

Falong Katoo, Fawoman¹

Falong was a son of Kralongɔ and came with his father from Kakala. Falong was a great hunter and spent much of his time going far off into the bush to hunt. Falong stayed with his father throughout the wars until they came to settle in this area. While they were staying in Ahenkro, a man had an affair with Falong's wife. Since it is taboo to have an affair with the wife of a chief's son, the man was to be killed. The man was caught and Falong demanded that he be killed; however, Kralongɔ begged that the man's life should be spared—that they had lost many people in the wars and now was a time of peace. If the laws were to be strictly followed, soon all of Kralongɔ's people would be gone. This made Falong angry and he resolved to split off and establish his own village "by my own name." He went and started a settlement at what is now Brawhani and called it "Mɛɛɛ " ("by my name"). No one was living in the area around Mɛɛɛ when Falong moved there. Falong used to go hunting as far away as the Tain and he raised huts at some of the vantage points in these areas--two of these places were Mengye and Tain.

While living at Mɛɛɛ, Falong discovered the Nsawkaw people. Falong told these people that the land belongs to the Banda chief and that they should come to serve him. Falong also discovered the Tain people and told them the same thing.

At Mengye where Falong raised a hut for farming and hunting, he established a number of pawpaw trees. There was a Muslim man who lived at Mɛɛɛ with Falong who used to go to Falong's farm and take some of the pawpaw. The word for pawpaw in the Muslim's language is "*mangajie*" which has been changed to Mengye. This Muslim man eventually moved to settle there and became chief of the village.

Falong died very old at Mɛɛɛ and was succeeded by Siejo Lantanko. He was followed by Pemuu who ruled for a long time. He died and was succeeded by Topii. This man is known to have been brave and clever. At the time that he was chief of Mɛɛɛ, Topii served as linguist to the Paramount Chief Sie Yaw. Topii is said to have led the paramount chief to meetings at Kumasi.

The next head of family was Sie Kwaku who is known for his love of the house and his ability to get members of the house to cooperate. Senyu succeeded Sie Kwaku and was a large scale farmer. It is said that everyone in the village ate from his farm. Senyun succeeded him and he was also a great farmer who worked very hard. Siejo Bori followed Senyon and was a farmer who instilled the spirit of cooperation in the people. Sie Kofi Jɛngɛ succeeded and was followed by the present chief Kofi Dongi.

The people left Mɛɛɛ for Fawoman in 1956. It happened that a small child went missing in the bush. The people tried everything they could think of to find the child but they were unsuccessful. They were so saddened by this event that they decided to leave Mɛɛɛ. They came and informed their brother, the Paramount Chief, of their intention to leave their village. They told Kofi Dwuru II that their great grand uncle Falong took them to that place, but now, the misfortune that had befallen them was too hard to bear. They therefore requested permission from Kofi Dwuru II to come back and stay near him. The Tolɛɛ granted their request and told

them to make their own choice as to where they wanted to stay. They selected the present site at Fawoman. The name derives from what they told the people who were staying behind at Mɛɛɛ, who were suspected of foul play in the disappearance of the child. They told these people to "take your own land" as we are leaving it. Some Nafana people remain at Mɛɛɛ, but they are not of this house. They decided to remain behind when this family moved away so as to maintain their separate identity and so that they could become chiefs when the people of Falong Katoo left.

The position of Apajahene rests with Falong Katoo. It is the Apajahene that may initiate destoolment proceedings against a paramount chief. This position came to rest with Falong Katoo as a favour since they are children of the Royal House. Formerly it was the duty of the house to see that the roof of the stool room at the palace was in good repair and that the thatch was periodically replaced.

Male Heads of Family

1. Falong
2. Siejo Latanko
3. Pemuu
4. Topii
5. Sie Kwaku
6. Senyu
7. Senyun
8. Siejo Bori
9. Siekofi Jenge
10. Kofi Dongi (Osei Kofi) (head in 1986)

Female Heads of Family

1. Yaka Youro
2. Yajo
3. Hania
4. Peminibor
5. Yambo Kotia
6. Lelo Donkor
7. Hle Yaa
8. Abena Kumah (head in 1986)

Interview conducted 1 August 1986 with Osei Kofi (Chief of Fawoman), Kwame Tailor (linguist) and Kofi Sunu.

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

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