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Entry Nr. 381 Peter Mamma

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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).

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Name(s) of African providing account: **'Elifo = Peter Mamma**
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Source: Account printed on p. 6 of S. W. Koelle, *Polyglotta Africana*. London: Church Missionary House, Salisbury Square, Fleet Street, 1854.

Comments:

Koelle's remarks (p. 6) –

“Eka is half a day's journey west of the 'Qya, *i. e.* the Niger; and one day from 'Ega. the Nupe town on the Niger. Qworo is west of 'Egbura, east of Idsumu; it is also about half a day's journey from Basa, Nupe. and Kupa. The Oworos and the Basas have the same national mark (tattoo), although the Basa language belongs to the Nupe family.”

Text of Account: (see facsimile below)

p. 6

“Oworo, called ‘Eyagi’ by the Nupes, to whom they are subject, ‘Akandsa’ by the 'Igalas, and ‘Egbe’ by the Yorubans.*-- From 'Elifo, or Peter Mamma, of Gloucester, born in the village 'Eka, where he grew up, and was about twenty-five years old when he was treacherously sold by a supposed friend. He was then hurried to the sea; and has been in Sierra Leone upwards of thirty years, with now only two countrymen remaining.”

* Referring to the language ‘Elifo spoke.

(See facsimiles below.)

WOMEN OF AKA, I. E. QUA OF IGALA.

h. Qwóro, called "Éyāgi" by the Núpes, to whom they are subject, "Akánda" by the 'Igalas, and "Égbe" by the Yórúbans.—From 'Elifo, or Peter Mamma, of Gloucester, born in the village 'Eka, where he grew up, and was about twenty-five years old when he was treacherously sold by a supposed friend. He was then hurried to the sea; and has been in Sierra Leone upwards of thirty years, with now only two countrymen remaining.

Remarks.—'Eka is half a day's journey west of the 'Qya, *i. e.* the Niger; and one day from 'Ega, the Núpe town on the Niger. Qwóro is west of 'Egbura, east of 'Idşúmu; it is also about half a day's journey from Bása, Núpe, and Kúpa. The Qwóros and the Básas have the same national mark (tattoo), although the Bása language belongs to the Núpe family.

days' journey from Rába on the 'Oya, three days from Sárádyi, four days from 'Eda on the 'Oya, three and a-half days from Ilóri, and five days from 'Ifé.

f. Kí, or 'Ékí, together with Dsjmū and Wóro, called "Aküya" by the Bása, "Bánu" by the Núpe, and "Kákandša" by the 'Ibós.—From Adşófe, or William Davis, of Freetown, born in the village 'Ebila, where his first child was ten years old when he was kidnapped on a trading journey in the country of 'Ade, whose language he did not understand. He was at once brought to 'Igala, and after a twelve-years' stay there, to Sierra Leone, where he has now been about fourteen years, with three countrymen.—Also from Mágú, or William Hambleton, of Benguema, born in the town Táki, where he was kidnapped by the Kúpas when he was about twenty-three years of age. He has been in Sierra Leone eighteen years.

Remarks.—'Ékí is north-west of Bása, west of Kúpa, east of 'Amūru, south of Núpe. 'Ebila is situated on a mountain, one day's journey west of the 'Oya or 'Áya, *i.e.* Niger. Táki is two days' journey from the 'Áya, and one day from Kúpa.

g. Dşúmu, or 'Idşúmu, called "Abínu" by the 'Anúpes, and "Aküya" by the Bása.—From Odiémi, or James Wilhelm, of Freetown, born in the town Góri, whence he removed to 'Okúro, another 'Idşúmu town, distant about one day's journey, in about his eighteenth year. There he resided for ten years, when the Núpes and Agóí, *i.e.* Phúla, invaded and conquered Dşúmu, destroying all its towns. In this war he was taken captive, sold to Yóruiba, and carried to the sea. The same language is spoken in 'Uwe.

Remarks.—Dşúmu is west of 'Igára or 'Irála, different from the well-known 'Igala, and whose language is the same as that of Dşúmu; east of Agbá and Kí, north of Yágba, south of 'Uwe.—Another Dşúmu-man's home was six full days' journey from Ilóri, four days from 'Igo, *i.e.* Egga, on the right banks of the 'Oya, *i.e.* the Niger; two full days from 'Egbúra 'Ódo, which is on the left banks of the 'Oya; scarcely one day from 'Egbúra Híma, which is on the right banks of the 'Oya, between two or three days from 'Ída, a town of 'Áta, *i.e.* Gála or 'Igala.

h. Qwóro, called "Eyági" by the Núpes, to whom they are subject, "Akándša" by the 'Igalas, and "Egbe" by the Yórubans.—From 'Elífo, or Peter Mamma, of Gloucester, born in the village 'Eka, where he grew up, and was about twenty-five years old when he was treacherously sold by a supposed friend. He was then hurried to the sea; and has been in Sierra Leone upwards of thirty years, with now only two countrymen remaining.

Remarks.—'Eka is half a day's journey west of the 'Oya, *i.e.* the Niger; and one day from 'Ega, the Núpe town on the Niger. Qwóro is west of 'Egbúra, east of 'Idşúmu; it is also about half a day's journey from Bása, Núpe, and Kúpa. The Qwóros and the Básas have the same national mark (tattoo), although the Bása language belongs to the Núpe family.

i. Dşébu, or 'Idşébu.—From 'Olúkóko, or Peter Wilhelm, born in the town of 'Egbe, where he was taken in war by the 'Egbas in about his twenty-fifth year. He has been in Sierra Leone about twenty years, with many of his countrymen.

Remarks.—Dşébu is west of 'Ufe. 'Egbe is one day's journey from 'Óde, the Dşébu capital, and about seven days from Abeokúta.

k. 'Ifé.—From Lagégu, or William Isaak, of Freetown, born in 'Ifé, a very large town, three day's journey from Lagos, where he was kidnapped in about his seventeenth year by the Yórubans, and sold to the Portuguese. He has been in Sierra Leone twenty-four years, with five countrymen.

Remarks.—In 'Ifé human beings are frequently

sacrificed to the deities: 'Odú, Orámnya, 'Oşáleta, 'Ódi, 'Ore, 'Olóku, &c., especially about Christmas, sometimes forty at once.

l. 'Ondó, called "Dókó" by the Yórubans and Dşésans, a large town, two day's journey south or south-east of 'Ifé.—From Mágú, or William Harding, born in 'Ondó, where he lived till he was about eighteen or twenty years of age, when he was kidnapped by the Dşésans on a trading journey, and sold to the Portuguese. He has been in Sierra Leone eight years, with about thirty of his countrymen.

m. Dşékiri, or Dşékéri.—From Qwónaka, or George Mackenzie, of Wilberforce, who resided in various towns of his native country till about his twenty-fourth year, when he was sold on account of adultery. He has now been in Sierra Leone about twenty-six years, with only one countryman and one country-woman, who have all forgotten much of their native language.

Remarks.—Dşékiri is west of 'Okulóba, north of Sóbó, south of 'Uso, and joins the sea in the west.

2. 'Igala.—From Obágo, or Sam Johnson, of Freetown, born in the town 'Angba, or 'Ega, where he had a child ten years old when he was sold on account of adultery. He has been in Sierra Leone twenty years, with twelve countrymen.

Remarks.—'Ega is situated on the 'Oşímíni, two miles from 'Ída, the 'Igala capital. 'Igala is west of 'Idóma, north of 'Ibo, and south of 'Egbúra.

IV. NORTH-EASTERN HIGH SUDAN LANGUAGES.

A. First Group—

1. Mőse, called "Gúrmáke" by the Silmíra, *i.e.* Phúla, and "Bémbá" by the Gúrmás.—From Sómkńnya (*i.e.* "good," or "a friend comes to me"), or Andrew Dixon, born in the town Kúpeála, where he was brought up, married, and had a child which had not been weaned when he was taken prisoner in a war against the Gélbóse, who are black, tall men, speaking a different language, and who sold him to Popo. He has been in Sierra Leone twenty-six years, and is the only representative of his tribe.

Remarks.—Mőse is west of Gúrmá, east of Andém-tenga, where a different language is spoken. Mőse is also two days' journey from Búlmépa, where the same language is spoken; four days from Búlesa, the language being still the same, and confederate with Kambóse, *i.e.* Aşánté; two days from Yáongo, with still the same language; six days from Bósáuse, which is at enmity with Mőse, and where the people bore their lips, and often tie them together with grass, and whose language is different from the Mőse; four days from Búsma, also of a different language, and in which country there is a very high mountain (*i.e.* tánga), from which those who ascend never come back again; three or four weeks from Kambóse, *i.e.* Aşánté. Kúpeála is four days' journey from Wárdágo, the Mőse capital, whither the king of Aşánté often sends presents; and one month from Sálak, an Aşánté town, whence they bring their cola-nuts.

2. Dşélará.—From Wóru, or Abraham Macauley, of Kissy, born in the town Fára, where he was kidnapped five years ago, when his first-born child was seven years old. He has only four countrymen in this colony.

Remarks.—Dşélará is west of Bónt, east of Kóuaré; also near Mámént, Kéount, Gbéngbirant, Bótúnt, Bára, Sérub, Déwr, Kámu, Sansáni, Mársar, Jársar, Kúsar, Báru, *i.e.* Bárba.

3. Gúren, *in pl.* Gúréša, hence either Gúren language, or the language of the Gúréša.—From 'Átim, or Sam Wood, of York, born in the district Kándşáre, where he lived till about his eighteenth year. He is now twenty-four years old.—And from Adşúmáno, or Jacob MacCormack, of Freetown, born in the town Nyása.

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