

BALENI KA MLALAZIKO

28.6.1918

File 57, nbk. 4, p.3.

Also present: Mpatesita

Baleni ka Mlalaziko ka Bamba ka Mbengi ka Ngobe ka Bebe ka Mabulu ka Yengwayo ka Jiji of the Langeni.

[This man proved to be a very unsatisfactory informant.]

I am of the Indhlondhlo regiment. *I am of the age group that follows the Tlwana regiment.*¹ I was born about the time that Piet Retief was killed at Mgungundhlovu. When Dingana died I was three or four years old. My mother was from the Ngcobo tribe, and related to Socwatsha.²

Tshaka was Senzangakona's son. Nandi *was younger than* Makedama. Nandi was a daughter of Mgabi ka Ngobe.³

Mpatesita says Tshaka directed that women, when out working in their own gardens, were not to sit down to snuff, or even to ask for snuff from one another. If they wanted to snuff they were to go home. They were to remain standing about working the whole time they were away from home. They were not to rest by sitting down. Mpatesita says he has frequently heard this on best authority. Tshaka wanted them to be industrious. Baleni has also heard of this order.

I used to be Mpande's *inceku* for looking after his gun. It was a double-barrelled muzzle-loader. I used to live at Nodwengu. I was in the Ndongakusuka battle between Cetshwayo and Mbuyazi. I was also at Ondini when Zibebu attacked and defeated Cetshwayo, killing many important men. I got away with three others on horseback.⁴

Notes

¹The Thulwana was formed c.1854 and the Ndlondlo c.1857. Baleni would thus have been born c.1837.

²Socwatsha (Socwasha) was one of Stuart's principal informants.

³See the genealogy in Bryant, Olden Times, p. 126, where a different set of relationships is indicated.

⁴Ndongakusuka was fought in 1856, Ondini in 1883.