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Entry Nr. 376 Kayawon

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Aaron Spencer Fogleman and Robert Hanserd (eds.), *Five Hundred African Voices: A Catalog of Published Accounts by Africans Enslaved in the Transatlantic Slave Trade, 1586-1936* (Philadelphia: American Philosophical Society, 2022).

<i>Catalog number:</i>	376
<i>Name(s) of African providing account:</i>	Kayawon = Abraham Belford
<i>Date account recorded:</i>	1854
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Source: Account printed on p. 1 of S. W. Koelle, *Polyglotta Africana*. London: Church Missionary House, Salisbury Square, Fleet Street, 1854.

Comments:

Koelle's remarks (p. 1) –

“Buntun is situate on a large river, running towards the sea, called Koya, and about three weeks' journey from the Gambia. Tonari is ten hours' journey from Buntun, and six hours from the Banvun frontier. The Kabunga call the Filham Dsola, or Foni Dsola, *i.e.* perhaps, ‘foreigner, barbarian.’ The country of the Filham tribe is called ‘Esuh, and is situated to the west of Kuteno, with which it has one language in common.”

Text of Account:

p. 1:

“Filham or Filhol.*—From Kayawon, or Abraham (Bahema) Belford, of Kissy, born in the town Buntun, the Filham capital, where he lived to his sixth year, at which age he removed to Tonari, where he had four children, the eldest of whom was eight years old when he was taken in war by the Banyun. He was then in Demerara for six years, and afterwards in Sierra Leone for seven, with only two countrymen.”

* Referring to the language Kayawon spoke.

(See original scans below.)

2. Fílham or Fílhōl.—From Káyāwōn, or Abraham (Bahema) Belford, of Kissy, born in the town Búntur, the Fílham capital, where he lived to his sixth year, at which age he removed to Tónāri, where he had four children, the eldest of whom was eight years old when he was taken in war by the Bányūn. He was then in Demerara for six years, and afterwards in Sierra Leone for seven, with only two countrymen.

Remarks.—Búntur is situate on a large river, running towards the sea, called Kóya, and about three weeks' journey from the Gambia. Tónāri is ten hours' journey from Búntur, and six hours from the Bányūn frontier. The Kabúnga call the Fílham Dşóla, or Fóni Dşóla, *i.e.* perhaps, "foreigner, barbarian." The country of the Fílham tribe is called 'Eşuh, and is situated to the west of Kutéro, with which it has one language in common.

I. NORTH-WEST ATLANTIC LANGUAGES, distinguishing themselves, like those of South Africa, by Prefixal Changes, or an Initial Inflection.

A. *First Group*—

1. Fúlap.—The specimens of this language were received from Isambákōn, or George File, of Kissy, born in the village Bātēndu, where he was kidnapped by the 'Ešir people in about his twenty-second year, and sold to Èláláp, where he was five years. He was next brought to Gádšou, or Kádšiou, where he remained for three years in the hand of a Portuguese; and after this he was about five years at Bisáo, whence he was brought to Sierra Leone by a British cruiser ten years ago, and has since been the only Fúlap individual in this place. He had some difficulty in remembering the words of his mother-tongue which I asked of him; yet, on revising them with him, I had not much to alter.

Geographical remarks obtained from the same.—Bātēndu is half a day's journey from Kátōr, the Fúlap capital, and about one mile distant from the sea. Fúlap is near Bándšāl and 'Ešir, where the same language is spoken; also near Búui; but a considerable distance, perhaps three weeks, from Èláláp, Bótinet, and Sígidsōt, in which four places the language is different from that of Fúlap. Sígidsōt is inhabited by the Portuguese. The Fúlap country is quite level, without mountains and stones, the ground consisting of sand.

2. Fílham or Fílhl.—From Káyāwōn, or Abraham (Bahema) Belford, of Kissy, born in the town Bántur, the Fílham capital, where he lived to his sixth year, at which age he removed to Tónāri, where he had four children, the eldest of whom was eight years old when he was taken in war by the Bányūn. He was then in Demerara for six years, and afterwards in Sierra Leone for seven, with only two countrymen.

Remarks.—Bántur is situate on a large river, running towards the sea, called Kóya, and about three weeks' journey from the Gambia. Tónāri is ten hours' journey from Bántur, and six hours from the Bányūn frontier. The Kabúnga call the Fílham Dšóla, or Fóni Dšóla, i.e. perhaps, "foreigner, barbarian." The country of the Fílham tribe is called 'Ešul, and is situated to the west of Kutéro, with which it has one language in common.

B. *Second Group*—

1. Bóla.—From Bádšābu, or Manuel Maxfield, of Kissy, born in the town Góle, where he married two wives, and had a child old enough to walk before he was kidnapped by the Bidšógos. He has now been in Sierra Leone about thirty-six years, and has one of his countrymen in his house who came here only four years ago. Besides these two there is only one more Bóla in Sierra Leone.

Remarks.—Góle is situated in the Kō district, a few miles from the sea. Bóla is called Buráma by the

Bulánda, and is situated west of Bulánda, north-east of Pálunde, also near Bábōg, Bašéred, Kányōp, Káyū, Pósis, Bidšógo.

2. Sárār.—From 'Udšūman (or Osman), or Robert Nicol, at Kissy, born in the village Šádal, where he had a child about ten years of age when he was seized and sold by a Dšūal man because he had committed adultery with one of his wives. He was then bartered to the Mandšákoes for six cows and a pig, and, after one year, brought to Sierra Leone, which was about fifteen years ago. He has only one countryman in Sierra Leone.

Remarks.—Šádal is about two hours' journey from 'Amōn, the Sárār capital, and three hours from the sea. Sárār is situated west of Balánda, east of the sea, south of Bányūn, north of Bádšūan or Dšūal, where the Bóla language is spoken.

3. Pépēl.—From Béntu, or John W. Manuel, of Freetown, born in the town Tōr, whence he was taken by his mother to the island Bólhlild, or Bólšlild, called Pésis, whilst still an infant. He remained on Bólhlild till his thirteenth year, during which time he spoke the Mandšáko language, this being the language of Bólhlild, of which his mother was a native. He then returned to Bišláo for about six years, during which time he spoke Pépēl. In his nineteenth year he went to the Gambia, where he stopped eight years, and then settled in Sierra Leone in about 1831. (He is accordingly not a liberated slave). He has since returned four times to his country in the employ of the cruisers, as pilot and interpreter, each time stopping about a month.

Remarks.—Tōr is one day's journey from Nté, the capital of the Bišláo island. The Pépēl language is spoken on the island of Bišláo, commonly called Bisao, which is situate opposite Kányōp or Mandšáko, Balánda, and Nálu.

Third Group—

1. Biáfada.—From Búkar, or John Campbell, of Freetown, born in the village Tába, where he lived to his sixteenth year. He then removed to the village Wákóra, and, after six years' residence there, was taken in a civil war and sold. Being captured by the English cruisers he was brought to Sierra Leone, where he has been for twenty years, with five of his countrymen still remaining.

Remarks.—Tába is a day and a-half's journey from the sea, and is situate on the river Badšéba; but Wákóra is four miles from the Badšéba. The Biáfada are called Dšóla by the Kabúnga; hence, also, by others, Biáfada-Dšóla. Biáfada is situate west of N'kábu, east of Bulánda, north of Nálu, south of Birásu-Mandénga, where a language is spoken like that of the Kabúnga.

2. Pádšāde. From Wáli, or John Wali, of Freetown, born in the town 'Udádšā, where he was taken in war in