

Hanyaw Jagbini Katoo, Banda-Ahenkro¹

The Hanyaw Jagbini Katoo is a sub-house of Gbaha Katoo in Makala. One of the ancestors of the house, a man named Sie Kafour, had become wealthy by virtue of the fact that he raised domestic animals. Because Gbaha was a brother to the paramount chief, the chief would send someone to Makala whenever he wanted an animal. The messenger would take a sheep or goat but would not pay for it. Sie Kafour therefore thought that if he came to settle in Ahenkro, thus separating himself from the Gbaha house, he would be able to sell his animals to the chief. He therefore left Makala and came to settle in Ahenkro. When he moved, he was accompanied by his nephew Hanyaw Jagbini.

Hanyaw Jagbini was famous for his leading role in wars with the Gonja. The Nafana were fighting the Sofire at the time.* Because of this man's brave deeds, the paramount chief recognized Hanyaw Jagbini's house as an independent one when they moved from Bui to Ahenkro. Thus the family achieved independent recognition at the palace. This event may have taken place during the time of the Chief Yaw Sielongɔ. The family still practices rites in common with the Gbaha family in Makala. The Hanyaw Jagbini Katoo moved to Ahenkro at the time that Ladjaa was head of Gbaha Katoo.

Male Heads of Family

1. Hanyaw Jagbini
2. Nango Wɔɔ
3. Yaw Sei Wlojo
4. Kwabena Kirifo
5. Sie Kwame
6. Pɛh Yaw Domi
7. Kwaku Datia
8. Yaw Dabla Loora

Female Heads of Family

1. Lelɔ Embo
2. Akua Dapaa
3. Akosua Gbanijaa
4. Piawa Afua
5. Dongi Bambiri
6. Amma Mɛɛwɛ
7. Amma Kuma

* Sofire was the name given to the soldiers in the army of the Imam Samori who was active in the forging of a jihad state to the north and west of the Banda area. The Sofire devastated areas to the north of the Black Volta, resulting in great loss of life and the taking of many slaves.

Interview conducted on 10 August, 1986 with Yaw Donkor (head of family), Pɛ Kwame, and Kwadwo Fordjour.

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

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