

**A CHRONOLOGY
OF THE HISTORY OF
ACADEMIC EDUCATION IN CAMEROON
1844-1940**

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- 1841: New Year's Day. Arrival of Dr. G. K. Prince and Rev. John Clarke of the English Baptist Mission, at Clarence, Island of Fernando Po. A school started.
- 1842: Baptist school, Clarence: over 70 pupils.
- 1844: Reverend Joseph Merrick, a Jamaican, of the English Baptist Mission, Clarence arrives at Bimbia. Opens **first school** in Cameroon, in the house of English trader, Mr. Cooper and with permission of King "William of Bimbia". Mrs. Clara Cooper (of the Subu tribe) has son, Mr. Richard Kofele Njuma Ngomba Cooper, who becomes the **first** Cameroonian school teacher.
- 1844: Rev. Alfred Saker, of the English Baptist Mission arrives at Douala. Is given permission by King Bell and King Akwa to start a mission.
- 1845: Rev. Alfred Saker opens school at Bethel Mission Douala; the **second** school in Cameroon.
- 1846: New Year's Day. Draft of **first** school book in a Cameroon language (Douala) is completed by Saker.
- 1847: Over 260 pupils at Bethel Mission School, Douala. Over 30 Cameroon assistant teachers trained "in service" by Saker.
- 1848: Arrival of **first** printing press in Cameroon. At the "Jubilee Mission" of Merrick, at Bimbia.
- 1849: King Bell of Douala's request for "someone to teach his children" (Request made to Saker).

- 1856: The printing press from Bimbia now at Douala. Rules of orthography of the Douala language (used for instruction in schools) now established.
- 1858: Spanish occupation of Fernando Po. With permission of King "William" of Bimbia, Saker moves English Baptist Mission to Amboises Bay (Ambas), founds Victoria, school started.
- 1859: Printing press established at Victoria. Rev. J. Dibbol and Rev. Pinnock arrive to take charge of school.
- 1862: Girls and boys school at Victoria (English Baptist). Over 60 pupils. Strong religious bias. **First** Bakweri tribe pupils:
PETER MOKOKO MOKEBA, (1)
David NANJIA CARR,
Samuel EYUM SAMAA.
- 1864: Main English Baptist Mission stations, each with schools at Bethel (Douala), Bell Town (Douala), and Victoria.
- 1869: Main English Baptist Mission stations, each with schools, at Dido's Town (Douala), Bell Town (Douala), Bethel (Douala), Akwa's Town (Douala), Hickory and Mortonville (Douala), Amboises Bay (Victoria), Baptist School **Bota**, opened on land given by George Luma Martin and school master, Charles Steane of Bimbia.
- 1870: Bimbia Baptist Station and school abandoned, as « unhealthy, savage and difficult ».
- 1872: Saker's completion of translating the Bible into the Douala language.
- 1873: Two new English Baptist schools opened: Bonjongo (8 miles from Victoria) under Rev. Quintin Thomas. Mapanja, up the mountain from Bonjongo, under Mr. Stephen Burnley (Son of one of the Jamaican Missionaries) and Mr. Richard Kofele Cooper.
- 1875: **American Baptist** Missionaries in first arrival in Cameroon from the Gabon visit the English Baptist Missions, at Douala. Agree with Saker on usefulness (widespread) of the Douala language.

1) Grand-father of Peter Mukoko Mokeba - Assistant Editor of Abbia.

- 1879: English Baptist School at Banga (43 miles inland), opened by Rev. C. H. Richardson. School attendance for Cameroonian Baptists' children now compulsory.
- 1881: Arrival of two English school teachers for Victoria. William Dixon and Carrie Comber. Victoria school now: 130 boys, 80 girls. Douala schools flourishing (Bethel).
- 1884: Cameroon **annexed** by Germany.
- 1885: Conference of Protestant Missionaries at Bremen: discussion on the Protestant Mission work in Cameroon. Over 360 school children in Baptist schools.
- 1886: **Withdrawal** of English Baptist Mission. First arrival of Basel Missionaries (German and Swiss) at Douala. German Governor Soden asks German Government for a teacher.
- 1886 - Native Baptist Church a split, not willing to join Basel -91: Mission.
- 1887: Arrival of Herr Christaller, first Government Education Officer, in Cameroon, arrives from Germany. Begins to study Douala and propose a German grammar.
- 1887: Arrival of Rev. Munz, as head of Basel Mission in Cameroon.
- 1888: Further disagreement between Basel Mission and Native Baptist Church, Opening of Government School, Douala. Opening of Government School, Victoria (under Rev. Joseph Wilson).
- 1889: Opening of Basel Mission Middle School, at Bethel (Bonaku), Douala.
- 1890: Basel Mission Middle School, Bonaku, moved to Bonabéri, opposite Douala. Formation of German Branch of American Baptist Missionary Society.
- 1891: Arrival of the Rev. Mr. Steffens at Victoria, first American Baptist Missionary to settle in Cameroon.
- 1892: Opening of Basel Mission School, Lobetal. German Pallotine Fathers established first Roman Catholic Mission at Wilimba-Bakoko near Douala.
- 1894: At request of German plantation owners, Pallotine Fathers establish Mission at Bonjongo.

- 1895: Roman Catholic Mission School, **Bonjongo**, first Roman Catholic Mission School in West Cameroon. (English Baptist School, having closed).
- 1896: 200 pupils at R. C. M. School Bonjongo. R. C. M. School, **Mapanja** opened (original Baptist School, closed earlier). R. C. M. Sisters' arrival at Bonjongo and Mapanja. Basel Mission Schools opened at Buea and inland at Nyasoso.
- 1897: First Basel Mission School **Inspector** appointed, (Rev. Schuler). Basel Mission Schools opened at Edea and at Bombe (both well-inland).
- 1898: Further split between American Baptist Mission, and Native Baptist Church. American Baptist Station established at Great Soppo near Buea.
- 1899: **First** Convent school for girls opened (at Bonjongo).
- 1903: Basel Mission station and school started in construction at **Bali** (under Rev. Ernst). First school in Bamenda Grassfields.
- 1904: Basel Mission School, Sak Bayeme opened.
- 1906: R. C. M. School, Ikassa (inland, near Ndiian plantations).
- 1907: Basel Mission School, Fouban opened. German R. C. M. School, Sasse for training teachers and catechists opened. German Governor Seitz calls first official Conference on Education in Cameroon at Douala. Representatives from all missions. Standards and curriculum (including German language) set. Compulsory attendance as far as possible.
- 1910: Government edict, if a mission School is to receive Government Aid (financial), the established curriculum must be followed.
- 1910: Government Agricultural School, Victoria, opened. Government Technical School (cabinet making, upholstery) opened at Buea. (Free training, but five year bond to Government).
Apart from the Basel Mission Middle School at Bonabéri, and the Teacher Training R. C. M. School at Sasse, first attempts to cater for primary school leavers.
- 1911: Basel Mission Schools, Bagam, Ndunge, opened.

- 1912: R. C. M. Fathers of the Sacred Heart open mission at Ossing, in Mamfe Division (first R. C. M. in Mamfe).
- 1913: Basel Mission Schools opened at Ndongbea and at Besong-Abang (first Basel Mission in Mamfe).
R. C. M. School at Shishong in Kumbo opened (first R. C. M. in Grassfields).
4 Government Schools: Victoria, Douala, Mamfe, and Buea: 833 pupils.
Mission Schools: 49,000 pupils.
- 1914: War declared: France and Britain at War with Germany. Departure of German R. C. M. Fathers and Sisters. Departure of German Baptist Missionaries (3 Americans remain).
Departure of Swiss Missionaries and internment of German Basel Mission.
- 1914: 27th September, 1914: Douala captured by French and British troops.
- 1915-
—22: No Resident Catholic Priest in West Cameroon.
- 1917: Paris Mission Protestants Missionaries arrive in Douala: to take over Basel Mission work in French Occupied Cameroon.
Basel Mission Missionary, R. Rhode, Australian departed. First Cameroon Basel Mission Pastor, ordained Rev. J. L. EKESE (of Bakweri Tribe).
- 1918: Bishop SHANAHAN'S Irek to abandoned Roman Catholic Mission stations and schools in British and French Occupied Cameroon.
- 1919-
—20: American Baptists take over work left by German Baptists and also the Native Baptist Church.
- 1922: R. C. M. congregations request to Resident, Buea, to Colonial Office, for Catholic Missionaries return: arrival of Rev. Fathers of St. Joseph's Missionary Society Mill Hill. Soppo Barracks given by Government. Found Sasse school operating under Mr. Mathias Effien (former, 1898, Bonjongo pupil). 4 stations, 4,000 R. C. M. school pupils.
- 1923: 1st R. C. M. Senior Primary School, Sasse.
- 1924: Permission by Government for return of Basel Missionaries.

- 1925: Basel Mission Missionaries arrive in Tiko: resume work in British Occupied Cameroon.
R.C.M. Sisters, of St. Joseph's re-opened, Bonjongo Convent School for girls.
- 1926: Government enforcement of Nigerian Education Department regulations.
- 1927: Basel Mission Girl's School, Victoria opened.
- 1928: Basel Mission School, Dikume opened (inland).
- 1929: Basel Mission opening of the **three first** B. M. primary schools with English as the language of instruction (formerly Douala).
- 1930: Basel Mission opening of school at Mbengwi (inland: Grassfields).
- 1931: Government enforcement of 2nd (Revised) Nigerian Education Department regulations.
- 1932: Basel Mission Schools at Kishong, Weh (S. P. at Bombe) opened.
- 1935: B. M. School, Bafut opened. Arrival of Sisters of the Tertiaries of St. Francis.
- 1937: **Second** R. C. M. Senior Primary School in West Cameroon opened, at Njinikom (Grassfields).
- 1939: **First** secondary school in West Cameroon founded: R. C. M. Sasse.
- 1940: (June) German Missionaries, Basel Mission and R. C. M. interned.



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