

The Mariba Section of The Ratlou Barolong (Maebu People)

1776  
1761  
to Setlagole  
his brother and  
1775

The founder of this Ratlou clan of the Barolong is Mokalaka, son of Ratlou, and half brother of Seitshire, Mariba, Modiragale and Lephothlo. As already stated, Mokalaka objected to the appointment of Seitshire as Ratlou's successor, and favoured Mariba. He also objected to the selection of Modirwagala as regent, and wished to be himself regent for the young Mariba, and in this he was supported by Peme-a-Morakile. Under these circumstances, as soon as Mokalaka felt himself strong and old enough, he and his supporters severed their connection with the main body of the Barolong as they were about to move from

(1)

Mosite to Setlagole in 1775. Mokalaka went to Morokweng. Soon after his arrival there, however, Mariba died, and Mokalaka was now to be considered as acting for Moamegwa, Mariba's son. From his new home at Morokweng, Mokalaka tried hard to be even with Modirwagale, the leader of the larger group at Setlagole. He collected a heterogeneous army of Bakgalagadi, Bushmen, Griquas and Barolong, and attacked Setlagole but was repulsed about 1779.

1777

After the Tshidi, Makgetla, Selek and Rapulana clans or wards had left the Ratlou clan under of Seitshire under Modirwagale at Setlagole owing to the quarrel over the hand of Mamaremela, Mokalaka again with his mixed army of Griquas and Barolong fell upon Modirwagale in 1785 and defeated him, and occupied Setlagole, making Majane his headquarters.

1785  
1779

A few years after, the Tshidi and Makgetla Barolong who had retired to Lotlhakane under Makgetla, now left that place under Leshome, and went to settle at Phitshane. Mokalaka attacked them, defeated them in a great battle at Phiring (1800) and drove them to Mokakanana near Kanye, and made Phitshane his headquarters. About 1805, Moshweu came from Didibaneng and settled at Gatshebethwana (Disaneng). In about 1808 the Tshidi Barolong returned from Mokakanana in the Bangwaketse country to join him, and then went to settle at Phitshane, Mokalaka having left that place. It was about this time that civil war broke out betw

1795  
1797

in the Tshidi clan between Leshome and Tawana. The latter was driven to Seepeng west of Phitshane, and unsuccessfully appealed to Mokalaka for help against Leshome, and finally got military help from Makabai chief of the Bangwaketse.

(2)

The latter was driven to Seepeng west of Phitshane, and unsuccessfully appealed to Mokalaka for help against Leshome, and finally got military help from Makabai chief of the Bangwaketse.







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The founder of this Ratlou clan of the Barolong is Mekalaka, son of Ratlou, and half brother of Seitshire, Mariba, Mediragale and Lephretlho. As already stated, Mekalaka objected to the appointment of Seitshire as Ratlou's successor, and favoured Mariba. He also objected to the selection of Medirwagala as regent, and wished to be himself regent for the young Mariba, and in this he was supported by Peme a Merakile. Under these circumstances, as soon as Mekalaka felt himself strong and old enough, he and his supporters severed their connection with the main body of the Barolong as they were about to move from Mesite to Setlagaale in 1785. Mekalaka went to Merokweng. Soon after his arrival there, however, Mariba died, and Mekalaka was now to be considered as acting for Meamegwa, Mariba's son. From his new home at Merokweng, Mekalaka tried hard to be even with Medirwagale, the leader of the larger group at Setlagaale. He collected a heterogeneous army of Bakgalagadi, Bushmen, Griquas and Barolong, and attacked Setlagaale but was repulsed *about 1797*

After the Tshidi, Makgetla, Seleka and Rapulana clans or wards had left the Ratlou clan under of Seitshire under Medirwagale at Setlagaale owing to the quarrel over the hand of Mamaremela, Mekalaka again with his mixed army of Griquas and Barolong fell upon Medirwagale 1795 and defeated him, and occupied Setlagaale, making Maijane his headquarters. A few years after, the Tshidi and Makgetla Barolong who had retired to Letlhakane under Makgetla, now left that place under Lesheme, and went to settle at Phitshane. Mekalaka attacked them, defeated them in a great battle at Phiring (1800) and drove them to Mekakanana near Kanye, and made Phitshane his headquarters. About 1800, Meshwe came from Didibaneng and settled at Gatshebethwana (Disaneng) In about 1808 the Tshidi Barolong returned from Mekakanana in the Bangwaketse country to join him, and then went to settle at Phitshane, Mekalaka having left that place. It was about this time that civil war broke out betw in the Tshidi clan between Lesheme and Tawana. The latter was driven to Seepeng west of Phitshane, and unsuccessfully appealed to Mekalaka for help against Lesheme, and finally get military help from Makaba, chief of the Bangwaketse.



From about 1806 to 1812, Mokalaka and the Mariba following of the Ratlou Barolong began to gradually withdraw westwards from Phitshane. Their settlements were scattered and extended over a large area from Morokweng to Phitshane, and they were thus less able to resist the frequent raids from surrounding tribes, notably the ~~Bathaping~~ <sup>the Bakgale, Khasena & also the Barolong</sup>, the Griquas and the Koranas. Mokalaka's withdrawal from Phitshane was therefore in the nature of shortening his front, for purposes of concentration at, and better defence of Morokweng, his capital.

(2)

From Phitshane, the Mariba people went to Kgeng (now called Tshidila-Melomo). After spending a few months here, or perhaps a year or couple of years, they withdrew further westward, and stopped at Kwidi, and then ~~further~~ <sup>under Mochware attacked the</sup> ~~moved~~ <sup>Bangwaketse and</sup> further along the Molepo River to Mhakane, and, finally about 1812, they reached ~~Setabeng~~ <sup>at Morokweng</sup>, and concentrated from their several outstations. <sup>(Per Chief Thibogang Letthogile and Councillors (Ganyesa))</sup>

1812  
1811

In 1816 impoverished by attacks and raids from surrounding tribes, Mokalaka and his followers in 1816, left Morokweng, and were forced by dire necessity on to the war path. They went to the north west into the Kgalagadi Desert, partly for refuge, partly to try and improve their fortunes by raiding the Bakgalagadi, and by obtaining skins of the silver jackal (pkokoje) and the wild cat (Tlhese), which were, and still are highly valued among the <sup>(Batswana)</sup> ~~Bekwana~~, and may be exchanged for sheep, goats or cattle. <sup>(1807-1822)</sup> <sup>Motswaselle under the regent</sup>

(5)

The Bangwaketse and of <sup>Makabarii</sup> ~~Moleta~~, and the Bakwena of <sup>Mogwagwago</sup> ~~Mogwagwago~~ had several cattle stations in the Kgalagadi Desert for several years before, and these offered an irresistible temptation to Mokalaka. He therefore raided the Bangwaketse cattle posts, and siezed large herds of cattle, and dispersed the herd men. After a few weeks he attacked the Bakwena cattle posts, and again captured immense herds, and with this booty retired to <sup>Setabeng</sup> ~~Bethithong~~, there to live on the fruits of violence and rapine. <sup>Sojourn at Lethakom 1799-1802</sup> During these peregrinations, Moamegwa - Mariba's son for whom Mokalaka was acting, die fell ill, and died soon after, at <sup>1812</sup> ~~Bethithong~~ <sup>1815</sup> (1822) at the age of about twenty-two years. He never ruled.

1810  
1797

1812

1815

After some years' stay at Bethithong, Mokalaka once more penetrated the arid tracts of the Kgalagadi Desert, and once more raided the Bangwaketse and the Bakwena out stations and cattle posts. In one of these skirmishes at Lethututu, Kegakilwe, the Moamegwa's son of highest rank, <sup>ad Chief Thibogang Letthogile's Councillors (Ganyesa)</sup>

x  
F.N.



1831

From about 1823 till 1833, refugees of various tribes  
 In 1831 the  
 Meadly, poured into Morokwe, Lampana and Kanku and  
 others were Babuntse, Banpakeke, who left their country  
 for fear of Mantabisi ferret & then of the Mabele of  
 Nzigilaka. The present influx of these refugees  
 was in 1831 when the Mabele scattered the Babuntse  
 of Molegalle, at Mosega and overwhelmed the Tende  
 Bardy of Taima at Khunwana. Their some Tendi  
 Bardy also fled to Morokwe, from Morokwe,  
 numbers representing nearly all Batswana Tribe,  
 fled to <sup>some</sup> Dikgathu, where they went  
 to Mahura at Tang, others to Lithakoy, Bokshay & Kang.  
 When the Tendi fled by Bardy of Taima passed on to  
 Platberg & afterward to Hababulu Goutse to some  
 Kaban Bardy, from Morokwe joined them - back

1837 Affr Nzigilaka, was defeated by the Boers at Mosega in 1837  
 1844 When the Bardy of Goutse Taima returned  
 from Hababulu to their country, & found  
 1849. Mabele chief Mordkwal a great chief, over a  
 meeting of tribes ~~forced~~ who had been ruined by the  
 Mabele wars - but were now recovered under his  
 paternal rule.

The Bangwaketse and of Mabele, and the Bakwena  
 had several cattle stations in the Kalagadi Desert for several  
 years before, and these offered an irresistible temptation to Mabele.  
 He therefore raided the Bangwaketse cattle posts, and seized large  
 herds of cattle, and dispersed the herd men. After a few weeks he  
 attacked the Bakwena cattle posts, and again captured immense herds,  
 and with this booty retired to Bethany, there to live in the Twiwa  
 of violence and rapine. During these persecutions, Mamegw - Mabele  
 ran for whom Mabele was seeking, he fell ill, and died soon after at  
 Bethany (1832) at the age of about twenty-two years. He never  
 after some years stay at Bethany, Mabele once more penetrated the  
 and parts of the Kalagadi Desert, and once more raided the Bangw-  
 ketse and the Bakwena out stations and cattle posts. In one of these  
 skirmishes at Tshututu, Mabele, the Mamegw, son of highest rank



From about 1808 to 1812, Mokalaka and the Mariba following of the Ratlou Barelong began to gradually withdraw westwards from Phitshane. Their settlements were scattered and extended over a large area from Morekweng to Phitshane, and they were thus less able to resist the frequent raids from surrounding tribes, notably the Baklaping, the Griquas and the Koranas. Mokalaka's withdrawal from Phitshane was therefore <sup>something</sup> in the nature of shortening his front, for purposes of concentration at, and better defence of Morekweng, his capital.

From Phitshane, the Mariba people went to Kgeng (now called Tshidila-Melene). After spending a few months here, or perhaps a year couple of years, they withdrew further westward, and stopped at Kwidi, and then further-e moved further along the Molepe River to Mhakane, and, final about ~~1812~~ 1812, they reached Setabeng, and concentrated <sup>at Morekweng</sup> from their several outstations.

In ~~1816~~ 1816, impoverished by attacks and raids from surrounding tribes, Mokalaka and his followers in 1816, left Morekweng, and were forced dire necessity on to the war path. They went to the north west into the Kgalagadi Desert, partly for refuge, partly to try and improve th fortunes by raiding the Bakgalagadi, and by obtaining skins of the silver jackal (pkekeje) and the wild cat (Tlhese), which were, and still are ve highly valued among the Bechwana, and may be exchanged for she goats or cattle.

The Bangwaketse and of Meleta, and the Bakwena of Meruakgeme had several cattle stations atin the Kgalagadi Desert for several years before, and these offered an irresistible temptation to Mokalaka. He therefore raided the Bangwaketse cattle posts, and siezed large herds of cattle, and dispersed the herd men. After a few weeks he attacked the Bakwena cattle posts, and again captured immense herds, and with this booty retired to Bethitheng, there to live on the fruits of violence and rapine. During these peregrinations, Meamegwa -Mariba' son for whom Mokalaka was acting, die fell ill, and died soon after at Bethitheng (1822' at the age of about twenty-two years. he never ruled.

After some years stay at Bethitheng, Mokalaka once more penetrated the arid tracts of the Kgalagadi Desert, and once more raided the Bangwaketse and the Bakwena out stations and cattle posts. In one of these skirmishes at Lehututu, Kagakilwe, the Meamegwa's son of highest rank,



(1816)

deputy who

was slain by the Bakwena. Mokalaka now penetrated the Kgalagadi Desert and went as far north as Taka Chweu, where after several years of constant warfare between him and the Bakwena, peace was concluded between

them. He was now getting on in years, and began to share the command of the Mariba clan with the two eldest <sup>surviving</sup> sons of Meamegwa, namely Melale

and Mochware. They <sup>invaded</sup> proceeded west, <sup>invaded the</sup> Da and hearing of the immense wealth of the Damaras (Matlamma) in cattle, they determined to raid them. Accordingly they fell upon the Damaras <sup>of Mahafela</sup> at Waterbergen, defeated them, and despoiled them of their cattle, and returned once more to Lehututu in the Kgalagadi Desert, where they spent several months.

1817 Finally, about the year 1814, the Mariba <sup>Barolong</sup> redirected their steps

towards their homeland. First they sojourned among the ~~Bathare of Lahesi~~ on the <sup>lower</sup> Melopo at Kwisi, then stopped at Kuruman and at Setabeng successively, and also at Lithakong. After about ten years absence from Beewana <sup>and</sup> their home in

1818 Beewana <sup>and</sup> Bechuana land, they arrived at Kiang, <sup>in</sup> Bethitong and Merokweng in 1817 and 1818. After a hard life of scheming, fighting, fleeing,

and wandering, Mokalaka died at Bethitong at the end of 1818 or the beginning of 1819, leaving a devoted compact and devoted tribe which he himself

had founded. He was a man of indomitable spirit, and a keen warrior. He had acted <sup>for</sup> as regent for three generations of chiefs - for Mariba, for

his son Meamegwa, and for Meamegwa's son of highest rank - Kegakilwe, all of whom had predeceased him. Meamegwa's <sup>surviving</sup> son of highest

rank was now Maikese, ~~for whom - for whom Mokalaka had been acting.~~ On Mokalaka's death, Mochware, the eldest surviving son of Meamegwa succeeded

to the regency who by rights should have been regent for Nchelang, the senior son of Kegakilwe his brother Kegakilwe. On Mokalaka's death, how-

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however, Mochware, the eldest surviving son of Meamegwa, was appointed as regent for Nchelang.

In 1825, Mochware left Bothithong with his <sup>brothers</sup> and

all his people, and went to settle at Ganyesa, but soon after

their arrival here, Maikese being dissatisfied with the manner in which he was being shunted aside, left Ganyesa with a large

following, and went to start another settlement at Morokweng,

while Melale, his other <sup>brother's</sup> nephew also left with his retainers to

make his home at Konke on the north west of Ganyesa.







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1826

and

it was only because he was the most powerful/most influential man in the place. He was in fact only the prime minister, the chief being Maikese. <sup>TS</sup> <sup>K</sup> Bogadu was only about twenty-four years of age when Moffat met him. <sup>Moffat</sup> speaks of him as "a very intelligent young man, an interesting character with great dignity about his person as well as much politeness of manner." He showed Mr Moffat much kindness and hospitality.

FN Missionary Labours

<sup>Moffat's Missionary Labours & Scenes in SA p 458 459</sup>  
<sup>Mokshware</sup> Mechware had temporarily left Ganyesa, and the Ratleu Barolong were congregated at Kenke on account of their dread of the marauding Griquas under Jacob Cleeto, who infested the border of the Kgalagadi Desert, and had their headquarters on the Langeberg Mountains in Griqualand West.

FN ep cit

<sup>(Makgolokwe)</sup> Moffat found the Barole Ratleu Barolong filthy, lazy, ignorant, brutal and depraved. A man could murder his wife publicly, but with impunity. <sup>of cit p 464</sup> After Mokhatoko <sup>Mokshware</sup> <sup>the greatest hero of the Marikopa people the R.B. He died at Ganyesa about 1854</sup> When Maikese was chief at Merekweng, two tragic events took place.

1857

The first one happened about the year 1857. Makgobi, who succeeded his father <sup>Mokshware</sup> Mechware as chief regent chief-acting-for-Nchelang at Ganyesa went on a visit to the upper Melepe River with Nchelang, for whom he was acting, Nchelang being the highest in rank of Kegakilwe's three sons, and the future principal chief of all the Mariba clan of the Ratleu Barolong. At <sup>along the middle of R</sup> Legagin Legageng, about seventy miles west of Mafeking, this young chief fell from the wagon in which they were travelling, was over-run by it, and

1866

fatally crushed. <sup>Same year</sup> A few years after this tragic incident, a worse one happened at Merekweng (1861). A trader, <sup>in 1866</sup> Freddie by name who was selling guns, ammunition and gun powder, deliberately and homicidally ignited this explosive material while half the town was collected around his wagon at Merekweng. He, and many other people were killed, including Mmusi, the brother of Nchelang who had but recently died accidentally, and also Secwakgosing and Methibi, the two eldest of the three sons of Maikese. <sup>Per Chief Thibogang & councillors (Ganyesa)</sup>

1874

Thus it was that when Maikese died at Merekweng in 1874 his youngest son - <sup>Benkwane</sup> Benkwane - succeeded. Benkwane was rightly supposed to be acting for his elder brother's son. Which elder brother - <sup>Selwakgosing</sup> Selwakgosing or Methibi? <sup>Selwakgosing</sup> Selwakgosing had been disowned by Maikese as an illegitimate son of his divorced wife, and Methibi had been <sup>designated</sup> designated by the chief as his heir and successor. Therefore Benkwane who succeeded Maikese was nominally regent for Methibi's <sup>son</sup> principal son - Marumulwa. But Benkwane, - that many other Barolong and <sup>Ba-Tswana</sup> Ba-Tswana regents, or for that matter, like regents any where in the world, where there is no fixed period for the regency,

youngest son - Benkwane

<sup>of cit p 464</sup> <sup>FN</sup> <sup>ep cit</sup> <sup>1857</sup> <sup>1866</sup> <sup>1874</sup> <sup>TS</sup> <sup>K</sup> <sup>Moffat</sup> <sup>Mokshware</sup> <sup>Mokhatoko</sup> <sup>Mokshware</sup> <sup>the greatest hero of the Marikopa people the R.B. He died at Ganyesa about 1854</sup> <sup>of cit p 464</sup> <sup>deliberately and</sup> <sup>homicidally</sup> <sup>ignited</sup> <sup>this explosive material</sup> <sup>while half the town was collected around his wagon at Merekweng.</sup> <sup>He, and</sup> <sup>many other people were killed, including Mmusi, the brother of Nchelang</sup> <sup>who had but recently died accidentally,</sup> <sup>and also Secwakgosing and Methibi,</sup> <sup>the two eldest of the three sons of Maikese.</sup> <sup>Per Chief Thibogang & councillors (Ganyesa)</sup> <sup>Benkwane</sup> <sup>Selwakgosing</sup> <sup>Methibi</sup> <sup>Marumulwa</sup> <sup>Ba-Tswana</sup>



and he ~~was~~ <sup>even in his self-inflicted exile</sup>, he was still nominally regarded as the chief of Mrokwang & his new settlement nearby an outpost on a country residence

Lekoko died in 1938 and was succeeded by his son Sebala wa Kwana

1882 In 1882 Bontwane tried to intercede between Moshwete & Maitshana to bring about a peace parley to end the disastrous war between them which raged intermittently between them from 1881 to 1884. But Maitshana as Bontwane was regarded by some as the highest rank chief among the Basuto clan chiefs - the position accorded by others to Gatschole, he was the last person in the world whose advice Moshwete could entertain, therefore his peace offer of arbitration <sup>admittedly</sup> was foredoomed. (J. Mackenzie Central Africa 1884)

... the highest in rank of Kgafela's three sons, and the future principal chief of all the Karibe clan of the Patheo Bafelo. At Maitshana's death, about seventy miles west of Maitshana, this young chief fell from the wagon in which they were travelling, was over-run by it, and fatally crushed. A few years after this tragic incident, a worse one happened at Mrokwang (1884). A trader, travelling by name who was selling guns, ammunition and gun powder, accidentally ignited this explosive material - I while half the town was collected around his wagon at Mrokwang. He, and many other people were killed, including himself, the brother of Maitshana who had but recently died accidentally, and also Gwalegasing and Maitshana, two of the three sons of Lekoko. In that independent settlement it was that which Maitshana died at Mrokwang in 1884. The youngest son - Maitshana - succeeded. Bontwane was rightly supposed to be acting for his elder brother's son. Which elder brother - Gwalegasing or Maitshana? Gwalegasing had been disowned by Lekoko as an illegitimate son of his divorced wife, and Maitshana had been <sup>disowned</sup> by the chief as his heir and successor. Therefore Bontwane who succeeded Lekoko was nominally regent for Maitshana's son - Maitshana. But Bontwane's son - Maitshana - like other Bafelo and Maitshana regents, or for that matter, like regents any where in the world, there is no fixed period for the regency.



it was only because he was the most powerful most influential man in the place. He was in fact only the prime minister, the chief being Maikese. Bogacu was only about twenty-four years of age when Meffat met him. <sup>Meffat</sup> speaks of him as 'a very intelligent young man, a n interesting character with great dignity about his person as well as much politeness of manner.' He showed Mr Meffat much kindness and hospitality.

Mechware had temporarily left Ganyesa, and the Ratlou Barelong were congregated at Kenke on account of their dread of the marauding Griquas under Jacob Clete, who infested the border of the Kgalagadi Desert, and had their headquarters on the Langeberg Mountains in Griqualand West. Meffat found the Barele Ratlou Barelong filthy, lazy, ignorant, brutal and depraved. A man could murder his wife publicly, but with impunity.

When Maikese was chief at Merekweng, two tragic events took place. The first one happened about the year 1857. Makgobi, who succeeded his father Mechware as chief regent chief-acting-for-Nchelang at Ganyesa went a visit to the upper Molepe River with Nchelang, for whom he was acting, Nchelang being the highest in rank of Legakilwe's three sons, and the future principal chief of all the Mariba clan of the Ratlou Barelong. At Legagin Gagagang, about seventy miles west of Mafeking, this young chief fell from the wagon in which they were travelling, was over-run by it, and fatally crushed. A few years after this tragic incident, a worse one happened at Merekweng (1761). A trader, Freddie by name who was selling guns, ammunition and gun powder homicidally ignited this explosive material while half the town was collected around his wagon at Merekweng. He, and many other people were killed, including Mmusi, the brother of Nchelang who had but recently died accidentally, and also Secwakgesing and Methibi, the two eldest of the three sons of Maikese.

Thus it was that when Maikese died at Merekweng in 1857-1763, his youngest son - Bonkwane - succeeded. Bonkwane was rightly supposed to be acting for his elder brother's son. Which elder brother - Secwakgesing or Methibi? Secwakgesing had been disowned by Maikese as an illegitimate son of his divorced wife, and Methibi had been <sup>designated</sup> appointed by the chief as his heir and successor. Therefore Bonkwane who succeeded Maikese was nominally regent for Methibi's <sup>son</sup> principal son - Marumulwa. But Bonkwane, like many other Barelong and Becwana regents, or for that matter, like regents any where in the world, where there is no fixed period for the regency,



1882

Bonekwane clung to his acting post, and showed no disposition to vacate it for its rightful owner - Marumulwa, who in despair left Morekweng in 1882 to start a new settlement at Tshidilamelome (or Kgeng) in the district of Mafeking. But as the state of the country in these regions was comparatively disturbed by the Barolong-Beer war of 1881 to 1884, only a few people

came with him, although nearly all recognised the justice of his grievance against Bonekwane. *Here in the wilderness that is Tshidilamelome Marumulwa lived, ruled and died. He was succeeded by his son Lekoko.*

1938

1884

Bonekwane died at Morekweng in the winter of 1884, just after he had signified to the Rev John Mackenzie as Deputy Commissioner, his consent or willingness that his country and people should be placed under British protection. *J. Mackenzie Austral Africa vol. 1. p 257* He was succeeded by Mentshesi - Methibi's

1900

son by a lower house - who thus filled the place which Marumulwa should have occupied long before. Mentshesi died in 1900, and was succeeded by his son Dirileng, but after a few years of incompetent rule, this man was deposed by the Government in favour of Hailane, son of Selwakgosing, the self same Selwakgosing who was vehemently disowned by Maikelo. *as a bastard*

1914

Maikelo's will and word were so thoroughly over-ridden, that when Hailane died (1914) *(Hailane's)* his brother Lebene was recognised as regent for his *Jabane* ~~son~~ *ne x qu*

Joel N. Chief Thibogang Councilor (Morekweng)

the line of the disowned Selwakgosing but for the fact that his grandsons - *Morwahane* ~~Morewahane~~ and Galebole, and his grand great grandson Basimane, weakened and degraded their already weak bodies and minds by freely steeping themselves in alcohol, and so bringing about their own rejection -n by the tribe, and deposition by the Government. *nee (Chief Thibogang Lethoople and councilor Morekweng)*

1937

As a last resort, Makgebi, a younger brother of Thibogang, the chief at Morekwe Ganyesa, was appointed petty chief at Morekweng. (1937) *Since the death of Maikelo & his successor Bonekwane*

Morekweng is remarkable for the ~~pitiful succession of incompetency~~ *has been* of its chiefs, their incompetency increasing almost as if by a mathematical progression - Morekweng in a people (the Bechwana) and at a time when chief at a time, and in a people (the *Ba-Tswana* ~~Bechwana~~) in which whom chiefs, if not incompetent, are certainly very mediocre. The ineptitude of the Morekweng chiefs has increased almost as if by a definite law of mathematical progression. Morekweng also, by coincidence, or as a cause or result of this mental and moral degradation - Morekweng is remarkable for the high percentage of syphilitics in a people among whom the *prevalence* percentage of syphilitics *is* ~~is~~ already *shocking* too high.



Benekwane clung to his acting post, and showed no disposition to vacate it for its rightful owner, Marumulwa, who in despair left Mererkweng in 1882 to start a new settlement at Tshidilamelene (or Kgenf) in the district of Mafeking. But as the state of the country in these regions was comparatively disturbed by the Barolong-Boer war of 1881 to 1884, only a few people came with him, although nearly all recognised the justice of his grievance against Benekwane.

*He died in the wilderness and was buried in Tshidilamelene. Marumulwa ruled and died. He was succeeded by his son Lekoko.*

Benekwane died at Mererkweng in the winter of 1884, just after he had signified to the Rev John Mackenzie as Deputy Commissioner, his consent or willingness that his country and people should be placed under British protection. He was succeeded by Menchesi - Methibi's son by a lower house - who thus filled the place which Marumulwa should have occupied long before. Menchesi died in 1900, and was succeeded by his son Dirileng, but after a few years of incompetent rule, this man was deposed by the Government in favour of Hailane, son of Secwakgesin the self same Secwakgesin who was vehemently disowned by Maikace. But Maikace's will and word were so thoroughly over-ridden, that when Hailane died (1914) his brother Lebene was recognised as regent for him (Hailane's son) Jabane, Hailane's son. Succession might have continued in the line of the disowned Secwakgesin but for the fact that his grandsons - ~~Moruhanele~~ and Galebele, and his grand great grandson Basimane, weakened and degraded their already weak bodies and minds by freely steeping themselves in alcohol, and so bringing about their own rejection by the tribe, and deposition by the Government.

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Mererkweng is remarkable for the pitiful succession of incompetence of its chiefs, their incompetence increasing almost as if by a mathematical progression - Mererkweng in a people of the Bechwana - and at a time when chief at a time, and in a people - (the Bechwana) in which whom chiefs, if not incompetent, are certainly very mediocre. The ineptitude of the Mererkweng chiefs has increased almost as if by a definite law of mathematical progression. Mererkweng also, by coincidence, or as a cause or result of this mental and moral degradation - Mererkweng is remarkable for the high percentage of syphilitics in a people in whom the percentage of syphilitics is already too high, shocking.

prevalence of syphilitics is already too high, shocking.







about 2,500 m of Barotse land along the Mtsolo watershed for 9 miles. Then northwards from Phlupane to the frontiers of the Bakwena Tsa-pyake + Bakwena and northward to the border of Gungulana W. The 2 chiefs had received money for this unlawful transaction, Lethoqile vociferously claiming to be the highest chief of the Barotse & therefore within his rights in selling their land in part consulting them which Maramisa & Moolahosi the Concessionary Council agreed with that Lethoqile did not force any such rule & declared the grants lease & sales null & void.

Rev. John Brown, Makoko a Bwana  
 Setseng, Aug 1893 pp 171-174

Gantjese

Phlupane

Mitshwalleane

This escapade nearly cost Lethoqile his tiger skin (the Bakwena in quest of Chieftainship). His people rose up in arms & roundly denounced him as a thief and a foreigner because his mother was a northwain. It was a thief and an unscrupulous presumptuous ignoramus.

Marano

(2)

after the proclamation of Southern Bechuanaland was proclaimed B.B. 1885

Setseng had been ordered to pay that tax. He took an original view an unreasonable stand - that he personally would not pay tax to the Government but he objected as being subject to it or that his subjects were to his people, ~~his subjects~~ pay tax because they were his subjects - not the Government subject. How could he be a chief be lumped in one indiscriminate mass with his subjects, and dogs as tax payers to the Government. How was he to live & be respected retain his dignity under such conditions. Rather than so demean himself he would chuck up the leading Chieftainship. The shadow of the Government - and so perhaps he called Lethoqile from Phlupane to Gantjese, seat of power & pay tax if he was so minded.

(4) His eldest son Phologo left him & settled at Kakana with the Kgatlozi. He died soon after his return to Gantjese, while he was yet so young. His son Tselakgope died at Khatheha.

(5) He was succeeded by Petero Makgibi, who like a true disciple left the inheritance over in 1931 when the Bech. Protect gave the Bech. Protect the right to be ruled by chiefs of their ethnic origin - not by foreigners like Sakeing Barotse (Treking the Gov. Thurst p 32 Arnold to Hodson).

1887 Lethoqile entered upon his duties as chief with great enthusiasm & industry. In 1892 the peaceful & lethargic Barotse of the day were started by strange rumors that their chief was negotiating the sale of their country to some European adventurers. In June 1893 the truth appeared from the inquiries of the Concessionary Council. That chief Lethoqile of Gantjese & the Bathara Chief Tshae had made a part sale & part lease of

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In Ganyesa, Mochware was succeeded by his principal son Makgebi as acting chief. In 1853, Makgebi and his people left Ganyesa, and went to live with Makkece at Merckweng for defensive purposes, when they heard that the Transvaal Beers were approaching in pursuit of the other Ratlou, ~~Barek-as-wahl-as-of-the-Tshidi-Bareleng~~ people under Gentse and Masisi, as well as of the Tshidi Bareleng of Montshiwa. When the latter arrived at Merckweng in March 1853, after their battle with the Beers of Andries Frederius and Paul Kruger at Mesite, they found Makgebi already there. After the Beer danger had lifted, the people of Makgebi returned to Ganyesa, while <sup>Montshiwa</sup> ~~Montshiwa~~ and his people went to Meshaneng in the Bangwaketse country towards the end of that year. It was a few years after this - to wit in 1857 - that while Makgebi and Nchelang were journeying by wagen to the Mafeking district, Nchelang was fatally crushed by ~~a-wa~~ the wagen. Hehe Makgebi was nominally acting for this same Nchelang, who was Kgakilwe's principal son of highest rank, and after this young chief's death, Makgebi was said to be new acting for Mmusi, - Nchelang's younger brother. <sup>But as already stated,</sup> Mmusi was seen after <sup>killed by gunpowder</sup>

In 1865, Makgebi again went to live at Merckweng. From there he sent his brothers Gaetsalwe and Eheke in 1868 as pioneers to make a settlement at Phitshane, with the intention of himself following them up, which he did in 1872. <sup>seen after. About the same time</sup> When he left Merckweng, Seitsang, the youngest brother of Nchelang and Mmusi who had been under Makgebi's guardianship, returned to Ganyesa with a considerable following and re-settled there, while Makgebi left Merckweng in 1860 for Mafula, where after spending a year or two, he continued eastward along the Molepe River to Phitshane, arriving there in 1872.

Montshiwa and most Tshidi Bareleng were then at Meshaneng ~~in~~ near Kanye in the Bangwaketse country, and Makgebi informed him of his arrival and settlement at Phitshane. This was not a request by Makgebi to be assigned a place for settlement. It was but a courteous act of notification, and Montshiwa could not have refused Makgebi settlement, although he afterwards made it appear to the Land Court of 1885 that he it was who gave Makgebi permission to settle at Phitshane. In fact, it would appear that Montshiwa, who was already thinking of leaving Meshaneng, and returning to the Bareleng country, had intended to make his town at Phitshane, but was thus forestalled by Makgebi.







THE RAPULANA Barelong

Rapulana was the younger brother of Seleka. Both were the sons of Tau by Meshwana his wife of lowest rank. That section of the Barelong which followed Rapulana's banner thus takes the last Place in Barelong ceremonial functions.

Rapulana was born at Taung about 1733 and accompanied his brother Seleka and his half brothers Ratlou, Tshidi, Makgetla in the emigration of the Barelong from Taung through Lithakong, Mamusa and Mesite. At the last place, Ratlou who had succeeded to the chieftaincy died, and Seleka being the eldest of Tau's sons acted until Medirwagale was appointed as regent. Rapulana married Mmamaremela - Ratlou's young widow. This was much resented and opposed by Ratlou's sons, who also desired the woman, and dispute followed. Rapulana was assisted by his brother Seleka and also by Makgetla. After the skirmish that ensued, Seleka and his followers went in the direction of Thabeng near Klerksdorp, while Rapulana and his followers left Setlagese and settled at Letlhakane. He was soon followed by the Tshidi Barelong and the Makgetla people under Makgetla, who thus combined the office of chief of the Makgetla tribe, and the regency of the Tshidi clan.

At the age of about fifty years, Rapulana became blind. He died and was buried at Ley Letlhakane in about 1798. He was succeeded by his eldest son Molekane as chief of the Rapulana Barelong.

The Rapulana clan under Molekane joined the Tshidi clan under Makgetla and Tlhutlwa in their attempt to settle at Phitsane. This place was claimed by the Ratlou clan under Medirwagale who therefore fell upon the Rapulana and Tshidi clans, and completely routed them, killing Molekane the Rapulana chief, and his brother Kelohe, and also Tlhutlwa the young Tshidi chief. After this, the Tshidi Barelong escaped northwards to the Bangwaketse country, while the Rapulana under their new chief Makgwa went off in a southerly direction to join the Seleka people under Mereka at Thabeng. The Rapulana built their new town in close proximity to their Seleka kinsmen at Thabeng. Here the Rapulana clan under Makgwa, and the Seleka people under Mereka lived in friendly intercourse and close military alliance, opposing a common and united front to the assaults of surrounding hostile tribes - the Griqua, the Bushemen, the Kerasas, and the various clans of the



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# Tshidi Bardoug

To Thaba Ncho  
 (Boer Trek)  
 y Bardoug Return, Death of Jwan.  
 Moutshuwa Chief 1850  
 B. Tshuwa Sand River  
 Pretoria Conventicle

Boer

Sand River Conventicle 1852

Transvaal and Sechele  
 Tshidi flight to Cwango - Return  
 Molema settles at Mafeking 1857  
 Troubles with Boers begin p 26  
 Discovery of Diamonds 1867  
 Bloemhof arbitration 1871  
 Frans in Burgers Pres.



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