

Wlolongɔ Katoo, Banda-Ahenkro¹

Wlolongɔ Katoo came from Kakala at the time of Kralongɔ. Their ancestor, named Wlolongɔ came with his sister Yalongɔ. Wlolongɔ was a chief in his own right and was recognized as one of the chiefs of this area after they arrived in Banda. Unfortunately, Wlolongɔ's sister Yalongɔ was barren so there came a time when there was no one to inherit the position and it was taken over or subsumed within the paramountcy.

Through time the family grew and at the time of the Fante wars the family was able to provide 100 men with guns to go and fight. Unfortunately, the family experienced heavy losses in the war and only seven of the men returned. The male and female heads of house at this time were Kokwaa and Penijo Sikofɔ. The people in the family remembered that some of their people had been captured during wars and, since women are the only people who can fill a house, they resolved to go and get back some of their people who had been sold to the Kulango in Côte d'Ivoire. The woman Penijo Sikafo was rich and bought many slaves at this point. Among them was a man named Fadua and, unbeknownst to them, a woman who was a witch. This woman began to kill off the few family members who were left; however, she was such a powerful witch that she resisted detection. When she killed someone, the corpse would point to Penijo Sikofɔ as the person responsible for the death. Because she had been implicated as a witch, Penijo Sikofɔ was taken to the Pɛ Fori house (Kafɔnɔ Katoo) and executed.

After her death, Penijo Sikofɔ attempted to claim all those who were left in her family. An epidemic swept the house after her death and killed almost everyone in the house, including the slaves. The family was left with only two members--one man and one woman, named Kpetɛ and Yaa Gbenyaachɔ respectively. The slave Fadua was also left alive. The man Kpetɛ was deformed and, due to his incapacity, could not ascend the headship of the family. The man Fadua, originally a slave, was made head of the family due to a lack of males in the family. All of today's family is descended from the woman Yaa Gbenyaach who was the only royal female left after the epidemic swept the house.

The following list of male and female heads is fragmentary because there were no elders who could pass on information about the family after the epidemic.

Male Heads of Family

1. Wolilongɔ
2. Kokwaa
3. Fadua
4. Mamdi
5. Bɔɔrami
6. Nyua Yaw (head in 1986)

Female Heads of Family

1. Yalongɔ
2. Penijo Skiafo
3. Yaa Gbenyaachɔ
4. Abena Lakɔnya

Interview conducted on 7 August 1986 with Daudu Mellam and Kwaku Mensah (regent).

Interview conducted by Dr. Ann B. Stahl and Mr. James Anane.

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