

Missionary Notes

No 4.

April 15, 1885

Ref Victorian Branch of the Royal Geographical Society
Transactions part i Vol ix, April 3 1891
- Macdaren's account of his 1890 trip.

#10 15/10/95 - King's visit to Awahi(?) - and
first mention of Kawahi "Kwagila"

#11 15/11/95 Casland King

"The Governor has been spending a long time on the coast, and some time ago he met a fighting expedition on the Musa River. There were about 200 fighting men, who had come from somewhere near Cape Nelson, in their canoes. When pursued, they threw on board limbs of the people they had killed, already cooked and partly eaten. Eight of them were shot and one captured alive by the Government party. The Maisina people of Collingwood Bay are known as a great fighting people, and this expedition may have come from as far around as that. There is no population between Cape Nelson and the Musa, just as on the other side there is none between the Maisina district and Cape Vogel. It is in their district that I want to extend our work" (97).

#22 15/10/96. Casland King Letter of Sept. 6

"A whale boat of diggers was capsized in Collingwood Bay, and only one taupota boy escaped. Six white men and four natives lost. This is very sad; but the way the Maisina people treated the survivor is full of ~~good~~ encouragement. They went to Cape Nelson for him, and brought him to Cape Vogel, a canoe journey of nearly eighty miles. The man who did this said he had learned about white people, and knew what he should do. He is one of my acquaintances, but the Government people first employed him." (92)

#24 18/12/96 Ch. Letter of 4 Oct.

"We then visited the various districts belonging to the large Maisina tribe. The principal settlement is Viaku, and then, between that village and

Gandiga, I hope to establish a Station for native teachers. The population in immediate connection with it would be about 500. The people both here and at the other chief settlement, received me much more quietly than last year, but they still need a considerable amount of training in matters concerning money and time, to say nothing of the necessity of their curbing their fighting propensities." (106)
 - plans for a white settlement at 'Philip's Harbour' (Singa?)

Long account 108-112 - photocopy & 4
 & note ~~the~~ what happened to the 'curios' purchased on these early trips? check with ABM & bishop.

#27 17/3/97.

Copland King in Australia pushing a "Collingwood Bay Extension Scheme" (34)

44 15/8/98 Abbot (April 19th)

Mr. Tomlinson left with a boat crew on Friday 15th on the whole boat for Collingwood Bay
 - rained heavily & they returned to Teane the next day
 - Copland King had been there already clearing the land for the new mission site (78).

#45 15/9/98 Store-Wigg (July 22)

Just back from Sinapa - questions of whether suitable as water hit at 18" when driving posts - soft sand and swamp all around. Site had been described by Macgregor as "the finest geographical position in the Bay"
 - went with Abbot, Tomlinson, Clark & Bayly. Noted that only 30 natives on the little island and no more within 4 miles (where was Sinapa then?)

Co' decided to erect the head station at Muhawa, since it was on the direct route of Government vessels from Samarai and (2) station teachers at "Wangala" after a "census" of all the villages from Itoto to a pt. 5 miles each of Sinapa - visit by canoe, whole boat & schooner. Abbot, Tomlinson and Dahms left to set up shop. (86-87) Mentions that Muhawa people had moved up the hill because of constant Collingwood Bay attacks. Hoped they would now come back down.

Abbot's account 88-90 photocopy ***

Missionary Notes

#46 Oct. 15, 1898 Tomlinson 7/18/98

- from Wanigela about setting up there and some exchange with Seraru.
- Tomlinson had apparently picked up a great deal of Maisin at Sinapa; at the village of "kubiri" (Wanigela) he arrived in Maisin to be let in the palisade; correctly calls Seraru all nambi (my namesake) (96)
- Kilam = iron; Boradindim = beads & tomahawks in great demand in the area
- Jimmy & Jack left at Sinapa; decided to station one at Marua - which they proceeded to visit - and the other at Wanigela; also to visit Gyruguru - well received there
- Wanigela's working hard on the station - "cooperative & willing on the whole to work for us" (96).

#47 17/11/98 Mr E.H. Clark 10/8/98

- on return to Collingwood Bay
- "It was amusing to see the way they recognised me and the fuss they made, especially the old chief Wanigela. He put his arms around my neck, and patted me on the back, and walked about with me holding my hand, and was quite delighted. But they are hardly like the same people they were two years ago. Then they were wild and shy, but now they seem quite quiet and peaceable." (102-03)

#49 14/1/99

- severe hurricane on Dec. 3, 1898 - lots of damage to mission boat

Bishops (3/11/98)

- "the dreaded 'Dorians'" reported to have raided a village near Wanigela, killing "a very friendly old chief and 14 of his men" (Wanigela?)
- "A big trading vessel had been 'crushed' about the same time at Sinapa by 'Maisines,' and only cleared by the free display of firearms." (2) Worried about teachers but all were well - though low on food
- says that "Mr Tomlinson" (Seraru) a great cannibal "with three wives but also 'peace-maker' 14"

If anything stolen from the mission he would put it right.

#50 15/12/99 Bishop 18/1/99

"The Government, after long delay, had made a big demonstration in Collingwood Bay. All the tribes along the coast were duly impressed, the many threats made that were constantly hurled against our teachers were no longer heard, and our great ally in the village of Wanigela had been made a policeman. The man who levelled a spear at Mr. Abbot's back, in November, got two months for common assault 'for his soul's sake,' and I do feel that the ~~result~~ general effect will be progress and development in the work of the Mission" (11)

- cost of the materials at Singu moved to Mukawa with help of Merrie England.

#52 17/4/99 Abbot (24/2/99)

Write happily about the Wanigela work. - had built a house 70 ft. long divided into chapel, diningroom & kitchen - already boarded

#65 15/5/00 - Children's letter from Abbot with some observations on Doriri fighting a night school (35) He had 79 in night school ** P.C

Missing Feb. 1901 - Dec. 1903 inclusive

#132 18/1/06 Mowry Oct. 27, 1905

- on Singu - mentions that the missionaries while there had been in great danger, unknown to them

"Foremost among the Maisin was a man named Wanigela; he was not a chief by descent, but he was a great warrior and a born leader, and ruled the whole tribe from the head chief downwards. His word was law, and he has been known to thrash the old chief because he was not inclined to fall in with his views - a form of argument which proved very convincing. This man was very friendly with the missionaries, and it was through his influence on their

behalf that they were not massacred.

On one occasion old Wangela visited Sinapa with a number of armed men; a small present was offered him which he refused saying he was on his way to see a chief named Bogegi. It had been proposed that the missionaries should be killed, and it was in connection with this that he was going to see Bogegi who was the prime mover in the affair. Leaving his boy at Sinapa he went off but returned later in the day with Bogegi and more fighting men. What the conference had been in Bogegi's village is not known, but it was probably decided that the little band of workers were to be annihilated (possibly Wangela had been led to give his consent to it). The men quietly surrounded the party who were quite unconscious of any danger and waited for the word to strike but it was never given. At last Bogegi asked Wangela to give the word but he refused, in spite of urging remained immovable. Thus by his strong determination and great power he preserved them from the death which threatened them. God had put it into the heart of this old cannibal to preserve his people."

- land left for 7 years; Bishop's plans planting coconuts and placing teacher there
- asked 6 boys to become 2 year boarders - ~~volunteers~~ did & 3 more volunteered; had been led to believe that they wouldn't do it (25)

nene

last is 141

22/12/06