



**Thomas Duke (Stevenson-Hamilton, J. 1937. South African Eden. Andover, The Chapel River Press)**

*Duke was a little over forty years old at the time of his employment in the Sabie Reserve. He had come to South Africa as a small baby, his parents having emigrated from the south of Ireland.*

*His Life had been an interesting one. His father had been a successful farmer in the Cape Eastern Province up to the time of a native uprising in the early 1870s, when his homestead was burned, and Duke himself, a boy of about twelve, was beaten and otherwise ill-treated, until, during the night, when his captors were asleep, he was unbound and released by an old native servant of the family. He then walked and ran in his bare feet and practically naked, for about twelve miles till he reached safety. His father, fortunately for himself, happened to be away at the time of the raid, and Duke said that the natives treated his mother and sisters remarkably well, sending them under safe conduct to the nearest white post. Later he joined the Cape Mounted Police, and in that well-known corps, rose to the rank of sergeant, indeed was so well thought of by his superiors, that he would probably have received further promotion, but that he accepted an attractive offer in the Orange Free State detective service, with which he remained until the outbreak of the South African War, when he joined Rimington's Guides. Attached as Intelligence agent to Le Gallais' column, he was responsible for its guidance on the night when General de Wet came nearer to being captured than on any other occasion during the campaign, although during the skirmish following the surprise, the leader, Le Gallais of the 8<sup>th</sup> Hussars, was killed. For this service Duke had been awarded the D.C.M.*

*During the last year of the war I (Stevenson-Hamilton) had been in the same column with him under General "Mike" Rimington, and had become so impressed with his qualities, especially in regard to dealing with natives, that I determined to secure his services on the first opportunity. He was a perfect linguist in the Xosa language ... and he quickly became efficient in the local dialect, though his native name always continued to be M'Xosa" throughout the Lowveld until his death more than thirty years later.*

*Duke served with distinction as Ranger in the Lower Sabie area of the Kruger National Park between 1903 and 1923.*

addo elephant

agulhas

augrabies falls

bontebok

golden gate highlands

karoo

kgalagadi transfrontier

knysna lake area

kruger

mapungubwe

marakele

mountain zebra

namaqua

table mountain

tankwa-karoo

tsitsikamma

|ai-|ais/richtersveld

vaalbos

west coast

wilderness