

## TOMSENI

27.12.1900

File 71, pp. 32-3.

Also present: Ndukwana kaMbengwana, Mabindela kaNtulini

- 32 Had conversation this afternoon with Tomseni, the headman in charge of that  
 33 portion of Chief Sibamu's tribe which falls in Klip River Division.<sup>1</sup> Ndukwana present, Mabindela present part of time.<sup>2</sup> Sibamu, he says, would be under 32 years of age (i.e. younger than Dinuzulu). His, S.'s, father was Manzezulu, son of Mpikелеli, son of Putini, son of Matshoba whose father might have been Luhlwasi (or some name very like that), as this word is used in *bongaing (isibongo)*.<sup>3</sup> The tribal *isibongo* is *a ba kwa Mazibuko*. Tribe came from Engcaka.<sup>4</sup> Langalibalele lived at same locality.<sup>5</sup> Siyepu is Langalibalele's successor; his tribe and Sibamu's are on very friendly terms, having intermarried to a large extent in the past and in recent times.<sup>6</sup> Tomseni would be about 48 years of age and was born when soldiers were taken by one Thompson to Bloemfontein.<sup>7</sup> Mabindela was born at the time of Matshana's *impi*.<sup>8</sup> Tomseni has one wife and married a second quite lately. By his first wife he had 8 children, all girls, six of whom are living. Paid 7 head of cattle as *lobola* for second wife; could not on account of rinderpest pay full amount,<sup>9</sup> but will do so at a later time for he promised to do so and this promise was recorded in the Court (Office) records. His women do not wear European clothing. Proposes to sew on a headring soon. Mabindela left his home on the approach of the Boers last year, because he had been so friendly with the English. T. remained and decided to risk everything. Did not like being inactive during War and allow Boers to plunder them whenever they saw fit. Mabindela lives on Morton Green's farm. Mr Green said that he would not require natives on his farm to pay any rent this year seeing the hardships lately suffered by them on account of the Boers. Tomseni lives on a farm nearby belonging to another European; he is required to pay rent.

## Notes

<sup>1</sup> Sibhamu of the amaNgwe people was a chief with adherents in the Klip River, Estcourt, and Upper Tugela Divisions.

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<sup>2</sup> Ndukwana and Mabindela were others of Stuart's informants: their evidence appears in *Stuart Archive* vols. 4 and 2 respectively.

<sup>3</sup> The names are those of the line of amaNgwe chiefs.

<sup>4</sup> The iNgcaka mountain overlooks the upper Phongolo river twenty-five kilometres north-west of Paulpietersburg.

<sup>5</sup> Langalibalele kaMthimkhulu was chief in the Hlubi senior house. Before fleeing from the Zulu kingdom to Natal in 1848, he and his adherents lived in what is now the Vryheid-Newcastle region.

<sup>6</sup> Siyephu kaLangalibalele of the amaNene section of the Hlubi was a chief in the Estcourt Division.

<sup>7</sup> The reference is to an expedition of British troops and African levies which was sent from Natal to provide reinforcements for the British Resident in the Orange River Sovereignty in August-December 1851. The levies were under the command of J.G. Ringler Thomson, who had previously been Native magistrate in the Umzinyati Location.

<sup>8</sup> Matshana kaMondise of the Sithole people was a chief in the Msinga region under the Natal colonial government. In 1858 he fell foul of the government and fled into the Zulu kingdom, where he was allowed by Mpande and Cetshwayo to re-establish a following.

<sup>9</sup> A reference to the devastating outbreak of rinderpest which swept through much of southern Africa, including Natal, in 1896-7.