



NATAL PROVINCIAL  
ADMINISTRATION  
MUSEUM SERVICES

uMGUNGUNDLOVU SITE MUSEUM

The historical site of uMgungundlovu today belongs to the Monuments Council (NMC). Since 1983 the site has been developed by the Natal Provincial Museum Service with the support of the NMC.

The museum's objectives may briefly be summarized as the conservation and interpretation of the historical site, the interpretation of the historical events of the period 1828 - 1840 and the portrayal of certain aspects of Zulu culture by selective reconstruction of parts of the complex.

The development of the museum will continue for a considerable time as it is dependant on the results of ongoing archaeological research and the availability of funds.

### The Site and its Occupants

The name uMgungundlovu stems from the Zulu words ungungu we ndlovu, which means "the secret meeting place of the elephant". The word ndlovu (elephant) refers to the king.

uMgungundlovu was one of several military complexes (amakhanda) and the capital of Dingane, who reigned from 1828 - 1840. He established uMgungundlovu in 1829 in the Makhosini valley on the slope of Singonyama (Lion Hill) which lies between the uMkhumbane and Nzololo streams. The ikhanda was oval in shape and consisted of 1 400 - 1 700 thatched grass dwellings which stood 6 - 8 deep, circling around a huge open arena known as the large cattle kraal or enclosure (igibaya ezinkhulu) and was enclosed both inside and out by a strong palisade. Inside the arena were smaller cattle enclosures which bordered on the inner palisade. The remaining space in the arena was used for military parades and gatherings and also for the herding of cattle at certain places.

The main entrance (isango) was on the northern or lower side of the slope against which the complex lay. This entrance was divided into two sections to control the incoming and outgoing traffic. Directly opposite the main entrance, i.e. the southern side of the ikhanda, towards the foot of Singonyama hill, is the royal isigodlo where the king, his wives and their female attendants lived. The distance between the main entrance and the furthestmost dwellings of the isigodlo is 600 meter, while it measures approximately 500 meter from east to west.

The approximately 200 dwellings of the isigodlo were divided into compartments with an average of three dwellings per compartment. In one such triangular compartment, with three or four arched entrances, stood the king's private dwelling (ilawu). This was very large and neat and could easily accommodate 50 people. The isigodlo included a large open area where the isigodlo women and the king himself sang and danced. Dingane's isigodlo consisted of approximately 500 women while the whole complex had a total population of between 5 000 and 7 000.

The main entrance was also the dividing line between the left (eastern) and righthand (western) two warrior sections (uhlangoti) of the ikhanda, each of which was occupied by four selected regiments. On the left lived the regiments under the leadership of the induna (chief) Ndlela and on the right those under the command of Dambuza. From the main entrance, the warriors' dwellings stretched round the oval to the isigodlo. Scattered in between were huts on stilts in which the warriors' shields were stored.

On the southern side, just behind the main complex, were three small settlements (umuzi), namely the uMvazana (left), the uBheje (centre) and the KwaMbecini (right). Their functions are not yet fully known but the uBheje apparently had some connection with the isigodlo while the copper smithing activities took place in the vicinity of the righthand umuzi. Grain pits were found on the south-western side, approximately 50 meter behind the isigodlo.

KwaMatiwane (Hill of execution) is the ridge north-east of uMgungundlovu, across the uMkhumbane stream, where the bodies of the slain were left. It was named after Matiwane, chief of the amaNgwane who, with all his followers was killed there in 1829 on the king's orders.

KwaNkata (Place of execution) was situated just outside the complex between the main entrance and the grave of Nkosinkulu, the progenitor and founder of the original Zulu clan.

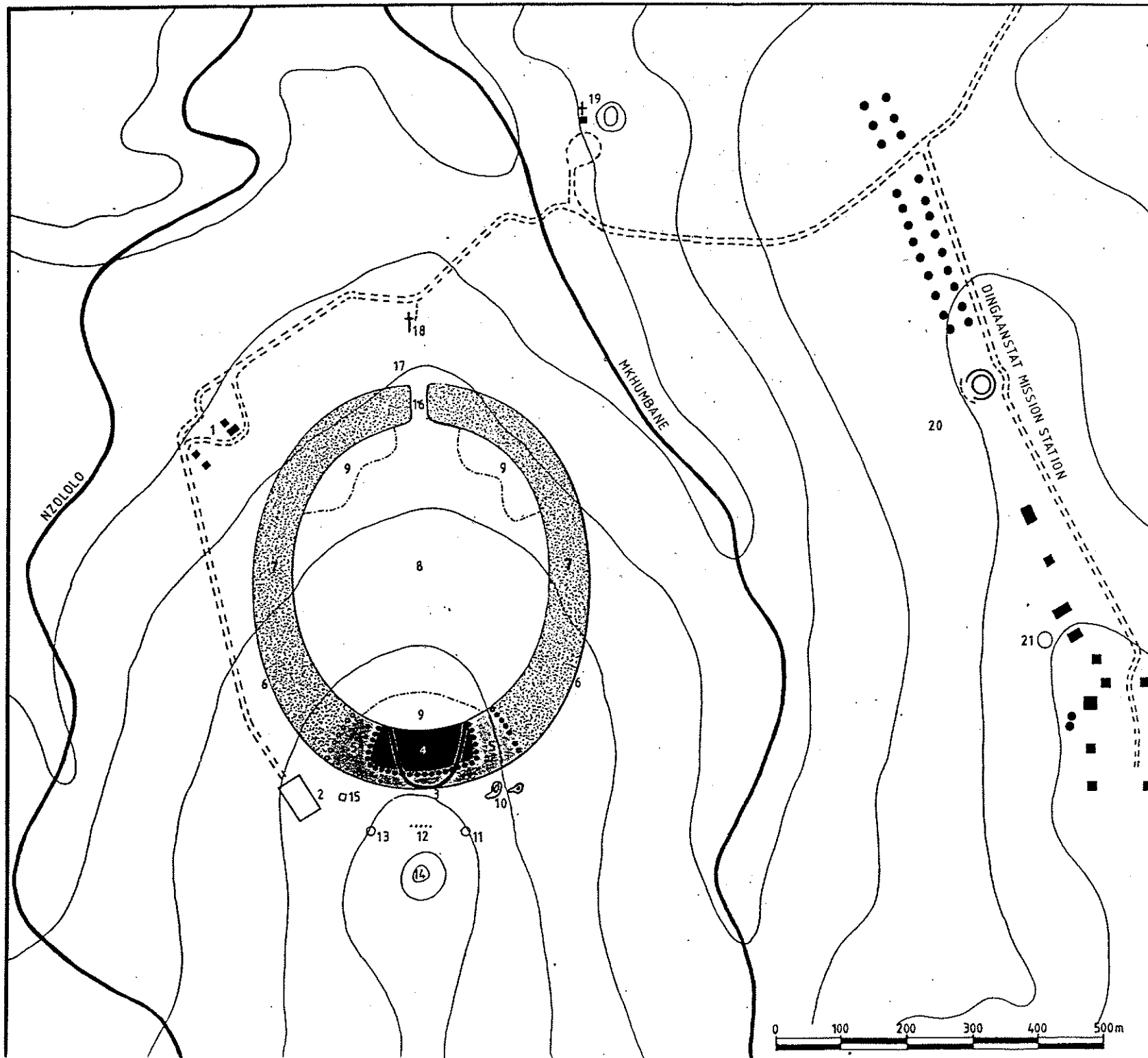
Hlomo Amabutho is the ridge east of uMgungundlovu where the church stands today and means "the place where the regiments (amabutho) were formed (hlomo)".

### Foreign Visitors

Since its establishment uMgungundlovu was called on by three divergent European groups, namely the traders of Port Natal, missionaries and the Voortrekkers. Well known traders such as Fynn, Isaacs, Cane, Farewell and Dick King brought foreign trade goods to Zululand and frequently visited the king to ensure their successful hunting and trading activities.

It was also the period in which the first missionaries entered Natal and Zululand, the first being Capt. Allen Gardiner who paved the way for others, including the Rev. Francis Owen who began his missionary work at uMgungundlovu in 1837.

Piet Retief reached uMgungundlovu in November 1837 for his first visit to Dingane. His aim was to secure a grant of land from Dingane. The king indicated that he was prepared to grant a certain area of land to the Voortrekkers on condition that Retief would recover stolen cattle from the Sotho chief Sikonyela and return them to Dingane. Retief accompanied by 70 men and their attendants successfully returned the cattle on 3 February 1838 but four days later on 6 February Dingane ordered their execution. This resulted in the Battle of Blood river shortly after which the victorious commando of Andries Pretorius arrived at a burnt down and deserted uMgungundlovu. On 21 December 1838 the skeletal remains of Retief and his comrades were located and buried. The leather bag containing the agreement (treaty) in which Dingane had ceded Natal to the Trekkers was found with the remains of Retief.

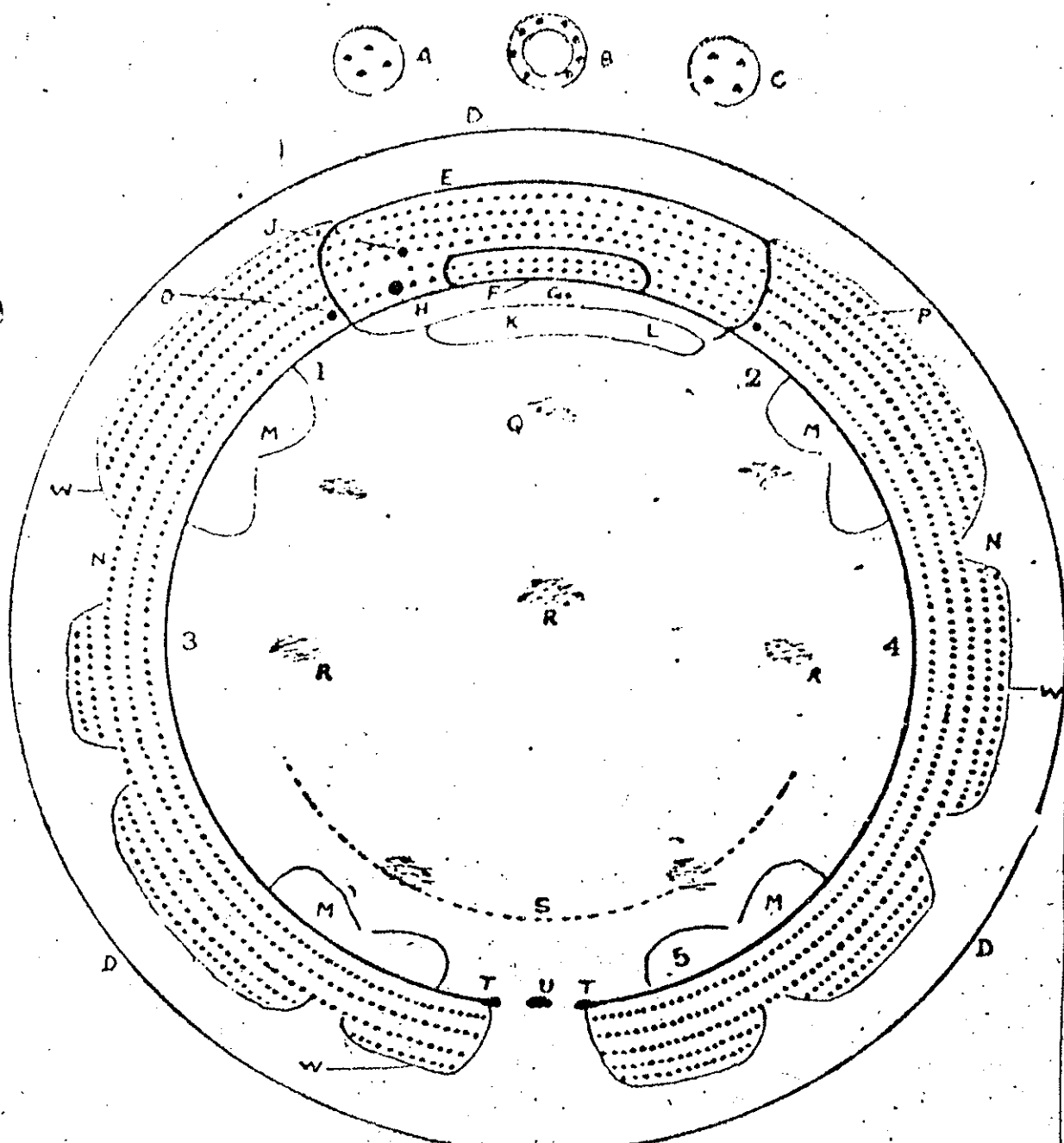


# KEY

1. Administration and "Feeshuis"
2. Parking and access to uMgun-gundlovu
3. Temporary fence surrounding the reconstructed huts
4. Position of the black isigodlo
5. Position of the white isigodlo
6. Position of original outer fence
7. uHlangoti (warrior area)
8. Isibaya ezinkhulu (Great cattle enclosure)
9. Cattle enclosures
10. Middens
11. Probable position of uMvazana homestead
12. uBheje homestead
13. Probable position of the Kwa-Mbecini homestead - also the position where a copper smith's site was found
14. Singonyama (Lion Hill)
15. Grain pits
16. Main entrance
17. Probable position of KwaNkata (Place of execution)
18. Grave of Nkosinkhulu
19. KwaMatiwane: Retief's grave and Monument
20. Hlomo amabutho
21. Owen's camp

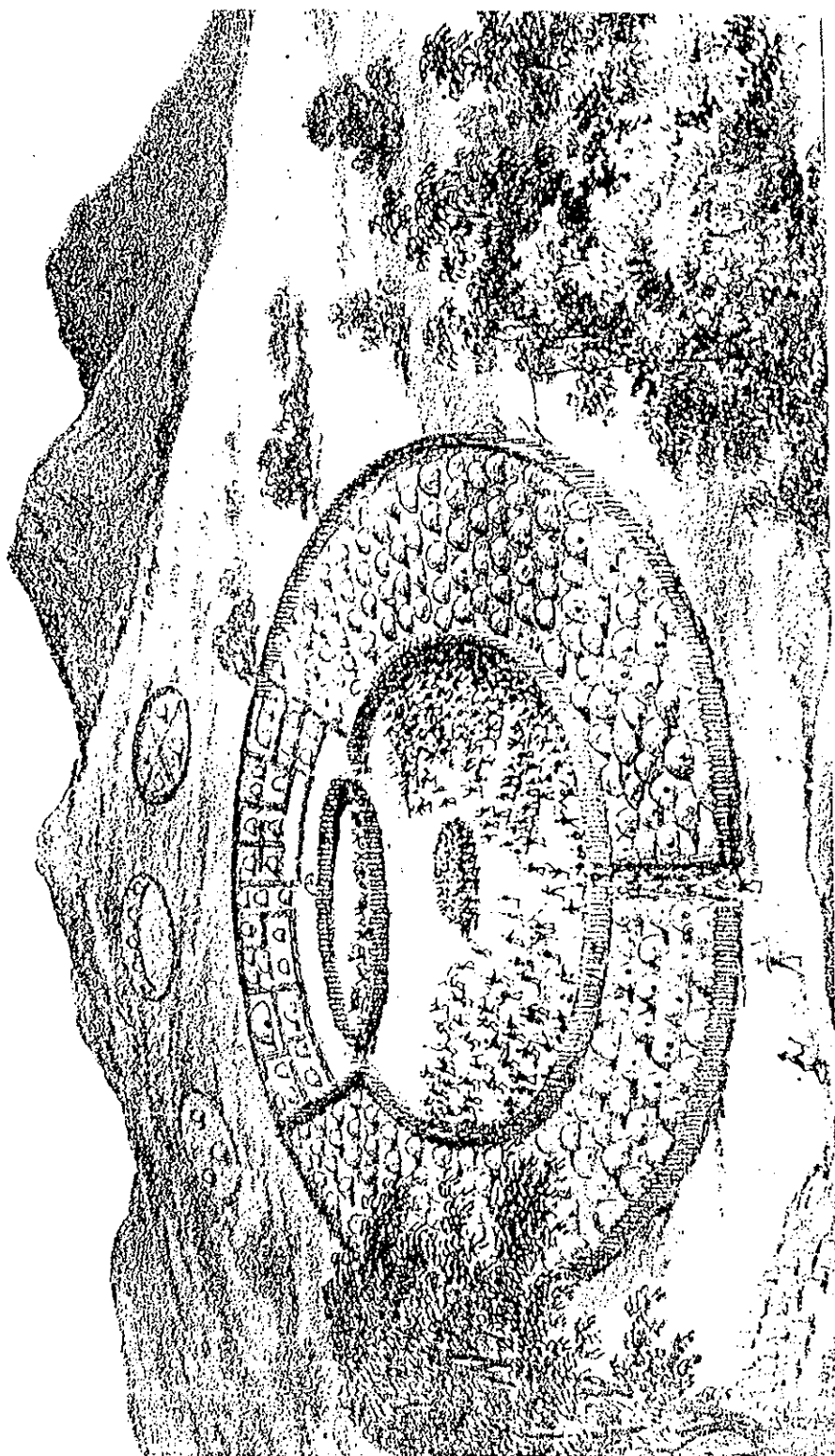
James Strat's map

10



EMGUNGUNDHLOVU.

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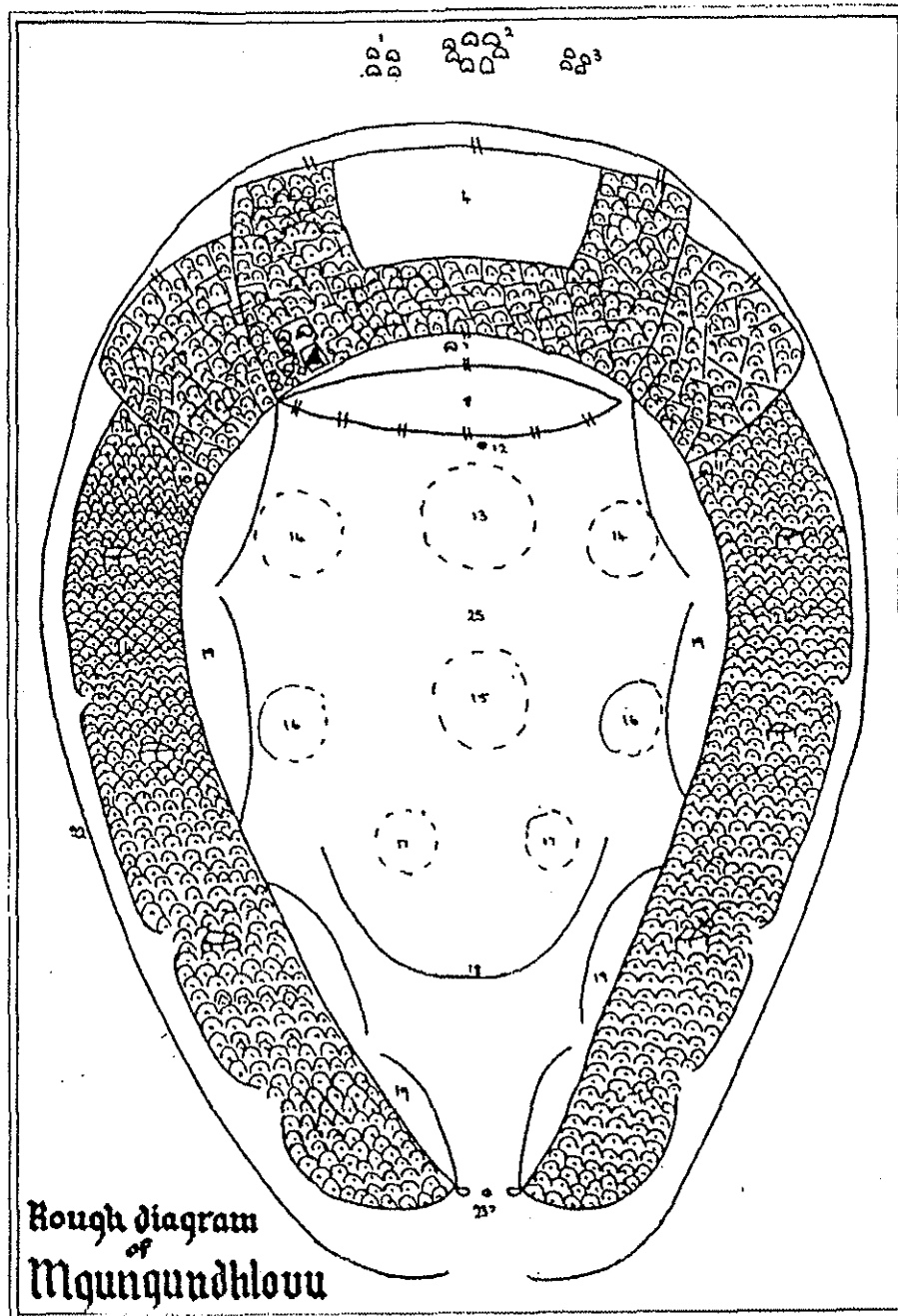
Dingaan's Kraal

Taken from an illustration in H.J. Hofstede's (junior) book "Geschiedenis van den

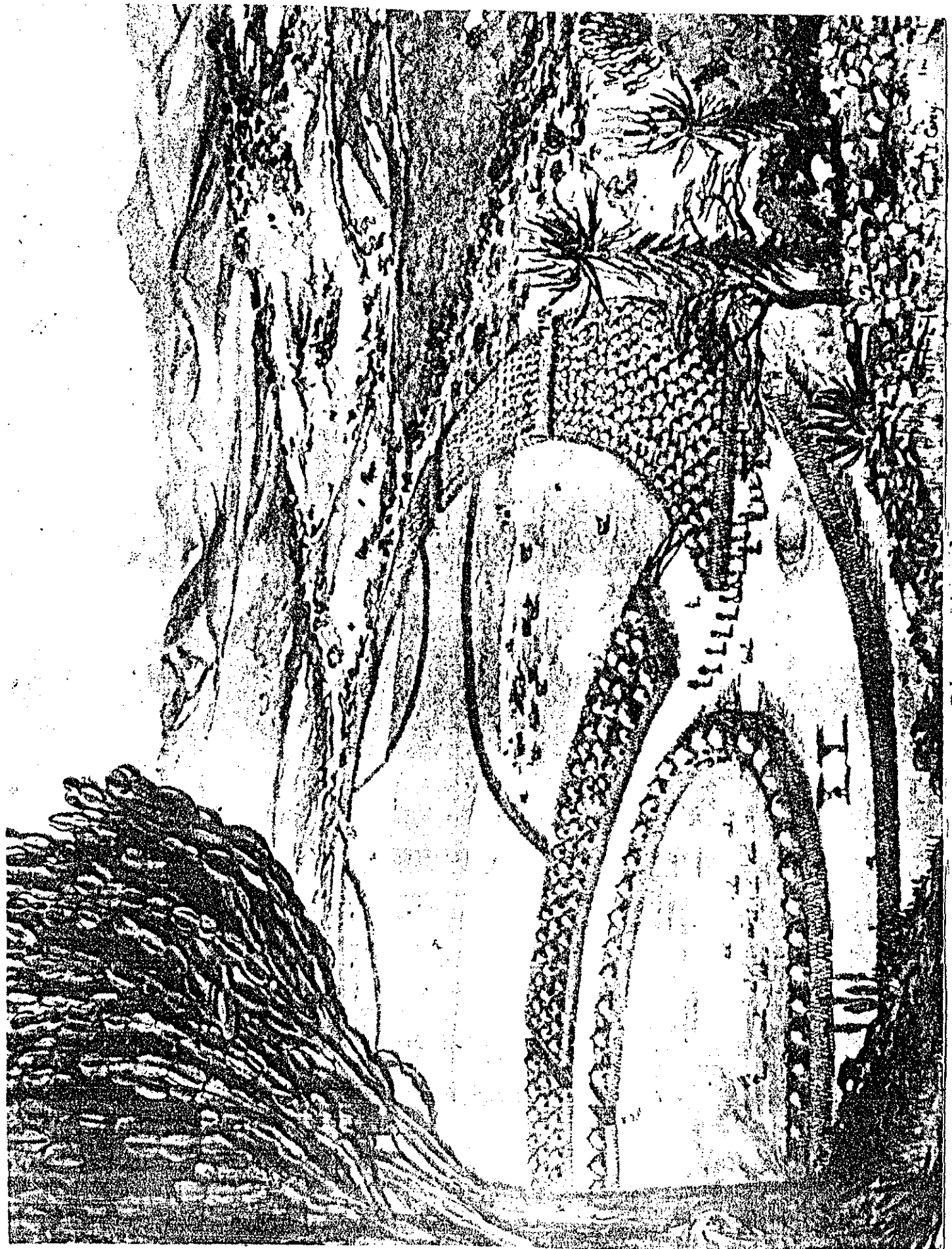
Oranje-Vrystaat" 1876.

Umgungundhlovu.  
Taken from Captain A.F. Gardiner's book "Narrative of a journey to the Zoolu  
Country in South Africa."





Wendy E. Cubbin

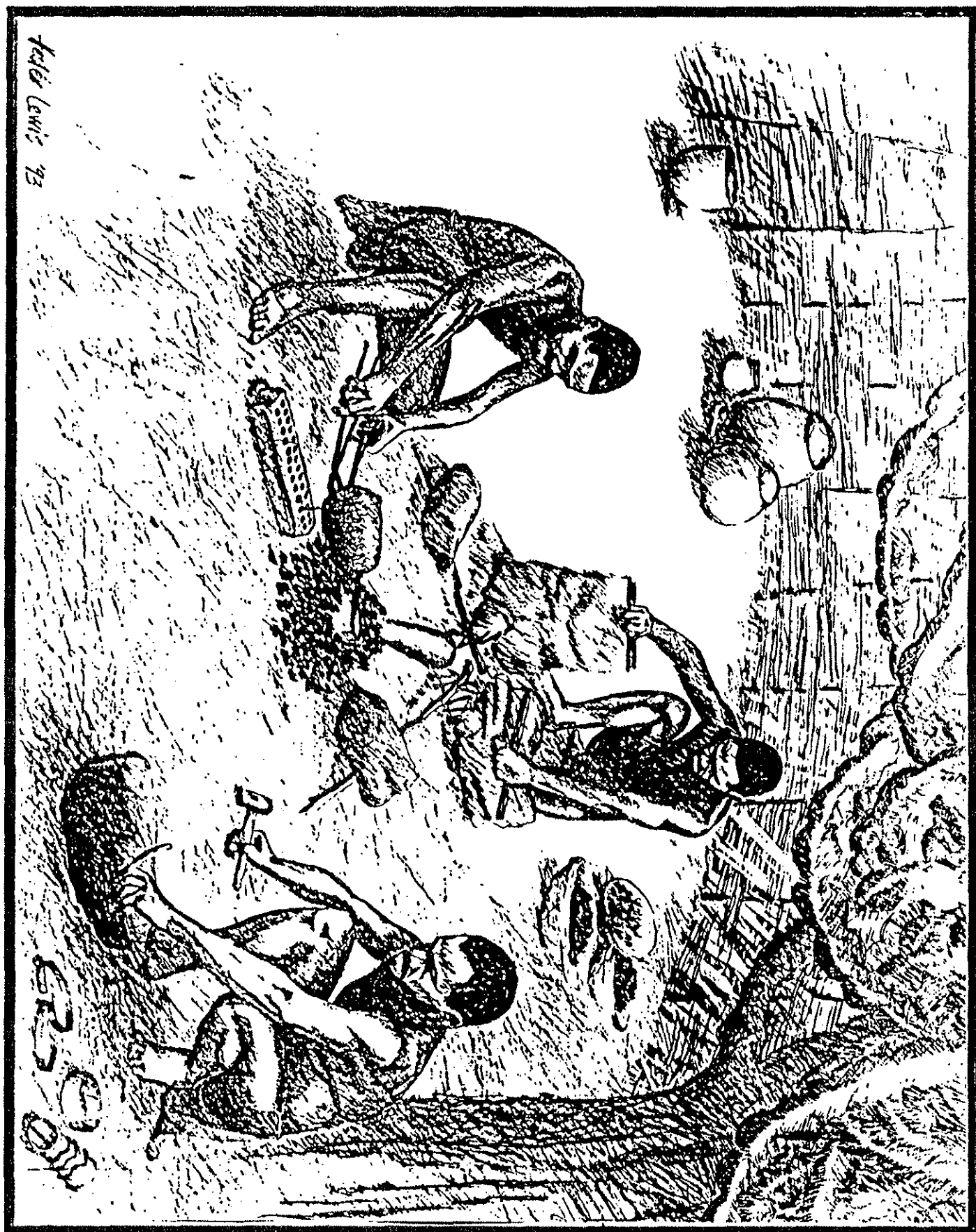


Dingaanskraal

From a painting by Margaret Carver done under the direction of

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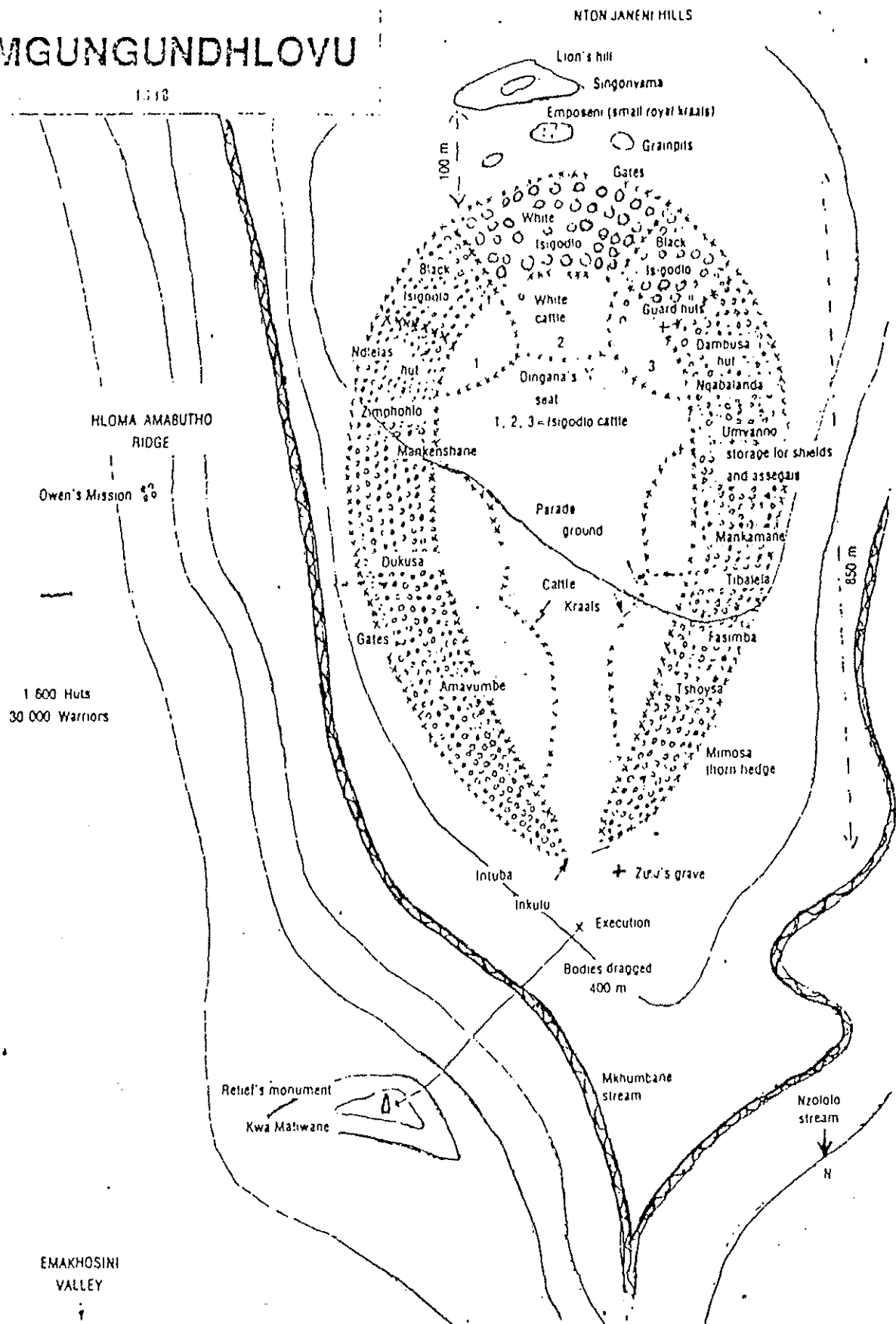


Reconstruction of Coppersmiths at work. Reconstructed from excavated area at Mgunundlovu.



# UMGUNGUNDHLOYU

1818



Rekonstruksie van <sup>A.E.</sup>Cubbin  
1

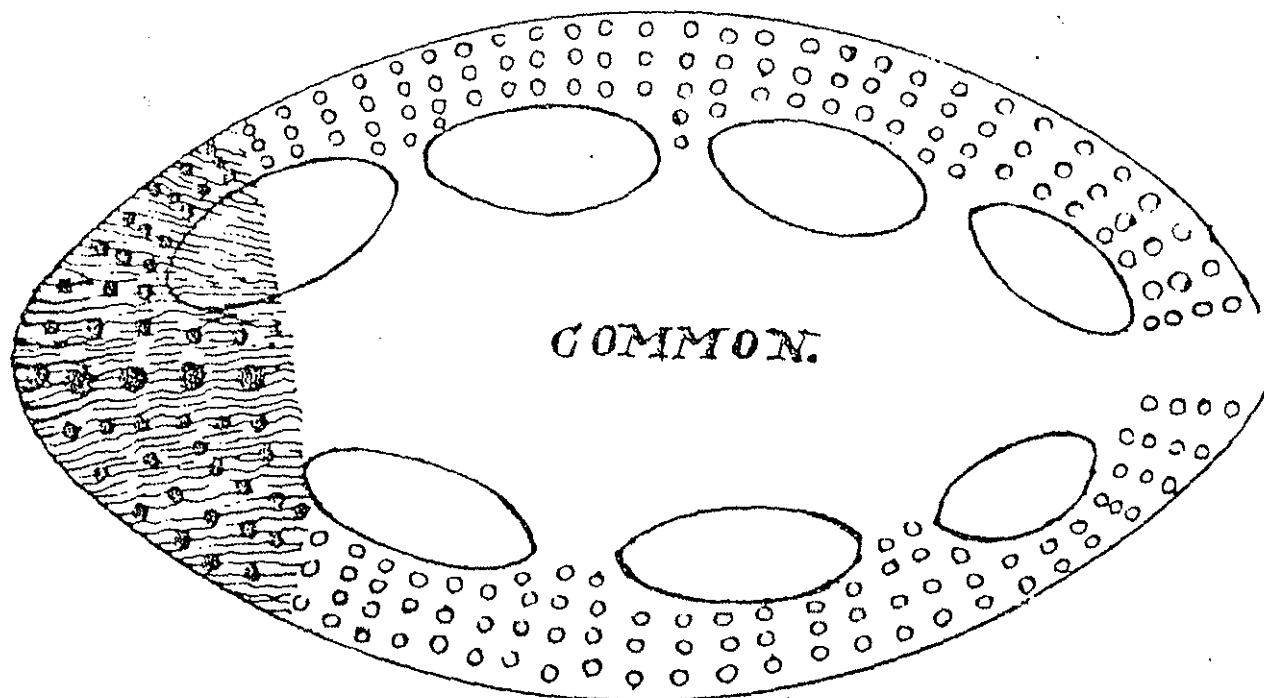


Fig. 2. Champion's plan of Mgungundlovu. *Rev. George Champion*

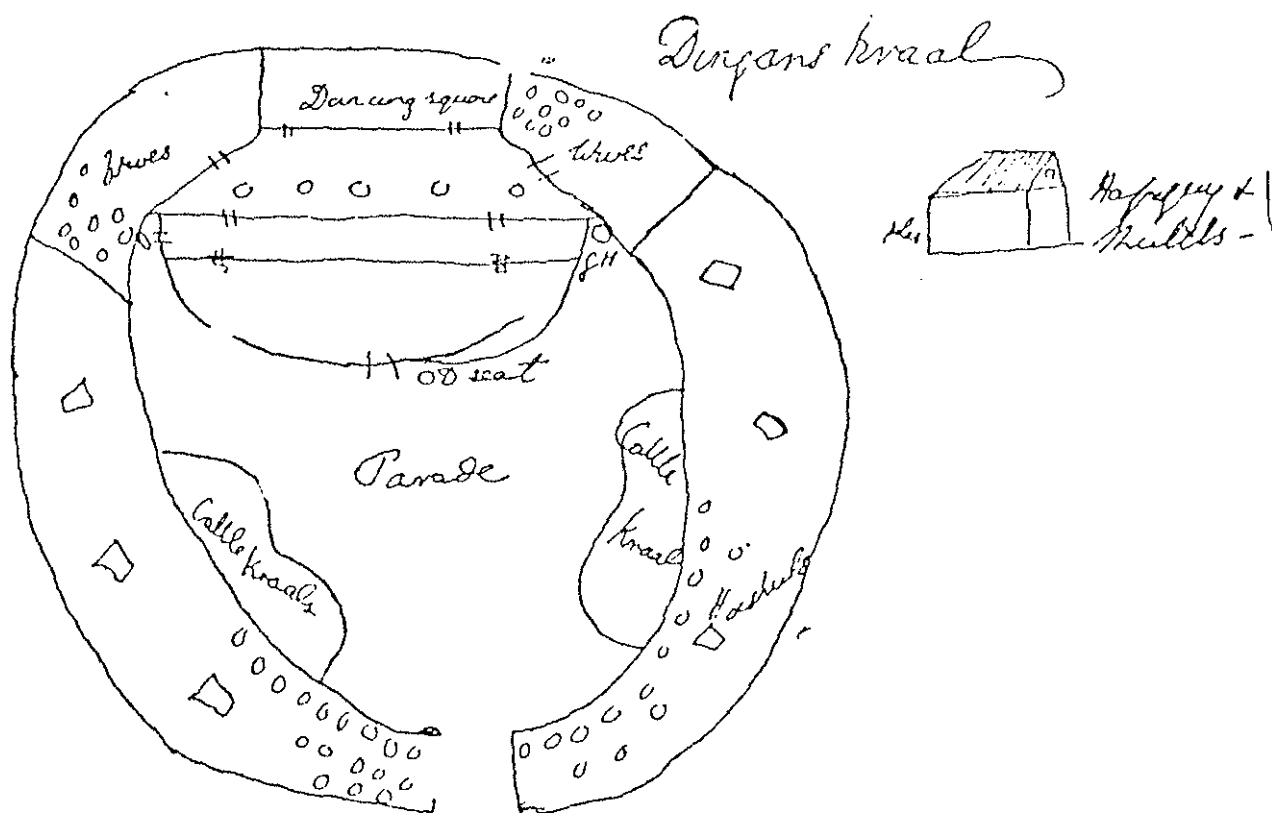


Fig. 3. Smith's plan of Mgungundlovu.

#### CONTEMPORARY DESCRIPTIONS

During the first few years of occupation Dingane was visited by the traders Fynn (Stuart & McMalcolm 1969) and Isaacs (1970); both of them have left descriptions of their visits, though not including plans or drawings of the site. Dingane witnessed a build-up

of interest in his territory marked by the arrival at Mgungundlovu of missionaries from 1835 onwards, followed in 1837 by settlers interested in occupying part of his land. The missionaries Gardiner (1966), Champion (Booth 1967) and Owen (Cory 1926) left useful but fragmentary descriptions and drawings of

Information for tour :

Contents :

- ① Pamphlet
- ② Some historic sites in the Mumbi area  
by R. Rawlinson
- ③ A brief outline of the history of S.E. Africa  
by R. Rawlinson.

artillery and cavalry. The outcome restored the reputation of Chelmsford and the British Army after their defeat at Isandlwana. Modern research, however, indicates that despite the defeat of the Zulu army at Ulundi, Zulu resistance continued, forcing the British to negotiate a peace settlement.

#### *Nodwengu and King Mpande's grave*

Nodwengu was King Mpande's *ikhanda* (royal residence and military barracks) up to the time of his death in 1872. He was buried in the upper part of the *ikhanda* between the cattle pen and the *isigodlo* or royal area. Nodwengu itself would have been considerably larger than the fenced area of today.

THE EMAKHOSINI AREA - the 'place of kings' is the original heartland of the Zulu people.

#### *Mgungundlovu and related sites*

Mgungundlovu was built by King Dingane in 1829 and it remained his capital until its destruction by the Voortrekkers in 1838. It is the best preserved of all the royal *amakhanda* and much the same shape and size as *Ondini*. It is a National Monument and open to the public. Close to the entrance is the grave of *Nkosiinkulu* (2) regarded as the founding ancestor of the Zulu royal lineage.

Just across the Mkhumbane stream is the hillock *Kwa Matiwane* (3) the place of execution, and the *Retief monument* where Piet Retief and his party of Voortrekkers were executed on King Dingane's orders in 1838. Further up this ridge is the site of the mission established by Owen who was present at the time of Retief's death. The present mission station, built on the same spot, contains a small museum (4) that can be visited on request.

#### *Mthonjaneni (5)*

The spring, which is a National Monument, was reserved for the use of King Dingane. *Mthonjaneni* was also the scene of several other historic events. On 29 June 1879 Chelmsford's forces laagered here but did not fortify the position. On 29 January 1883 King Cetshwayo was restored to a portion of his kingdom in a ceremony held nearby.

The first British invasion under Chelmsford was halted by the Zulu victory at Isandlwana in January 1879 but the second invasion, later that year, was successful for the British, and King Cetshwayo was taken into exile. In 1883 he was restored to a portion of a fragmented country torn by civil war. He died the following year and was succeeded by his young son Dinuzulu. Attempts to hold the remnant of the Zulu Kingdom together and maintain its independence failed when Boers from the Transvaal took over a large part of the inland areas as the Nieuwe Republiek and Britain annexed the remainder in 1887.

#### HISTORIC SITES ON THE ULUNDI PLAINS

##### *Ondini*

King Cetshwayo's residence and capital of the Zulu Kingdom 1872-1879. This large circular complex housed people of status in the upper portion (now being restored) and several thousand warriors at the sides. The central area contained cattle and was also used for large assemblies. It was in many ways typical of the *amakhanda* (military barracks often combined with royal residence) that characterized the Zulu Kingdom from King Shaka's time. *Ondini* and several other *amakhanda* in the neighbourhood were burnt down by the British army on the 4 July 1879 after the battle of Ulundi.

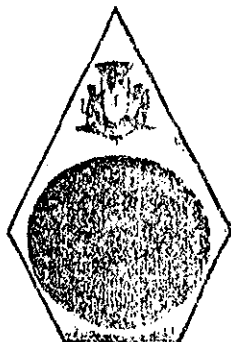
The KwaZulu Monuments Council is at present concentrating its efforts on the restoration of parts of *Ondini* and the construction of a large cultural centre beside it. This will include an exhibition on *Ondini*, to be opened during 1983. In future years a museum, arena and lecture hall will be added.

One kilometer further along the road to Umfolozi Game Reserve is the site of King Cetshwayo's last *Ondini* residence. It was built in 1883 and destroyed the same year by Zibhebhu during the civil war. The site is marked by a large euphorbia tree beside the road.

##### *Ulundi Battlefield* (No. 1 on map)

In the last battle of the 1879 Anglo-Zulu War the British fought off Zulu attacks from a classic square position of infantry supported by  
/artillery ...

## KWAZULU MONUMENTS COUNCIL



### SOME HISTORICAL SITES IN THE ULUNDI AREA

#### A BRIEF OUTLINE OF ZULU HISTORY

Black people, the first in southern Africa to live in settled villages with a mixed agricultural way of life and a knowledge of metals, entered the present region of KwaZulu and Natal before AD 300. From 1552 onwards the first written reports, from Portuguese shipwrecks, tell us of Nguni-speaking people (ie. of the Zulu-Xhosa-Swazi-language group) living in relatively small, independent chiefdoms. A struggle to build up larger political and economic units developed after 1750 and culminated in the establishment by King Shaka of the Zulu Kingdom, embracing the whole of Natal-KwaZulu and beyond. Prior to this the Zulu under King Shaka's father, Senzangakhona, had control over a relatively small area of the White Mfolozi valley.

In 1828 King Shaka was assassinated by his brother Dingane who took over and ruled the Kingdom. King Dingane's attempts to repel the Voortrekkers in 1838 failed, and in 1840 his brother Mpande, allied with the Trekkers, forced him to retreat northwards where he too was assassinated.

In 1843 Britain annexed the Trekker republic of Natalia as the colony of Natal and accepted the Tugela-Buffalo line as the boundary with the Zulu Kingdom.

King Mpande kept a low political profile but the more forceful personality of his son Cetshwayo began to be felt after 1856 when he was accepted as the successor. Cetshwayo succeeded as King after his father's death in 1872 and his reorganisation of the Kingdom began to awaken fears among the Natal colonists, who were also anxious for more land and cheap labour.

Historic sites in the Ulundi area  
by.

Rob Rawlinson.





Welcome to ONDINI and the KwaZulu Cultural Museum. ONDINI, King Cetshwayo's Royal Residence is on the Mahlabathini plain and near the eMakhosini valley, where many Zulu Kings lived, and lie buried; including Nkosinkulu the first in the Royal Dynasty to move to this part of KwaZulu and from whom the Zulu nation take their name.

There were four Kings in the old Kingdom. King Shaka (1816 - 1828), King Dingane (1828 - 1840), King Mpande (1840 - 1872) and King Cetshwayo (1872 - 1879). This period saw the rise and consolidation of the Zulu State which unified the clans in South East Africa under a single power. The Kings lived in barracks in numerous centers established throughout the country. By King Cetshwayo's time there were some 25 Royal military homesteads over half of which were to be found

on the Mahlabathini plain with Ondini as the capital.

During 1980 the KwaZulu Monuments Council was established to consolidate the recording and prehistoric sites in KwaZulu. They were also charged with the task of establishing a Cultural Museum. From the outset the investigation and reconstruction of parts of ONDINI as an outdoor museum was a priority. In October 1981 work began. Firstly the original floors in the Royal Quarters were uncovered. Nearly sixty have already been exposed. This was followed by the location of palisades, screens, middens, activity areas and other salient features that would have been part of the capital. Almost simultaneously the reconstruction programme was launched. Although the work at ONDINI is far from complete, the shape and design of the upper area is already clearly visible.

ONDINI originally consisted of some 1500 beehive structures covering an area of over 35 hectares. It was laid out in the traditional manner with the King and the Royal House, occupying the upper "Chest" area while the warriors occupied the two

arms that surround the central parade ground. It was in this parade ground that the King would have inspected his troops, attended national gatherings and festivals or met the senior men of the Kingdom. The population of ONDINI could have been as high as 5,000.

The Museum's immediate policy is to continue the reconstruction of ONDINI and to unravel the dynamics of the capital. Ultimately some 100 beehive structures will be built and the outer palisade replaced. At the same time the recording and development of other sites will continue. Finally, the museum places a high priority on an education programme where the museum work will be brought to attention of schools and the public.

Three British army forts, two in the plantation behind the farmhouse and one across the road near the sawmill were built in 1887-8.

Permission is required to visit them.

*Siklebheni 1 and Senzangakhona's grave (6)*

Siklebheni was the Zulu capital and the burial place of King Shaka's father Senzangakhona. Little can be seen here today apart from the grave itself.

*Grave of King Dinuzulu c. 1867-1913 (7)*

He was buried on the site of Nobamba the old royal *ikhanda* on the Mphembeni stream.

*Fort Nolela (8)*

Built 2 days before the battle of Ulundi on 2nd July 1879, it is of stone and is roughly rectangular in plan with one corner cut off. Access is via a road just south of the bridge crossing the Mfolozi but permission to visit the site should be obtained.

*Fort Victoria (9)*

An earthwork built on 9th August 1879, it is at the moment inaccessible and in heavily overgrown country.

*Kwa Gqokli (10)*

This hill was the scene of the decisive battle where King Shaka defeated the Ndwandwe of King Zwide and thus greatly enlarged the Zulu kingdom. As yet the site is not marked.

SITES FURTHER AFIELD

*Nqabeni Iron Age Site (11)*

This is a ruined stone settlement belonging to the time before King Shaka. Nqabeni was probably built by the Khumalo people. It has been excavated by the Natal Museum archaeology department, and the Kwa-Zulu Monuments Council hope to restore it in 1983.

### *Isandlwana and related sites*

The scene of the famous Zulu victory over the British army on 22 January 1879, it is well laid out with a small museum and model of the battlefield. Several monuments to the fallen are on the slopes below.

### *Mabaso (12)*

In the valley east of this hill the Zulu Army camped before the battle.

### *Itusi Hill (13)*

From the toposcope here there is a good view of the battlefield.

### *Rorke's Drift (14)*

A mission station built in 1876, it was used by the British army in 1879 as a base for the first invasion of Zululand.

It was attacked on 22/23 January 1879 by the Zulus immediately after Isandlwana but, following close fighting, the attack was repulsed.

The African crafts centre at the mission station is well worth a visit.

### *Fort Melvill (15)*

This fort was built of earth and stone between March and May 1879 to replace the mission station as a base. It overlooks Rorke's Drift crossing and it is accessible from the mission station.

FOLLOWING THE INLAND ROUTE OF THE SECOND BRITISH INVASION OF ZULULAND IN 1879 ARE THE FOLLOWING:

### *Site of the Prince Imperial's Death (16)*

Prince Louis Napoleon of France, only son of Napoleon III, last emperor of France, was killed in a skirmish on 1 June 1879. Plans are being made to improve the rough access road.

### *Fort Newdigate (17)*

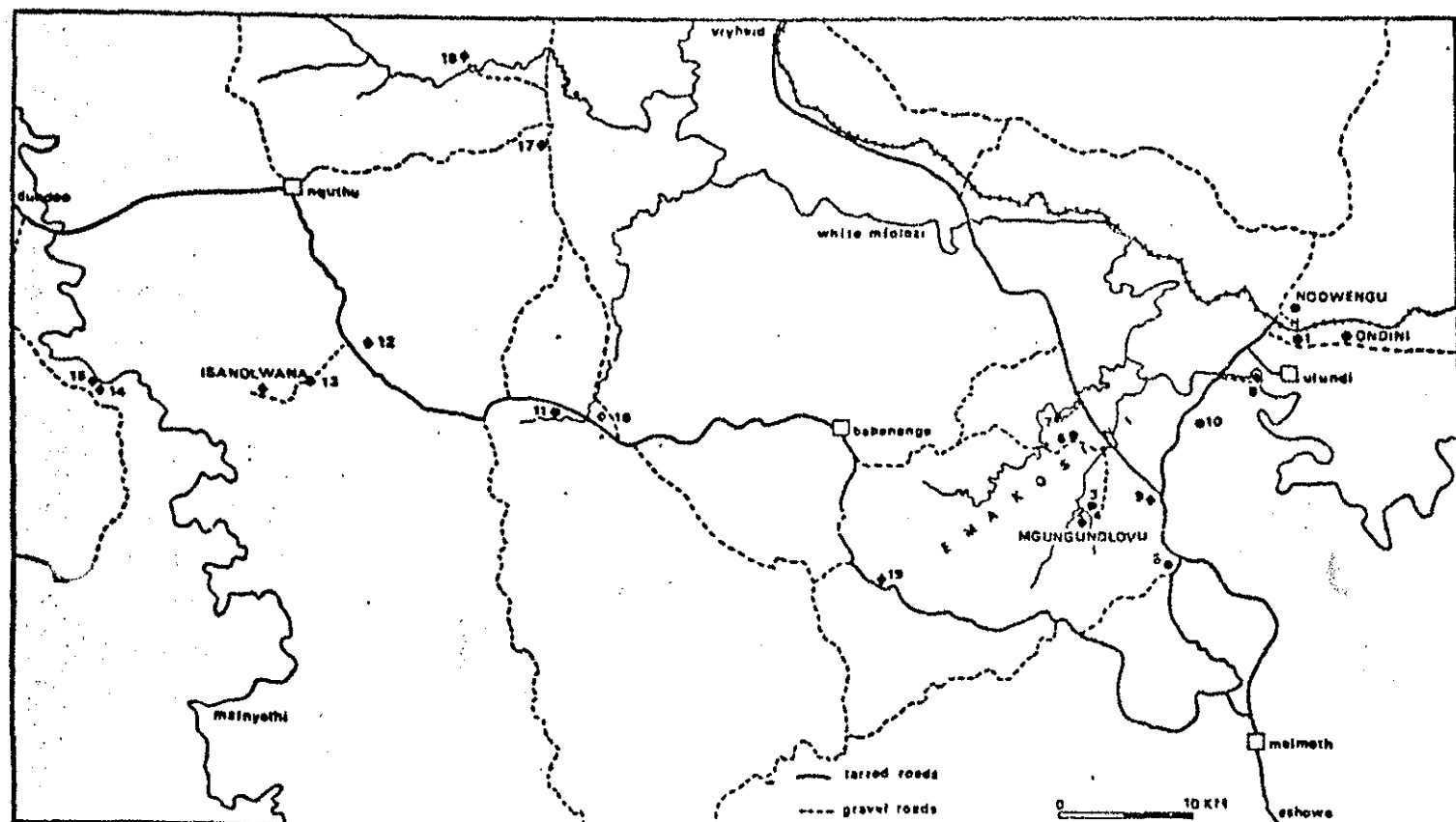
Built on 6th June 1879, along the line of the second advance into Zululand. It consists of 2 stone forts which are close to the road, so access is easy.

*Fort Marshall (18)*

Built on the 18th June 1879, it is a well preserved earthwork fort consisting of 2 adjacent pentagons. It is close to the Babanango/Nquthu Road and freely accessible.

*Fort Evelyn (19)*

Built on 23rd and 24th June 1879, it is an earthwork in the form of an asymmetrical pentagon. Situated beside the Babanango/Melmoth road it is not well preserved and permission is required from the owner.



Historical Excursion  
conducted

by  
Rob Rawlinson.  
April 1986.

PROGRAMME : HISTORICAL EXCURSION

- 09.00 : ARRIVAL  
WELCOME AND OUTLINE OF EXCURSION  
TOUR OF MUSEUM
- 10.00 : TEA
- 10.30 : DEPART FOR ULUNDI BATTLEFIELD
- 11.15 : DEPART FOR NODWENGU
- 11.45 : DEPART FOR FORT NOLELA
- 12.30 : LUNCH AT FORT NOLELA
- 13.15 : DEPART FOR KWAQGOKLI
- 13.45 : DEPART FOR EMAKHOSINI TO VIEW SEVERAL EARLY  
ZULU KING'S GRAVES
- 15.30 : MGUNGUNDLOVU AND PIET RETIEF MONUMENT

A BRIEF OUTLINE OF THE HISTORY OF SOUTH EAST AFRICA

R.J.C. RAWLINSON



The following outline of the history of South East Africa does not pretend to be an exhaustive summary of the events, sites or places of historical importance to this part of Africa. Neither is it intended to be a technical or academic document but hopefully allows the reader, in a few minutes, to grasp the overall sequence of events and in the later period, to become familiar with some of the more important personalities that effected the course of events.

In the short period of time it took to put this article together I request it be treated merely as a draft and therefore to excuse the many grammatical, spelling and other errors that are evident in the script.

R. RAWLINSON

APRIL 1986

## INTRODUCTION

The prehistory of South East Africa (which includes the modern political entities of Natal and KwaZulu) is exceptionally rich with a long sequence of human occupation going back for at least  $\frac{1}{2}$  a million years. The abundance of handaxes and other large cumbersome tools fashioned by early man, as well as the small delicate lithic implements of the more recent Khoi San (Bushman) hunter gatherers testify to this. Probably the most well known site of the earlier period is that of Border Cave at Ingwavuma where skeletal material dated to over 100,000 years ago is associated with stone and wooden tools, food remains, bedding and possibly one of the earliest indications of ritual burial.

The later period of the stone age, from about 30,000 or 40,000 years ago, has probably received most attention by archaeologists. The highly efficient, mobile and versatile Khoi San inhabitants of this region at that time exploited the full spectrum of the environmental resources at their disposal. Cultural debris from their activities can be found from the Marine environment right up to the mountains. The Khoi San also left a Legacy of literally thousands of magnificent rock paintings which are found throughout the region but especially on the rock faces and cave walls of the Drakensberg.

Somewhere around 200 A.D. the archaeological record shows the advent of a pioneering people entering the area with a very different life style and technology. They kept domesticated animals (cattle, sheep, goat and dog), practiced agriculture, possessed a knowledge of smelting, metal working and ceramics. They had also established a more sedentary way of life living in more substantial villages probably grouped along Kinship lines. There is no doubt that these early farmers are the direct ancestors of the Nguni speaking people who inhabit South East Africa today.

Although the economy of the early farmers depended fairly heavily on hunting and gathering to supplement their diet (this is borne out by the excavated contents of their rubbish dumps) their numbers must have been low enough for them to not effect the resources of the indigenous Khoi San to any great extent. In fact, trade and contact with subsequent exchange of ideas probably benefitted both groups and they probably co-existed quite peaceably. For the first 600 or 700 years the new farmers populated the coastal flats and lowlands of the major river valleys and cultivated their crops on the rich alluvial soils found along the banks. As their population expanded, and access to environmental resources became more competitive they moved up onto the hills and grasslands. From about 1,000 A.D. then a new settlement pattern is apparant with villages/homesteads now being established along ridges as well as being somewhat smaller in size than those of the valley floor.

The population growth probably strained the relationship between the hunter gatherers and farmers and from about this time the Khoi San seem to be moving, no doubt reluctantly, to the more marginal areas like the mountains of the Drakensberg. But not only was there competition developing between the farmers and the Khoi San but also between the farmers themselves. As cattle were the backbone of the economy, grazing land soon became a source of friction between communities/clans. Towards the turn of the 18th century oral tradition describes numerous interclan disputes with sporadic raiding and occasionally pitched battles being fought.

Some of the larger clans, like the Mthethwa, Buthelezi, and Ndwandwe gained hegemony over numerous smaller clans but the political system remained essentially based on kinship. It

It was only the rise of King Shaka of the Zulu clan, a small community living between the White Umfolozi river and the Babanango hills, who united all the clans of most of South East Africa under one authority that the Zulu nation came into being and could be considered a state. The old Kingdom started by King Shaka in about 1815 lasted until 1879 when King Cetshwayo and the Zulu nation were defeated by the British in the Anglo Zulu War - a time span of some 60 years.

#### THE EARLY ZULU KINGS - HOMESTEADS AND GRAVES

1. LUZUMANE: Earliest known ancestor but where he lived or came from is not known.
2. MALANDELA: (Approximately 1600 - 1690)  
Son of Luzumane. After a nomadic existance settled in the Mhlatuze valley and built a homestead reputedly called "Odwini". Tradition claims it was at the foot of the Mandawe Hill not far from the present road bridge over the Mhlatuze in the Nkwalini valley. He probably settled there sometime around 1650 A.D.
3. QWABE AND ZULU: (Approximately 1630 - 1700)  
Sons of Malandela. Qwabe remained in the Eshowe area and formed the amaQwabe clan. Zulu moved with a small following North West and settled an area known today as Emakhosini - land between the White Umfolozi and the Babanango heights. The Zulu clan took their name from him so he should probably be recognized as the founding father.

The location of his homestead and grave is shrouded in mystery especially since a

person named "Nkosinkulu" is sometimes referred to as one and the same as Zulu - and two sites have been identified, one as the grave of Nkosinkulu. Weighing up all the available information it appears that Nkosinkulu and Zulu were one and the same person and a monument has been erected at the site of his grave. Zulu (Nkosinkulu) moved to the Emakhosini valley around 1690. The name of his homestead is not known.

4. PHUNGA: (Approximately 1660 - 1730)  
Son of Zulu. The name of his homestead is not known.
5. MAGEBA: (Approximately 1660 - 1745)  
Brother of Phunga. He took over as clan head as according to tradition Phunga died without a male heir. The name of his homestead is not known.
6. NDABA: (Approximately 1700 - 1760)  
Son of Mageba. The name of his homestead is not known.
7. JAMA: (Approximately 1730 - 1780)  
Son of Ndaba. His homestead was called NoBamba. It was at Nobamba that several important personalities in Zulu history were born. Besides Senzangakhona, other personalities like Mkabayi, Mawa and Mudli were born their and Mkabayi in particular features strongly in the subsequent history of the Zulu clan.
8. SENZANGAKHONA: (Approximately 1760 - 1860)  
Son of Jama. His homestead was called Esiklebeni but he only built his official residence sometime after inheriting the clan

leadership as he was a minor when Jama died. Mkabayi and Mudli acted as co-regents until his majority.

Although the location and names of the principal homesteads of most of the Zulu leaders from Zulu himself to Jama are not known, tradition demands that the head of the household is always buried towards the upper end of the cattle enclosure. One can assume then that the graves mark the location of the homesteads. Nevertheless, they are all situated in the Emakhosini valley and the whole area is an important historical site. Emakhosini means "the place of Kings".

9. KING SHAKA: (1789 - 1828)

Son of Senzangakhona. Born to Nandi, out of wedlock, of the Elangeni clan near Melmoth. Soon after he was born he moved to Esiklebeni his father's homestead but did not remain there for very long. While still a young boy he moved with his mother and sister back to her clan and then to the Mthethwa clan first under Jobe their leader and later under Dingiswayo, Jobe's son. It was while he was with the Mthethwa under Dingiswayo that he learnt and developed his military genius. On the death of Senzangakhona in 1816, and with the backing of Dingiswayo he took over the leadership of the Zulu clan.

10. BULAWAYO(NO 1): On assuming the leadership of the Zulu clan, Shaka kaSenzangakhona set about building a new capital for himself. It was situated on the present farm Koningskroon 447 on the ridge between the Matikwe and Mgodì streams and is visible from near the Ulundi turnoff from the Melmoth/Vryheid road.

This was the first of several of King Shaka's military homesteads but its size is unknown. It probably was a lot smaller though than those he built later.

11. BULAWAYO(No 2): Built in about 1820, it was on the Southern side of the Mhlathuze valley, a position more centrally situated in his expanding empire. KwaBulawayo No 2 was the first capital a Zulu leader had established outside the Emakhosini since the founding father Zulu(Nkosinkulu) had moved to near the Umfolozi over 200 years before.

It was also the first Zulu capital that White settlers and travellers visited (Henry Francis Fynn et al) and consequently has been described in some detail in those early diaries. Although nothing remains of this large complex, comprising some 1 400 beehive structures and housing several thousand people, a monument has been erected near the original site on the old road between Eshowe and Empangeni. (P 231)

12. DUKUZA: The third and last of King Shaka's great capitals started in November 1826 but only completed in 1827 stood where Stanger is today. It was probably the largest Zulu Capital ever built and comprized more than 2,000 beehive structures. In 1828 King Shaka was assisinated near Dukuza and the Capital was abandoned. Its remains were still visible some 30 years later but no attempt was ever made to demarcate its boundaries.

13. KING DINGANE: (1785 - 1840)  
Son of Senzangakhona, half brother to Shaka. Dingane was born at Esiklebeni and grew up at his father's homestead. After King Shaka assumed power, Prince (as he was then) Dingane



declared his loyalty to the new ruler and over the next 12 years remained in the background until the assassination of King Shaka by two of his brothers, Prince's Dingane himself and Mhlangana.

After several months of jostling for power and the murder of Prince Mhlangana, Prince Dingane ascended the throne. Mid way through 1829 the site for the new Royal Capital was selected and building began. King Dingane moved into Mgungundlovu towards the end of 1829 but the capital was only completed in 1830. In layout and design it was no different from King Shaka's principal homesteads but was probably smaller than Dukuza. King Dingane ruled from Mgungundlovu for his entire reign and only after his defeat by the Boers at the battle of Blood River did he evacuate the capital. When the Boers arrived on the 20th December, 1838 the complex was in flames. King Dingane became a fugitive. Prince Mpande another half brother of King's Shaka and Dingane, seized the opportunity to oust King Dingane during this period and after a fierce battle between the opposing brothers forces at Maqonqo near present day Mkhuze, King Dingane was defeated. He fled to the Ubombo mountains where he was assassinated. King Mpande then took over the Kingship.

14. KING MPANDE: (1800 - 1872) half brother to Kings Shaka and Dingane, son of Senzangakhona.

On assuming the Kingship he set to building his principal Homestead, Nodwengu, in 1841.