

31 January

**Fr JOHN TEMMING** 29 February 1856 – 31 January 1894

Born in Laer, Germany, John Temming entered the Society in 1881. He was in Kalkfontein in 1885 and again in 1891-94. In the meantime he had been at Vleeschfontein (1886-89). During these years, he spent time in Shoshong where he studied Sechuana and Chiswina (Shona), for he met a Shona young man there and persuaded him to teach him the language. His notes on the languages helped both Prestage and Hartmann who used his notes when he first arrive in 'Arari' (Harari). He did publish a book on Setchuana but nothing on Chishina (Shona).

He tried to go to Mashonaland and went to Gubulawayo with this in mind. But if he had consulted Prestage first, he would have known that Lobengula would not allow it. He had to return back to Vleeschfontein. But he seems to have been the first missionary to make first steps in Shona.

He helped the German Jesuits on their way when they came as group to build Chishawasha in the early 1890s and told them to take anything from the mission which they thought they might need later. He sent up supplies in 1893 just before the outbreak of the war with the Ndebele.