

## **“A Sampling: Artefact, Document and Image”**

**Rev Dr Scott Couper**

**18 March 2015**

### **Forum for Schools and Archives AGM, 2015**

The American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Mission established Inanda Seminary in March 1869 as a secondary school for black girls. For a school to be established for black girls at this time was unheard of. It's founding was radical, as radical as its first principal, Mary Kelly Edwards, the first single female to be sent by the American Board to southern Africa. Many of South Africa's most prominent female leadership are products of the Seminary. Inanda Seminary produces pioneers:

Nokutela Dube, co-founder of Ohlange Institute with her husband the Reverend John Dube, first President of the African National Congress (ANC), attended the Seminary in the early 1880s. Linguists and missionaries Lucy and Dalitha Seme, sisters of the ANC's founder Pixley Isaka kaSeme, also attended the Seminary in the 1860s and 1870s. Anna Ntuli became the first qualified African nurse in the Transvaal in 1910 and married the first African barrister in southern Africa, Alfred Mangena. Nokukhanya Luthuli attended from 1917-1919 and taught in 1922 at the Seminary. Nokukhanya accompanied her husband, Albert Luthuli who was the ANC President-General and a member of the Seminary's Advisory Board, to Norway to receive the 1960 Nobel Peace Prize in 1961. Edith Yengwa also schooled and taught at the Seminary; she attended from 1940, matriculated in 1946, began teaching in 1948 and became the school's first black head teacher in 1966. The same year she left the Seminary for exile, joining her husband, Masabalala Yengwa, the Secretary of the Natal ANC. Lauretta Ngcobo attended the Seminary from 1950 to 1954; she continued her education and married the Pan-Africanist Congress activist Abednego (AB) Ngcobo with whom she went into exile in 1962. As an activist herself, Ngcobo was also an educator and author of feminist anti-apartheid novels. Many pioneering Inanda Seminary alumnae (also affectionately known as 'Old Girls') claim prestigious accomplishments without being historiographically overshadowed by the men with whom they were partnered. Evelyn Goba (attended 1890s) achieved the highest teachers' examination score and became, with four other Seminary alumnae, one of Natal's first state-certified African female educators. Sibusisiwe Makhanya (attended 1903-1910 and taught 1916-1923) became the first registered black female social worker and founder of the Bantu Purity League. Bertha Mkhize (attended from 1902-1905 at the age of 12 and taught from 1906-1911) paid her own *lobola* to her two brothers so she did not have to marry and was instrumental in organising 20 000 women to march on the Union Buildings against apartheid pass laws in 1956. Mkhize was also one of the defendants charged in the famous Treason Trial from 1956 to 1961. Emmeline Gumede (attended 1920-1921) became the first black female sub-inspector and inspector of schools. Mavis Mbambo (attended 1946-1950) became the first black woman to qualify as a medical doctor in 1958. Mate Mfusi (attended 1952-1953) became "the first South African Black woman to be buried with full military honors" as she contributed immensely to the liberation struggle as a *Mkhonto weSizwe* (MK) soldier. Mantombazana Tshabalala-Msimang (attended 1954-1957) became the deputy minister of justice and minister of health. Winnie Ngcobo-Emoungu (attended 1955-1959) became the first black female PhD in Clinical Psychology. Barbara Masakela (attended 1956-1960) became South Africa's ambassador to France and the United States of America and a director at Standard Bank. Daughter of Emmeline Gumede,

Lindiwe Baloyi (attended 1960-1964) became the first black director of Child Welfare. Baleka Mbete (attended 1967-1968) became deputy president of South Africa and speaker of the national parliament. Nonkululeko Nyembezi-Heita (attended 1973-1977) became the chief executive of Arcelor-Mittal, Africa's largest steel maker. Nozizwe Madlala-Routledge (attended 1966-1970) became the deputy minister of defence and health. Hixonia Nyasulu (attended 1968-1972) became the chair of Sasol and co-founder of Ayavuna Trust. Thandi Orleyn (attended 1973-1974) became the national director of the Independent Mediations Services of South Africa (later the Commission for Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration, CCMA). Nozipho Mxakato-Diseko (attended 1970-1975) became South Africa's ambassador to Slovenia, Croatia, Austria and the United Nations. Nombulelo Magula (attended 1984-1985) is the first Black female to become the Head of Medicine at University of KwaZulu-Natal's Nelson Mandela School of Medicine in Durban.<sup>1</sup>

With so many prominent alumnae, the school's museum and archive are national treasures. The Board of Governors envisioned the museum in 1999 and was founded in 2001 with the conversion of Lucy Lindley Hall (1897) as the repository. In 2009, I came to serve the school as the archivist and curator. Since 2009, the staff at the museum and archive have implemented a long and slow process of professionalising the interpretive centre. The school and the museum archive is a flagship site on the *Woza eNanda* heritage route and welcomes visitors and tourists on a daily basis. Because the school's history is so long and so rich, it is impossible to provide a tour of its contents. So, this afternoon, I will simply present to you 'a sample': an artefact, a document and an image.

#### **Artefact: The Lindley Trunk**

Daniel Lindley (1801-1880) with his wife, Lucy (1810-1877), journeyed to southern Africa in 1834. In southern Africa, they travelled overland from Cape Town to Griqua Town, Kuruman, Mosega, Thaba Nchu, Grahamstown and arrived in what is now KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa in 1837. He ministered to the *amaZulu* at Imfume, to the Voortrekkers at Pietermaritzburg and finally to the *amaZulu*, again, at Inanda where he and his wife founded the Inanda Seminary School for Girls in 1869.

In November 1839, Daniel and Lucy Lindley begot the third of their eleven children, Sarah Adams (1839-1912), in Port Elizabeth. In correspondences, D. Lindley often referred to his children by birth order.

Most likely, the trunk stamped "D. Lindley No. 3" displayed here transported precious belongings in June 1859 when the Lindleys sailed home for their first and only furlough. Following her parents' furlough, Sarah remained in the United States to teach in Rochester, New York. As the third born, Sarah likely inherited trunk "No. 3" as her 'hope chest'. A hope chest preserved special keepsakes in anticipation of a young woman's marriage.

In November 1872, Sarah married Clarence Green Mitchell (1826-1893) in New York. The Mitchells begot Caroline Green, otherwise known as "CGM" (1875-1962), whose initials are stamped on the front of the trunk. In January 1877, D. Lindley had a stroke and by the end of the month lived in Sarah's home on 228 West 38th Street, New York, New York. Highly fragmented scraps of newspaper print dated "August 15, 1877" remain precariously glued to the inside of the trunk. By October 1877, Lucy's health deteriorated, and she wrote in her diary:

---

<sup>1</sup> This section will appear in a published journal article entitled "Shining through the Darkness", with footnoted references.

*Went up to the 3<sup>rd</sup> story to get some things out of a trunk and for a little time a rush of blood came to my head made me almost insensible. I have felt very unwell for several weeks and it seems as if my strength had been greatly reduced.*

The above clues likely place D. Lindley's trunk at the home of Sarah Adams and her two year old daughter Caroline Green in August 1877. Sarah Adams likely bequeathed the trunk to her daughter, Caroline.

Caroline's grandson, the Reverend Daniel Lindley Hatch, received his great-great-grandfather's trunk following the death of his grandmother in 1962. Hatch, who is an ordained minister of the United Church of Christ (a descendent church of the same American Board that Daniel Lindley served), brought the trunk to Honolulu, Hawaii where he served as a pastor.

In 2012, fifty years after receiving the trunk, Hatch organized with Inanda Seminary and Riverside Church of New York City, the return of the Lindley trunk to southern Africa. The trunk sojourned from Hawaii, to California (again), to New York (again), to Johannesburg and, finally, again, to Durban, South Africa.

Daniel Lindley (1801-1880) with his wife, Lucy (1810-1877), journeyed to southern Africa in 1834. In southern Africa, they travelled overland from Cape Town to Griqua Town, Kuruman, Mosega, Thaba Nchu, Grahamstown and arrived in what is now kwaZulu-Natal, South Africa in 1837. He ministered to the *amaZulu* at Imfume, to the Voortrekkers at Pietermaritzburg and finally to the *amaZulu*, again, at Inanda where he and his wife founded the Inanda Seminary School for Girls in 1869.

In November 1839, Daniel and Lucy Lindley begot the third of their eleven children, Sarah Adams (1839-1912), in Port Elizabeth. In correspondences, D. Lindley often referred to his children by birth order.

Most likely, the trunk stamped "D. Lindley No. 3" displayed here transported precious belongings in June 1859 when the Lindleys sailed home for their first and only furlough. Following her parents' furlough, Sarah remained in the United States to teach in Rochester, New York. As the third born, Sarah likely inherited trunk "No. 3" as her 'hope chest'. A hope chest preserved special keepsakes in anticipation of a young woman's marriage.

In November 1872, Sarah married Clarence Green Mitchell (1826-1893) in New York. The Mitchells begot Caroline Green, otherwise known as "CGM" (1875-1962), whose initials are stamped on the front of the trunk. In January 1877, D. Lindley had a stroke and by the end of the month lived in Sarah's home on 228 West 38th Street, New York, New York. Highly fragmented scraps of newspaper print dated "August 15, 1877" remain precariously glued to the inside of the trunk. By October 1877, Lucy's health deteriorated, and she wrote in her diary:

*Went up to the 3<sup>rd</sup> story to get some things out of a trunk and for a little time a rush of blood came to my head made me almost insensible. I have felt very unwell for several weeks and it seems as if my strength had been greatly reduced.*

The above clues likely place D. Lindley's trunk at the home of Sarah Adams and her two year old daughter Caroline Green in August 1877. Sarah Adams likely bequeathed the trunk to her daughter, Caroline.

Caroline's grandson, the Reverend Daniel Lindley Hatch, received his great-great-grandfather's trunk following the death of his grandmother in 1962. Hatch, who is an ordained minister of the United

Church of Christ (a descendent church of the same American Board that Daniel Lindley served), brought the trunk to Honolulu, Hawaii where he served as a pastor.

In 2012, fifty years after receiving the trunk, Hatch organized with Inanda Seminary and Riverside Church of New York City, the return of the Lindley trunk to southern Africa. The trunk sojourned from Hawaii, to California (again), to New York (again), to Johannesburg and, finally, again, to Durban, South Africa.

### **A Document (or rather, a file)**

Nonkululeko Nyembezi-Heita was born, here at Edendale Hospital, Pietermaritzburg on 22 March 1960. Her father was an attorney. Her family was Methodist.

She received her primary school education in the midst of Bantu Education. She came to Inanda Seminary from the township of Clermont. In primary school, grade 6, she achieved position 1 of 245.

She wrote in her application to Inanda Seminary, "With [the] experience that I have now, I have seen that life is difficult without education. I have seen that very low education is poison to other people. I have always admired Inanda Seminary for its results and religious approach". The interviewer documented the following: "Very bright girl. Fluent and verbal. A very good candidate which I have been impressed by".

At Inanda Seminary, she achieved the following results.

June 1973	2 <sup>st</sup> position
December 1973	1 <sup>st</sup> position
June 1974	1 <sup>st</sup> position
December 1974	1 <sup>st</sup> position
June 1975 (Junior Certificate)	1 <sup>st</sup> position
December 1976	1 <sup>st</sup> position
June 1976	1 <sup>st</sup> position
June 1977	1 <sup>st</sup> position

Nyembezi achieved an A Aggregate (science and maths both higher grade), with distinction and ranked the **top student in the Republic of South Africa in her Junior Certificate year**. In 1977, she earned her National Senior Certificate.

In 1978, Nyembezi was Awarded Anglo American Corporation Open Scholarship. She applied for BSc and wished to specialize in Nuclear and Atomic Physics. She was subsequently rejected from University of Natal. The government told to go to Fort Hare or the University of the North.

Ranked by Forbes Magazine ranked Nyembezi 97 of 100 most powerful women in the world (judged by wealth, media presence and overall impact).

Since 2008, Nyembezi has been Chief executive and member of the board at ArcelorMittal SA, Africa's largest steelmaker. Her other portfolios have included: Chief officer for mergers at Vodacom, Chief executive of Alliance Capital Management and Chairperson of Alliance Capital Namibia.

### **An Image**

An image appropriate for this gathering is one from Inanda Seminary's 1982 matriculation dance. Notable in the image are boys, from Hilton College, Kearsney College and Michaelhouse.