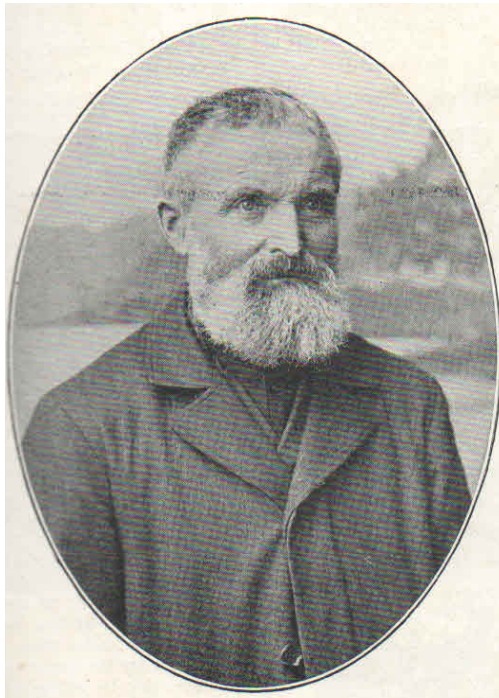


2 February



Br FRANCIS de SADELEER

8 December 1844 – 2 February 1922

Born in Lede, Holland, Francis de Sadeleer was one of the original eleven who made their way up by ox-wagon to Old Tati and Bulawayo. He was then one of the four, with Frs Law and Wehl and Br Hedley, who were chosen for the mission to Mzila's in the SE of Zimbabwe.

The story has often been told how they set out by ox-wagon in May, 1880, heading NE at first to avoid the Lowveld and the fly and how they had to cross many rivers flowing SE off the plateau. Often there were no paths and they

had to cut down trees to allow the wagon to proceed. At one point, Wehl disappeared and they thought he might have been killed. Law decided to leave the wagon with a local person and proceed on foot. They reached Mzila's but they were exhausted with fever. The king did not understand their purpose and told them to retrieve the wagon.

Only de Sadeleer was well enough to attempt this and on his way, he heard Wehl was alive. They met at the wagon which was untouched. Meanwhile Law had died and Hedley, though in a terrible state, decided to go back to the wagon. He had to be carried most of the way. All three met there and decided Hedley would stay with the wagon and recover while the others would head for the coast to get new supplies. When they reached Sofala, Wehl, who was exhausted, died and de Sadeleer made his way back to join Hedley and the two brothers made their way back to Bulawayo arriving on 1 October 1881, eighteen months after they set out.

De Sadeleer was in Tati in 1883 and Pandamatenga in 1885. In 1886, he went to Dunbrody. He joined the mission to the Congo in 1893 and returned to Belgium in 1906. He became blind in his old age and died in 1922.

Eddie Murphy says there is a book written on him by E Verwimp, *30 years n the African Wilds*.