

SOGA Tiyo

1. This is a famous name in South African history. Soga was the first man to be ordained a Christian minister. He was born at Mgwali River, thirty miles from Kingwilliamstown, about 1829, one of thirtyeight children, his father having had eight wives. His mother Nosuthu was a Christian. He and his mother had to flee from Lovedale because of the Seventh Frontier War in 1846, and in that year he went to Scotland. He went there again in 1851, and in 1856 was ordained. He married a Scotswoman Janet Burnside and returned to South Africa.

Cartoon: The boy and his mother fleeing from War

2. Soga's prestige was great. He reconciled in an extraordinary way his Xhosa pride and his deep Christian belief. His Mgwali mission station was a model. When Sarili, paramoutn chief of the Gcaleka, asked for a missionary, Soga was sent to him. He established a church and school on the banks of the Tutura. He translated John Bunyan's PILGRIM'S PROGRESS into Xhosa, and large portions of the gospels.

Cartoon: Soga superintending the building of the Church on the Tutura

or Soga at the work of translation.

3. Soga died full of honour at the early age of forty two. He left four sons and three daughter; five of his children had studied in Scotland. His sorrowing people buried him in the orchard that he himself had planted.

Cartoon: Soga's burial in the orchard