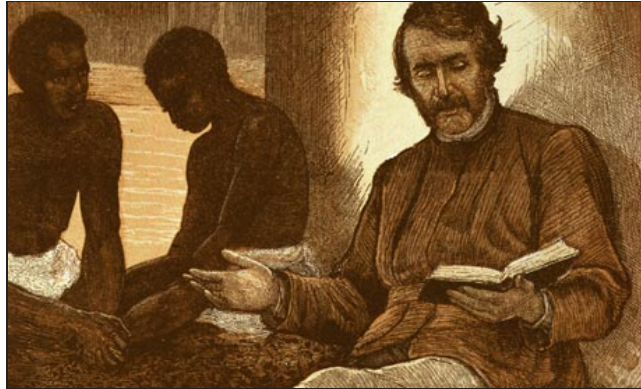


# STORY OF LIVINGSTONE'S COMPANIONS DURING HIS EXPEDITIONS TO AFRICA – CHUMA AND SUSI

By **beste** on November 12, 2017.



## PART 1

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Chuma and Susi were loyal servants of explorer David Livingstone. They came into the limelight after their employer Livingstone died at Chitambo's village (in modern day Zambia). Along with Jacob Wainwright and Methew Wellington, Chuma and Susi decided to carry his body over 1500 km all the way to Bagamoyo (on the coast of modern day Tanzania) where it was handed over to the British authorities and transported to London for burial.

Chuma was only a boy aged 11 when Livingstone and Bishop Charles MacKenzie freed him from slavers on 17th July 1861 along with another boy Wekotani. From that day Livingstone became his 'only family'. He was from the Yao tribe, and probably came from present day Mozambique or Malawi. He started working for the Universities Mission to Central Africa.

In 1864, Livingstone was recalled from his second expedition to Africa. Before returning to Britain, he set sail for India on the HMS Lady Nyassa with Chuma, Susi and Wekotani. Livingstone left them in Bombay in the care of Dr Wilson at the Free Church College to learn English, Hindi and technical skills.

On 11th September 1865, Livingstone returned to India where he sold HMS Lady Nyassa. On 10th December 1865 Chuma and Wekotani were baptised by Dr Wilson in presence of Livingstone as James Chuma and John Wekotani. Livingstone recruited a new crew which included Chuma, Susi and Wekotani. He proceeded to Africa in January 1866 to find the source of the Nile on his last expedition.

Susi had joined Livingstone in 1863 at Chupanga in present day Mozambique when he was employed to cut wood on Livingstone's Second expedition. In about 1867/8 Wekotani decided to marry and settle in Chief Mponda's village. He left Livingstone's service who presented him with a cloth, a flint gun and some paper to write to Horace Waller.

On 10th November 1871, Livingstone met Henry Morton Stanley at Ujiji. On 14th March 1872 they parted and went their different ways.

Livingstone was left with only 5 employees at this time. Stanley sent him 55 new men all paid for 2 years in advance. Amongst them were Jacob Wainwright and Methew Wellington, freed slaves also educated in Dr. Wilson's Free Church College at Nasik, India.

Just over a year later, Dr. Livingstone died on 1st May 1873 at Chitambo in what is present day Zambia. His heart was put in a tin and buried under a Mpundu tree. Jacob Wainwright said a prayer and read from the bible. Chuma and Susi took charge and all Livingstone's possessions were accounted and recorded by Wainwright in Livingstone's Journal after Livingstone's last entry.

Chuma, Susi, Wainwright and Wellington along with the remaining members of Livingstone's crew preserved Livingstone's body by rubbing salt and leaving it in the sun for 2 weeks. The body was then prepared and carried over 1500km to Bagamoyo for 9 months along with all Livingstone's possessions and in February 1874 handed over to a British Consul to ship to Britain. Jacob Wainwright accompanied the remains to the UK.

Chuma and Susi were dismissed and their expenses paid.

In 1874, after Livingstone's burial, James 'Paraffin' Young paid for Chuma and Susi to travel to England. With the information they provided, Livingstone's last book was published which included the information of his final days, death and what happened thereafter.