

DATE : 29.6.70

INFORMANTS : X (1) MHAWU GAMEDZE
REGIMENT : ~~MAKOTHE~~ MASOTSHENI
HEARD FROM : FATHER
(2) LOSHINA GAMEDZE
REGIMENT :
HEARD FROM : FATHER
(3) MOYENI MAMBA
REGIMENT :
HEARD FROM : FATHER

AREA : MANDLENYA

We came here from Labuya at Singceni. The first leader who arrived here was Mlotshwa, the son of Mlotshwa was Ludzaka, who begot Shiba; Shiba begot Madlenka, who begot Mgwagwa, who begot Madlenga II. We found Sotho here and drove them off, together with the Swazi. In fact the Swazi found us here during the days of Mlotshwa our king. Ludzake was the first Gamedze ~~xxx~~ king to come down here. Then Somhlolo the Swazi king forced us to come down to the bushveld here. We had then fallen under his control and we could not resist his orders. In fact the Swazi had found us and incorporated us into their kingdom. So at Singceni we left Sonyezane Dlamini, a prince of the Liba people. He was one of Somhlolo's children. Somhlolo was at that time fighting against the Zulu. Our neighbours were the Thabedze people who were later killed by king Mswati. Then when there arose hostility between the Mahlalelas and the Swazi king we had to suffer, because the refugees were chased by the Swazi into our area. But Mandlenya was a clever wizard king and was invincible. At the approach of war there would bellow a bull during the night and all the villages and himself would flee into a nearby cave fortress at Mboni, which was impregnable. That is how Mswati failed and granted everlasting chieftainship to the Gamedze because Mandlenya had beaten him by his trick. In the attempt the king accidentally killed his wife, after which Mandlenya had to be pardoned and assured of his continuing chieftainship.

The Thabedze and the Gamedze were separate people of separate rulers. Then when we were ~~not~~ moved they were moved to Sigcaweni, where they were finally attacked and killed by Somhlolo the king. The Gamedze ~~xx~~ saw the Mdzimba Sotho of Mbingo, Ngqamphalala, Shongwe, Mabhengetsha - all in the mountains, and including the ~~bushveld~~ bushveld. (the Thabedze were killed for acting too independently).

Amongst the Sotho remains those we know that still have their chieftainship are:- Manana at Singceni, Mabhengetsha at ~~Mx~~ Motshane, between Ngwenya and Mbabane and the Ngcamphalala around Big Bend, along the Usuthu River, Nkambule at Buseleni.

Mgwagwa the son of Mandlenya was a war veteran during the days of Mswati and Mbandzeni. He was of Londolozu regiment and he ~~found~~ fought the Langu War ~~in~~ and Mshadza War in which there were whites. He also fought in the Mahloyane war. Mgwagwa's valour in these wars earned him a free gift of war prisoners or slaves from the king. After Mgwagwa Babili took chieftainship. Babili reigned during the days of Mahlokohlo. The Gamedze did not marry the Shongwe - Kunene, Madongela, Sikhondze of Bulungu. We had come together with these clans. We originated all as Kunene people but later we separated.

Clans with sub-clans - surname~~x~~ and sub-surname:-

Gamedze - Kunene - Mtimandze- Bhambolunye-

Shongwe - Kunene-Mtimandze - ~~Rx~~ Bhambolunye tingaba timbili weta nate ekhabonyoko

~~Six~~ Sikhondze - Kunene "

Madonsela - Kunene - Vusamuti "

During the days of Babili there was a Dlamini wife of Nsingizini in the south

MHAWU GAMEDZE cont...

near Hluthi. A daughter of Mkhunge, a Mingizini prince.

The Gamedze people had started from Lubuya at Ndlovu to settle at Singceni, from whence they were driven down to where they now are. It was the Gamedze people who drove the Mananas back to Mkhondo from the Singceni Ranges. What was significant amongst the Gamedze people was the cattle ranch which was assigned to one of them to look after.

The Gamedze land which was taken by a white is the land which they had offered to Shongwe people. His name was Henwood (Londela).

There were once Zulu raids which bothered us here. In fact they wanted cattle. But we were ~~ix~~ lucky because there was an arduous place which was rocky and where they could not easily pass. We rolled down boulders and blocked them like that. The rocky fort is Mbola - the other mountain of Gamedze's 'phongwane!

Mavubulane is the son of Mlotshwa. The neighbours of Gamedze are:- Ndzimandze, Ngqamphalala, Thabedze, Mamba, Magagula. The Gamedze are the Amakazimbêli. Besides were also Gwebu people in the Singceni ranges, who were also amongst the Manana. Then there were a few Simelane.
