
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 Cameroonian language (Douala) is completed 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.


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 SAMA.

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 Baptist's children now compulsory.


1884: Cameroon annexed by Germany.


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 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.


1889: Opening of Basel Mission Middle School, at Bethel (Bonaku), Douala.


1891: Arrival of the Rev. Mr. Steffens at Victoria, first American Baptist Missionary to settle in Cameroon.


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 Nyassoso.


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).


1904: Basel Mission School, Sak Bayeme opened.

1906: R. C. M. School, Ikassa (inland, near Ndian plantations).

   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 Bonaberi, 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.
ABBIA

1912: R. C. M. Fathers of the Sacred Heart open mission at Ossing, in Mamfe Division (first R. C. M. 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.

1918: Bishop SHANAHAN’S trek 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.


1923: 1st R. C. M. Senior Primary School, Sasse.

1924: Permission by Government for return of Basel Missionaries.

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.


1937: Second R. C. M. Senior Primary School in West Cameroon opened, at Njinikom (Grassfields).


1940: (June) German Missionaries, Basel Mission and R. C. M. interned.
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