

Gangoolo Katoo, Sanwa¹

Gangoolo Katoo traces its origins to Kakala in Côte d'Ivoire. They left Kakala along with the first Paramount Chief in Banda, Kralongɔ.

Gangoolo Katoo holds the title of Oyokohene. Previously, the family provided candidates for the paramount stool but no longer have access to the stool. An ancestor of Gangoolo Katoo, a man named ShieShie was the son of one of Kralongɔ's maternal aunt—thus Kralongɔ and ShieShie were brothers. ShieShie was a candidate for the paramount stool upon the passing of Kralongɔ; however, his mother, named Nyide, convinced him not to take up the opportunity. The mother was a rich woman. She told her son ShieShie to choose between her money and the stool. She demonstrated the dangers of being a chief by piercing bark filled with kapok cotton. When she pierced the bark some of the kapok cotton came out. She explained that if the son wanted to be a chief he should be aware that he would have to lead in wars, and that this was how he would die, leaving behind the abundant riches of the house. This convinced ShieShie to pass up the opportunity of becoming chief.

After ShieShie turned down the stool, the chance passed to Pehzoo. Formerly there were several families who had access to the stool. They included Sie Longɔ Katoo (present Royal Family), Gangoolo Katoo (Oyokohene), and Nyawaa Katoo (Krontihene) in order of seniority. Gangoolo lost access to the stool when ShieShie refused his chance. After the time of Pehzoo, there were no strong individuals in the Royal House to take charge of the stool. Hence, it was offered to a servant of the house, a man named Petele.

The position of Oyokohene is with Gangoolo Katoo and thus the head of the family is one of the kingmakers. Additionally, the family shares in the expenses at the death or installation of a paramount chief. They are among the inheritors of the paramount chief as well. At the last royal funeral, the Oyokohene and the recently deceased Tolɛ Kofi Dwuru II exchanged inheritances—that is, the Oyokohene inherited certain customary items from Nana Kofi Dwuru II, including his personal stool, and, upon the death of the Oyokohene, Sie Longɔ Katoo will inherit certain items from Gangoolo Katoo.

The family palanquin, umbrella and drums were purchased by a former head of family named Siejo. He was a wealthy man and offered to purchase these customary items for the family.

Male Heads of Family

1. ShieShie
2. Gbambeli
3. Tolɛ Atta
4. Siejo
5. Yaw Kɛnde
6. Kwadwo Lɔɔya
7. Sah Dongi (head in 1986)

Female Heads of Family

1. Hlejo
 2. Nyinango Jagbini
 3. Hle Kosua
 4. Nyua Yaa
 5. Abanko Hlejo
 6. Yaa Kuto
 7. Yaa Kumah (head in 1986)
-

Interview conducted on 4 August 1986 with Tolɛɛ Sah Dongi (Oyokohene), Kwaku Donkor (linguist of Samwa), Kwadwo Fordjour and Ama Nyini.

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

¹ The content of this work remains the intellectual property of the family who shared their knowledge. This information may be cited but may not be used for commercial purposes. To cite this work:

Stahl, Ann, and James Anane. 2011. Gangoolo Kato, Samwa [Sanwa]. In, *Family Histories from the Banda Traditional Area, Brong-Ahafo Region, Ghana, 1986*, pg. 6. Brochure circulated 1989, reissued with photos and additional histories in 2011.