

LYLE, WILLIAM

8.6.1914

File 63, item 2(a), pp. 41-3.

Also present: Leonard Lyle? Lyle's shopman?

41 I left Durban at 7.12 a.m. today (8.6.1914). On getting to Tugela I got Fearon, the hotel proprietor, to lend me horse etc. for 10s. Left at about 2 p.m. with Nkantolo and Mvayisa, an old man (the same who gave above story).¹ Came to Nkuku's son Mgwazeni's house (he is a *kolwa*² teacher), where I met Nkuku and his brother. These gave me some account of Ndondakusuka.³ Nkuku is of Dhloko regiment, and was one of Mbuyazi's *izinceku*. He had miraculous escape: got off by pretending to be dead, this in the rushes just below Wili's (i.e. Lyle's) place but Zululand side.⁴

Met Martin (Matutudaka) at foot drift, passed his house and got to Lyle's after crossing Tugela twice.

Gramophone played for us after I had had the long preceding talk with Mvayisa in Nkantolo's presence. Lyle, his son Leonard and his shopman also present.

43 Lyle says a Negro, Black Jack as he was called, had a house here during the Ndondakusuka time, whilst one Buckley had a punt lower down the river. The bush has been cleared away a lot on the Natal side in recent times.

Mangete⁵ is almost due north of this (Lyle's house) - five miles away.

Lyle has been here 22½ years.

Lyle thinks the big slaughter took place just above where his house was, i.e. a little higher up the river but on the Zululand side of course, not where both Nkuku and Mvayisa tell me. He says an old native, Tekwane (deceased), told him that.

Notes

¹Mvayisa's evidence will appear in a subsequent volume.

²The term *ikolwa* (*ikholwa*), literally 'a believer', was generally used to refer to a Christian convert, but was also loosely applied to an African exempted from Native Law or who had adopted distinctive features of European culture.

³Battle for the Zulu succession fought between Cetshwayo and his half-brother Mbuyazi near the mouth of the Thukela in 1856.

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⁴Stuart records elsewhere a more extended statement made by Nkuku.
This will appear in a subsequent volume.

⁵Near the mouth of the Thukela on the north bank.