

Gbaɲmbɛ Katoo, Sanwa¹

Gbaɲmbɛ Katoo came to join the Nafanas at the time that they were living at Bui. This was at the time of the Paramount Chief Yaw Sielongɔ. Gbaɲmbɛ Katoo came to the Banda area because of the rampant wars in their homeland in the vicinity of Kakala.

The ancestor of Gbaɲmbɛ Katoo came to the Banda area with a xylophone and today the members of Gbaɲmbɛ Katoo play a special role at the palace as a result. The xylophone is played only on specific occasions—specifically funerals. In the instance of an ancestral funeral celebration (e.g. death of a paramount chief), the Chief who is celebrating the funeral must provide a fowl and a bottle of apeteshie as sacrifice before the *sinyeele* (xylophone) can be played. The sacrifices are made to the ancestors of Gbaɲmbɛ Katoo. After the xylophone has been played at a grand funeral, those connected with the funeral must provide a cow which is killed on the xylophone.

The people of Banda did not have the xylophone before the Gbaɲmbɛ family came to live here. Although the people of Kakala had xylophones, Kralongɔ and his people were not able to bring xylophones with them.

Gbaɲmbɛ Katoo together with Mamgbɔ Katoo is responsible for washing the feet of the paramount chief prior to his installation on the stool. The family does not know how this responsibility came to rest with them, but think that it was probably a reward for some good deed done by a member of their family.

Male Heads of Family

1. Wlo Kwaku
2. Gbaɲmbɛ
3. Pɛ Kwaku
4. Nyua Kwadwo (head in 1986)

Female Heads of Family

1. Ejo Kupoh
2. Nyi Dongi
3. Yeli Dongi
4. Ejo Kanilii (head in 1986)

Interview conducted on 6 August 1986 with Nyua Kwadwo (Head) and Amma Bio.

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

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