

Emgungundlovu,

(Moordplaats)

9th November, 1935.

Statement by Tómu Sibiya.

I am the son of the late Dazukile Sibiya. My father was a man of importance during the reign of King Mpande and served as one of the King's household, being a food bearer, but held no official rank. He lived at one time in the Nkandhla District where I was born, but shortly after the death of King Cetshwayo he moved and settled near what was the main entrance to Dingane's Mgungundhlovu Kraal. Remains of his kraal site can still be seen.

My father belonged to ~~the~~ Mphlo regiment formed by Mpande. He died shortly before the Anglo-Boer War of 1889.

I was born shortly after Cetshwayo became King and was nearly old enough to serve as a mat bearer for my father during the Zulu War of 1879. I belonged to Mbokodebomvu regiment. (he must have been born earlier than 1873)

Commoners were not allowed to live in the valley of the Mkhumbana stream and neighbourhood during the regime of the Zulu Kings because the area was their burial ground and known as Emakosini. It was sacred territory and it was only because Ndaduk Zulu kaMpande directed my father to erect his kraal at Emgungundlovu that he did so. (This happened in about 1882)

The remains of the Mgungundlovu Kraal were clearly discernable when we settled here, but the lower portion where the main entrance was, was ploughed up by a European. The upper portion including the King's sigodhlo is fairly complete, and can be traced by the hearths even now.

My father always gave me to understand that the main entrance was at the lower end of the kraal near that Mkokolo tree on which a white raga has just been attached. This tree is very old and ~~was~~ was there when I was a boy. (Deponent is about 75 years of age)

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The old track through this entrance can still be seen.
When I was a boy it was very distinct.

I am still living on the farm Moordplaats.

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The foregoing statement by Tómu Sibiya was made to me
at the Piet Retief Memorial in the presence of Mr. P.M.Bester
and Mr. Antony, Senior Inspector of Public Works, Durban.

(Sgd) H. C. Lugg

CHIEF NATIVE COMMISSIONER.

(COPY)

C.N.C. 57/247

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA,
DEPARTMENT OF NATIVE AFFAIRS,
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF NATIVE COMM:
P. O. Box 382,
PIETERMARITZBURG.

12th November, 1935.

The District Engineer,
Public Works Department,
PIETERMARITZBURG.

Dingane's Kraal : Monuments etc.

As arranged in terms of your minute M.D.765 of the 23rd ultimo your Mr. Antony, Senior Inspector of Works, Durban, and I visited the Mgungundlovu Kraal site on Moordplaats farm on the 9th instant.

We were shown round by Mr. P. N. Bester, owner of the farm, and made a very careful inspection of the place, particularly in regard to the general lay-out of the Kraal, and had no difficulty in tracing the main entrance. This lies at the lower end of the Kraal near an Mqokolo (Dingane apricot) tree, and is flanked on each side by the remains of two ash heaps. An old track can still be seen passing through what must be regarded as the entrance at this spot.

A statement was taken from an old Native named Tómu Sibiya whose father lived near the entrance from 1882, and from this statement, copy of which is annexed, it will be seen that he fully bears out our conclusions.

I was shown a spot several hundred yards from this point. near Mr. Bester's house, which is stated to have been indicated by a former occupier of Moordplaats as being the main gate. Native kraals are all built in the form of a circle with the main gate at the lower end: if this spot were accepted as the main gate the Kraal would have been pear-shaped. It is quite impossible to accept this statement and it is really difficult to

understand how it ever came to be seriously considered.

There is no reason whatever to disbelieve Tómu Sibi's statement. It is supported in every detail, and it also conforms with the sketch of Dingane's Kraal in Captain Allen Gardiner's book. Two piles of stones were erected by us to indicate the main gate.

Quite a number of the old hut sites are clearly to be seen by the remains of the floors and fireplaces, but as many are becoming obliterated it is suggested that each hut site should be set out with a circle of white stones.

The lower section of the Kraal was ploughed up, but as the Kraal consisted of a circle of huts nine rows deep and regularly spaced off, there would be little difficulty in marking the remaining remainder off even though the actual sites have disappeared.

There is a raised mound in the upper portion of the Kraal in what comprised the King's private establishment or isigodlo. It was on this platform that Dingane usually sat when viewing his white herd of cattle or interviewing visitors, and it was probably from this mound that the fatal order for the killing of Piet Retief and his men was given. I would suggest that this be walled in a stone erected to indicate its significance.

Near at hand also are the remains of what must have been Dingane's own hut; it is twenty-six feet in diameter and is clearly traceable.

On a knoll about 150 yards above the King's private establishment or isigodlo is stated to have been a large hut where it was the custom for Dingane to confer with his councillors on important state affairs. This should also be preserved and indicated.

It would not cost much to carry out these suggestions, and when completed an aerial photograph could be taken. This would give an excellent idea of the general lay-out and size of the Kraal.

There are also the remains of one of Cetywayo's kraals near by. It should be preserved in the same way; its name will be ascertained later.

From the point of view of the Xulus this valley is one of the most historical in the country. It was the burial ground for the Zulu Kings and was held sacred. Several of these old graves - Zulu, Senzagakona, and Jama - are known and should be fenced in and marked. Unless this is done the remains of these graves will soon disappear. The whole would only cost a few pounds.

Mr. Bester has made a very careful study of the whole place and could be entrusted with the work of fencing in the kraals and graves, and marking out the hut sites as recommended herein.

(Sgd) H. C. Lugg

CHIEF NATIVE COMMISSIONER.

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