

Teutonic Hall 1679-2021

The site of Teutonic Hall, on which there may have been a cottage, was originally called Hays. The original inhabitant was most likely Sutton Isaac who is mentioned in the St Helena records in 1679 and his gravestone, dated 1686, was found in the grounds in 1971. In May of 1775, Captain James Cook spent six days on St Helena and visited the house on his second day.

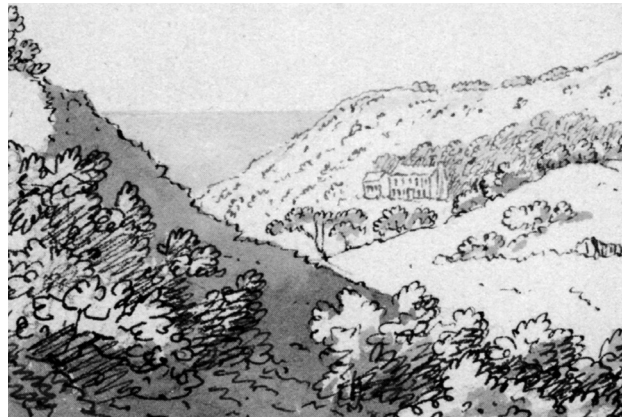
The main portion of the house was built between 1770 & 1790 and Crallan supposed that the two northernmost bays on the Longwood side were a later addition which was confirmed during restoration work. A veranda was added by Boer POWs between 1901 and 1902 and in 1912 the shed-roofed extension on the Longwood side was built as a store and then later used as a bar. A 'sun room' was added to the front in 1920. The original roof was slate.



This stone was used as a doorstep until discovered by Major Steven Strong and placed in the archives. It mentions the Dutch claim to the Island in 1673: By order of the Honourable High Powers, The gentlemen Neederburg and Frykenius, Commissioner General of the Netherlands Indian and Cape of Good Hope, Possession named of this Land and Island from names.....? (the lion is clutching 7 arrows representing 7 countries)

The original access road wound upwards to Alarm Hill and Mason's Stockyard. Mason's Stockyard which should not be confused with the Masons of Arno's Vale, was above the house on the slope between Sunberry Hill and Alarm Hill known as the Lawn where there was a picquet (lookout post). The present road was a cattle track with a black gate on to the main road, hence the name "Black Gate".

Miss Polly Mason (born circa 1780) was the first known owner of the current house which was then known as Miss Masons Stockhouse or Masons. Miss Mason owned about 420 acres which included Orange Grove at Levelwood and land in Fisher's Valley. Her brother owned Willowbank, but this was not the present ruin which was probably built by Charles Metcalf, a carpenter who made the coffin in which Napoleon was buried.



Miss Masons House by Burchill 1808

Miss Mason, a known eccentric and friend of Napoleon is rumoured to have had tea with him under the Cape Yew tree at the bottom of the garden, and to have signalled to him with a lamp

from a window at the back of the house, which looked straight towards Longwood. Octave Aubrey wrote this account: "He (Napoleon) would go and sit for hours at Miss Masons. She was an old maid with mannish ways, brusque and kind hearted, who was to be seen on all the roads on the Island riding on an ox – for that matter she was a consummate horsewoman. A hunting dog was admitted to the Emperor's presence, being a gift of Miss Mason. His name was Sambo and he came from Chinese pedigree. His coat was whitish spotted with brown and his ears cut in Chinese fashion."



The Cape Yew that shaded Napoleon when he came for tea

In 1815 the house was mortgaged by Miss Mason's brother to Thomas Lester, a former Captain in the Artillery, who was by then a pensioner. In 1822, George W. Janisch, Secretary to Sir Hudson Lowe, purchased the house from the Masons and took over the mortgage from the "late Captain T. Lysters estate".

Janisch, who came from Hamburg in Germany changed the name of the house to Teutonic Hall. After Napoleon's death Janisch married Anne

Seale and settled here. As Kitching describes, “he acquired land, became a partner in the firm of Solomon & Company and made himself useful to successive Governors...” Janisch and Lowe seemed to have a high mutual regard for each other, and in 1825 Janisch named his son after him. Hudson Ralph Janisch, who was presumably born in this house, was later to become the island’s first and only native-born Governor.

In 1866 the house was sold to James Lewis and on his death he passed it onto his son Matthew who resided there from 1889. In 1937 it is occupied by Victor M. Day, a stamp collector and in 1943 it is sold to George Moyce, later lessee of the Consulate, for £500.



Teutonic circa 1902 with a veranda built by Boer POWs with possibly the Lewis family.

In 1951 Brigadier Wallace bought the house and land from George Moyce, but went bankrupt and Messrs Solomon & Co (St. Helena) Ltd., took over. For a short while Mr Solomon lived there. Solomon & Co carried out extensive repairs and in 1957 George Stuart Moss took up residence.

The Moss’s were a prominent Island family for several generations, partners in Solomon’s, with

extensive holdings that included Farm Lodge and much of Rosemary Plain, Longwood House, and Porteous House in Jamestown. George Moss later moved into Rosemary Plain house, which his wife designed.



Teutonic in 1974 by Hugh Crallan with Molly Mawson and Crallan’s wife. The veranda was removed in the 1950s by Mr Herbert Nicholls.

In 1963 the house, with 1 ½ acres of land was bought by Mr Arthur Mawson who ran it as a hotel and bar. In 1965 a team of Belgian naturalists undertaking a survey of the island’s endemic invertebrates stayed here. When Arthur died in 1985 his widow, Molly, sold the property to the Wade family for £17,000.00. During the Wade’s ownership the property fell into disrepair.



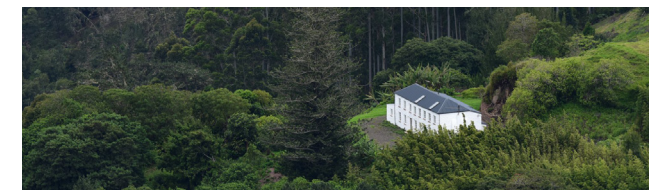
Teutonic in 2011

In November 2017 W. A. Thorpe & Sons Ltd. acquired the property and started renovation work in 2018. At least a quarter of the building has been rebuilt and has been divided into two 3 bed flats and one 2 bed flat for rent as self-catering accommodation.

Work was completed in December 2021 by Mark Anthony, Nicky Phillips, Alex Williams, Dale Benjamin, Tom Wortley, Stuart Yon, Remi Bruneton, Mike Johnson, Orlando Osbourne, Dave Marr, Adrian Williams, Robert Anthony, Roy Joshua, Justin Cranfield, Colin Benjamin, Arthur Francis and Derek Henry.



Teutonic in 2021.



W.A.Thorpe & Sons Ltd.
Market Street, Jamestown
St Helena Island, STHL 1ZZ
Tel: 22781

Web: www.thorpes.sh Email: office@thorpes.sh