



### **EPPLE BAY in the early 1800s**

Quoted from Deni Jirotko's article in Isle Magazine Aug. 2011- Mar. 2012

Epple Bay, with its high chalk cliffs and dramatic coastline, was a popular venue for the illegal sport of bare-fist fighting in the early part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, as it was considered too remote for the authorities responsible for Public Order to bother with. One of the most gruelling fights took place here on August 31<sup>st</sup> 1810, a boiling hot day, between the black Champion of America, Tom Molyneux and a veteran English boxer called Tom Tough. Molyneux, who had been released from slavery as a reward for his prowess in the ring, won the fight.

Additional note from Jennie Burgess.



The fights would almost certainly have taken place down in the bay, with the crowd spread out around the horse-shoe shaped top of the cliff. The fight would have been timed to start as the tide receded. There was no concrete apron at the foot of the cliff face in 1810 and since there were unlimited rounds in these fights, any punters on the sands might have got wet as the tide came in! There would have been room for just the fighters, their seconds and the referee at high tide.