

Fascinating chapter of South Coast history

Daily News Reporter

IN 1851 when the Byrne settlers landed at Port Natal, a young stonemason with strong religious convictions stepped off the Norah to write a fascinating chapter in early Natal's family history.

Samuel Goldstone, from Darlington in England, started an ill-fated farming venture near Richmond — as did most of the Byrne settlers — the first step that led him to establishing Ifafa on the South Coast.

Disillusioned with farming, Goldstone was soon attracted to the developing sugar industry north of Durban. He got a job in Mount Edgecombe as supervisor of the indentured Indian labourers in the cane fields.

But the post held little scope for the talented builder, wagon maker, musician and photographer and Goldstone moved on to live on the banks of the Mtwalumi River, taking with him a Zulu wife who bore him five sons.

SCHOOLS

He used his talents to build schools and churches for the Zulu tribesmen living in what is now the Mtwalumi Reserve, including their mission station. Buildings he erected are still standing at Inanda, Mtwalumi and Adams Mission.

In appreciation of his work, the Zulus granted him 180 ha of land on the banks of the Mtwalumi River, where the industrious Goldstone opened the first wagon foundry on the South Coast.

At that time in the early 1860s small sugar planta-

tions mushroomed inland along the coast, but Goldstone was not interested in cane farming. Instead, with the help of his five sons, he operated a transport service carrying the cut cane to Port Natal.

He built the wagons from wood he found in the bushes near his home but had to buy the steel. With the money he made from transporting, he bought up all the land between the Ifafa and Mtwalumi Rivers. His property stretched 12 km inland and included the spot where Ifafa now stands.

DWINDLED

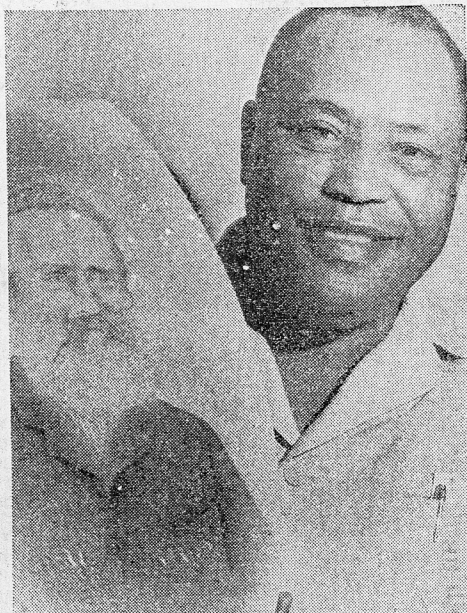
Fifteen Coloured families, all descendants or relatives of Goldstone, now live there. But their holding has dwindled to about 3 000 ha.

White families have bought land at Ifafa and this has posed a difficult problem for the Group Areas Board which has not yet classified Ifafa, says Mr George Greenhead, who married Goldstone's great granddaughter Helen.

"There is no animosity here between the Coloureds and the Whites who know the set up and live on land Goldstone gave to friends or helped them to buy," said Mr Greenhead, who lives across the road from where Goldstone was going to build a new house.

He died in 1908 after laying the concrete foundations which are still visible today. His descendants cannot remember how old he was but guess he was in his 80s.

The strip of land along



MR GILBERT GOLDSTONE with a portrait of his grandfather, Samuel Goldstone — the man who started it all.

the coast he called Pierre d'Or, which is French for Goldstone, and the plot inland of that he called Darlington, after his birth place in England.

Mr Gilbert Goldstone (61), a grandson of Samuel, can remember his father William, who was the eldest son, often speaking of the three-day wagon trip to Durban carrying the cane.

Their first stop was at Park Rynie, where, after unhitching the span for the night, the brothers took their guns and dogs and went into the bush to shoot the night's meal.

UMKOMAAS

Umkomaas was the next stop. But to cross the Umkomaas River the wagons had to be dismantled and ferried by pont in pieces. The oxen had to swim and the transport drivers had to standby with rifles ready to shoot the crocodiles that harassed and terrified them.

The last night stop before entering Durban and paying the toll in Umbilo Road where King Edward VIII Hospital now stands, was Malakazi.

When Goldstone's first wife died, he married into the Fynn family and there are now about 300 Goldstones around South Africa, Mr Greenhead said.

DIVIDED

When the founder of the clan died the land was divided between four sons as the fifth chose to be paid out. With the money he got, Charles Goldstone bought land and founded Hibberdene.

Samuel's second wife gave 2.5 ha for a school, now called Mtwalumi School, where Mr Greenhead taught for 35 years before retiring.

Old maps of the South Coast showed Darlington Station but the name was changed a few years ago to Ifafa Beach because of the association with the Coloured farm Darlington, Mr Greenhead said.

TROUBLE AT IFAFA BEACH

"Mercury" Reporter 7-4-69

TWO POLICE vans from Umzimba on the Natal South Coast raced to Ifafa Beach, about 60 miles south of Durban, yesterday afternoon after a report that hundreds of Europeans, Indians and Coloureds were involved in racial trouble.

"This happens every year," he said. "A short while ago a Coloured school even had its annual sports meeting on our beach."

"I have to hear all the complaints and there is nothing I can do about it. It is high time the authorities stepped in."

Warrant Officer Bosch also pointed out that there were 20 apartheid laws on the beach. "In view of this we cannot ask the non-Whites to leave. All we can do is try to keep the peace."

Late in the afternoon the Whites and non-Whites left the beach, but police kept a constant watch. No more violent incidents were reported.

Invaded

I visited Ifafa Beach yesterday afternoon and found a group of angry holiday-makers. They said there was no apartheid on the 15-mile stretch of beach, and the non-Whites invaded the entire area.

The trouble allegedly started when a man chased a group of Indians and Coloureds off the beach. They told him they had as much right to be there as he had. There was a row, and a flat right broke out.

The owner of a local cafe, Mr Hilton du Plessis, said there were about 500 White holiday-makers at the resort. There were no less than 100 non-Whites from the beach and he feared that racial trouble could occur.

Govt decides to keep Ifafa Marina for whites

By NAGOUR BISSETT

CHRISTMAS will be brighter and happier at the Ifafa Marina on the Natal South Coast, says Mr Leon van As, chairman of the local action committee which has been striving to keep the resort white.

A jubilant Mr van As said yesterday he had been told by the Department of Community Development that the Government had decided not to disturb the resort's status as a white destination which, he said, would be widely regarded by whites as the year's best Christmas present.

But Mr Wilfred Goldstone, a prominent Coloured landowner in nearby Ifafa Beach, was disillusioned and disappointed when he was told of the decision.

Ifafa Beach is inadequate to accommodate the hundreds of Coloured families wanting to live here, and we were hoping the Government would also give the built-up Ifafa Marina area to Coloureds to help alleviate a pressing housing problem.

Ifafa Marina's fate has been hanging in the balance for a long time. Earlier in the year the Group Areas Board investigated whether it should be zoned for Coloureds in line with the zoning of Ifafa Beach about 5 km away.

Because of overcrowding at the resort had been stifled, but Mr van As said he was sure everything now would flourish once again. The decision was welcomed because the area originally had been developed for whites.

Hotel man disappears

Mercury Reporter

A SENIOR employee at the Rugby Hotel in Pinetown is missing after it was discovered this week that R500 in bar takings and staff wages and the hotel car had disappeared.

The manager, Mr Bill Inglis, discovered that a senior staff member, who had been employed at the hotel for only three months, had apparently left a car belonging to the hotel was no longer in the parking lot. By last night no arrests had been made.

By Maureen Griffin

GAH back to the Coloureds

A LONG-RUNNING fight between whites and Coloureds for Ifafa Beach on Natal's South Coast ended this week when more than 50 white property owners would to get out.

The remaining 50 or so, who own property there but live inland, will also be served with expatriation notices by the Department of Community Development, which has given whites 60 days to submit claims for compensation since Ifafa Beach was this week zoned for Coloureds.

Whites interviewed by the Sunday Tribune were shocked and dismayed but leaders of the Coloured community were jubilant.

"We knew it was coming," said 70-year-old Wilfred Goldstone, delighted that Ifafa Beach — once entirely owned by his family — will again be Coloured-owned.

"We have fought 20 years. Now there will be hundreds of applications from the Coloured community to buy what amounts to just over 100 plots."

His cousin Gilbert Goldstone, 66, said: "Ifafa Beach is not big enough. We hope Ifafa Marina, the holiday resort and caravan park adjoining Ifafa Beach, will also be zoned."

"Then we will go cap in hand and ask for more." Long before the Group Areas Act existed, the Goldstones family owned the entire Ifafa Beach. But while they held on to their farming land behind Ifafa Beach, they sold their plots at Ifafa to whites over the years.

While the Goldstones spoke of the hope that the area would be a showpiece for Coloureds, whites at Ifafa Beach had mixed feelings about the zoning.

June McNeill, 60, who bought the Ifafa caravan park with her husband Angus 10 years ago and built it up into one of the most popular on the South Coast was angry.

"What are we to do? We are already fully booked for Christmas," she said. The Department of Community Development will take the area dark up to the last minute, when they told my husband, who is chairman of the local advisory committee, that an important meeting would be held to discuss the rezoning, which has been hanging over our heads for years."

"One I must see for compensation the Government will make. I have no reason to expect that it won't be adequate from what I've heard, but that doesn't really assist materially in relieving myself and my wife."



Mrs June McNeill ... "I don't want to go"



Goldstone ... "We want more"