Lake Albert, Uganda · Newton Abbot, Devon

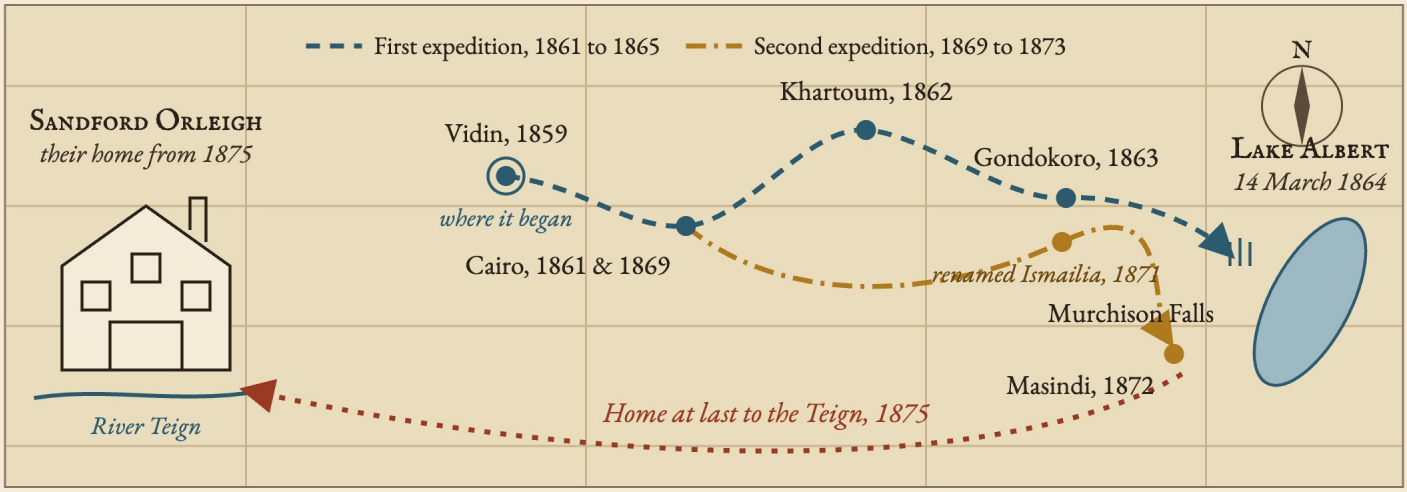
From the Nile to the Teign

Sir Samuel and Lady Florence Baker



Sandford Orleigh today, above the Teign at Newton Abbot





At Home: Sandford Orleigh

Built in 1832 by George Templer above the Teign, Sandford Orleigh was the Bakers' home from 1875, after their second expedition up the Nile. Here Samuel wrote on travel, hunting and the affairs of Egypt. He died in the house on 30 December 1893, and Florence lived on here until 11 March 1916. They lie together at Grimley, near Worcester.

The Grade II listed house is now private homes. Please view it from the road.

Away: The Nile Sources

Born in Transylvania in the early 1840s and orphaned young, Florence was offered for sale at the slave market in Vidin in 1859, where Samuel saw her and took her away. From 1861 they travelled up the Nile together. At Gondokoro in 1863 Speke and Grant told them of a great lake still unvisited. Through fever, mutiny and Florence's near fatal sunstroke, they reached it on 14 March 1864: the Albert N'yanza, with Murchison Falls upstream.

1859 Samuel meets Florence at Vidin

1861 Up the Nile from Cairo

1864 Lake Albert and Murchison Falls

1865 Married in London

1866 Samuel is knighted

1869 to 73 Back to the Nile against the slave trade

1875 Home to Devon and Sandford Orleigh

1893 & 1916 Samuel, then Florence, die at home

Photographs by Stephen Luscombe