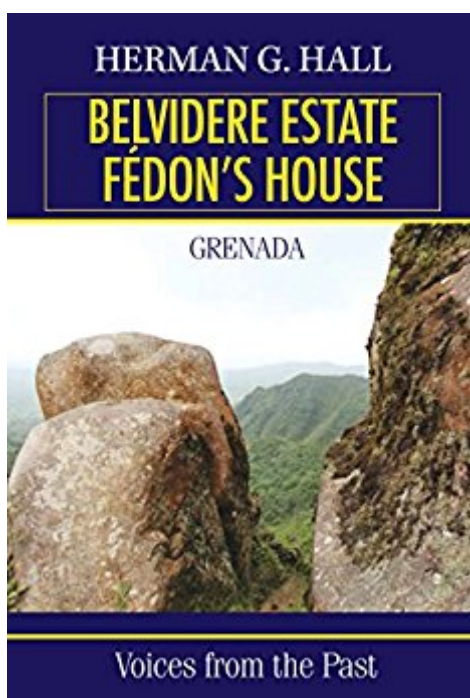


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# Belvidere Estate - FÃ©donâ€™s House: Grenada - Voices From The Past



## Synopsis

Rebellion, insurrection, revolt, executions, religion, maroons, slavery, ghosts, coffee, plantain, nutmegs and cocoa all add to the spicy flavor, high drama and creative tension of Belvidere Estateâ€™s House. This book relates the oral history of Julien Fâ€™don, adoringly kept alive in the memories of Belvidere Estateâ€™s mostly illiterate laborers over the centuries. Some of these tales were either overheard by the author, who was born and raised on Belvidere Estate, or told directly to him by laborers of the 1950s who kept alive the saga of Fâ€™donâ€™s 18th-century exploits. Belvidere Estateâ€™s House brings to life and celebrates the 1795-1796 insurrection now known as Fâ€™donâ€™s Revolution, which occurred on what was, at the time, the British colony of Grenada. President George Washington was aware of problems brewing on the island but Secretary of State Thomas Jefferson advised Washington to ignore the request of the French-speaking mulattoes. Sir Ralph Abercromby, the celebrated British war hero who captured Spanish Trinidad for the British, visited Belvidere in June, 1796 with German commandos in the quest to defeat Fâ€™don. Almost 187 years later when U.S. President Ronald Reagan dispatched troops to invade or rescue the Spice Isle, Grenada, soldiers landed in Belvidere. In describing Belvidere, sequestered in the lush central part of the Caribbean island of Grenada, writers mainly think of the mountain rangeâ€™ now called Fâ€™donâ€™s Campâ€™ where Julien Fâ€™don established his military headquarters and massacred prisoners. Belvidere Estate, which Fâ€™don believed he owned, is seldom mentioned despite the fact that more than 7,000 peopleâ€™ men, women, children, slaves, French whites, mulattoes and, finally, invading British forcesâ€™ resided there in 1795-96. Historians explain that the U. S. War of Independence, the French Revolution and the Haitian Revolution all influenced Fâ€™donâ€™s Revolution, although they acknowledge that Fâ€™donâ€™s Revolution was actually a product of the bitter rivalry between Britain and France for empire expansion. Indeed, within an unsettling 20-year periodâ€™ 1763 to 1783â€™ control of Grenada passed between France and England three times, moving from French to English, English to French and, once again, French to English. It took British soldiers, sailors and marinesâ€™ along with German commandosâ€™ 16 months to crush the rebellion. Was Fâ€™don killed? Was he caught? Did he commit suicide? Did he escape? And if so, where to? Was Fâ€™don exploited when he purchased Belvidere Estate? Did he deliberately participate in fraud when he assumed ownership of Belvidere Estate? Did he ever really own the estate? More than 200 years later, people are still asking these questions. The memory and exploits of Julien Fâ€™don serve as a backdrop for Belvidere Estateâ€™s House. The story of Julien Fâ€™don is, in fact, the story of Belvidere Estate; the story of Belvidere Estate is, in fact, the story of Julien Fâ€™don. Belvidere Estateâ€™s House

House takes the reader on a journey through time to experience life on a mid-20th-century Caribbean plantation, with the spirit of 18th-century Julien FÃ©don as a continuous presence and, even now, in Century 21. It is a historical narrative that provides: \*A historical account of Julien FÃ©don and FÃ©donâ€™s Revolution \*A memoir of plantation life in Colonial Grenada \*A coming-of-age story about the author Many chapters begin with a contemporaneous scene of life at Belvidere Estate in the 1950s, as experienced by the author as a youth. He then analyzes the conversations about Julien FÃ©don that he heard as a youth, placing them in a historical perspective while also celebrating the wisdom and informal knowledge of everyday folks. Throughout this chronicle, FÃ©donâ€™s Revolution is sometimes referred to by the various names by which the British branded it: a revolt, rebellion, uprising, insurrection, or insurgency.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I would recommend this product to all Grenadian, especially our young people. We need to learn and identify with our history

Herman's Belvidere Estate - FÃ©don's House takes us feet first into the famous Belvidere Estate, the 18th century home of Grenada's most legendary character, Julien FÃ©don. FÃ©don, owner of Belvidere, a slave plantation, and himself of mixed French and African heritage, led a bloody rebellion against the British in 1795. He soon controlled 95 percent of the island and kept the British at bay for more than a year. However, the British prevailed with overwhelming force, and all the rebel leaders were captured and executed--all except FÃ©don. In a mysterious sequence of events, FÃ©don vanished like he never existed. To this day, his escape and disappearance remain unsolved, and continue to feed an undercurrent of Grenada's cultural mystique. My own novel, Blood of Belvidere, displays how the FÃ©don folklore continues to thrive and impact Grenada's political energy. That's where Herman's book comes in. He takes us to the source, Belvidere Estate, where he grew up. Through his words, we feel the rich soil beneath our bare feet and inhale the fresh air, luxuriant with hillside aromas that FÃ©don himself would have found captivating. But most of all, we hear the echoes of the people still enchanted with FÃ©don. In Herman's book, we meet intriguing characters whose ancestors surely would have worked for FÃ©don as slaves or marched along side him as rebels fighting for freedom. To understand Grenada and its history, one must understand the role of FÃ©don and Belvidere Estate. This book will take you there! I thoroughly enjoyed it!

This book is a godsend for me since I needed information that is hard to come by about Fedon's Rebellion in Grenada for a project that I'm doing. It was really helpful in that regard.

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