

Gbla Wolo Katoo, Sarbie¹

Gbla Wolo Katoo holds the position of Ankobeahene. There are two subhouses of the family in Sarbie: Krɔchia; and Katoo Ble. They perform all rites in common with the main house.

The Ankobeahene is one of the Kingmakers. Formerly, in times of war, the Ankobeahene and his people moved together with the Benkumhene. During the time of Paramount Chief Yaw Sielɔngɔ, one of the Gbla Wolo ancestors was very obedient to the paramount stool. The man, named Kotoki, represented Nana Yaw Sielɔngɔ at meetings in Kumasi and other places. This convinced the paramount chief to confer the powers of Ankobeahene on the house. The first man to serve as Ankobeahene was Kotoki's successor, San Kofi. The House now counts itself worthy of representing the paramount chief outside the area.

The ancestor of Gbla Wolo Katoo, a leader named Sie Hene, came to this area with Kralɔngɔ. Sie Hene was a friend to Kralɔngɔ. The ancestors of the house first settled at Makala, then moved around with the Nafanas throughout the numerous wars until they finally came to settle at Bui. When peace prevailed, each group started looking for good land on which to settle and farm. Their leader chose to settle at a spot near the Tombɛ River in the vicinity of Makala. The site is today known as Gbla Wolo Kataa. The people later found that the place was not fertile enough to support farming, so they moved to the Sarbie area. This was during the time of Bandahene Yaw Sielɔngɔ.

The ancestral leaders of Gbla Wolo Katoo were close friends with the leaders of the other Katoo in Sarbie, Tapanwolo Katoo. These families moved together even before coming to Sarbie. It was one of the Tapanwolo people who found the present site of occupation while on a hunting expedition. Before the white man came, the people of Sarbie lived at Sarbie Kataa (downslope from the present settlement on the Tombe). While living there, Gbla Wolo Katoo lived in a separate area from the Tapanwolo people. The white man came and wanted them to lay the town out in lanes or streets, so they moved their village to its present spot. Now the Gbla Wolo and Tapanwolo houses are interspersed.

It was the man Haɛɛ who led the family to establish Sarbie. He was the first chief to die in Sarbie. Kotoki acted as a regent for the paramount chief at the time of Bandahene Yaw Sielɔngɔ--thus he was acting in the capacity of Ankobeahene although the title did not come until his successor. Kotoki was the man who provided the stool regalia--the umbrella, swords and palanquin.

Male Heads of Family

1. Siehene
2. Sanye
3. Sie Telli
4. Hahɛɛ
5. Kotoki Kwadwo
6. SanKofi (first Ankobeahene))
7. Sienyono
8. Sie Jininge (Ankobeahene in 1986)

Female Heads of Family

1. Chakpɔɔ
2. Amma Tɔpi
3. Adwo Lookolo
4. Abena Ble
5. Kupo Fili
6. Chamɛ Donkor
7. Amma Ble

Interview conducted 15 August 1986 with Nana Sie Jininge (Ankobeahene); Ha Yaw; Sie Yaw Bediako; Asoma Kramo; Siedu; Kwaku Frimpong; Kwasi Wankyi.

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