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K32/23

878 * Additions to history of 78
(3) Bakwena ba Mogopa of
Venterdorp.

T. S. More

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T. 116

I heard our grandfathers say that we are the Bakwena of Mogopa. The names of our chiefs which I heard of are Segwati whose sons were Motsile and Mamogale.

We have not been told of the reign of Motsile, they were scattered by the wars of Moselekatse. The Bakwena chief who reigned for a long time was Mamogale. The first Boers found him at Matlare on the Crocodile river. We are told that Ramokgutswane and Mothiba-itlho and others came and fought with the chief because they wanted labourers. We are told that in those days the Boers used to come in the night time whilst the people were asleep and surround the village and the next morning people would find their village encircled by the Boers who used to say "where is the chief?" When he came they used to catch hold of him and assault him saying "give us labourers". He used to agree and give them. On the arrival of the Bakwena on the farms, they used to desert from them. The white people used to come back in search of them and surround the village again and ask the chief where the people were.

That is the trouble which caused the Bakwena to flee to Basutoland. Their chief was Mamogale and his son was Raikane. They fled to Basutoland. The Boers followed them. The war of Seqiti was fought which from what we are told ended in 1862.

The Bakwena returned to the Transvaal and the chief passed to Makolokoe, Rustenburg district. His son remained at the home of Dr. Isaac Pronk on farm Dorendraai, district Heilbron. Raikane left later and followed his father.

Mamogale came to settle with the Bakwena at Likalane, he was the remaining chief and was very old. Chief Raikane More died, his sons were Lerotholi Raligapa, Mtswane and Jange. When Chief Raikane died his son Lerotholi Jacobus M. Mamogale became chief and after the Boer war Jacobus M. Mamogale died, he had sons, Motsile II and Mamogale II Niclass Mamogale and Charles Mamogale and Solomon Mamogale and David Mamogale.

I don't know the names of the chief's wives very well, as well as the wives of chief Raikane and the chief wife Mmalerotholi so.

He had married by native custom in 1904. Motsile II became chief of the Bakwena. In 1905 he began to remember his people who had scattered towards the South. He began to approach sub-chief T. S. More to ask him the names of the people who were scattered in the Free State.

I took the trouble to trace their names and when they had been found in 1905, he called a meeting at Heilbron, O.F.S. We met there.

Then the talk commenced about getting land for the people who were scattered in the Free State. An attorney wrote us a letter to go to Bloemfontein to claim our rights there. They refused saying that a native cannot buy a land in the Free State, he can only buy it in the Transvaal. The meeting of the Bakwena dismissed.

Time went by and in 1913 the Bakwena called their sub-chief T.S. More and asked him to go to Mantubole or Bethanie to call chief Motsile. T.S. More went accompanied by the sons of Aaron More, Nicodima Masilo. Their mother is Sanie J. Mamogale.

On our arrival we told the chief about the meeting of the Bakwena tribe. He agreed, and on the 3rd March, 1913, we left Bethanie to go and hold a meeting at Hinningflak, district Heilbron O.F.S. It was a big meeting where it was agreed to buy land for the Bakwena who remained in the Free State when chief Raikane went away.

Each man gave chief Motsile his cattle to buy land, that meant that, before the purchase price of the land had been paid off, the chief was empowered to take the cattle out of the cattle kraals of the Bakwena until it was paid off.

Sub-chief T.S. More and Daniel More were chosen to execute this business in the districts of Heilbron, Parys, Vredeford, Kroonstad, Bothaville, Frankfort, and Heidelberg and Balfour in

the Transvaal. The Bakwena were scattered about in these places and we travelled at the expense of the Bakwena to collect money for farm Zwartkop 48, Ventersdorp district. That is the true order of the tribe of the Bakwena of Mogopa of J. M. the chief at Bethanie, Rustenburg District.

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