

**EXTRACTS FROM
THE ST. HELENA
RECORDS**

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Extracts from the St. Helena Records by Hudson Ralph Janisch

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HUDSON RALPH JANISCH

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RECORDS**

St. Helena

EXTRACTS

FROM THE

ST. HELENA RECORDS,

COMPILED BY THE LATE

HUDSON RALPH JANISCH, Esq., C.M.G.,
GOVERNOR OF ST. HELENA.

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ST. HELENA:

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED AT THE "GUARDIAN" OFFICE BY
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1885.
EN

INTRODUCTION.

To the late HUDSON RALPH JANISCH, C.M.G., Governor of St. Helena, the public at large are indebted for compiling, from the old Record Books at the Castle, the St. Helena Records, Letters to and from England, &c., and thus enabling me to publish them. The manuscript has been closely followed in every particular,—viz: orthography, punctuation, etcetera. I note this fact because the reader will find several words spelt in both the old and modern style occurring in the same paragraph.

Probably there are no Records of other British settlements more interesting or saddening than those which are to be found in these pages. Amongst the many incidents of the early days of the Island's history, herein recapitulated, several will be found to be highly ludicrous and entertaining, while some are revolting in the extreme.

There are many extracts from the Record Books (thanks to our present Governor—Lieut.-Colonel GRANT BLUNT, R.E.,) in my possession which have not yet been published, but may, at some future time, be placed before the public.

In the hope of meeting with success in my present undertaking, I now lay before the world the "ST. HELENA RECORDS"—or, what may be justly called, the HISTORY OF ST. HELENA from 1673 to 1835.

B. GRANT.

ST. HELENA, April, 1835.

ST. HELENA RECORDS.

Letter dated London, 19th December 1678, appoints Captain Richard Field to be Governor—Captain Anthony Beale to be Deputy Governor—the Lieutenants of the two companies of Foot on the Island for the time being Francis Moore, John Colestone and Richard Swallow to be of our Council. " You are to take into your possession all the cattle that can possibly be attained, that a distribution may be made to the several Inhabitants according to the rules hereafter mentioned. The Three Boats left by Sir Richard Munden to be kept in repair and permit the inhabitants to goe a fishing therein. All fish to be distributed equally amongst the inhabitants. We have sent £400 in pieces of eight and copper money for payment of the soldiers. All soldiers to be reduced to two companies. The Governor to be Captain of one and the Deputy Governor of the other. The Pay to be as follows:

Captain Richard Field as Governor and Captain of one company £50 per annum and a yearly gratuity £50. Captain Anthony Beale as Deputy Governor and Captain of the 2nd Company and as Husband of the Stores £50 per annum. The Lieutenants each per month £2 10 0, Ensigns £2. Sergeants being four in all £1 10. Gunner £2 and his dyett. Two Gunners Mates £1 10.

The Soldiers are to be exercised &c. and you are to permit the soldiers when they can be spared to assist the planters in their plantations.

A Wooden Store house is sent out. Captain Anthony Beale to have accommodation of dwelling therein for himself and family for the first two years so as he kepe no fire therein.

Although during this present Warr wee do continue the said Military forces in our pay yet being desirous to encourage the soldiers to become planters we have as a beginning entertained several persons as planters who come by this shipping and are named on the list herewith sent, and are to receive the accommodation hereafter particularly mentioned.

All the old planters that were formerly settled in the

Island and are now bound thither shall be repossessed of their several houses and plantations which formerly they enjoyed in the condition they shall be found at the arrival of these ships, and all new planters shall upon their arrival have 20 acres of land rough and smooth. Each family shall have besides 2 cows given them freely with provision gratis out of the Company's Magazine for their maintenance for the space of nine months.

All the Planters are to be listed under either of the aforesaid companies that they may exercise and train them up in arms at least once in two months to qualify them for the defence of the Island. Though we do not require the Planters to keep constant watch as Soldiers during the time that we shall continue soldiers in pay, yet we do strictly require in case of the approach of any shipping and especially upon discovery of any Enemy or any general alarms that they do repair to their respective posts. It being one of the conditions on which we have granted them the land and other accommodation. Soldiers who desire to be discharged and become Planters grant them the same acquainting them that are married that if they desire it their wives shall be sent out to them.

No female Cattle are to be killed for three years until the Island be sufficiently replenished.

The Company's Plantation is to be at the direction and disposal of the Governor for the supply of the table for himself and others—appointed to dyett with him.

We have entertained Mr. William Swindle a Minister of the Gospel of whom we have received a very good character to preach once and catechize every Lord's Day and to teach or direct the teaching of children as their Schoolmaster and also as many of the Negro children as are capable of learning. His allowance £50 a year as Minister £25 as Schoolmaster and £25 gratuity and to have his dyett at the Governor's table and also at Plantation.

We have entertained Mr. Francis Moore Chirurgeon to have £25 and dyett at the Governor's table and to have the like proportion of ground and cattle as other planters and £5 gratuity.

We have received an account from Sir Richard Munden that a certain negro was very serviceable in guiding those of the English that first landed in order to its retaking and that Sir Richard Munden redeemed him from a Portugal to whom he was sold—we have repaid the money to Sir Richard Munden and have also paid Mr. Coleston £18 which he allegeth he disbursed in charges for the negroes wife and his

two children so that we have sent the said negroes wife and his two children over to him as free planters and do order that he receive land and two cowes as other planters with all privileges as a reward of his service and the encouragement of faithfulness.

We also order that all negroes both men and women living in the said Island that shall make profession of the Christian faith and be baptized shall within seven years after be free planters and enjoy the privileges of free planters both of land and cattle.

Wee do understand that Captain Kegwin was entertained into His Majesty's Service at --- per month which you will find is to be paid by us from the time of landing upon the Island until the time of his discharge. Upon receipt hereof discharge the said Captain Kegwin of our service and we direct that you treat him with all civility and that he take his passage for England in either of these two ships.

A List of what men were left upon the Island out of the several ships following (160 names in all) viz:—

The Assistance frigate Sir Richard Munden's ship 53 names which include Captain Richard Kegwin—Wm. Bodley—Jno. Powell—Thos. Birch.

The Levant Merchant 46 men including Captain Gregory Field—William Powell—William Fox.

The Mary and Martha Company's Ship 24 men including John Easthope and Thomas Coles.

The William and Thomas 37 names including Richard Alexander, Henry Francis, Matthew Pouncey.

We have freighted the ship *Loyal Merchant* on which we intend to send some more planters and passengers. When the ship *Loyal Merchant* arrives you may permit the seamen that were left there by Sir Richard Munden and as many soldiers as desire it (not exceeding 30 in all) to return for England, and as we shall be informed of any others that would come for England wee shall give further orders concerning them.

Send us a particular account of what anchors and cables are on the Island and whether they did belong to the *Surratt Merchant* and the *Humphrey* and *Eliza* that was lately at the Island and were afterwards taken up by the Dutch.

Any of the Inhabitants are to be allowed on their request ground sufficient to build a house in any valley provided they build the said houses regularly in order to a town of defence above each of the fortifications that shall be made in any valley. The Houses that are between the sea and any of the Forts are to be removed by the proprietors.

A Register is to be kept of all Marriages, Burials and Births.

For seven years the Company will take all Sugar Cane, Indigo Cotton, Wool, Ginger, Tobacco, &c.

London, 10th April 1674.—Now since it hath pleased His Majesty to make peace with Holland we must now consider to lessen our charge yett so as to keep a sufficient garrison with as much care and vigilance as if the warr had continued. Wee therefore order that you keep only in pay 75 of the oldest civillest and best soldiers and for the remainder that you propose to them the Company's terms for their staying there as free planters, which if they will not accept send them home.

London, 18th Dec 1674.—By this ship goeth old Mr. Swallow whom we would have to be one of the seven in Council—and our order is that you will be speedy in settling of these new comers in laying out their lands and give them assistance by the negroes and encouragement to build them up cottages to dwell in. Till their habitations be built they may be distributed to lodge amongst those planters that have houses.

We would have you take opportunities of fair weather to go round the windward part of the Island at a distance with your Boats for to discover what fishing grounds there are, to which end we send you dypsey lines and leads.

If any European people who are at amity with England arrive at the Island for refreshment use them civilly but do not too far trust them on shore nor to discover the strength of the place.

We intend to give orders to Suratt to send you some Kermania Goats and we take what care we can to procure some Indians by our returned shippes to be left with you.

Wee are sorry to hear of the death of your Minister being a man we fear will be much wanted there. Capt. Kegwin hath been with us and presented us with a bill of Exchange for £112 which we paid him but you must for the future forbear to charge unless it be for some extraordinary occasion.

You advise that some seamen did report amongst the soldiers that we did intend to transport them for Planters to Bombay you should have done well to have found out the author of that forgery that he might have received his reward and had not the soldiers been heady hare brained persons they would not have given credit to any such reports. Whereas the soldiers say they will have dyett as well as wages, it is contrary to all custom for soldiers in

Garrison to have so, but if they plant and work for us when they are off guard then we shall allow it.

And though we say fifty soldiers yet if we find by the strength of the Inhabitants you can secure the Island we would have you lessen the number, for it is our thought with such soldiers as those are that mutiny upon every report will be little security to you.

As for the Dutch prisoners you must give them liberty in any of our own or European returned ships, or to ship themselves for Bantam whither they will.

The wife of Captain Field having made it her earnest desire that her husband may come home we do therefore give him free liberty to come for England, and if he come away Captain Beale is to succeed as Governor.

London, March 8th, 1676.—You have done well in reducing the number of soldiers to 50. We are pleased to hear from you that our Island is in such a flourishing condition and that all things there thrive well with you. But yet we find there is wanting industry and painstaking in many of the inhabitants which we will not permit to continue to be amongst you for they that will not plant should not eat—we will not supply them, rather send them home under the title of Drones.

You advise us of the death of the Gunner by a disaster in firing a gun for which we are sorry, but much blame you to spend our powder so vainly, and as we are informed your gun had a double charge by carelessness. We are informed that there is a rumour amongst the soldiers and inhabitants of the island that we do intend to send shipping to transport them for Bombay which report is feigned and false, it never so much as having been in our thoughts.

You do hint as if there did remain among you some of the old mutineers. If there be any such suffer them not to continue unless they demean themselves according to rule. We have no good report of one Young who was of the old stock.

We have paid the Governor's wife Mrs. Field £100 at several times in part of his salary and would have him advise us what sum he desires may be allowed.

We take notice of your want of a good Minister by reason of the death of him last sent. We have entertained Mr. John Winne who takes passage by way of Surratt.

8 Carmenian Goats sent from India for 132 rupees being all we can procure which are to keep apart for their breed that it be not lost as it seems some formerly hath by running amongst the ordinary.