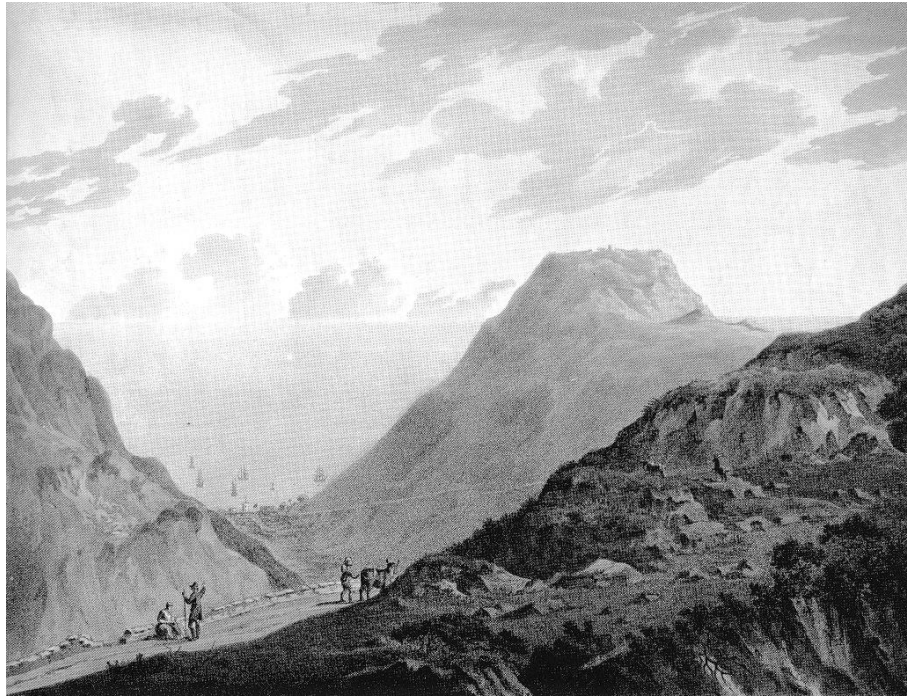
Another legal affair claiming Jonathan Doveton's attention arose in July when, as the owner of the adjoining pasture lands, he joined a petition by William Beale, asking for twelve acres of waste ground, he himself obtaining another eight and a half acres on a lease of twenty-one years in November 1721. To this he added, a fortnight later, a dwelling-house in James Valley which he bought from the executors of John Nichols Snr. After a lapse of more than a year, on 27 September 1722 Jonathan Doveton received a one-quarter share in the estate of Richard Leech, but the matter had still to be referred to London, and in the end the actual amount received was a modest £13 0s. 4d. On 2 January 1724 it was noted that a certain John Hayes had paid off a debt to him of £1 1s. 6d.

Jonathan Doveton figures as the guardian of Mary Coulson, his neighbour's child, on 30 July 1723, when he gave permission for her to depart for England in the ship *Dawson*. She duly sailed on 3 August.

Property transactions about this time include the sale to him by Robert and Mary Arkins of a house with ten acres of land.

That Jonathan possessed a certain humanity, though affected by the circumstances of his time, was illustrated on 24 March 1724,

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'Part of St. James's Valley with a Distant View of the Town of St. Helena.' Drawn by Capt. Barnett, 22nd Dragoons.

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when he complained about John Coulson, planter, who, he said, 'has for several years kept a Black man in the Holes of the Rocks some Distance from his House and, having taken no care of Him nor Allowing him any Victuals. The said fellow hath Committed frequent Robberies and that he has stolen from the Complainant abundance of yams'. Doveton was willing 'Out of Pitty' to forgive the thefts. Coulson was ordered to 'take care to Chain his Black-fellow up every night'.

The following year, on 23 November 1725, a Bill of Sale was registered for 30 acres from the same John Coulson to Jonathan, 'half in possession and half in reversion on the death of Grace Coulson widow'.

An early interest in forestry was mentioned by the East India Company in its 'Survey of Plantations' in March 1727. 'Jonathan Doveton Wee suppose to have about 15 acres of Wood on his free Land, and about 7 on his lease Land, Part young Plants, his Land all fenced, and part planted with furze'. Two years later there were '20 acres wood on free land, seven acres wood on lease land, all fenced and furze planted'. Yet another piece of ground, this time adjoining his house at the Fort, was granted to Jonathan on 30 November 1731. On 30 January of the following year he and Francis Wrangham figure as executors of the will of Bridget Bates, widow.

On 27 June 1737 John Young was summoned for abusing Jonathan Doveton 'several times in a very gross and impudent manner'. His punishment was an order to sit in the stocks.

By this time Jonathan was one of the best-known and wealthiest men on the island. During a drought the following year, a list published on 13 June of cattle lost 'by the dryness of the weather' noted three head from his own herd. On 29 November he undertook to contribute two black labourers to work on the repair of the fortifications at Lemon Valley and Sandy Bay.



Sandy Bay.

The first occasion on which a criminal charge was made against Jonathan is recorded on 8 December 1741, when Thomas Jarvis complained that he

did on Friday last come to your Petitioner's House attended by a black fellow, and there did greatly surprise your Petitioner and Family by immediately demanding to search the House of your Petitioner and land thereunto adjoining under Pretence of his having lost some Yams the night before, with the stealing of which he Publicly Charged your Petitioner. . . .

On 15 February 1742 Jonathan confessed to the Court that 'he was hurried by Passion at the time he went to Mr. Jarvis's House'. Unfortunately the story is not told in detail but he was fined 5s. 'for his Rashness, as a Warning to the Wealthy hereafter not to impose upon the Poor'.

In the accounts of the East India Company, on 27 July 1742

payment was made to Jonathan of £1 10s. 0d. for six turkeys, and £3 for six goats – indicative of the low value of livestock.

Despite advancing years he was still ready and willing to take his share in the defence of the island, then exposed to danger owing to the outbreak of the war with France, and on 30 March 1742 a muster of the Militia includes 'On the Line at the Great Fort: Jonathan Doveton, aged 64'.

His total holdings had now grown to 187½ acres of free land (for which, from 14 October 1742, he paid the Company the very modest rental of 12s. a year), besides another leased 17 acres of land, which cost him a down payment of £12 2s. 3d., a total of over 204 acres. A tragedy in his family is implied by the proving of a will on 18 January 1743 of his son-in-law, John Bazett, for whom he was an executor.

Obviously still interested in the acquisition of property, though of a different kind, he purchased on 13 October 1742, from the deceased estate of Hemans Nicholls, a collection of garments, details of which afford an entertaining glimpse of sartorial elegance in the eighteenth century:

Bought by Jonathan Doveton.	
One Set of Shoe and knee buckles, stock buckle and chain	£1. 5. 0d.
2 Wiggs	7. 7d.
3 Parcels Cherriderrys	19. 0d.
1 Blue Waistcoat & Breeches	12. 0d.
1 Great Coat	16. 0d.
1 Parcel Gurras	
6 Shirts	£1. 4. 0d.
5 Quilted Caps	2. 9d.
4 Cambrick Handkerchiefs	13. 0d.
1 Parcel Muslin Handkerchiefs	17. 6d.

Three years later, in January 1745, Jonathan Doveton, described as a planter, passed away. Under his will, dated the 14th of that month, he left to his son John 'one black boy named Wooster', to another son Isaac, 'one black boy named Toney', and to his daughter Anne, 'one black girl named Margaret'.

His other children, Samuel, John and Isaac, Sarah, Martha and Ann, received equal shares in his estate

On condition that the sons should take the land and pay their sisters the equivalent in cash, and that the daughters shall have the House at the Fort. To sons John and Isaac, the two goat ranges, to son Samuel and daughters Sarah (widow of John Bazett, now wife of Richard Goodwin), Martha (wife of James Scott), to keep the money advanced to them on their marriages.

One kindly touch concludes the document: 'Two old woman slaves, Pegg and Prance, to be taken care of by the family.'

As for landed property, this was distributed among his children. 'Jonathan Doveton's orphans', we read on 8 October 1745, '164¼ acres of free land and 17½ acres of leased land (Rent £10 8s. 0d.).' Within a year a considerable change in these figures had taken place. No less than 86½ acres of free land and 8 acres of lease land (Rent £5 6s. 6d. a year) now went to John Doveton, leaving the remaining 'Jonathan Doveton's orphans' with 77¼ acres of free land and 9½ acres of lease land (£5 1s. 6d.). Further rearrangements were to follow on 26 May 1747, when Samuel Doveton lodged a petition, setting out that he 'held a lease for three lives (John, Samuel and Mary Doveton) on 12 acres, called the Briars' (this is the famous property later associated with Napoleon). As Mary had in the meantime died, he requested that the name of Margaret Doveton be inserted in a lease, duly signed and delivered on 17 June. When, on 6 October 1747, rents were again collected by the East India Company, John Doveton still held 86½ acres of free land but his lease-

Like his father, John Doveton was interested in ecclesiastical affairs, and on 27 March 1749, being then aged 25, he too was elected a churchwarden. He was already married (in May 1745 to Mary daughter of John Worrall), thus when on 3 July 1749 Letters of Administration were asked for in the estate of the late William Worrall, the petition mentioned that John Doveton's wife was Mary Worrall, a sister of the deceased, and two years his senior.

John's domestic affairs are further indicated in a list of families on the island dated 30 September 1750, which spoke of himself, wife, 1 man, 1 boy, 2 girls. 'Blacks: 5 men, 1 woman, 1 boy, 1 girl. Cattle 42 head.' On 27 May 1751 he received £6 17s. Od. from the estate of his uncle Samuel Doveton.

Not long after, John took up another branch of livestock-breeding, for on 15 April 1754 it was noted that he had 51 sheep, as against 61 owned by his remaining brothers and sisters. He passed away in 1758, his wife Mary being granted Letters of Administration on 6 November, 'to your Petitioner's great Grief and to her sorrow having left no will'. On 1 December she presented the inventory, 'to be entered in the Book, kept for that purpose'.

William Webber, Mary's fourth child (out of eight) and the ancestor of the present family, was then only 5 years old. For a while 'John Doveton's widow' (as she was referred to in the accounts) retained her husband's real estate, including the 86½ acres of free and 8 acres of lease land, which cost a yearly rent of £6 6s. 6d., but in about 1760 she withdrew, the ground being registered in the name of 'John Doveton's orphans'. That she was, however, still alive, is shown on 9 March 1767 by a petition granted to her as 'administratrix of the estate of John Doveton deceased', with a renewal on one acre in the East Division.

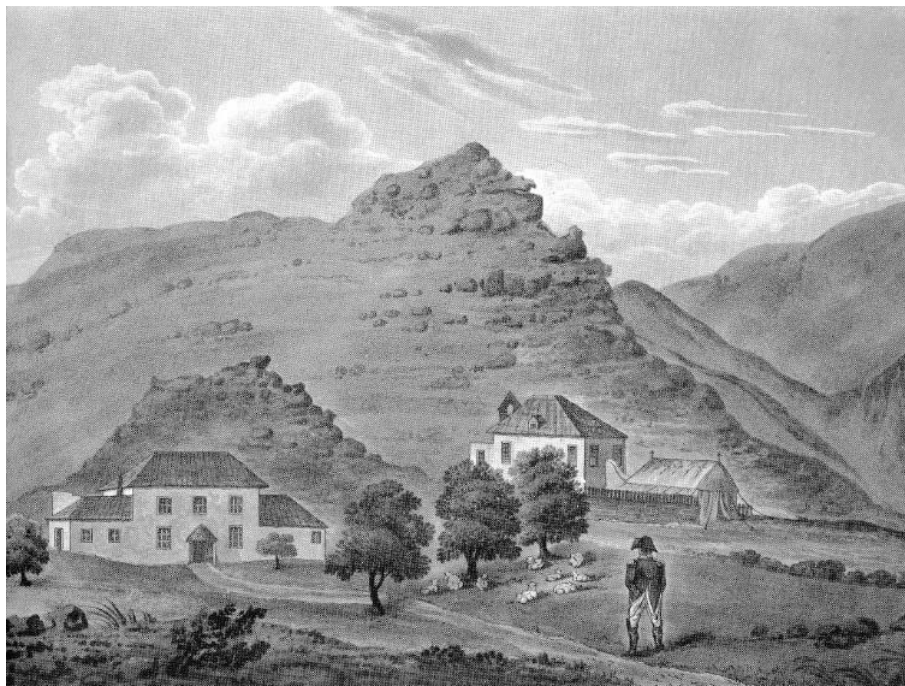
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Napoleon at 'The Briars', 'in which he is introduced in the position he is commonly seen. The whole drawn from nature and executed on the spot by Major Stewart of the 24th Regt. of Foot, passenger in the *Bombay* . . .'

The bungalow in which he sleeps.

Mr. Balcombe's house.

The tent in which he dines.



THE 'NAPOLEONIC' DOVETONS

William Webber Doveton, born on 23 November 1753, made his professional debut in the records when on 19 June 1769 he was appointed to the position of 'Writer' in the service of the English East India Company. Two years later, on 17 April 1771, he was mentioned in his new capacity, earning £7 10s. 0d. salary, plus £10 'Diet Money'. On the initiative of the St. Helena Governor, on 9 May 1773 his younger brother John (born 1758) was nominated as a Writer, the Governor explaining to the Court of Directors in London:

We have been under the necessity of looking out for two deserving and capable young men to act as Writers with the usual salary until your pleasure is known. The two young gentlemen we find well qualified to act are John Doveton and –, the former a son of the widow Doveton with a large family. . . .

The 'Consultations' record, on 19 July 1773 (vol. 55), John Doveton, Writer, from 10 May paid £11 14s. 0d.; William Doveton, Writer, paid £20, made up of £7 10s. 0d. salary, £10 diet money and £2 10s 0d. house rent. William Doveton's steady progress in the service of the East India Company is measured by an entry in the 'Consultations' (vol. 65):

September 30, 1782.	
W.W. Doveton	£12. 10. 0d.
Diet Money	10. 0. 0d.
House Rent	2. 10. 0d.
Secretary to the Committee	<u>17. 10. 0d.</u>
	<u>£42. 10. 0d.</u>

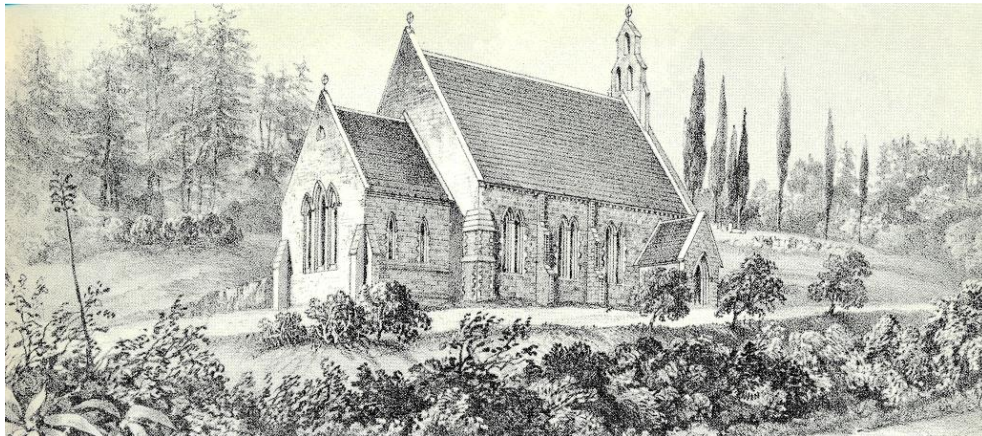
At the early age of 22, on 12 January 1775, he married Eleanor Beale, one year younger than himself and the daughter of Onesiphorus Beale and his wife Mary, born Thwaits. They too, had an imposing family, comprising four girls and six boys.

Promotion came on 12 April 1784, with a mention of W.W. Dove-ton as Sheriff, and again in 1789 – that memorable year which saw the fall of the Bastille and the beginning of the French Revolution. On 6 July 1789 we read:

Mr. William Webber Doveton, having claimed a right to act as Secretary in the room of Mr. Wright, promoted to a seat on the Board and to hold the temporary Paymastership by virtue of the Court of Directors' orders, and Mr. Leech, having been called on and acquiescing in same, so that it did not take from him his right of succeeding to the head of an office on the first vacancy and Mr. Doveton acknowledging he looked on acting as Paymaster to be only under Mr. Wrangham and a temporary matter, the Board have acquiesced with Mr. Dove-ton's request and he is accordingly to do the duty of Secretary and to act under Mr. Wrangham's Department of Paymaster until the Honble. Court of Directors' pleasure be known.

The family's standing may be judged from the occasion when Lord Valentia, an Irish grandee, touched at St. Helena outward bound for India, on 28 August 1802. The Governor sent his apologies for being away from the island and therefore being unable to allow His Lordship to stay in the official residence. Instead he was put up in that of Mr. W. Doveton.

Five years later William Webber suffered the bereavement of his wife, whose great friend Anne Greentree, wife of Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Greentree, died a few days later. A memorial, moving and affectionate, was erected in St. Paul's, the Cathedral church of the island.



St. Paul's Church.

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THIS TABLET COMMEMORATES
 The Virtues, seldom surpassed,
 The Friendship, seldom equalled,
 Of two most amiable Women, Whose Lives,
 Spent in exercise of every Christian Duty,
 And in the practice of every Human Charity,
 Commenced and terminated nearly at the same Period:
 Each of them leaving
 A Disconsolate Husband and an Afflicted Family
 To deplore the Irreparable Loss of
 A most affectionate Wife:
 A most tender Parent:

ELEANOR DOVETON
 born 22nd July, 1754:
 Married 12th January, 1775
 to

WILLIAM WEBBER DOVETON ESQR.
 of the Council of this Island
 died 31st March, 1807

ANNE GREENTREE
 born 30th September, 1753:
 Married 6th August, 1783
 to

LT. COL. THOMAS GREENTREE
 of this Establishment
 died 3rd April, 1807

In the adjacent Ground their Remains lie deposited
 awaiting a joyful Resurrection
 To that immortal Glory, promised
 to Piety, Truth and Virtue, such as were theirs.

When, on 4 July 1808, Governor Beatson arrived in St. Helena, aboard H.M.S. *Thetis* and accompanied by the Honourable Company's ships *Europe*, *Lord Castlereagh* and *Lord Keith*, he was welcomed by the Council, comprising Mr. Leech and Colonel Broughton, to whose number he immediately appointed William Webber Doveton, Paymaster of the Company.

Commissioned as a Major in the St. Helena Volunteers during the Napoleonic Wars, William Webber Doveton was charged with

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The 'Sword of Honour'.

defending the soil of the island in case of invasion. His tact as well as his popularity were such that officers and men combined on 21 July 1810 in a presentation. This took the form of a 'Sword of Honour', costing the considerable amount of 100 guineas, and manufactured by a firm of London cutlers in Drury Lane, patronised by the future King William IV.

Saul Solomon, namesake and relative of the well-known Cape statesman, as well as head of the influential local family, handed over the weapon to Major Doveton with flowery remarks typical of the age:

Sir,

We have this day the honour of being deputed by the Privates of the Volunteer Corps of this Island, who have had the happiness of being so long under your Command, to present this Sword for your Acceptance, as a respectful Testimony of the affectionate Regard and veneration they entertain of your Public and patriotic Character.

Deeply impressed as we are with the distinguished situation we have been placed in, on this Occasion, by being selected by our Brother Volunteers in offering to you this Small but Sincere and Unanimous Token of our Esteem and Respect – We have only sincerely to wish that long may you live, to wear this Sword in Defence of our King, our Country and its Laws.

When it shall descend into the possession of your posterity, may it be accompanied by those indiscriminate Feelings and manly virtues which have hitherto so conspicuously distinguished you through life; and may your descendants deserve, as you do, the 'Gift of Gratitude of Public Merit'.

After the parade on Francis Plain, Major Doveton replied as follows:

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Mr. Solomon and Gentlemen,

Although I consider myself totally undeserving of this honour you have conferred on me, yet I receive this Sword with Sentiments of Sincere and Lively Gratitude, as an Honourable Pledge and Testimony of your Goodwill and Attachment to my person, as Commandant of the Patriots and Loyal St. Helena Volunteers.

It is an honour highly flattering and infinitely beyond my deserts or most distant expectations, and I shall ever consider and appreciate this as the Proudest Day of my Existence, contemplating on the unanimous suffrages and good opinion of so large and respectable a Body of our little Community. This invaluable Sword, the pledge of your Confidence and Good Opinion, shall ever be held in high Estimation; and I promise should our Rock be ever assailed by an Enemy, that then, at the head of the Loyal Volunteers, it shall be unsheathed for its defence; for that of the Interest of our Masters, the Honourable East India Company and Inhabitants at large.

Your kind and friendly wishes for my Happiness; your affectionate Expressions of Regard for my person, overwhelm me with Gratitude and claim my warmest my sincerest Thanks; and I pray that it may be the pleasure of the Almighty to shower down the choicest of his Blessings upon you, Gentlemen, and upon every individual of those you so worthily represent. . . .

We are told that the remaining part of the day was spent in 'mirth and conviviality', towards the attainment of which the drinking of no fewer than fifteen loyal and patriotic toasts doubtless made a full contribution. As a matter of History it is worth setting down the impressive variety of subjects to which our ancestors drank their good wishes. They were:

THE KING
THE HONOURABLE EAST INDIA COMPANY

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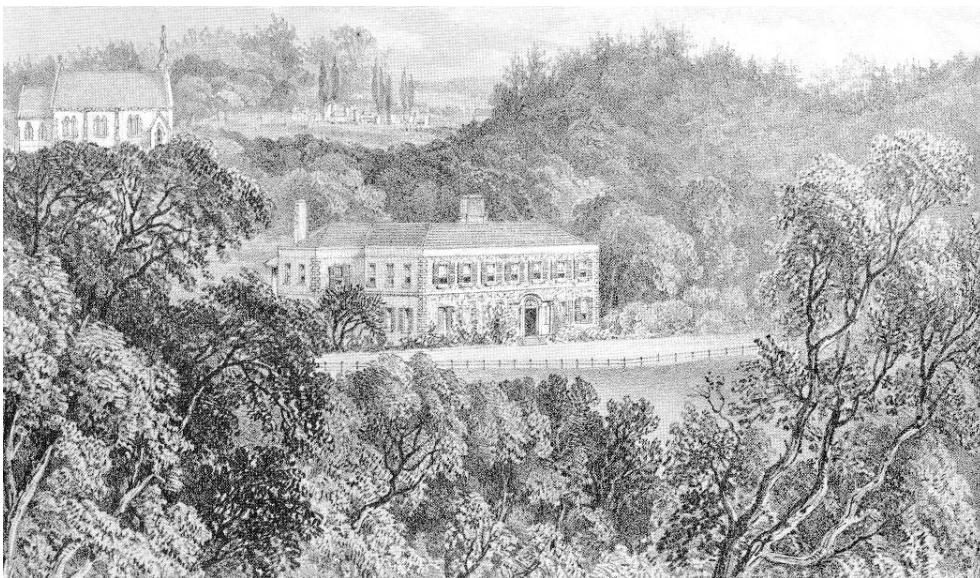
GOVERNOR BEATSON
GOVERNOR PATTON
GOVERNOR BROOKE
COMMANDANT OF THE ST. HELENA VOLUNTEERS
CAPTAIN G. DOVETON [eldest son of William Webber]
MANY HAPPY MEETINGS TO COMMEMORATE THE GIFT
OF GRATITUDE
TO PUBLIC MERIT
TO COLONEL BROUGHTON
TO COLONEL GREENTREE AND THE ST. HELENA REGIMENT
TO COLONEL SMITH AND THE CORPS OF ARTILLERY
TO THE LOYAL AND PATRIOTIC ST. HELENA VOLUNTEERS

TO DR. KAY SENIOR AND THE MEDICAL DEPARTMENT
TO CAPTAIN HAMILTON OUR FORMER REGULATING OFFICER

The first occasion when, at any rate figuratively speaking, the new owner unsheathed his word, came sooner than anybody had foreseen and for reasons very different from those envisaged at the party. Major-General Beatson, Governor of St. Helena, decided that the high rate of sickness and incapacity prevailing on the island, which had put in hospital no fewer than 130 out of the 1,250 men in the garrison, was mainly due to the excessive consumption of rum. To stop this abuse he forbade its importation from the West Indies, insisting that in future the alcoholic needs of the troops should be met entirely from Cape wine and from beer brewed on the spot. Although the wisdom of his action was proved by the immediate reduction in the number of hospital patients from 130 to 48, the soldiers were incensed, some of them even sending threatening messages to His Excellency.

Matters came to a head on the evening of 23 December 1811, with the mutiny of 200 St. Helena infantrymen in Jamestown.

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Plantation House, with St. James's Church.

Boldly marching to Plantation House, official residence of the Governor, they proposed to seize him and send him out of the country. His Excellency, however, had received due warning and received them outside with a force of 130 Loyal Volunteers placed at strategic places along their route. Worse still, from the mutineers' point of view, was the fact that the Artillery, which had refused to join them, had even brought up some of their cannon and were ready to fire. Although during the confusion the mutineers succeeded in overwhelming the gunners, they themselves soon faced a superior force, of which Major Doveton (complete with sword) was a member.

According to the official log:

The Regiment of Artillery, a large number of Infantry and the Regiment of Volunteers kept faithful guard, and when the mutineers reached Plantation at daylight in the morning, only 75 of the original number remained together. They were completely surrounded and

compelled to surrender. Being brought to immediate trial, six of the most guilty were forthwith hung at High Knoll. Another principal ringleader was tried and hung on the 26th at Jamestown. Subordination was thus thoroughly restored; the Governor's thanks were then

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expressed to the officers of St. Helena; and to the Artillery, who had almost to a man escaped the contagion; to the St. Helena Volunteers for their loyalty and eagerness to do their duty and to the portion of the Infantry who remained firm to the Government. . . .

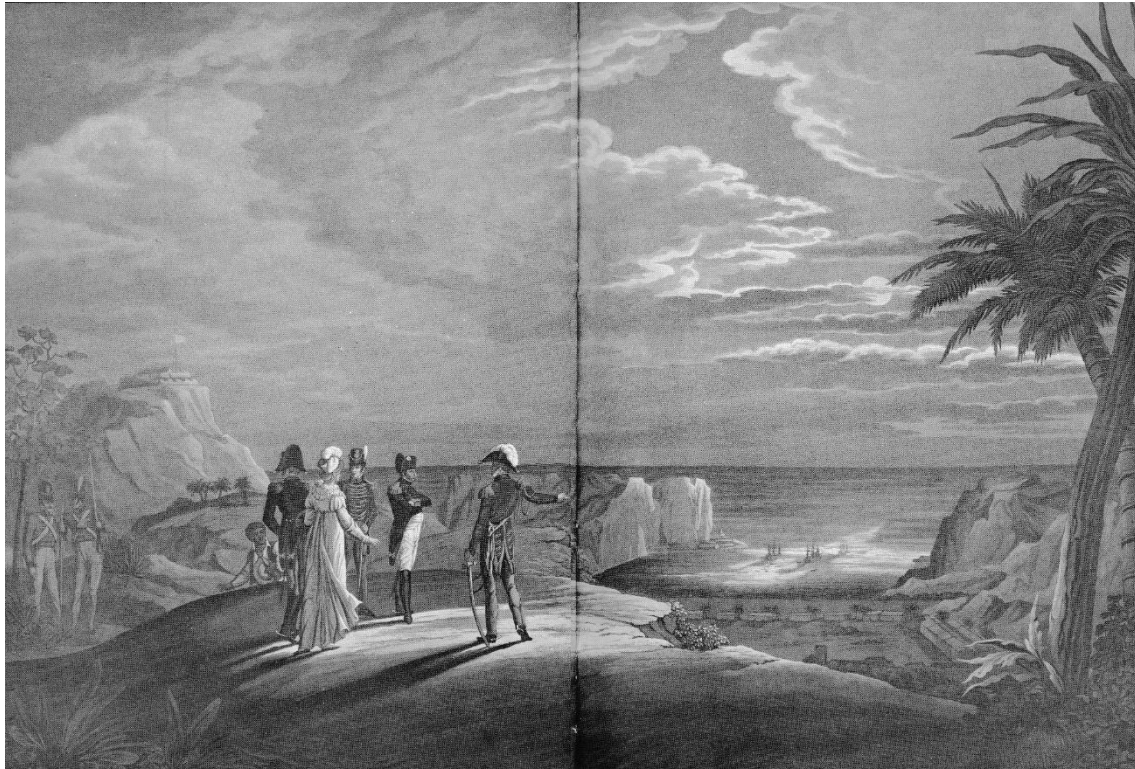
Upon his death, Sir William Doveton, on whom a knighthood was conferred in 1819, left his sword to his son, Lieutenant-General Sir John Doveton of the Madras Cavalry, and when he died in September 1857 it passed on to his brother Lieutenant-General Frederick Larkins Doveton, also of the Madras Army, to whom reference will presently be made. When the latter, in his turn, passed away on 20 December 1859, the sword descended to his nephew, Major William Kennedy Doveton, formerly of the St. Helena Artillery, Sir William's oldest male descendant. Ultimately the weapon reached his daughter, Mrs. Caroline A. Lees of Cape Town, who deposited it in the Cape Town Museum, where it remained for many years. According to a note by the authorities there, 'William Doveton, eldest son of the late Major Doveton, is the rightful owner and at his death Franklin Doveton is the next eldest son to claim it. At his death Lambe Doveton, youngest son, claims it. The latter is in Cape Town.'

Mrs. Lees, however, added the restrictions: 'The Sword cannot be handed over to any of the above-mentioned names without my authority.'

After the death of Mrs. Lees the weapon was finally returned to the Museum in St. Helena, on whose behalf the Government Secretary at Jamestown declared:

With its beautiful workmanship it has aroused much interest locally, and is much admired. As long as it may remain in the possession of the Government of St. Helena, it will be a treasured memento of a family distinguished for their long and devoted service to the people of the Island.

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Napoleon on the Island of St. Helena.

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Apart from his military rank William Webber Doveton was also Secretary to the Administration, and Senior Member of the Colony's Council of Policy. For men of his grade, scales of remuneration were surprisingly high. Thus, when he became both Paymaster and Accountant under Governor Sir Hudson Lowe, the salary for each office was £1,400 a year!

With the end of the wars and the surrender of Napoleon, Major W.W. Doveton came into fresh prominence. His responsible position in the administration brought him into frequent touch with the Emperor and, despite the awkwardness of his position, they became friends, even the French entourage regarding him favourably. General Baron Gourgaud mentioned in his diary, on 3 November 1815, that the Emperor 'asks me to visit . . . Doveton. . .', and again, on 12 March 1816, 'I dined at the Governor's with Doveton and the Commissioners. . .

On 6 March 1818 Doveton sailed with his daughter Anna – whose health was giving concern – in the *Marquis of Camden*, commanded by Captain Larkins for London, where he was cordially received by the Court of Directors of the East India Company. In view of his exceptional services to their administration, they decided, after a whole day's debate, to grant him the very substantial pension of £800 a year.

According to the record furnished by Dr. William A. Shaw, a knighthood was personally conferred upon him by the Prince Regent (afterwards King George IV) on 30 January 1819, at his famous residence the Pavilion, in Brighton. Sir William, as he now was, returned in a blaze of glory in the ship *Bombay* on 4 May 1819, and apart from a further visit to England in 1825, spent the rest of his days at his Sandy Bay estate. Nonetheless, he became involved in the violent disputes concerning the treatment of Napoleon by the Governor Sir Hudson Lowe. Captain Piontkowski, a Polish officer, who went into exile with the Emperor, declared in



Napoleon as he was when first seen at 'The Briars' in 1815.

Napoleon in the last phase.

his memoirs:

I assert that in 1820 Lowe vindictively isolated Longwood in order to punish all its inmates en bloc for the Emperor's animadversions . . . and Count Bertrand's consequently hostile attitude throughout 1819. . . . Let me add that even Lowe got ashamed of himself in time and, before the end of the year, sent Lady Lowe, Doveton, Miss Mason and a few more to drop cards on the Countess. . . .

Piontkowski later sourly complains: 'At the Doveton "picnic", that newly-knighted "yamstock"* preserved the proper dignity and respect of his own character as an English gentleman by not condescending to the same obeisance as General Bonaparte's own followers. . .

However, the very last excursion made by Napoleon on 4 October 1820, before illness overcame him, was to Doveton's estate, where he was 'received with honour'. We owe to the famous French historian and biographer, Octave Aubry, this vivid description of the occasion:

Thinking that 'a good fatigue', as he said, would deaden his discomfort (he was by this time a very sick man), the Emperor

* As the inhabitants of St. Helena were described by the 'English', a reference to a principal product of the island.



Sir William Webber Doveton.

decided to go for luncheon to Mount Pleasant, the residence of Sir William Doveton, on the slopes of the wooded chain, which dips towards the sea from the vast magnificent basin of Sandy Bay. He set out about seven o'clock in the morning, with Bertrand, Montholon, Auchambault and thirteen attendants carrying provisions. Riding through Hutt's Gate, he gained the high road that skirts Diana's Peak between verdant dales. Slowly the little company climbed the grade, discovering a wider horizon at each turn of the road. Before them the whole southern position of the Island stretched out, like a map in bold relief, as far as the pallid sea. The aged Doveton had not been forewarned about this visit of the captive, but he caught a sight of the cavalcade from afar.

In an account he sent to Governor Lowe, five days later, Dove-ton relates that he was walking in his garden when he saw some riders advancing in the direction of his estate. Concluding that they were state prisoners from 'Longwood',

I went unto my daughter, Mrs. Greentree, who was in the act of dressing her youngest child, and told her I apprehended we were likely to have a visit from Bonaparte.

Montholon was riding in the lead. He dismounted and entered the avenue of great pink and white camelias that led to a terrace, on which the bungalow was situated. From there he could look over one of the most wonderful landscapes of the World green mountains, red and black rocks, terraced pastures of short mapped velvet – here and there a cottage squatting under a mossy roof.

Doveton came to meet Montholon and was told that the Emperor asked permission to rest awhile with him. The old man placed his home at Napoleon's service, welcomed the Emperor respect-

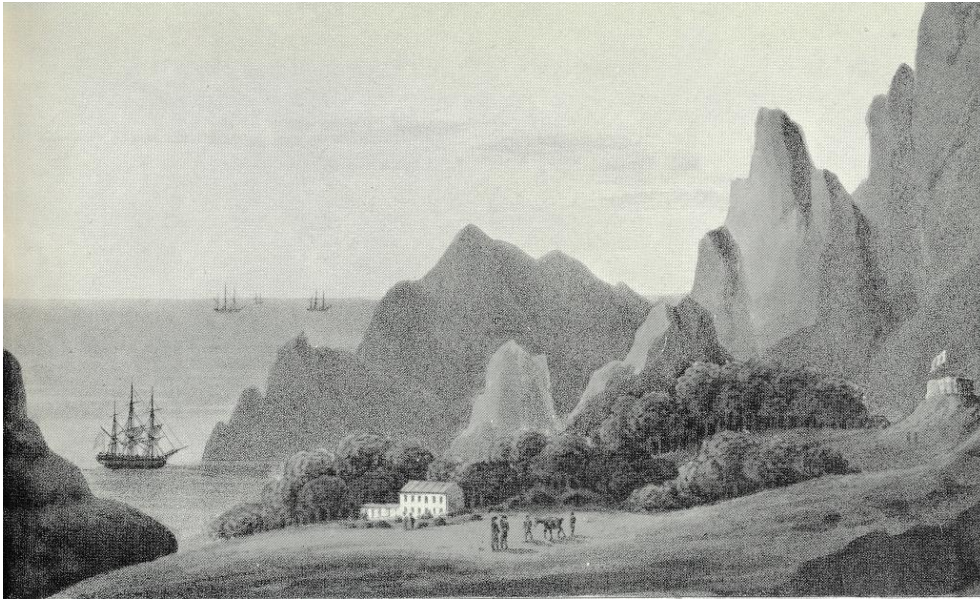
fully and begged him to mount the few steps of the verandah and take a seat in the drawing-room. Here a friendly conversation took place. Napoleon chatted with Mrs. Greentree and her daughters, Eliza and Anne. He gave them liquorice from a tortoiseshell *bonbonnière* and, though declining to join them for breakfast, he asked his host to share the meal they had brought with them from 'Longwood'. A table was set up on the lawn, great cedars and magnificent cypresses lent them shade, while hibiscuses in four colours stood about here and there, arranged like giant bouquets. At their feet arum lilies lifted bronze lances surrounded by white trumpets. It was a sumptuous meal and an animated party.

Octave Aubry wrote:

... though the General was looking very pale, [Doveton] was deceived by his obesity into describing him to the Governor in his report, as fat and round as a China pig.

Later Napoleon became weary and requested to take his leave. He mounted his horse painfully and rode back to Longwood. This was the last time he was seen outside the grounds.

Sir William Doveton further emphasised his social status on 13 September 1821, by obtaining permission to take over the house of the Admiral. He died in October 1843, at the age of 90.



Colonel Doveton's house.

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Still hanging in St. Paul's Cathedral, St. Helena, over Doveton's memorial, are the colours carried by the St. Helena Regiment at Napoleon's funeral, 'It being promised by Governor Patrick Ross, when presenting new Colours on Francis Plain, that they should rest there for ever.'

Another member of the family had also had the honour of entertaining Napoleon – Sir William's daughter Maria, who in 1803 had married Major Charles Robert George Hodson, Town Major during the Emperor's captivity. Taking a great fancy to Hodson and impressed by his height, Napoleon nicknamed him 'Hercules' and, on 4 January 1818, invited him and his wife to dinner at 'Longwood'. When in 1840 Napoleon's body was exhumed, Hodson was appointed an official witness of the event. He rose to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel, and retired to Bath, where he died in 1858.

For reasons of convenience, the stories of Sir William's soldier sons are given in the chapter 'The Military Dovetons', but the remainder of his family will be dealt with here.

Gabriel Doveton, his eldest son, carried on the line. He too spent virtually his whole life in the restricted environment of St. Helena, the first direct reference to him in the Official Records being on 8 November 1790:

'Mr. W.W. Doveton petitions that his son Gabriel, 15 years of age, might be put on full pay as a Writer.' Thirteen years later, when he was only 28, there is testimony to his gratifying progress: 'Gabriel Doveton sworn in Member of the Council, *vice* Cocks, he being senior Civil Servant.' Although the arrival within a short space of time of Mr. Robert Leech from England brought with it Gabriel's retirement from the legislative body (of which he had been only a temporary member), his status was restored when a colonist named Lambe was summoned, along with his wife, for insulting the Government 'in the person of Mr. Gabriel Doveton'. To this we learn the response was equally contemptuous. 'Mr. Lambe damned his eyes and asked who he was. . .!'

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William Kennedy Doveton.

In 1798 Gabriel had married Mary Anne Kennedy, by whom, as already mentioned, he had a family of seven. He was still in the government service when Napoleon arrived after Waterloo, but his health was failing and, a few months later, early in 1816, we find in the 'Consultations': 'Mr Gabriel Doveton, Accountant, died Friday 16 Febr.', with the addition, 'Govr. records opinion of his habitual accuracy and spotless integrity'.

(On the tombstone, still to be seen, he is actually given a somewhat higher rank, that of Senior Merchant. So too there is a mistake on the tombstone of Gabriel's eldest son, William Kennedy Doveton, which mentions the date of his birth as 1800, whereas it actually was August 1799. Another curious feature in the records is the fact that he was christened twice – first privately and then, contrary to custom, in public! Both these ceremonies were entered in the parish records of the island.)

William Kennedy Doveton set something of a family record, since he was responsible for a total of 17 children, admittedly from two different wives – the second union being the one perpetuated today.

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At the age of 23 his first marriage took place to Eliza Desfountain but on 27 June 1835, within a year of her death, he took as his second wife Mary Anne Ashton, herself a widow.

Onesiphorus Bagley Doveton, Mary Anne's second child by this new marriage, derived his extraordinary name from the Second Epistle to Timothy (chapter 1, verses 16-18) in the New Testament:

The Lord give mercy unto the house of Onesiphorus; for he oft refreshed me, and was not ashamed of my chain. But when he was in Rome, he sought me out very diligently, and found me. The Lord grant unto him that he may find mercy of the Lord in that day: and in how many things he ministered unto me at Ephesus, thou knowest very well.

The name was hereditary on the Beale side of the Doveton family, to which there will be further reference later.

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SOME DOVETONS IN SOUTH AFRICA

Born on 20 June 1838, Onesiphorus Bagley Doveton created the first direct link with South Africa. His immigration to the Cape was due to the passing of the administration of St. Helena in 1834 from the hands of the English East India Company into those of the Colonial Office.

The harsh treatment of servants of the East India Company who had served so long and faithfully is described by Philip Gosse in his history of St. Helena in the following terms:

For 182 years the Honourable East India Company ruled their little colony of St. Helena paternally and generously, but in the year 1833 the St. Helenians received the almost crushing intelligence that the rule of the Island was to be transferred to His Majesty's Government. Most of the Civil Servants of the Company were summarily dismissed, so that many of them who had been in receipt of a handsome salary were reduced almost in a moment to poverty. To such bitter straits were the inhabitants reduced that in 1838 many whole families as well as 110 other persons, consisting principally of young men, emigrated to the Cape of Good Hope.

The date of Onesiphorus's arrival is uncertain, but on 25 September 1860 he was married by the Reverend Edward Judge, M.A., Colonial Chaplain at St. Francis Church, Simonstown, to Emily M. Ellert Beale, then still a minor, a member of another very old island family, to which reference will be made later. He was then described as an accountant. In 1865 he was living at 28 Primrose Street, Cape Town, and two years later was to be found at Shambles Nos. 1 & 2, Strand Street, now occupied by the reclaimed ground of the city's new Main Railway Station. Still in business in 1869, he had moved his residence to 56 Strand Street. His end was tragic, for he was drowned in Table Bay in the early 1870s.

Onesiphorus's family comprised three sons and four daughters.



Onesiphorus Bagley Doveton.

First child of the marriage was William Loudon Doveton, baptised by the Reverend Thomas Fothergill Lightfoot at St. George's Cathedral on 19 July 1861, with William Kennedy Doveton acting by proxy as sponsor for O.B. Doveton, the others being Thomas Jones Dickson and Henrietta Dorothea Beale. Onesiphorus and his wife were living at the time in Kloof Street, where his occupation was 'Clerk'. Henrietta Mary Anne Doveton, the second child, was born in Rondebosch in January 1863. The third child was Charles Louis Ellert Doveton, born on 17 January 1865, the address of the parents being 28 Primrose Street (between Caledon and Constitution Streets, then a popular residential neighbourhood). Born on 1 November 1866, the fourth child, Florence Elizabeth Annie Doveton, was baptised on 28 December in the same place and by the same

clergyman. After these children came a two-year gap, until Annie Beatrice Doveton arrived on 21 December 1868. Nearly three years went by before the birth, on 26 March 1871, of Edith Maud Dove-ton, when the father was again, as at his wedding, described as 'Accountant' and his address as Sir Lowry Street (not Sir Lowry Road). The youngest child was Walesby Taylor Doveton, born on 9 February 1873, the family now residing at 14 New Street, Cape Town.

Onesiphorus's youngest daughter Edith Maud Doveton, to whom this book is dedicated, married Edward Carter, a son of James Carter of Graaff-Reinet. They were married at St. Mary's in the Parish of Johannesburg on 22 April 1891, Edward Carter then being a clerk in the firm of Dunell Ebdon & Co.



Emily Maria Ellert Doveton (nee Beale), wife of Onesiphorus.

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Edith Carter's life in the Transvaal Republic and then in the Orange Free State during the Anglo Boer War is a story in itself.

Another migrant from St. Helena was Henry Doveton (1808-69), son of Gabriel and Mary, who probably left the island with the change of administration. He married Elizabeth Sampson (see page 59), drew his pension for many years and had seven children, Henry Charles, William W. Kennedy, Sampson, Victorine Margaret, Laura Elizabeth, Courtney James, Maryann Agnes.

Among the children of William Kennedy Doveton and Mary Anne Ashton, mention should also be made of Caroline Amelia, born in 1842, who, at the age of 19, in 1861 became the wife of John Lees.

A younger sister of Caroline Amelia was Eliza Charlotte Doveton, born 18 July 1844. In 1862, at the age of 17, Eliza married Donald McDonald, a Scotsman who had left the small village of Conon Bridge, Ross-shire, to join the staff of Wm. Aiken & Sons, drapers at St. Helena. He subsequently went into business on his own 'which he managed with skill and profit'. After their marriage they took up residence at 'Alarm House'. This house was built in 1702, to house the men in charge of the gun placed on Alarm Hill and to store the powder.

This gun was still to be seen in the garden of 'Alarm House' in 1937. The house was situated at the head of the valley overlooking the port of Jamestown.

Eliza and her husband made this their home until 1875. With the progress of shipbuilding, faster and better ships were being launched and the necessity to call at St. Helena grew less. Then the opening of the Suez Canal in 1869 still further turned the trade away from the island. Donald McDonald could see no future for himself or his family at St. Helena. He sold his business, and after a brief visit to Scotland he sailed for Natal. He settled in Durban and once again started business on his own, which he managed successfully until his death, 23 April 1900.

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Edith Maud Doveton, Johannesburg, 1891.

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When Eliza arrived in Natal in 1876 with her husband and family, they were carried from ship to shore on the backs of Zulus. The McDonalds made their home at Montpelier on the bushy outskirts of the town and named it 'Blinkbonnie'. Their house was a rambling colonial type of bungalow set in about twelve acres of ground, and the garden was filled with flowers, shrubs and shady trees. It looked out over dense bushy territory on to the Indian Ocean, and inland on to rolling hills with the Umgeni River winding serpent-like on its way to the sea.

Five of Eliza's children were born at St. Helena: Ronald, Margaret, Mary Helen (Minnie), John Andrew and William John. John Andrew died as a child on 6 September 1869. Ethel Louisa and Donald FitzAndrew were born in Durban, as well as Donald Chelmsford, who died in infancy on 11 May 1880. Ethel Louisa, born 1877, married Frederick Charles Harwin, member of a family well known in old Natal. His brother William was associated with the pioneer firm of Harwin and Patterson, Merchants, a household word.

Eliza maintained her interest in St. Helena, and the mail from there was a never-ending source of pleasure. On one occasion it brought her a box of pears from her old garden at 'Alarm House', sent to her by Benjamin Grant, editor of the *St. Helena Guardian*. She corresponded regularly with her old friends and took an interest in the welfare of the poor. She was generous with gifts in cash and kind to help the then impoverished islanders in their dire need.

The following passage is taken from a St. Helena church magazine:

St. Matthews, Longwood. It so seldom happens that a ministering angel or patron saint spreads its wings over our small community that it affords us great pleasure to record it whenever the winds waft the story that it has really happened.

It is in the person of our dear valued friend, Mrs. McDonald,

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Eliza Charlotte McDonald (née Doveton).

formerly of Alarm House and now resident in Durban, Natal, who has most generously and kindly devoted through Canon Hands a handsome sum of money for the purchase of a harmonium which she has most thoughtfully presented to St. Matthews Church.

This is not the first time that her liberality has been exercised towards the poor and church of her old parish. Parishioners one and all tender most grateful thanks for same.



Colonel John Gabriel Doveton and Mrs. Doveton (née Catherine Chadwick) at 'Prospect', St. Helena.

Another arrival from that Colony was Colonel John Gabriel Dove-ton (1801-1900), son of Gabriel Doveton and Mary Kennedy. He arrived in Cape Town in 1876 and maintained the family tradition for longevity in a most spectacular way, by dying at 98 years and eleven-and-a-half months on 31 March 1900! He had been Receiver General on the island, and he continued to draw his pension for a long time. The emoluments in fact became the subject of lengthy correspondence between the Governments of Britain, the Cape and St. Helena. On 23 August 1881, a letter was despatched from Downing Street on behalf of the Colonial Secretary to Sir Hercules Robinson, Governor of the Cape. After dealing with an Income Tax Refund claimed by a Mr. W.P. Sampson, formerly of St. Helena (Mrs. Henry Doveton was Miss Elizabeth Sampson), the letter goes on:

The Treasury Chest claim above includes another case, that of Mr. J.G. Doveton, on which the Lords Commissioners of Treasury may perhaps think it proper to give an instruction to the Treasury Chest Officer at the Cape. In Mr. Doveton's instance the amount drawn from public funds appears to be only £170 per annum, £140 from the Parliamentary Vote for the Orange River Territory and St. Helena and £30 from Indian Funds. It may be thought right to enquire whether Mr. Doveton, who has been charged the full tax on the £140 paid on account of the Vote, is not entitled to some relief.

The list of John Gabriel's twelve children is given on page 91. He named his home in Cape Town, 'Prospect House', after his earlier one in St. Helena. There, in Lover's Walk, Rondebosch, he lived his last years in state.

We get a further glimpse of Emily Doveton (widow of Onesiphorus) when in 1882 she was described as School Mistress of Wynberg, where she educated her children and brought them up with affection and in the strict discipline of those days.

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In the circumstances in which this family was placed, it is not surprising that the eldest son William Loudon Doveton was attracted to the Witwatersrand by the discovery of gold and was in fact one of the early pioneers already listed in 'Turner's Directory' issued in 1889, among those established on the Stock Exchange. Hence we find in 1890: 'W.L. Doveton & Co., Brokers, P.O. Box 209, Johannesburg, Telegraphic Address "Volapuk", No. 8, City Chambers, Commissioner Street'. He was also a director of the Langlaagte Prospecting & Gold Mining Company Limited and of the Leeuwpoot Gold Mining Company Limited.

Langlaagte Prospecting, with a capital of £20,000, held the farms 'Wolvekopjies', 'Hoenderputs' and 'Uitvlugt', the other directors being H.J. Morkel, F.W. Alexander, Maurice Hunter, G.J. du Toit, P.J. Malan and Dr. J.W. Mathews, the well-known Kimberley pioneer. Although two shafts were sunk in 1890, they do not seem to have produced results. As for the Leeuwpoot Gold Mining Company, this was a more ambitious concern. Floated in 1888 with £19,000 capital, it was reconstructed soon after with £100,000. Besides William Doveton, the Board comprised a former Prime Minister of Cape Colony, Sir Thomas Scanlen, George Farrar (later Sir George Farrar), Alfred Goldberg, J.W. de Waal, J.D. Stighling, J.T. Toerien and A.D. Alexander. Its fifty-four claims were on the farm 'Leeuwpoot' and another thirty-six along the Black Reef. Mining equipment included sixteen 'Sandycroft' stamps, driven by a 25 h.p. engine; two incline shafts were each sunk to a depth of 110 feet.

William was joined by his brother Charles Louis Ellert Doveton, who became manager of Simmer & Jack Mines Ltd. before he made his way to Rhodesia, where he was manager of the Shamva Mine.

Understandably, the allure of the Witwatersrand as seen through the eyes of these two brothers prompted the family in the Cape to pull up their roots and move to Johannesburg – they went by

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train to Kimberley and then by stage coach to Johannesburg. In 1891 there is a reference to Mrs. Doveton, P.O. Box 1426, Joubert Street North, Johannesburg. The youngest member of this family, Walesby, was attracted

yet farther north and settled in Bulawayo, losing his life in the Matabele Rising of 1893. His name appears on the Memorial in Bulawayo.

Of the family who remained in the Cape, Lambe Doveton (born in 1849), a younger brother of Onesiphorus, married on 4 August



William Loudon Doveton.

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1872, at St. George's Cathedral, Rose Helena Holland of Clifton Hall. In 1875 he lived first at 29 Caledon Street and then at No. 25. By occupation he was a clerk and we can follow his movements round the city, as well as his gradual change of work. In 1881 he resided at 45 Caledon Street and in 1883 at 2 Aspeling Square. By 1893 he was a shipping-clerk with his home at 46 Roeland Street. He later joined the famous old firm of Combrink & Co., forerunners of the Imperial Cold Storage and Supply Co. By 1904 he was living at 74 Roeland Street. He died in Cape Town on 16 January 1935.

Dovetons associated with other parts of South Africa include John Stuart Doveton Helps, a colourful character remembered as the founder of the once-flourishing Natal Devolution League, which had as its object the secession of that province from the Union of South Africa. Stuart Helps, as he was usually referred to, was born at Rondebosch on 8 April 1878, the son of Dr. C.E. Helps, originally of Nottingham; Stuart's mother was the daughter of the same J.G. Doveton who had been Receiver-General on St. Helena. Helps, after receiving his education in a private school, settled in Johannesburg, where he married Violet Bruce from Dundee in Scotland. During the Jameson Raid he served in the Goldfields Corps, and later during the Matabele Rebellion in the Field Force in Rhodesia in 1896. He saw further active service in Swaziland in 1898 and during the South African War was with Rimington's Scouts. He took up government and military contracting and settled in Natal, where he died on 23 April 1957.

THE ENGLISH BRANCH

While the Dovetons made their mark in faraway lands, the original English family continued to flourish, though they are difficult to trace among the vast population of the Old Country, after the destruction of so many archives. Numerous references can be found to the Duftons in the parishes of Strickland and Melkinthorpe near Lowther, while on 12 April 1706 there is a record of Ensign John Dufton receiving his commission at Kensington, London, in Sir Roger Brashaigh's newly raised Regiment of Foot.

The older spelling has by no means died out. Thus in 1841 the Rev. John Dufton published a sermon on 'The Present State of the Church of England, Her Means and Obligations', preached at the Parish Church of Ashford during visitation by the Archdeacon of Canterbury. Three years later he wrote 'National Education What it is and What it should be', followed in 1948 by 'The Prison and the School' – a Letter to Lord John Russell (then Prime Minister).

Returning to the Dovetons, we find Richard Doveton, and it will be helpful to turn back for a moment to Jonathan Doveton (1678-1744), who established himself as a man of considerable substance on the island. We have mentioned earlier that Jonathan was married no fewer than four times and have dealt at some length with his descendants from his fourth marriage, to Elizabeth Draper. Of his second marriage, to Mary Foulis in 1703, the eldest child was Samuel who married Rebecca Gurling in 1730. Richard was born to this marriage in 1732, to be followed by Jonathan one year later. We deal in the next chapter, 'The Dovetons in India', with the three distinguished soldier sons of Jonathan and his wife Mary Harper.

Richard was some 17 years of age at the time of his father's (Samuel's) death and was at sea with his brother John. Both boys are directed 'to continue in that way'. His father had prospered

on the island, as is evidenced in this will summarised as follows in the India Office records:

18 September 1749

Proved will (dated 28 Jul 1749) of Samuel Doveton. *Bequests*: to wife Margaret, sons Richard, Jonathan, John, Samuel & daughter Rebekah, equal shares in his estate at age 21 or marriage

Following legacies not to be included in the division:

to wife 'one Mohogony Burow, one looking Glass Walnut frame, one Feather Bed and Furniture, one Portmanteau, one Oval Mohogony Table, Six Cane Chairs, twenty four China Plates and three ditto dishes, one Damask Table Cloth and twelve Napkins, one black Girl named Sarah, with her choice of a Cow . . . and Cash to the value of ten Pounds to buy her a piece of Plate'

to son Richard 'one China Bowle and Plate which was my Mothers, one Mourning Ring (the Posey in memory of M I) and Cash forty Eight Pounds to buy him a piece of plate'

to son Jonathan 'one black Man named Stephen, one black Boy named Dawson, one Enamel'd Ring, one Silver Soup Ladle, one Mourning Ring marked John Bazett, one Silver Teapot'

to son John 'one Enamel'd Ring, one Silver Tankard markt M I and cash forty Pounds to buy him a piece of plate'

to son Samuel 'one black Man named Frank, one black boy named John, one Enamel'd Ring, Six New Table Spoons, One Snuff Box China make, one Silver Mugg'

to daughter Rebekah 'one black Man named great Jack, one

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black Woman named Peg, one black girl named Abigail, one sticht Quilt that was my Mothers, one Ruby Ring with four Sparks'

to god-daughter Elizabeth, 'the daughter of my Brother John Doveton' £5 & a cow

to brother John Doveton, a mourning suit to father-in-law Richard Beale, a mourning suit to the executors, 40/- each

The executors ordered to sell the goats & goat range at Stone Top, the dwelling house at the Fort with the Billiard Room Yards &c & such household stuff, cattle & blacks as they think fit

Two sons Richard & John 'who are now at Sea, are to continue in that way' & to receive their shares in cash.

Land to be allotted as follows:

to wife, 5 a. lease land in Sandy Bay

to son Jonathan, the Mansion House with 9 a. free land adjoining, 30 3/4 a. free land called Bull Post Pasture, 20 a. free land called Bowman's Land, 6 a. lease land at the Briers, 6 a. lease land called Taylors & the goat range called High Hill

to son Samuel, 5 a. free land at the bottom of Luftkin's Gut, 10 a. free land called Francis's, 24 a. free land called Siches Land, 27½ a. free land called Beale's Upper Land, 6 a. lease land called Tayler's, 4 a. lease land in Siches, 6 a. lease land at Briers & the goat range in Rupert's Valley

Until Jonathan comes of age, wife to have ½ of the Mansion House

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The executors of the will were Samuel's brother John Doveton, William Young, and Richard Beale; the witnesses Samuel Falconer, Thomas French, Onesiphorus Beale.

We catch a further brief glimpse of Richard Doveton when he called at St. Helena on 16 April 1772 as Commander of the ship *Glatton*. During this visit his brother Jonathan paid into the Honourable Company £147 15s. 0d. and was given Bills of Exchange drawn on the Honourable the Court of Directors payable to Captain Richard Doveton for order at ninety days' sight.

Richard, who could rightly claim descent from the senior branch of the family, left a distinguished line of succession, for his only child, (the Rev.) John Frederick, who was Rector of Mells in Somerset, married Elizabeth Crossman. Their eldest daughter, Elizabeth Jane, was wedded to John Moore Paget, whose eldest son Richard Homer was created First Baronet in 1886.

Of the six children of the Rev. John Frederick Doveton, we have already mentioned Elizabeth Jane, whose youngest brother William Blake Doveton graduated at Trinity Hall, Oxford, in 1849 and married in that year Georgiana Cecilia (daughter of William Wingfield Yates of Parkfields, Staffordshire, and cousin to the Prime Minister, Sir Robert Peel).

Much of the history of the English branch has been derived from a family tree drawn up in 1901 bearing the name of G.C. Doveton. It is presumed that the compiler of the tree was the self-same Georgiana Cecilia Doveton.

Of the other members of this family, mention must also be made of Captain Frederick Brickdale Doveton (eldest son of the Rev. John Frederick Doveton), of Woodville, Taunton, and of the Royal Madras Fusiliers, another who had literary leanings. He was married to Harriet Eliza Pilkington, a daughter of Major William Pilkington of Urney in the Irish county of Westmeath. Captain F.B. Doveton wrote 'Reminiscences of the Burmese War, 1824-1826', originally

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printed in the *Asiatic Journal* and accompanied by illustrations from the author's sketches. It was republished in book form in London in 1852.

His son, Frederick Bazett Doveton, attained further distinction as an author and a poet. Born in Exeter in 1841 he was educated privately, first at Bristol and then at Putney. At the age of 20 he followed his father's tradition by enlisting in the Royal Canadian Rifles. Thence he transferred to the Army Control Department in 1868 but retired in 1879 to devote his time to literature. His first wife was Annie Elizabeth Douglas, whom he married in 1867, and his second Margaret Heriot Howden, daughter of an officer in the Indian Army, Lieutenant-General Howden, also of the Royal Fusiliers. By her he had a son, born in 1872, Douglas Frederick Doveton. F.B. himself started his career as a writer in 1880 by issuing *Snatches of Song*, followed by *Sketches in Prose and Verse* in 1886 and a fairy tale entitled *Maggie in Mythica* in 1890. In 1893 followed *Songs, Grave and Gay* and in 1895 *A Fisherman's Fancy*. There was also *Mirth and Music* in 1901 and a host of songs and poems. He found time to study botany and natural history and was 'especially fond of psychology and Ghostly-Lore – of which he almost had a Library'. At his home, at Karsfield, near Torquay, he found pleasure in fly-fishing and in badminton. He passed away on 4 May 1911, at the age of 70.

In conclusion of this chapter we return to Sir Richard Homer Paget, Bart., who in 1866 married Caroline Isobel Surtees, by whom he had five children, of whom the elder son, Sir Richard Arthur Surtees Paget, Bart.,

married Lady Muriel Evelyn Vernon Finch-Hatton, O.B.E., daughter of the 12th Earl of Winchelsea and Nottingham; the eldest daughter, Hylda Snow, married Archibald Edward Balfour, apparently in Johannesburg, while the husband of her younger sister, Dorothy Mary, was the First Viscount Gladstone, to whom she was married in 1901.

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THE DOVETONS IN INDIA

One of the most interesting branches of the Doveton family, though separate from the one now surviving in South Africa, is descended from the eldest son of the original Jonathan (born 1678) and his second wife Mary Foulis. This was Samuel, born in 1705, who spent his life in St. Helena and who married Rebecca Gurling in December 1730 when he was 25. Of their six children we are here concerned with the second, another Jonathan Doveton, born in 1733, who at the age of 23, in August 1756 married Mary Harper. By that time his father Samuel was already dead (he passed away in 1749) and Jonathan himself had inherited a mansion as well as 9 acres at a place on St. Helena called Luffkins Gut, together with two other plots of land measuring 23 and 20 acres respectively.

So began what might be described as the 'military Dovetons'. Of the six children of Jonathan and Mary, only three concern us here – starting with another Gabriel Doveton, born in 1760. He found his way to India, where at the tender age of 16 he was accepted as a cadet in the Madras Native Infantry. Within a year, in 1776, he was commissioned Second Lieutenant and on 9 November 1780 full Lieutenant. Four years later the Earl of Macartney, who was to become the first British Governor at the Cape of Good Hope, reported to 'The Honourable Court of Directors for the Affairs of the Honourable United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies' in these words:

Lieutenant Gabriel Doveton, a very meritorious officer of your military establishment, having requested permission to proceed, on account of his private affairs, we have, agreeably to your Orders of the 25th January 1782, accepted his resignation, and beg leave to recommend that he be permitted to return with his rank as soon as the situation of his Affairs will permit. . . .

Despatched from Fort George (now the city of Madras) on 4

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February 1784, this document brought the desired result, and on 29 December 1789 Gabriel was even promoted to captain, in which capacity he carried out highly responsible negotiations with the independent princes of India

Another memorandum, dated 21 December 1792, instructed him 'to watch the people belonging to the Hostages and to procure intelligence', while on 21 February 1794 Gabriel Doveton was appointed to attend the sons of the famous Hindu ruler Tippoo Sahib on their return home from British captivity. Because of the difficult diplomatic situation, he was 'forbidden to converse with Tippoo respecting the Nizam of Hyderabad and the Mahrattas', though he brought presents and cash advances totalling 5,000 pagodas to finance any discussions. At the behest of the Governor-General, Lord Cornwallis, Doveton accordingly left Madras on 27

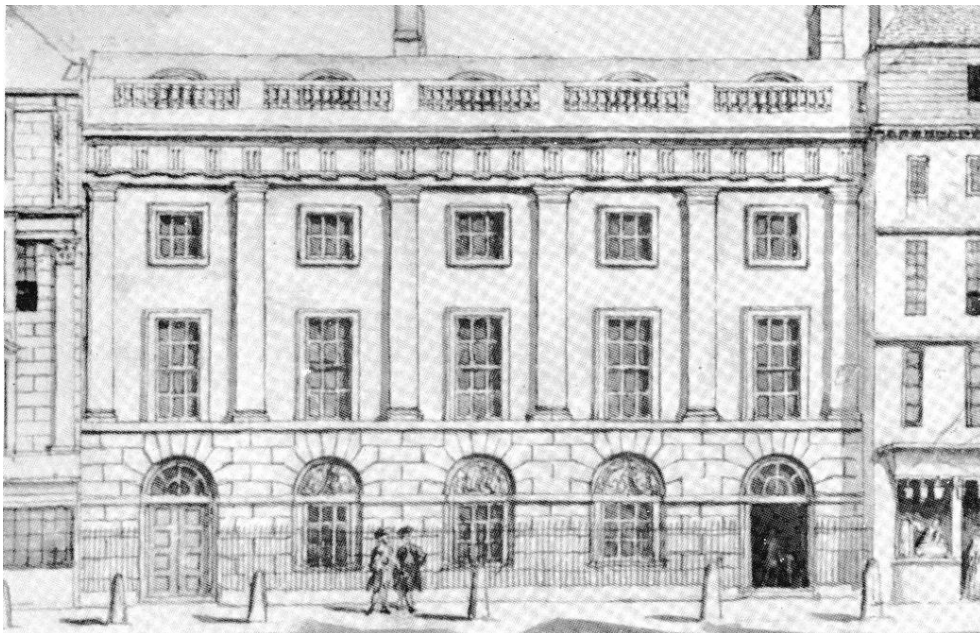
December 1794 with the two sons of Tippoo Sahib on a strenuous journey through the Ghat Mountain range, where, near the Pedda Nial Dorgan Pass, he met refractory leaders:

Tippoo, who had been on a circuit of his country for two or three months, re-encamped with a small army at Dewanelly, to which he desired that the princes might proceed. On the 28th they marched to the palace of his encampment. On the 29th Tippoo received Captain Doveton very graciously and spoke highly of Lord Cornwallis. He did not ask to see his credentials and the Captain expected to stay eight days.

In the Archives of the India Office in London is preserved a letter of His Excellency from the camp, wherein Gabriel Doveton describes his audience with Tippoo, who 'requested that he would proceed to Calcutta and tell the Governor-General how much he was gratified at the return of the captured princes'. A note of Oriental splendour embellishes the account of the Envoy's departure:

On the seventh he took leave of the princes and received a small Elephant and a Horse as a present. On the eighth he left

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East India House.

Tippoo's camp and arrived at the Ryacotta on the 15th, whither he was accompanied by Hyder Beg Cawn [Khan], a person of some consequence.

Not only had Gabriel Doveton, by 1 June 1796, become a Major, and on 4 May 1799 a Lieutenant-Colonel, but his gallantry in action at the Siege of Seringapatan brought him a medal. By 2 October 1809 he was a full Colonel, at the head of the 24th Native Infantry and within another three years, on 1 January 1812, he became a Major-General. On furlough in 1818 he returned to England where, leaving the service, he was elected to the House of Commons as Member for Lancaster. Still unmarried, he passed away in London at the age of 64, on 9 April 1824.

Four years younger than Gabriel Doveton was his brother Richard, who, born in 1764, followed his example in seeking a military career in India. At the age of 16 he too became a 'Cadet and Cornet', sailing for the East in the *Latham* on 13 March 1781, and receiving his commission as Lieutenant on the 29th August. Entering the 6th Battalion of Sepoys in July 1787, he was attached to the Embassy at Hyderabad in 1790. Then came his promotion in 1800 to Lieutenant and Quartermaster of the 3rd Native Cavalry, and on 29 May

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to Captain. In the Second Mahratta War, Richard Doveton fought at Delhi, Laswari, Rampura and Deig, and was commissioned as Major on 12 September 1803. During his first furlough to Europe, which began on 18 February 1806, he was on 4 April 1807 promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel, returning to the service on 6 November 1809. Five years later, on 4 June 1814, Richard was Brevet-Colonel, a rank he held until his retirement on 13 January 1816. By then he had also received, on 4 June 1815, a commandership in the Order of Bath. He retired on 30 June 1818 and made his home in Regent Street, London, where he passed away, unmarried, on 17 March 1823.

Even more noteworthy was the career of Jonathan's youngest son, Sir John Doveton, who, born in 1768, is frequently confused with his namesake, and fellow-knight, his nephew, the other Sir John Doveton, born in 1783, also a distinguished soldier in India! (For convenience they will later be referred to as Sir John Doveton I and Sir John Doveton II.)

Sir John Doveton I joined the forces of the Madras Presidency as a Cadet at the age of 14 in 1782. Within another three years he became, on 5 December 1785, a Cornet in the Fifth Battalion of the Bengal Native Cavalry, and was wounded in a battle near Seringapatan on 5 May 1791. In all he served under Lord Cornwallis through no less than three campaigns against Tippoo Sultan, which won him promotion to Lieutenant on 12 June 1792. Then came a fresh campaign against Tippoo Sultan in 1799 under General Harris, in which he reached the rank of Captain on 8 May 1800. Colonel Arthur Wellesley, afterwards the celebrated Duke of Wellington, specially commended John Doveton for his achievements in pursuing a brigand leader, Dhoondia Waugh, at the head of his regiment. This brought him further promotion, on 2 September 1801 to Major, and to Lieutenant-Colonel on 15 October 1804. The *East India Military Calendar* specially recorded: 'During 1806 Colonel

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John Doveton's Light Field Forces Cavalry was employed against the Pindarries on the banks of the Wirda River, while in 1808 he led the 4th Regiment of Light Cavalry against Bhangarh Cawn [Khan] and on December 28 he successfully stormed the fortified camp of that Indian leader at Amritnair.'

Shortly afterwards John was involved in a painful scandal, which, for him at least, ended happily. The nature of the trouble may be gathered from the 'Statement of Cases of Madras Officers who have been tried by Court Martial and of those Officers who prefer Dismission [so written] from the Service to a Trial by Court Martial'. In the list of those charged was Lieutenant-Colonel John Bell, Major Story, Lieutenant-Colonel Robert Munro, Major Kenny and Lieutenant-Colonel Doveton.

The Commander of the garrison at Seringapatan, Lieutenant-Colonel John Bell, was accused of heading a 'Mutiny and Sedition in the said Garrison, between the 30th July and 23rd August 1809, during which period

the Garrison fired on the King's and on the Company's troops and seized the Public Treasure, the Lieutenant-Colonel declaring his resolution not to deliver up the Garrison to the proper authorities. . . .

Bell, Story and Kenny were found guilty and cashiered, Colonel Munro was cautioned, but Lieutenant-Colonel Doveton, honourably acquitted, was in 1813 placed in charge of the 4th Regiment of Native Cavalry and a subsidiary force of the Nizam of Hyderabad, with the rank of Brigadier-General.

In the year of Waterloo, 1815, Doveton was given command of the garrison cantonments at Arcot, and in 1816 he was again called upon to subdue the refractory Pindarries. In command of the Hyderabad Contingent, Brigadier-General Doveton, as he now was, occupied a position of great importance in the maintenance of British authority in India. As an historian of India, H. Morse Stephens, said:

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Under the subsidiary treaty with the Nizam, his country was garrisoned by a British Division, but, taking into consideration the largeness of his territory, it was decided, as it was in the case of a few of the greater native princes, that an additional force should be raised among his subjects, to be officered by Englishmen and kept under the control of the Company's Government, while paid by the Nizam. This force, which comprised nearly 10,000 men of all arms, was cantoned around Aurungabad, and was soon brought to a high pitch of efficiency by Doveton. In the Pindari War, the operations of which were carefully combined by the Marquis of Hastings, in order to crush these marauding bands, which devastated India, the Hyderabad contingent played an important part. But Doveton's most important services were rendered against the Maratha Raja of Nagpur. On that throne sat Apa Sahib, a degenerate descendant of the Bhonslas, who had attained accession by more than dubious means, and who, when once he was firmly seated on the throne, lent a ready support to the Peishwa's scheme for assisting the Pindaris and overthrowing the British power in India. He therefore treacherously directed his troops, who were chiefly Arabs, to attack the British resident, Mr. Jenkins, and, though the resident's escort, commanded by Colonel Scott, beat off the assailants from the fortified hill of Sitabaldi in November 1817, their position soon became critical. Doveton, on hearing this, advanced by forced marches on Nagpur, which he reached on December 12, and on the following day Apa Sahib surrendered himself. But his troops refused to do likewise and, after a fierce battle, in which Doveton lost 200 men killed and wounded, the Arabs were defeated, with a loss of 75 guns and 40 elephants. But they still held the city and palace of Nagpur, which Doveton attempted to storm on December 24 though in vain. He lost

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over 300 men and 10 English officers in his assault. The obstinacy of his attack terrified the Arab soldiery, who soon after evacuated the city.

After that honours came to Doveton thick and fast. On 4 October 1818 he was made a Commander of the Bath, and on 12 August 1819, Major-General. Three months later, on 26 November, came a knighthood in the form of a K.C.B. He resigned his position and in 1820 retired to the city of Madras, which became his permanent home. Seventeen years later, in 1837, he was promoted to Lieutenant-General and received a

G.C.B. His coat-of-arms was described as 'on the Dexter side a Sepoy of the Madras Light Infantry both habited and accoutred proper and standing at ease . . .'



Bentinck's Buildings at the Beach, Madras, 1822.

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MORE DOVETONS IN THE EAST

John Doveton – the future Sir John Doveton II – the son of William Webber Doveton, who figures earlier in these pages, was born in St. Helena in January 1783, and entered the military service of the East India Company as a cadet at the age of 14. His personal experience of India, however, began only on 22 December 1798, when he landed in Bengal in time to gain the medal for service outside Seringapatam. Within another year he received the unusual distinction of being appointed to the Governor-General's Bodyguard, followed some years later by his promotion to Aide-deCamp to His Excellency as well as to 'Captain-General of the Land Forces serving the East Indies' in 1804. When a mutiny began at the Vellore in July 1806, John Doveton's conduct was recognised as being particularly 'meritorious', and he received a personal tribute from the governing body of the East India Company, the 'Court of Directors'. From the position of Brigade-Major to Colonel Gillespie, he passed to that of Inspecting Field Officer for the Cavalry on 9 September 1806, and on 1 May 1809 he became Paymaster at Vizagapatam. He continued to win golden opinions from his colleagues and superiors. In a letter to Brigadier Munro dated 18 January 1818, Brigadier-General Pritzler remarked: 'Major Dove-ton reports that with one squadron of the 22nd Dragoons and two of the 7th Light Cavalry, he charged and dispersed three very large bodies of the Enemy and I feel assured that no troops could have done more or been better managed than those under his command.'

In the *London Gazette* of 28 August 1818, satisfaction was expressed at the manner in which he had defeated 'a Body of the enemy's cavalry', and in the same year he received thanks in Divisional Orders from Brigadier-General Smith commanding the Fourth Division of the Army of the Deccan, 'for his services in the

affairs of the Gokla's Force at Ashtie, which he led to the rescue of the Rajah of Saltara and his family from the hands of the Enemy'. Doveton shared the prize captured in the war against the Pindarries

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(in which his namesake was also concerned) and against certain of the Mahratta States in 1817-18. As a special privilege, he was 'permitted to continue to draw his pay and allowances in the British Service while commanding the Hyderabad Division of the Nizam's Regular Troops'. In that capacity he took part in the reduction of a 'revolt in Jagheerdar' at Kurmalla. On Lieutenant-Colonel Dove-ton's arrival at Kurmalla and his refusal to listen to anything like a conditional surrender, 'Kundee Rao made his escape in the night, and possession was taken of his fortress. . . .

When Doveton resigned from the Nizam's army, the princely Government issued a special general order 'applauding the zeal and ability with which he uniformly discharged the important duties of his command for nearly 11 years'.

Lieutenant-General Sir Thomas Hislop recommended the services of Colonel Doveton 'to the notice of His Majesty'. There was no immediate reaction but, thirteen years later, he became a Companion of the Bath and received a knighthood. After a lengthy spell in Europe he returned to military duty in India, where he arrived at Madras in January 1834. There he was appointed to the General Staff, and in May 1834 to the command of the Centre Division of the Army. As Chairman of the Court Martial he showed himself a man of mercy and moderation:

At the suggestion of the Deputy Adjutant General he suspended the execution of a Trooper of the Second Cavalry, who had been sentenced to death, with a view to commutation of the sentence. The Commander-in-Chief however ordered that the sentence should take effect – deprecating the mistaken course pursued by Brigadier-General Doveton and Major Hitchens, and requested that the former might be present at the execution. Lord William Bentinck concurred with the Governor of Madras in applauding the firm tone of the Commander-in-Chief, attributing the then position of the officer

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in question to fear of the conduct of the Troops: and expressed his surprise and regret that representation as to the existence of a danger of the greatest magnitude, should have been unaccompanied by explanations of the nature of the danger, or the grounds of the opinion.

However, the man from St. Helena insisted on putting his case.

Lord William Bentinck afterwards states that the explanation furnished by Brigadier-General Doveton and his interview with that officer, has convinced His Lordship that the strong sentiments of condemnation in his former Minutes were not deserved; and that he never conversed with an officer who left with him a straighter conviction of his ingenuous, straightforward, honourable and right-minded character. His Lordship is perfectly satisfied that the Brigadier-General was not actuated by the weakness before attributed to him; it seems that he took an erroneous view of the case; but admits that he has great knowledge of the Sepoy character; and gives him full credit for the sincerity and security

of intention, which high military character and approved conduct and services have right to claim.

Later, in 1836, the Commander-in-Chief of India himself paid him further compliments: expressing himself

well pleased with the steadiness and attention to orders of the Trooper who gave him the Field Exercise on the 14th and 15th instant. His Excellency states that his thanks are particularly due to Brigadier-Colonel Doveton C.B. and to Colonel Logan who commanded separate bodies on the occasion, for the able and animated manner with which they conducted the operations entrusted to them.

He married in 1810 Victoire Mallet (or Malit) de la Fontaine of Compietène, daughter of General Mottet de la Fontaine, Governor of the French settlement of Pondicherry. She was known as Victorine.

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In due course Doveton was promoted to the rank of full General and, on the occasion of Queen Victoria's Coronation, in August 1838, he became a Knight Commander of the Bath. Retiring from the service in 1839, he settled for nearly twenty years in England, where he died at the age of 71, on 23 September 1857.

No children were born to Sir John Doveton II, but he and his wife Victorine adopted a boy named John Holroyd, born on 20 December 1823, son of Captain George Chaplin Holroyd, whose first wife Virginie was also a daughter of General Mottet de la Fontaine. Because he recommended the lad for a cadetship in the Madras Cavalry, Doveton was referred to as his 'uncle' and the suspicion arose that he might have been his father. In any event, George Holroyd Doveton maintained his French associations and married, in Pondicherry on 5 July 1847, Pauline, the daughter of Amadee Law de Capernon, and they had nine children. His progress in the Indian Army was steady. On 25 April 1851 he became a Lieutenant, followed by his promotion on 1 January 1862 to Captain. In that capacity he was appointed British Consular Agent at Pondicherry, where he spent the rest of his career, being raised to Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel on 3 August 1870. He died at Pondicherry four years later, on 3 October 1874.

Another soldier son of William Webber Doveton and a brother of Sir John Doveton II was Charles Jackson Doveton, born in 1784. In 1799, at the age of 15, he too entered the Army as a cadet, and was commissioned the following year as an Ensign in the 19th Native Infantry. On 11 December 1807 he married Marie Ann Arnold, and in May 1824 he became a Lieutenant-Colonel in the 38th Native Infantry. Lieutenant-Colonel Charles Jackson Doveton passed away on 1 October 1832 at Midnapore in Bengal.

These distinguished soldiers do not remotely exhaust the list of Dovetons who found military careers in India. Mention must be made of Colonel John Chadwick Doveton, Madras Native Infantry

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(born in St. Helena on 9 March 1839; died in Madras on 29 December 1914); Captain Henry Bazett Doveton, 4th Madras Light Cavalry (born St. Helena 1793; died on 8 April 1830 in Wallajahbad); Captain William John Doveton, 36th Madras Native Infantry (born Cawnpore, 22 September 1817; died on 16 January 1883); Captain Frederick Brickdale Doveton (born 1805 in England; died in England on 6 April 1882); Major-General Frederick Larkins Dove-ton, Madras Cavalry (born in St. Helena in 1791; died in England on 20 December 1859);

Lieutenant Edward Doveton, 4th Madras Native Infantry (born in London in 1800, died in Calcutta on 17 September 1823); and Lieutenant-Colonel Henry Doveton, 4th Native Infantry (born in London in 1799, died in London on 12 December 1893). There was also Bazett Doveton, a civilian in the service of the East India Company.

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THE BEALES AND THE DOVETONS

Parallel with the history of the Doveton family, particularly in association with St. Helena, runs that of the Beales, whose association with the island is indeed probably longer still.

The name itself is a very ancient one, traceable back well into Norman times, the earliest reference being found in the rolls of the Sussex 'Curiae Regis', or High Court of the King, in 1194, when there is mention of a man named Bele. Very soon after, in the Pipe Rolls for Lincolnshire in 1203, appears 'Alexander filius Bele' and then again, in the 'Rotuli Hondredorum' for the same county in 1275, both Belle and Bele.

In 1206, in the court records for Essex, appears Thomas Bele, as does John Bele in those of Worcestershire in 1275. Changes in the name, derived from the old French *bel*, meaning beautiful, are to be noticed in 1279 when Ralph le Bele lived in Cambridgeshire. The first woman in the chronicles is Joan Beles of Somerset, mentioned in 1327. Something approaching the modern version of the spelling occurs in the Yorkshire Poll Tax Returns of 1379 when one of the contributors was William Beall. There are also references to Simon de Beel in Worcestershire in 1275, to Thomas de Behil at Barsley, Northumberland, in 1382, and to another John Bele in 1517 in the same county.

North of Durham lies Beal-on-the-Hill, originally spelt Behil, where in 1517 lived Laurence Beil, in 1561 John Bele, and in 1631 William Selby de Bele. In 1583 we meet Thomas Bele from the county of Hereford as the first of that name to go to the University of Oxford.

From this stock then is descended the family which played so notable a role in the development of St. Helena.

In 1633, nearly a generation before their first settlement on the shores of Table Bay, the Dutch East India Company formally laid claim to the island. They gave no effect to this action, however, so that on 15 December 1658 the Honourable East India Company in

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London decided to stake a claim of its own.

The Court having several tymes very lately taken into their consideration the great conveniencing and concernment that it might prove, both to the Company and to this nation, for to fortify the island of St. Helena, whereon (it is believed) many good plantations may in tyme be made, did again this day reassume the serious consideration of that business. And finding so much reason to engage them in this work, as well as encouragement, after a long debate of the whole business, resolved, by a general erection

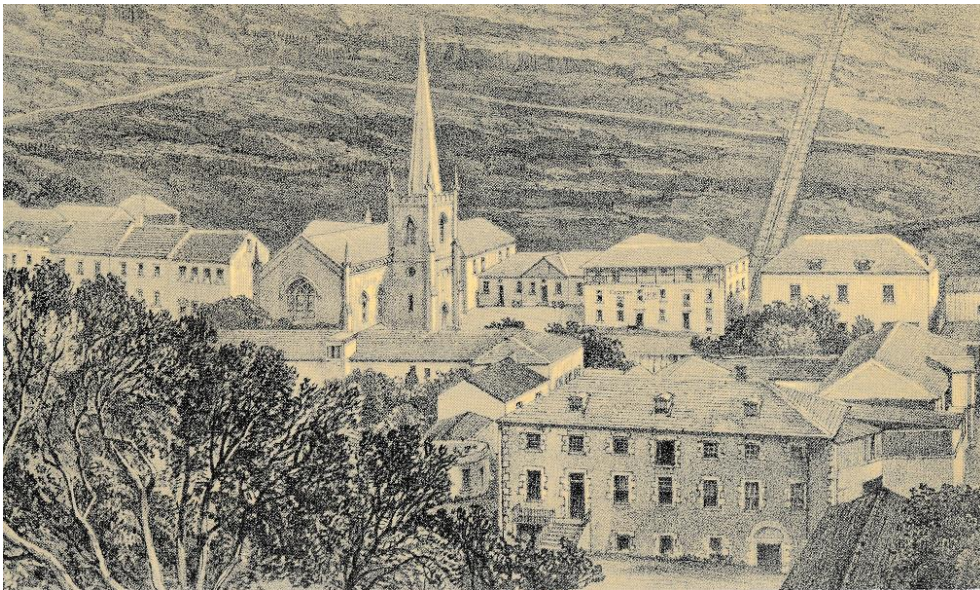
of hands, to send 400 men with all expedition to remayne on the island, with conveniences to fortifie and begin a plantation there.

Captain John Dutton, the official commander, successfully carried out his instructions but was soon moved on to the Indies, and neither Captain Stringer nor Captain Cony, his two successors, were allowed to remain long. In October 1672 Captain Anthony Beale was appointed Governor on the island, and soon thereafter, on 31 December had to meet an attack by the Dutch. He did his best to beat off the invading force, setting his men to throwing stones and rolling boulders down the hillside. Though not at all deterred, the enemy made a fake re-embarkation into their landing craft. When night fell and they were back again, it was clear to Governor Beale that he had no real chance. Fortunately a British ship, the *Humphrey and Elizabeth*, dropped anchor, took his men on board safely and made a getaway across the Atlantic to Brazil.

Meanwhile, at the Cape on 5 March 1673, we read of the 'arrival of a small flute, flying a number of strange flags'. Firing seven guns at the mouth of the bay, which were answered by three from the Fort, she was soon recognised as the *Vliegende Zwaan* returning from St. Helena. Captain Bredenbach brought news

. . . of the happy conquest of the Island, which had been taken without resistance, for the enemy, fearing – by God's dispen-

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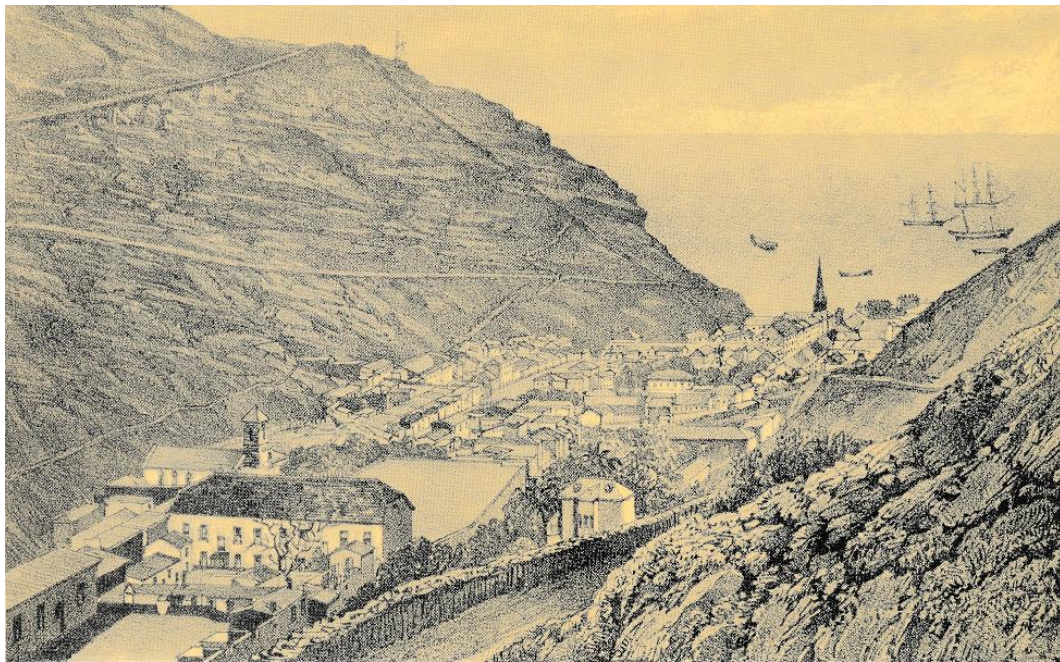
The lower part of Jamestown.

sation – the power of our arms, did not await our arrival, but fled with all their moveables to an English vessel of war sent from England with a reinforcement of 40 soldiers and ammunition, leaving behind them only a few poor husbandmen, who, after we had taken possession of the island, came with a white flag to ask for pardon. We found only 29 metal and iron guns of different calibre, mostly spiked, and a small quantity of ammunition and lumber etc. Moreover God Almighty has also let fall into our hands the flute *Johanna Catharina*, which had called at St. Helena for refreshments, sailing via Madagascar and Mozambique to Barbadoes with 240 slaves. These slaves obtained so unexpectedly, will come in handy here. . . .

Meanwhile Governor Beale had safely reached Brazil, chartered a sloop, and set off again on 4 May 1673, intending to cruise about and warn any English vessels approaching St. Helena that the Dutch were in possession. This time he fell in with a squadron under Captain Munden, outward bound for India, who immediately decided to try recapturing the colony. With the assistance of Captain Richard Keigwen, this was successfully carried out in June 1673, the Union Jack being hoisted once more.

Captain Anthony Beale then returned to Britain, where he stayed until, on 20 February 1677, a commission was issued appointing

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Jamestown from the road leading to 'The Briars'.

John Blackmore Governor of the island at a salary of £100 per annum; Beale was made Deputy Governor and Storekeeper at £50 per annum.* No improvement in this scale was made for ten years.

On 10 April 1682 an order was issued that a slave belonging to Thomas Sherwyn was to be 'distressed and sold' to pay debts outstanding, including one to 'Captain Bealle'. ('Distressed' was an old English legal term for sale in execution.) Nor was this the only mention, for on 1 August 1682 there is a memorandum 'that Captain Beane delivered up the stores to Lt. Johnson and was discharged from the Company's service'.

To close off the matter, Anthony was ordered on 25 September of that year 'to give an account of all goods sold while the stores were in his custody'. More to his liking was a job in which he asked to assist, namely 'a survey of the whole island, beginning at Horse-pastures Plains, westwards to Thompstone Wood, High Hill, etc., to Sandy Bay to Paul's Valley, Deep Valley Head, then to the Great Wood and the Head of Chappell Valley under Sandy Bay Hangings'. Sure enough, this request was granted, and on 18 Decem-

* For 22 July 1676 there is an entry showing the signature of Anthony Bealle. Most likely the second *l* was merely an excessively large *e* for on 10 April 1682 we come upon it again, when Anthony Beale figures as Deputy Governor responsible for the stores maintained by the English East India Co.

ber 1682, a plot of land was 'measured and adjusted by Captain Bealle'.

Beale still had a claim against his employers – apparently for his expedition to South America – which they were unwilling to acknowledge: 'We have received an account at the London Head Office of Captain Anthony Beale, whereby he makes coming to him £79. 7. 6d., but we cannot approve of it, for that we have no particulars of the £405 charged to him, nor of the £719 brought to his credit.' That the Court of Directors thought little of his demand is shown by another letter on 1 August 1683:

Wee find by ye list of guns sent us by Captain Beale 300 and odd guns which is soe strange a waste that wee could not have thought our Governor would have him guilty of, especially considering that Island hath cost us £40,000, without one penny profit hitherto more than refreshment to our shipping, which all strangers have as well as ourselves. . . .

Once again he appeared in the documents when, on 13 October 1684, he laid a complaint for payment of a debt against a free planter named William Rutter.

Two years later the Governor himself wrote an account of the corruption and the insubordination on the island, but met with little sympathy from the Court of Directors in London, who wrote on 6 May 1685:

We have received yours of January 16 and December 7, both giving us an account of the traitorous rebellion of the Planters and some of our Soldiers, which by our former letter you might perceive that we have long since had a foresight of that people, as all other that hath bin pardoned for one Rebellion, being naturally apt to fall into another. . . .

After disapproving of the Governor's action in pardoning some of the accused, the letter continues: Wee observe that you say Captain Beale's house has bin the

rendezvous for contriving much of the trouble that hath lately befallen you, and therefore, though we have bin prevailed with not to name him or his son as persons to be expected out of His Majesty's gracious pardon, yett we think it necessary you should bring him and his son to a fare tryal in the manner you try the rest of the rebels – but if he or his son should be found guilty, we would have you not to execute either butt keep them in prison until H.M. pleasure be known concerning their lives. . . .

King James II issued a special commission in 1685 authorising the trial, with a list of exceptions from any amnesty, that finished with the name of Captain Anthony Beale. In spite of this he seems to have been discharged.

A few months later, in 1685, he passed away, leaving as his widow, Eleanor (also spelt Ellanor) Beale, who on 12 April 1694 was paid £5 15s. 0d. for two head of livestock and again on 27 September of that year £1 9s. 2d. for 170 lb. of 'beife'.

Anthony and Eleanor Beale had seven children, of whom only the third child, Jonathan, concerns us. Born in 1674, he was married at the age of 21, on 5 December 1695, to Margaret Moore. But he died young, so that on 18 February 1698 there is already reference to his widow, who lodged his will before the Governor and inherited one-third of his estate. Soon after, on 17 December 1700, she was remarried – to Gabriel Powell. At about the same time her mother-in-law Eleanor Beale died. Margaret had no children from this marriage, but we know that she had two by her first husband, namely Richard Beale, born on 29 September 1696, and Anthony Beale II, born in 1699. That trouble arose with the stepfather is shown on 21 January 1700, when a complaint was made that 'Gabriel Powell . . . was cruel to Richard Beale, one of Jonathan Beale's children, and that he brought a Turtel . . . and would have the child touch it but being afraid of it would not, whereupon [he]

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A street in Jamestown.

beat the said child very unmercifully and . . . held the child over the fire till blisters were arisen on the skin'. Margaret Powell (formerly Beale) herself passed away soon after, her death being referred to on 6 January 1701.

Richard Beale, from whom descended the branch which later became linked with the Doveton family, was married at the age of 23 on 17 September 1719 to Martha Steward.

Richard is recorded in the Marriage Register as 'Planter', but he was also clerk and became schoolmaster, churchwarden and in 1756 Judge Advocate. The circumstances of his appointment as schoolmaster reflect those qualities inherited by his granddaughter, Eleanor Beale, wife of Sir William Webber Doveton, to which Sir William pays tribute in his memorial to her. Thus the entry on 30 November 1725 in the 'Consultations' reads:

Granted Petition of Richard Beale 'setting forth that there are abundance of children on the Island whose parents being in very Poor circumstances are not able to Putt them to

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Jamestown today.

School to be instructed, to the great Griefe of themselves and Loss to their children, That he is very willing in consideration of the usual allowance of salary from Honble. Compy. to teach any poor Children Gratis.'

Nevertheless Richard continued his farthing activities and the 'Consultations' record on 6 October 1747 that he had 165¼ acres of free land and 107½ acres of lease land.

That this man's early life was plagued by Gabriel Powell, his stepfather, is evident from the records, for Richard, then aged 5, and Anthony, a baby of 2, were left orphans when their mother died after a struggle to protect her children from a brutal attack by Powell, 'she being young with child, miscarried and died'. The affairs of these orphans received the attention of the Governor and Council, who found the problems of executorship in the circumstances very onerous, for the 'Consultations' state in an entry on 5 April 1711:

The Gouvernor says that in his Oppinion it is pernicious and prejudiciall to the Lords Proprietors in the highest degree for

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the Government Ever to be Executors to Orphans, and this of Beales Orphans is an Example for every Scribler is Casting an Odium upon Us, that that Estate is gone to Ruin, others says that Large Thongs is cut out of that Leather, and what not, I must Confess it was a fault in the Government to pull down the House, Expose it to publick sale and take no Money for it, but let Alexander and Hoskison Run Away with the Money, and at the same time suffer the Children to Run in Debt in the Store Books that Now they are above sixty pound indebted to the Company how this Affair can be wound up without prejudice to the Company I know not. . . . We are Father to Orphans, and Widowes by doing them Justice. . . .

It says much for Richard's character and determination that, firstly, in 1713, he being 17 years of age, he had Gabriel Powell removed as his guardian and his uncle George Came appointed in his stead.

In January 1733 at the age of 37 he set forth 'his unhappy case', claiming for himself and his brother Anthony, who had at the age of 20 petitioned 'to goe off the Island for India', the one-third share which he contended that Powell had in the year 1711 'fraudulently Gott possession of and hath illegally detained it ever since'.

In April 1733 Richard presented a further petition and did not mince his words, contending that 'said Powell by Bribery and Corruption, Fraud and Falsehood and many other Foul and Indirect practices, did equally deceive and impose on the Gouverneur and Councill and the Gentlemen of the Jury' when they awarded him a one-third share bequeathed by Jonathan Beale to his widow, who outlived him and afterwards was so 'weak and indiscreet as to contract a Marriage with Gabriel Powell who proved a Vile, Contentious and Wicked man and used her with great cruelty and inhumanity and was the occasion of her death'.

Beale was not to be put off and in July 1733 again presented his

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petition, but on a suggestion by the Court of Directors of Arbitration, Widow Powell refused to submit. Thus on 24 June 1736 Richard Beale presented a sixteen-page manuscript, 'The Case of Richd. Beale The Heir of Anthony and Jonathan Beale of this Island. Raked out of the Dirty and Foule Aspersions of Gabriel Powells Executors and Cleansed from all those Obloquies & False Reproaches they have very Unjustly imputed to him.'

On 1 July 1736 the Governor and Council gave their opinion that Beale had fully proved his allegations and agreed to forward his case.

This, then, was the manner of man described by Brooke in 1808 as 'the worthy Mr. Richard Beale, late of the Island, who for many years fulfilled the duties of Schoolmaster there with Credit to himself and infinite advantage to the community'.

Richard Beale had time, however, to father seven children, starting with Onesiphorus Beale, born on 16 May 1722, who brought this extraordinary name into the family. Onesiphorus Beale was married twice, the first time to Mary Aldridge, a widow, on 4 October 1748, and again to Mary Thwaites on 17 September 1751. Two of her five children were destined to be linked with the Dove-ton family – Eleanor, born on 22 July 1754, who married William Webber Doveton (afterwards Sir William) on 12 January 1775, and the youngest, Onesiphorus Junior, born in 1760. Onesiphorus followed the family tradition and petitioned the Council to be admitted as a cadet in the St. Helena Regiment on 6 January 1777, and was admitted the same day. He was

commissioned as Second Lieutenant on 1 November 1779, promoted to Captain/Lieutenant in October 1795, but died on 30 November of that year at the age of 35. Onesiphorus's own marriage to Anne Merchant on 6 September 1784 was blessed with five children, the third of whom, Onesiphorus III, born in 1789, entered the Army. At the time of his marriage on 9 November 1813 to Anne Margaret Desfountain, he was a

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Lieutenant, but by the time his first child Margaret Beale was born, on 6 May 1815, he had been promoted to Captain. His commission, dated 2 September 1814, appoints him to be 'Captain in our Army in this Island of St. Helena as well as at and to the Eastward of the Cape of Good Hope'.

Only a few months later came the Battle of Waterloo, and his youngest son, born on 30 July 1821, received the name of Napoleon Onesiphorus. We are mainly concerned, however, with his elder brother, Edward Charles Smith Beale, who was born in 1819, for it was he who married Henrietta Dorothea Ellert. Their daughter, Emily Maria Ellert, born in December 1840, became the wife of Onesiphorus Bagley Doveton on 25 September 1860. Like so many other inhabitants of St. Helena, Onesiphorus Beale decided after the withdrawal of the English East India Company from the island in 1834, to make his future home in South Africa, and he died in Cape Town on 29 September 1847, at the house next to Helmsley Place, 'Top of the Government Gardens'.

Before leaving the Beales we should also look at India, where Edward Charles Beale, son of Anthony (born 1791) and his wife Catherine Rose, was nominated for the Bombay Infantry by the E.I.C. director, W.S. Clarke, at the recommendation of Captain James Young of Lee, Kent. He was educated at the Rev. W.C. Smithery's School, Greenwich, and was admitted to the Addiscombe Military Seminary, Croydon, on 7 March 1834. He served with the Persian Expedition 1856-7 and was present at the bombardment and capture of the forts of Mohumra and the pursuit of the Persian Army. He was promoted to Colonel in 1876, and to Brigadier-General in 1871, and commanded the Aden Brigade. He died in 1877 with the rank of Major-General.

His brother Anthony, born 1817, received his M.R.C.S. in 1840, saw service in Central India in 1842 and in the first Sikh War, 1845-6. He retired in 1862 as Surgeon Major and died in 1880.

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THE MOORE AND MAYNARD BRANCHES

For reasons of convenience the other surviving section of the Dove-ton family, which can be called the 'Moore and Maynard' branch will now be separately dealt with. Its beginnings go back to the eldest son of William Webber Doveton, Gabriel Doveton, born in 1775, who in 1798 married Mary Anne Kennedy. Their second son, John Gabriel Doveton, born in 1801, for some reason was out of the country and at sea in 1816 when his grandfather applied on his behalf for a post in the Civil Branch of the East India Company's service. Being duly accepted, he became what was known as a Factor. In 1825 he married Catherine Chadwick. With the termination in 1834 of the East India Company's regime in St. Helena and the transfer of the island to the control of the Colonial Office of the British Government, John Gabriel Doveton changed his employment, being appointed to the new local Civil Service on 1 March 1836. Promotion came to him fairly quickly. On 27 May 1839 he was already Chief Clerk and Treasurer, and five years later, on 8 November 1844, Colonial Treasurer, a position he held for twenty-four years, until he became Receiver-General on 26 June 1868.

Meanwhile, he acquired a considerable family, totalling twelve, starting with Agnes Mary, born in 1827, followed by Catherine in 1829, Eleanor Charlotte in 1831, Jessy Caroline in 1834, William Gabriel Greentree in 1836, John Chadwick in 1839, Emma Jane in 1843, David Edwin in 1846, Charles Hodson in 1848, Charlotte Eliza in 1849, Eliza Agnes in 1852, and Sinclair Henry Denny in 1854.

Of all these, however, we are concerned only with David Edwin. His father, having retired on pension on 22 May 1871, at first received an income of £350 a year, which was increased by £10 on 25 July of the following year. This he lived to enjoy till his passing in 1900, at the age of 99!

David Edwin Doveton entered the mining industry and was an early arrival on the Witwatersrand Gold Fields, though not the first

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Mr. and Mrs. D.E. Doveton.

bearer of his name to reach that part of the world. D.E. Doveton arrived by 1889, and is first mentioned as a director of the Malmani Primrose Gold Mining Company Limited, which operated on the Ottoshoop Gold Fields in the Western Transvaal. This enterprise had a capital of £80,000 and a Board which, apart from Doveton himself, included C.A. Blackbeard, D. Gill, J. Mercer, F.A. Peters, D.J. Haarhoff, Otto Staib, W.H. Craven, David Skirving and W. Ling Snr., nearly all of them well-known personalities in Kimberley.

The property itself comprised eighty-one claims and the flotation took place in 1888. In 1891 D.E. Doveton was living in Plein Street, Johannesburg, and in 1894 he had become the manager of the New Rietfontein Estate Gold Mining Company Limited, which, originally formed in January 1892, exploited an occurrence on the Du Preez Reef to the north-east of Johannesburg, where its dump heaps and long-abandoned workings may still be seen. In its day the New Rietfontein, however, was an important property, with a capital which in July 1895 was raised from the original £160,000 to £270,000. From the Rietfontein Mine he was promoted to the management of the famous Village Main Reef, one of the best-known and most profitable earlier concerns of the Rand Mines Group. During his association with the Corner House he was

honoured by having Doveton Road, Parktown West, named after him, still one of the most fashionable thoroughfares in the northern suburbs of Johannesburg.

D.E. Doveton was a popular personality, and a prominent sportsman. On the occasion of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897, he was a member of the executive committee responsible for the street procession and other displays in Johannesburg and along the Reef. He was married twice, first to Emily Anne Dixon and later to Ella Helen Kay, by whom he had six children. On the outbreak of the Anglo-Boer War and the closing down of operations on the New Rietfontein mine, D.E. Doveton left the Goldfields and went to the Cape, where he joined the newly formed Imperial Light Horse. Obtaining a commission he achieved rapid promotion to the rank of Major and was greatly respected both by his fellow-officers and by his men.

Describing the battle at Wagon Hill outside Ladysmith, and the storming of the heavily held Boer positions on the slopes, Lieutenant G.F. Gibson, in *The Story of the Imperial Light Horse*, tells how, at Howitzer Nek, 'B' Squadron 'galloped up shortly afterwards and were ordered to hold the outcrop southwards from, and almost at right angles to, "E" Ridge. Major D.E. Doveton in command, evidently not realising the proximity of the enemy, had his wrist and arm near the shoulder-joint shot off while using the field glasses. . .

The sequel is to be found in the 'Last Post', a roll of officers who fell in South Africa from 1899-1902: 'Major David Edwin Doveton, Imperial Light Horse, died at Ladysmith, February 14, 1900, of wounds received in the attack on Wagon Hill, January 6, 1900'. He was mentioned in despatches for his services, by General Sir George White on 23 March 1900 and again in the despatch of Field Marshal Earl Roberts (*London Gazette*, 16 April 1901).

The eldest child of David Edwin Doveton and Ella Helen Kay

was Emily Ethel Doveton, who married a prominent Johannesburg printer, Tufnell Hayne, founder of the still-existent firm of Hayne & Gibson.

Next among the children came Maude Doveton, the first wife of Stanley Maynard, a leading Johannesburg stockbroker and partner in the firm of Neilson and Maynard. His sister Bess, incidentally,



British admirals in command of the Fleet, 1913. Sir Frederick Doveton Sturdee is fourth from the right, seated. Lord Jellicoe is second from the right, and Lord Beatty is standing in front of the table, on the right. Painting by Sir Arthur Cope, R.A.

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married Gerald T. Fitzpatrick, brother of Sir Percy Fitzpatrick, the famous author of *Jock of the Bushveld*.

Another child of D.E. Doveton and Ella H. Kay was Douglas Hodson Doveton, who was born in 1897 and died in 1920. His wife was Dorothy Wilkinson, and their daughter Mary, born in 1913, married Patrick Dicey.

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THE 'NAVAL' DOVETONS

What may be described as the 'Naval' branch of the Doveton family must not be overlooked. As far back as the Domesday Book, in its so-called 'Geld Roll' for the year 1084, there is mention of a Richard Estrodet, also spelt Estordit, living in Wiltshire. This name was gradually anglicised and appears in 1219 in the Assize Rolls for Yorkshire as that of his descendant Hugo Sturdy. Similarly Geoffrey Sturdy, or Stourdi, is mentioned in 1220 at Osney in Oxfordshire. Again in the Pipe Rolls for 1230 in Yorkshire there is another Sturdi, whose name in Middle English meant first 'reckless' or 'violent' and later 'impetuously brave' or 'fierce in combat'.

In 1273 we come upon Hammond Sturdi in the Hundred Rolls for the County of Huntingdonshire and also Walter Sturdi in Oxfordshire. There was also a Robertus Sturdy in Yorkshire in 1379.

The famous 'Coventry Mystery Play' has a reference to Stevyn Sturdy. The name is still spelt in the old style in 1618 in a reference to James Sturdy in the Church of St. Peter on Cornhill, and again in the eighteenth century to Thomas Atkinson Sturdy. By then, however, a section of the family preferred to spell the name Sturdee, and one of them, Edwin Thomas Sturdee, joined the Royal Navy and attained the rank of Captain. He it was who married the granddaughter of William Webber Doveton and his wife Eleanor, by their daughter

Maria, born in 1781. She had married Major Charles R.G. Hodson of the St. Helena Regiment, who had been a Town Major on the island at the time of the rebellion in 1808 and subsequently Judge Advocate of the military forces there. It was thus that in his official capacity he came into contact with Napoleon who, as already mentioned, gave him the nickname of 'Hercules'.

The eldest daughter of Major Charles Hodson and his wife, also Maria, became the first wife of Captain Edwin Sturdee. Their son, born at the old family home on St. Helena known as 'Oak Bank' on 9 June 1859, received the traditional family names of Frederick Charles Doveton Sturdee. There was never any question

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Vice-Admiral Sir F.C. Doveton Sturdee

what his career would be. In 1871, at the age of 12, straight from the Royal Naval School at New Cross, London, he entered the Royal Navy. He first saw active service in the Egyptian War of 1882, where he won several decorations. By 1890 he was Captain, by 1893 Assistant to the Director of Naval Ordnance, by 1900 Assistant Director of Naval Intelligence, and by 1905 Chief-of-Staff for the Mediterranean Fleet. Two years later he was Chief-of-Staff for the Channel Fleet and Aide-de-Camp to King Edward VII. A year later Sturdee was a Rear-Admiral, and on the outbreak of the war he was placed in charge of Britain's Naval Forces in the South Atlantic, flying his flag on H.M.S. *Invincible*. As such he finally defeated the German Admiral Graf von Spee near the Falkland Islands on 8 December 1914 and so put an end to the menace of a hostile fleet in Southern Oceans. After commanding the Fourth Battle Squadron at Jutland in 1916, he was appointed

Commander-in-Chief at the Nore in 1918 and Admiral of the Fleet in 1921. Sir Doveton Sturdee, as he had meanwhile become, died on 7 May 1925.

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DOVETONS AND RIDER HAGGARD

Undoubtedly the most important literary association of the Dove-ton clan was with the well-known author Rider Haggard. Even if he is not counted among the giants of the English novelists, the fact that *King Solomon's Mines* and *Alan Quatermain*, both written and published in 1885, remain standard books after the best part of a century, speaks for itself, as does the fact that in Pretoria one of the tourist attractions is the original of 'Jess's Cottage'. In our own time, there have been two best-selling biographies of him, *The Cloak that I Left*, by his daughter, Liliass Rider Haggard, published in 1951, and *Rider Haggard – His Life and Work* by Morton M. Cohen, published in New York in 1961.

Two conflicting versions exist of the origins of the Haggards and it remains a subject for argument which of them is correct. According to the family's own tradition, they originated in Denmark, being descended from a certain Sir Andrew Ogard who 'had come adventuring into England in the reign of Henry V and served with distinction in the French Wars'. The golden star on his arms referred to the family name of Guildenstjerne, which it is not customary in Denmark for younger children to bear. So he took as his surname the name of his birthplace, Aagaard in Jutland. Apparently the English tongue found the double *as* awkward to deal with, and it became first Ogard, then Hoggard and finally Haggard.

Having claimed this ancestor, whose existence is definitely proved, Liliass Rider Haggard then raises a question of interest, for, as far back as 1560, she says, 'there is a gap in the connections with John Haggard of Ware, but his descendants cherish their traditional ancestor to this day, and still carry his golden star'.

As against this origin of the name, we find in the so-called 'Subsidy Rolls', for Worcestershire, back in 1275, mention of Alice Haggard, whose name, according to Dr. P.H. Reaney, an eminent authority on these matters, derives from an old French word meaning 'wild' or 'untamed'.

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Another great scholar, the Reverend Charles W. Bardsley, author of *English Surnames, Their Sources and Signification, Dictionary of English and Welsh Surnames* and other important works, gives the meaning as 'the son of Hachard, or Haggard'. Moreover, he found in the 'Hundred Rolls' for the County of Suffolk in 1273 a certain No Haggard, a Ralph Haggard and a John Haggard, this name later being changed to Agard and finally to Haggard. Dr. Reaney gives, as two alternate versions, 'Haggart' and 'Hagard'.

Yet another possible source of the family name is Scotland, where the leading authority on its surnames, the late Dr. George F. Black, found it to be a corruption of Mactaggart.

'The name was not uncommon in Perthshire in the late 16th and 17th Centuries,' he writes. 'John Haggart is recorded in Perth in 1595.' In support he quotes the 'Register of the Privy Council of Scotland' from 1545 to 1625, volume 5, page 651. Dr. Black adds: 'Haggart was a "portioner" of Dulgathill near Dunkeld in 1598.' John

Haggart and William Haggart appear in 'Eister Keppet (Caputh) in 1618, while William Hagart, called Long William in "Elster Capeth", was slain in 1619'.

Whatever the true origin of the family might be, there is no disputing the fact that in the eighteenth century they were living at Ware and Royston, and by farming and commerce had built up comfortable fortunes.

'In the year 1760', wrote the author's daughter, 'a William Henry Haggard of this family took to himself a wife, Susan Rebecca Barn-ham, daughter of the Sheriff of Norwich, and settled in that city. Their eldest son, also called William Henry, bought Bradenham Hall in West Norfolk, to be near his friend, Mr. Mason of Necton, with whom he had shared rooms at Emmanuel College, Cambridge.'

Although he studied law, was called to the Bar, and established a good library, he preferred not to practise but spent his life on his estate as a squire.

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'He was a very handsome man', added Lillas, 'with charming manners, and in 1781 he married Frances Amyand, daughter of the Reverend Thomas Amyand and Frances Rider, granddaughter of Claudius Amyand, Surgeon to George II.' This union introduced a strong streak of eccentricity into the stock, though it added to the high standard of good looks.

William and Frances Haggard's eldest son (also William) was taken into the Amyand family banking business in St. Petersburg, and there married a Russian, Elizabeth Meybohm, whose family came originally from Bremen and who was probably of Jewish blood. Events in Russia after the murder of Tsar Paul, the son of Catherine and Peter III, nearly ruined the Amyand business, and brought William and his Russian wife home in a hurry to Bradenham, with two children born in Russia, a daughter, Frances, and a son called William Meybohm Rider, who, in due course, inherited Bradenham on the death of his father in 1843.

Through Rider Haggard's marriage the link with the Doveton family was established. The fourth marriage of Jonathan Doveton (born 1678) to Elizabeth Draper had resulted in the birth (as the first child) in 1724 of John Doveton, whose marriage in May 1745 to Mary Worrall (the same who is linked to the present-day Carter family) had, as its youngest son, John Doveton, born on 30 July 1758. He it was who in June 1788 married Sarah Bazett (descendant of another old St. Helena family), by whom he had four children. The eldest of these, Bazett Doveton, born in 1789, married Ellen Maria Bond. The eldest of their three children, Ella Doveton, born in 1790, married in 1844 William Meybohm Rider Haggard, who was two years her senior. Their family, of Victorian dimensions, numbered ten – three girls, and seven boys.

Indicative of their pride in the association was the fact that the three elder children were named respectively Ella Doveton Haggard

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H. Rider Haggard

Sir Henry Rider Haggard. From a drawing by W. Strang, 1915.

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(born 1845), William Henry Doveton Haggard (born 1846), and Bazett Michael Doveton Haggard (born 1847). Speaking of her grandmother, Lillas said:

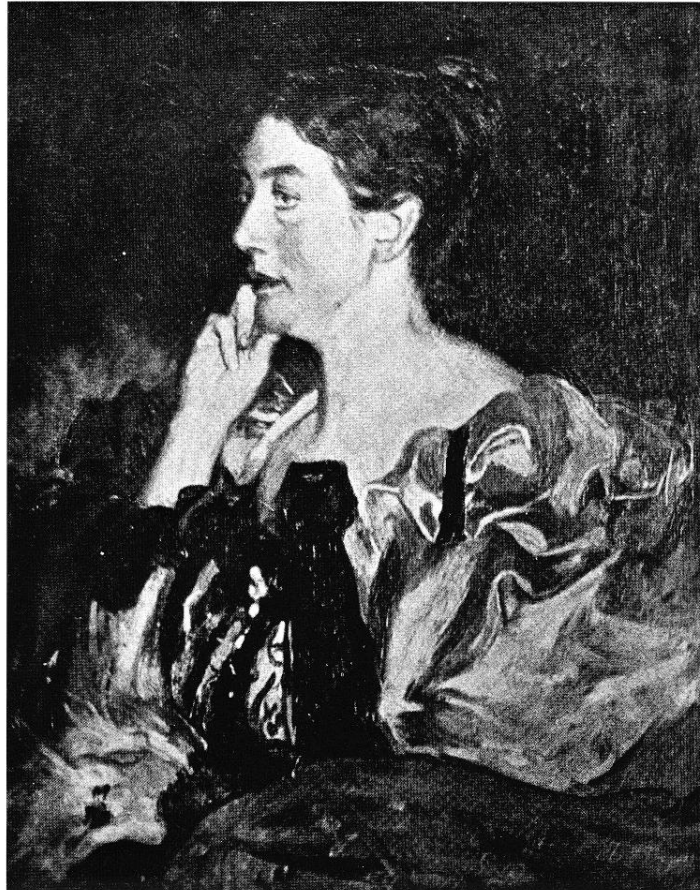
Ella Haggard (to whom Rider always believed he owed much of his literary ability) was the elder daughter of Bazett Dove-ton of St. Helena, whose family had lived for several generations upon that island and in India, where she had been born and spent all her youth. She was a clever and cultivated woman of great charm and wide interests, which had of necessity been narrowed down in the twelve years of her marriage, with the over-increasing demands of husband and children – for Rider was her eighth child.

Strangely enough, there was a double link between the Doveton and the Haggard families, for Ella's younger sister Caroline Doveton, born in 1827, married in 1848 James Haggard, brother of William Meybohm. Sir Henry Rider Haggard himself was born in 1856.

When his mother died in 1889, he paid a touching tribute to her: Of all women I have known she was certainly the most charming, as taken together she was the most brilliant. Beauty she did not possess to any remarkable degree, though the gentle sweetness which characterized her face in youth, grew ever with her years, and may be said to have

reached its most complete development upon her bed of death. . . . Her earnest religion had no bitterness in it; it was all charity, as her life was all love and self-sacrifice. Even to the end her thoughts were of others – of tier husband, her children, her friends; even her desire to live on awhile sprang from a longing 'to be of use' to those about her. But, when at length, after years of struggle, mortal sickness gained the victory, she faced death with that utter fearlessness which had characterized her through life; nor did her faith fail her.

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Lady Ella Haggard (née Doveton). Painting by M. Greiffenhagen, R.A.

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APPENDIX: W.J. BURCHELL

Wilfrid Tatham, the Honorary Archivist on St. Helena, has kindly sent me the following items of information that have only recently been found in W.J. Burchell's diary.

The first item is an appreciation of W.W. Doveton written in 1807. 'That good old man, Doveton . . . he certainly is the best Islander and possesses an excellent heart. The blandness of his manners & speech prepossesses me immediately in his favor, and a longer acquaintance with him does not change one's first opinion.'

In the same year Burchell is writing about the severe epidemic of measles which caused several deaths. Among them was W.W.D.'s wife.

Finally, in March 1809 Lieut. Onesiphorus Beale finds himself in trouble. One Robert Wright fought a duel with a certain Young, the seconds being Beale and Francis Seale respectively. Young was killed. Wright seemed unmoved, went up to his opponent and said, 'Young, are you dying?' and then, 'Young, you *must* die.' The seconds on the other hand 'were running up and down half distracted'. Such was the evidence of a constable. It appears that Burchell was a member of the jury; and he adds that, when the law was explained, 'we saw that we could give no other verdict than 'Wilful murder', as against Wright, and abetting and assisting in the same, as against Beale and Seale.' This was the inquest. It seems that they were confined to their quarters; Beale and Seale escaped, but were advised to return. Later they were removed from their own houses to the jail 'which had been a little prepared for their reception; as no persons of their description had ever been put there before'.

Here the story tantalisingly ends in Burchell's diary, but Rachel Tatham, curious to know the end of the story, ran it to earth with some difficulty.

The trial took place on 12 April. Two justices had to withdraw as being related to one or other of the accused. They were W.W. Doveton and Robert Leech; and some of the jurors had to be with-

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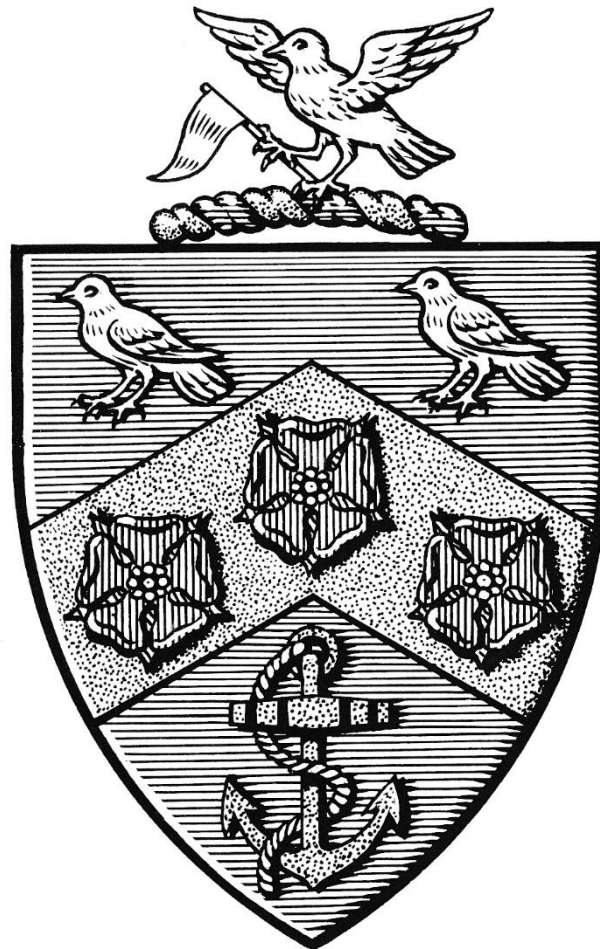
drawn for the same reasons. The arraignment stated that Wright on 20 March 'being moved and seduced by the instigation of the devil . . .' Beale and Seale 'feloniously, wilfully, and of their malice aforethought were present aiding and abetting comforting and assisting, maintaining the said Robert Wright'. John Barnes acted as counsel for the defence. It turned out that the reason for the duel was that Young had twice promised to take Wright's duty for him and failed to carry out his promise. The Court pointed out that duelling was illegal but that the law said that for various technical reasons it was not a case of murder. The jury gave their verdict of Not Guilty in seven minutes.

On 15 September 1791 Armorial Bearings were granted to Frederick Doveton of the Parish of St. Marylebone in the County of Middlesex Esquire, late Master attendant at Bengal and to the descendants of his late grandfather, Jonathan Doveton formerly of the Isle of St. Helena. The blazon of the Arms and Crest granted reads as follows:

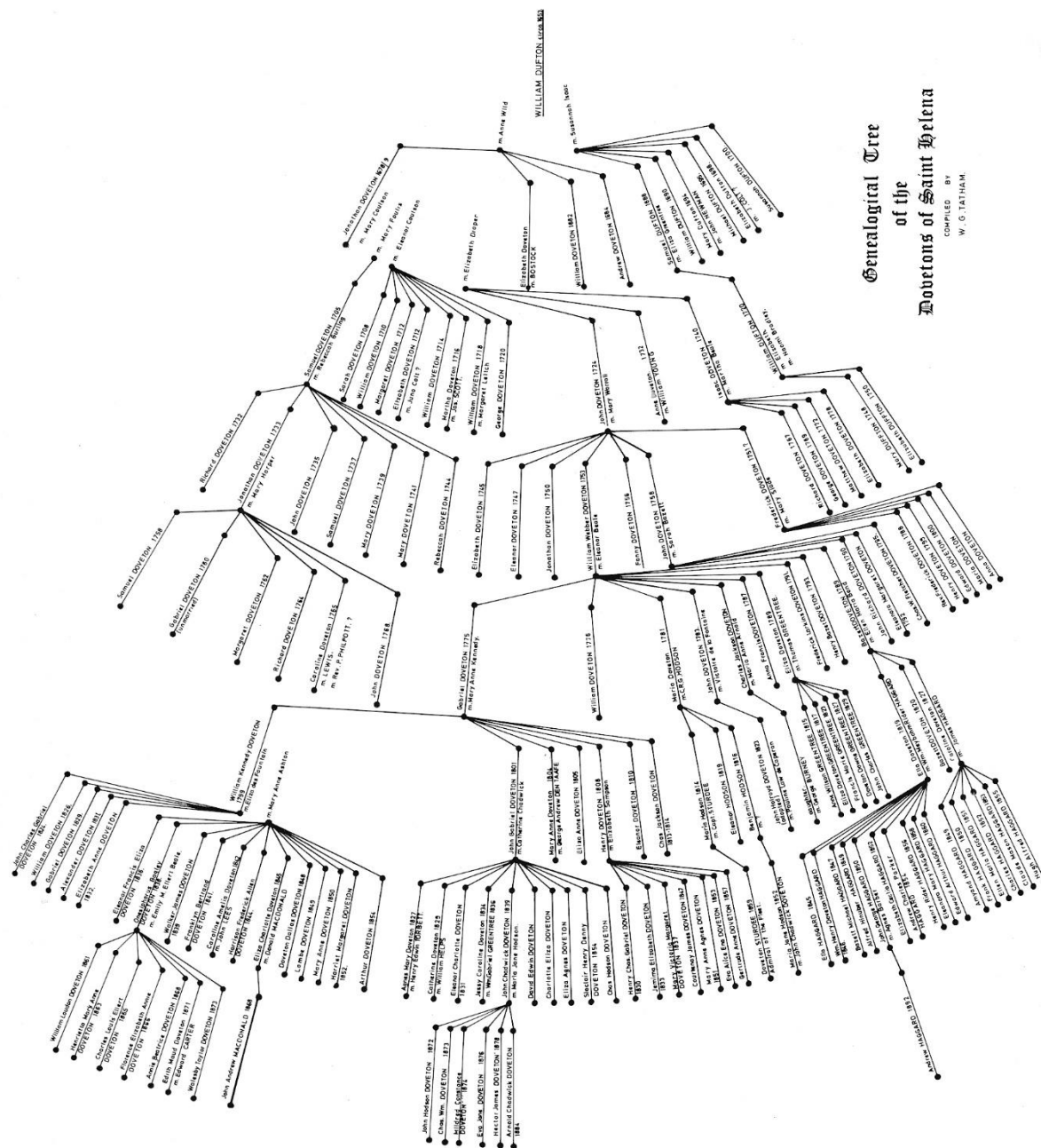
Azure on a Chevron Or between two Doves in chief Argent and an Anchor erect in base of the second three Roses Gules barbed and seeded proper. Crest, On a Wreath of the Colours a Dove with wings displayed supporting with the dexter foot a Staff with a Pendant all proper.

– Extract from a letter from Sir John Heaton-Armstrong, M.V.O., Clarenceux King of Arms, London

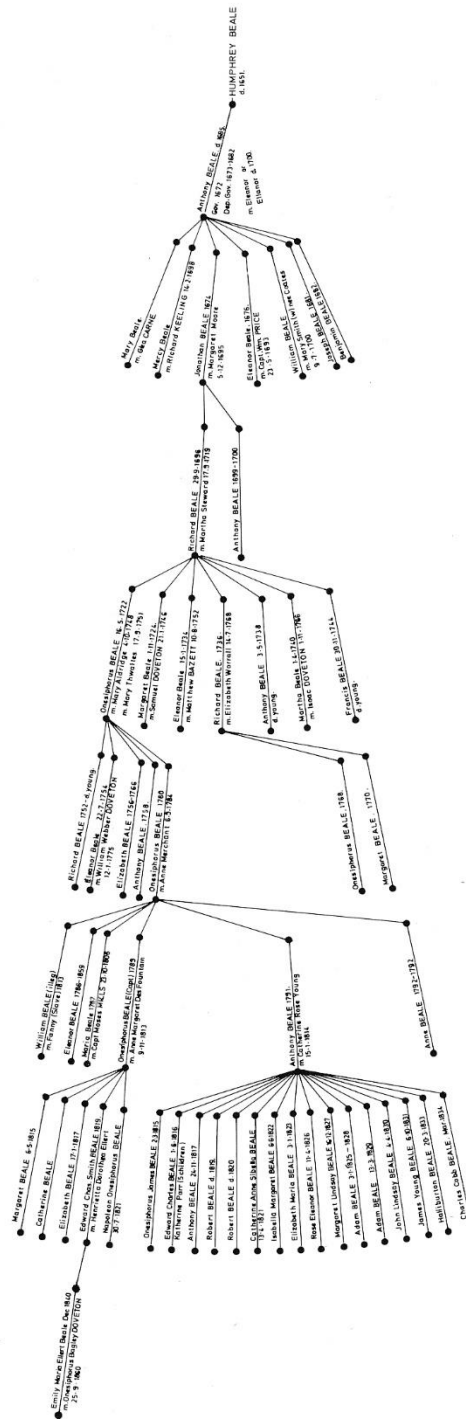
THE DOVETON ARMS



*DOVETON of St. Marylebone,
co. Middlesex & the Isle of St. Helena.*



Genealogical Tree
of the
Doughtons of Saint Helena
COMPILED BY
W. G. TATHAM



-- The family of Beale on the island of St. Helena --

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Much valuable information was obtained from T.H. Brooke, *History of the Island of St. Helena from Its Discovery by the Portuguese to the Year 1823*, Kingsbury, Parbury, & Allen, London, 1824.

COMPILER'S NOTE

The preparation of this record of the Doveton, Beale and other families has required several years of work in places as widely separated as South Africa, England, St. Helena and India.

Covering as it does a period of more than three centuries, the work inevitably is in a certain number of aspects incomplete, unexplained, or possibly incorrect. It is hoped that any family member affected by one or other of these errors of omission or commission will be understanding and helpful so that a second edition may be contemplated.