

MGODINI KA MNCAKWANA

20.9.1900

File 73, p. 101.

101 Per Chief Mgodini, this day about 12.30 p.m. Mgodini is a man of about 35-40, I suppose, and is chief over the Amabaso tribe. His kraal is beyond Mbulwana mountain, Ladysmith.¹

The Amabaso tribe, he says, formerly lived on land in the Nqutu district now occupied by Hlubi and other Basutos.² During Dingana's reign some member or members of their tribe complained to Dingana that Mangete, the then chief of the tribe, appropriated the *cattle that had been confiscated (isizi)* to his own uses, that is fines etc., instead of delivering them over to the king. The Amabaso fled to near Colenso. They were followed up, as they were supposed to have carried off cattle not belonging to them, and attacked. Many were killed. The remaining ones then sought Langalibalele's protection and became safe.³ After quitting their lands in Zululand it seems they were given by Dingana to Sirayo and his people.⁴

Mgodini is not quite at home in all this.

Notes

¹Mgodini kaMncakwana was chief of a section of the Mabaso in the Klip River and Dundee divisions. Cf. the Mabaso chiefly genealogies as given by Lunguza kaMpukane, in Stuart Archive, vol. 1, p. 300, and by Bryant, Olden Times, p. 418. Mbulwana mountain overlooks Ladysmith from the south-east.

²After the Anglo-Zulu war of 1879 the Tlokwa chief, Hlubi, was made chief over the Nquthu area as a reward for his services as an ally of the British.

³The ancestral lands of the Hlubi chief Langalibalele were in the vicinity of present-day Utrecht. After falling into disfavour with Mpande, he crossed into the colony of Natal in 1848, settling near the Klip river. He and his followers were removed in 1849 to the upper Bushman's river by the Natal authorities.

⁴Sihayo kaXongo, chief of the Qungebeni people, occupied land on the northern side of the Mzinyathi (Buffalo) river near present-day Rorke's Drift.