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Entry Nr. 410 Bémbi

Aaron Spencer Fogleman
Northern Illinois University, aaronfogleman@niu.edu

Robert Hanserd

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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>	410
<i>Name(s) of African providing account:</i>	Bémbi = William Davis
<i>Date account recorded:</i>	1854
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Source: Account printed on p. 15 of S. W. Koelle, *Polyglotta Africana*. London: Church Missionary House, Salisbury Square, Fleet Street, 1854.

Comments:

Koelle's remarks (p. 15) –

“Wodsimbumba is one and a-half day's journey from the sea. Pangela is west of Balundo east of Lumbe and Lamborrgo; also near Katumbela and Viye.”

Text of Account:

p. 15

“Pangela (wrongly spelt Benguela).*-- From Bembi, or William Davis, of Freetown, born in the town of Wodsimbumba, where he was sold in about his twenty-eighth year, because his family had been accused of having occasioned the king's death by means of witchcraft. He has been six years in Demerara, where he had a great many countrymen, and eleven years in Sierra Leone, where he has only ten. He thinks that Pangela is also, to some extent, understood in Balundo, Viye, Siwula, and Lubolo.”

* Referring to the language Bembi spoke.

(See scans of originals below.)

2. Pargéla (wrongly spelt Benguela).—From Bém̄bi, or William Davis, of Freetown, born in the town of Wód̄simbúmba, where he was sold in about his twenty-eighth year, because his family had been accused of having occasioned the king's death by means of witchcraft. He has been six years in Demérara, where he had a great many countrymen, and eleven years in Sierra Leone, where he has only ten. He thinks that Pargéla is also, to some extent, understood in Balúndo, Víye, Síwūla, and Lubólo.

Remarks.—Wód̄simbúmba is one and a-half day's journey from the sea. Pargéla is west of Balúndo east of Lúmbe and Lambóngo; also near Katumbéla and Víye.

...nde, east of Bisekórgo. Also one day's journey from Bisekúmba, one day from Basenáma, two days from Basetsúnga, one day from Mbúmba, three days from Baviri.

5. Sándé, or Musándé, or Asándé, or Basándé.—From Dşikú, or Isaac Manners, of Freetown, born in the town of Kaimátúba, where he was kidnapped in about his twenty-third year by the Bayúmbe people. He has been in Sierra Leone nine years, with fifty countrymen.

Remarks.—Kaimátúba is six days' journey from the sea. Basándé is situated west of Mandórgo, east of Bambóma.

C. Third Group—

1. N'gúla (commonly spelt "Angola").—From a native of the town of N'góngó, who was twenty-two years of age, when he left his home, and has now been ten years among his countrymen in Sierra Leone.

Remarks.—N'góngó is situated on the banks of the Ohámba, a tributary of the Koárgo.

2. Pangéla (wrongly spelt Benguela).—From Bémbi, or William Davis, of Freetown, born in the town of Wódsimbúmba, where he was sold in about his twenty-eighth year, because his family had been accused of having occasioned the king's death by means of witchcraft. He has been six years in Demerara, where he had a great many countrymen, and eleven years in Sierra Leone, where he has only ten. He thinks that Pangéla is also, to some extent, understood in Balúndo, Víye, Síwúla, and Lubólo.

Remarks.—Wódsimbúmba is one and a-half day's journey from the sea. Pangéla is west of Balúndo east of Lámbé and Lambórgo; also near Katumbéla and Víye.

3. Lubálo, or Mulubálo, or Nalubálo.—From Nárga, or John Smart, of Freetown, born in the town of Mulukála, where he lived to about his twenty-fourth year, when he was given in pawn by his mother for a brother of hers, who had been sold on account of adultery; but before he could be redeemed by his mother, he was placed in the hands of the Portuguese in Lóánda, who at once shipped him. He has been in Sierra Leone seven years, with only one countrywoman.

Remarks.—The Lubálo understand the Kisáma. Mulukála is one week's journey from the river Kóanzá, and two weeks from the sea. Mulubálo is west of Mukibála, east of Lóánda; also near Musénde and Munérika.

4. Ruúnda or Rúnda, also called "Múloa" or "Lúonda" by the Kásá's, and "Kambúnda" by the Sóngos and N'gúlas.—From N'kúrgal, or James Macfoi, of Freetown, born in the town Mókárfub, where also he lived till he was kidnapped by the Kásá's in about his twenty-third year. He was detained one year in Kásá's, and has been eight years in Sierra Leone, with only two countrymen.

Remarks.—This nation is also called Mántiáf, i. e. kings. Mókárfub is situated on the river Yámbés, which empties itself into the river Róni, on which canoes are used. The Róni empties itself into the lake or river "Ívis," which is so deep that its bottom cannot be seen; and on the opposite shores of which the Korgó Námalaš live, who bore their noses through, and eat human flesh in time of war. Ruúnda is west of Kumátámp, whence they get hard, black salt; east of Korgó Námalaš; also near Múnikányik, Káyémúkor, Múnikanéšsin, and Mátómúkor.

5. Sóngo.—From Muséwo, or Toki Petro, of Freetown, born in the town Bópünt, where he was kidnapped in about his fifteenth year and carried to Lóánda. He remained there twenty-one years, during most of which time he was employed by the Portuguese Henrique Consale to buy Sóngo slaves, with whom he had always to speak Sóngo. At his master's death he

became free and went to the Brazils, where he was employed by a Portuguese in the African slave-trade for six years, during which period he made the passage seven times; but on the eighth the ship was captured by the cruisers and brought to Sierra Leone, where he has now been twenty-eight years, with only one countryman remaining.

Remarks.—Bópünt is six days' journey from the sea. Sóngo is west of Kambúnda, east of Mbáka, north of Rúböl, and south of Kisáma.—Muséwo also informed me, that natives often go over from Benguela to Mozambique, which takes them three months; but that white people cannot go, because there is so much sand on the way that it reaches up to the knee in the dry season. The road passes through a large country, inhabited by a dwarfish people, not exceeding four feet in height, who are never bought by the Portuguese, on account of their short stature. They possess much cattle, of which they often bring large numbers to Benguela for sale, at one dollar each.

6. Kisáma.—From Kadiórgo, or John Morrison, of Freetown, born in the town of Modšindši, where he was kidnapped in about his sixteenth year, and sold to St. Paul Róánda, where he remained five years. He was brought to Sierra Leone seven years ago, with three other Kisámans.

Remarks.—Modšindši is situated on the Kóanzá, and four weeks' journey from the sea. Kisáma is west of Lubólo; east of Kóanzá, a country on the river Kóanzá; north of Sóngo.

XI. SOUTH-EASTERN LANGUAGES.

1. Múntu,* in pl. Véiáo, by foreigners called Adšówa or Adšáwa.—From 'Edšódsó, or William Campbell, of the Banana Islands, born at Nyórmálla, a town in the Méto country, where he lived till his fourteenth or fifteenth year, when he was sold to the Véiáo, in one of whose towns, called "Kumtúba," he lived for six years, during which time he learnt their language. He is now about thirty-four years of age.

Remarks.—Véiáo is the name of the inhabitants of the Kúyáo country, which is situated two months' journey to the west of Masámik.

2. Kíriman.—From Frígu, or Mulatio Campbell, of MacDonald, born in the town of "Mosádémérku." He had been married ten years, when a treacherous friend enticed him on board a Portuguese vessel, where he was at once informed that he was a slave, purchased of his friend. He has been in Sierra Leone twenty years, where he is the only representative of this tribe.

3. Márawi.—From Matéke, or James Wilson, of MacDonald, born in the town N'gówá, where he lived till his twentieth year. He has now been away from his home about twenty-two years, and has four countrymen in Sierra Leone.

Remarks.—Márawi is west of Adšáwa or Kúyáo, and north of Mangúlu.

4. Méto.—From 'Edšódsó, the same informant as for No. 1., he being the only individual in Sierra Leone that understands these two languages.

Remarks.—Méto is perhaps north-west from Masámik.

5. Mátátán.—From Sirk, or Thomas Cole, of Campbell town, born in the town of Nórúbo, whence he removed to the island of Masámik in about his fourteenth year, to become servant to a Portuguese. There he was kidnapped on a farm by a Muhammadan when he was about twenty-five years of age; and three years after this was brought to Sierra Leone, where he has now been for eighteen years, with ten countrymen.

* This seems to be the word for "man," and my informant was probably mistaken in giving it to me as the proper name of the tribe.

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