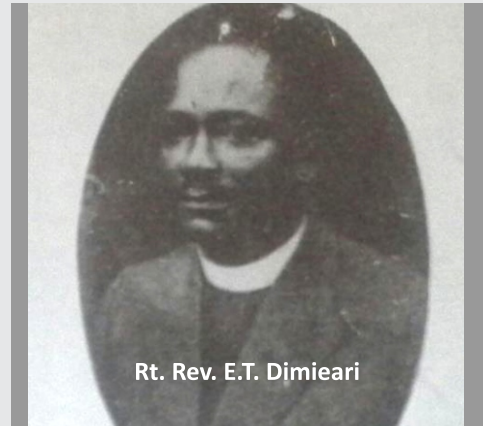




Excerpts from the Book "Bonny Trail Blazers"

By Dr. Leslie M. Green

On April 27th 1952 The Rt. Rev. E.T. Dimieari was enthroned as the inaugural Diocesan of the Niger Delta Diocese. He was the first indigenous Bishop of the Niger Delta.



Rt. Rev. E.T. Dimieari



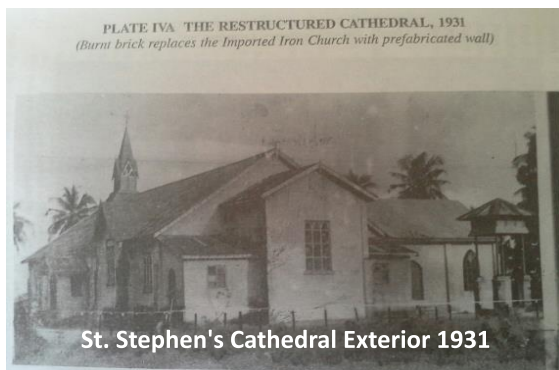
St. Stephen's Cathedral Interior 1887

Interior of St. Stephen's Cathedral in 1887. On January 24, 1889, during a grand occasion of receiving Bishop S.A. Crowther, the Bonny Christians presented their beautiful new church to his lordship as his Cathedral. This the bishop accepted gratuitously, and since then St. Stephen's Church turned out to be the first Cathedral in Nigeria and second in West Africa. The Cathedral was eventually dedicated by the bishop on 27th February, 1889



Rev. Canon T.T Green

Do you know that the first Anglican graduate Priest east of the Niger, was Rev. Canon T.T Green? In 1958 he was selected to study at St. John's College Dunelm, UK. He graduated with a B.A. Honors (ancient history, philosophy and religious studies). This illustrious son of Bonny thus emerged as the first graduate pastor in the Niger Delta Diocese.



St. Stephen's Cathedral Exterior 1931



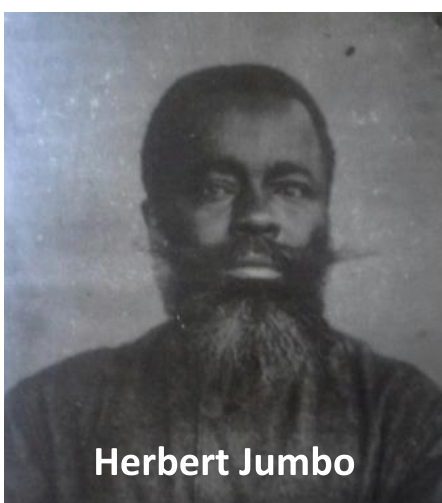
Chief R.T.E. Dappa Wilcox

Chief R.T.E. Dappa Wilcox was born in 1901 at Peterside, Bonny. He was the father of Chief Dappa Biriye. Some of his notable achievements were: Spearheading the formation of the Ijaw people's league in 1943 at Enitonna High School in Port Harcourt. He was elected as the first President General of the Ijaw People's League. He rightly is the father of Ijaw nationalism and Consciousness. He Studied law in the United Kingdom and graduated with an LLB in June 1948, and became the first lawyer of Ijaw ethnic Stock. In 1952 he was made the first Chancellor of the Niger Delta Diocese. He is the first Nigerian to be awarded the Member of Victorian Order (MVO) by the Queen of England. He was the first Chief Magistrate of Ijaw Origin. He later passed to the bosom of the lord On May 8th 1964.

The first Court of equity in Nigeria was Setup in 1854, In Bonny and the first indigenous Chairman of the Court was Chief Adda Allison who took Over from Capt. R.D. Boler.



Chief Adda Allison



Herbert Jumbo

Do you know that the first graduate east of the Niger was a Bonny man? Ijaw people had their pioneer University Graduate in 1856; he was Herbert Jumbo who obtained his degree from the University of London in 1856. Chief Herbert Jumbo was instrumental in the establishment of the Church in Burukiri.



Chief John Jumbo

Chief John Jumbo of Bonny was the second Ijaw University Graduate. He graduated from the University of Durham in 1878.



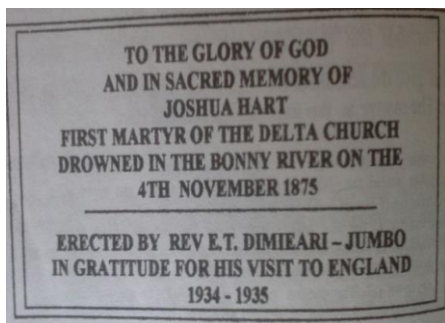
George T. Kurubo

Do you know that the first indigenous head of the Nigerian Air Force was a Bonny man? Named George T. Kurubo who was born at Peterside, Bonny in 1934. He was the Chief of staff of the Nigerian Air force from 1966 to 1967 and was later appointed Nigeria's Ambassador to the then Soviet Union. Before retirement, he attained the rank of Brigadier General. General George Kurubo died in the year 2000.



King William Dappa Pepple

King William Dappa Pepple Was a unique King. He was a shining West African Monarch who introduced Christianity into Bonny and the remotest parts of Eastern Nigeria.

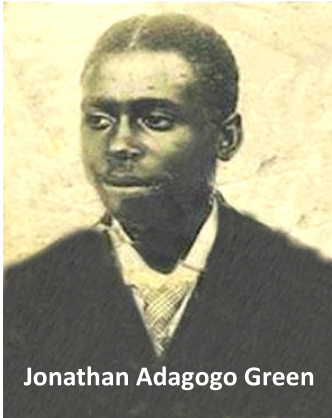


Joshua Hart

Do you know that the first Christian Martyr in the Niger Delta was a Bonny Man in the person of Mr. Joshua Hart?



In 1897 a British Consulate was established in Bonny. It was manned by a District Commissioner, an Assistant, Police Officers, and Officers of the Medical, Marine, Works, and Education Departments. Today a new Bonny Consulate has been built in 2022.



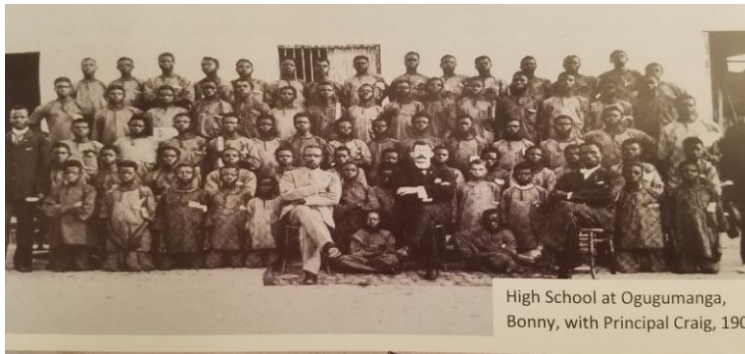
Jonathan Adagogo Green

Do you know that the first professional photographer in Nigeria was born in Bonny, in 1873? He was Jonathan Adagogo Green the son of Chief Sunju Dublin Green, who worked closely with foreign traders and missionaries. His works are in major collections in the British Museum, London; Rhodes House, Oxford; Merseyside Maritime Museum, Liverpool; Unilever Archives, Port Sunlight; Manchester University Museum, Whitworth Art Gallery, Manchester and the National Museum of African Art, in Washington D.C USA.

Queen Kambasa of Bonny was a Nigerian ruler who was the first queen of Bonny and considered the first queen from the Niger Delta. Kambasa was a successor of King Edimini, her father, while her grandfather, King Asimini, was a famous Amanyenabo or ruler in Bonny. Asimini introduced the trade with Europeans in Bonny and created Bonny's first royal line. Prior to Asimini, kingship in Bonny was given to the oldest man, a priest or very important person. She was crowned king when she seized the symbol of kingship, the "Ivory Tusk" and was able to make the king makers crown her. Demonstrating her knowledge of survival politics, she surrounded herself with loyal palace guards. As queen, she created a military unit and served as an arts patron. She is also associated with the cult of the war god, Ikuba.



Queen Kambasa



Ogugumanga High School was established at Bonny in 1890 and was headed by Rev Hugh Stowell Macaulay. That was the first Secondary School in the Eastern part of Nigeria. The school was discontinued after about ten years and the Bonny Government School was established in its place in 1904.

Ogugumanga High School was later to be transferred to become Government College, Umuahia. Before 1909, only two government secondary schools existed in the southern provinces, and these were the Hope Waddell Institute in Calabar and the Ogugumanga Industrial Institute, Bonny.