

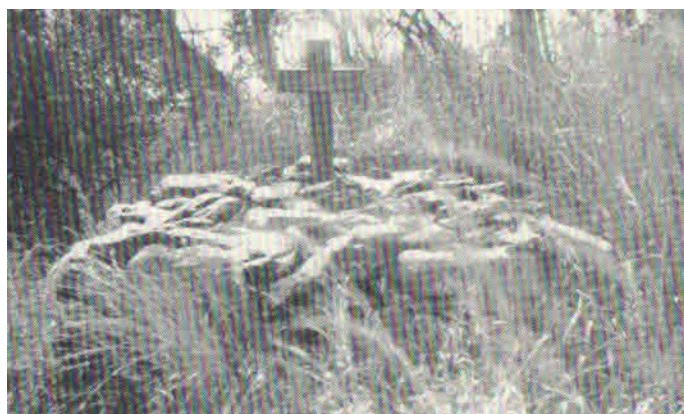
June 21

Fr BARTHOLOMEW KROOT

22 October 1847 – 21 June 1885

Born in Zwalle, Holland, Bartholomew Kroot entered the Society in 1871. In 1882 he arrived at Old Tati and the following year wrote a pessimistic letter to Weld telling him of Br DeVylder's drowning, Fr Weisskoph's death of fever and the frustrations of Fr Berghegge with the Barotsi. There is 'no hope, no prospect whatever'.

Kroot himself with Booms quarrelled with Westbeeck, the trader/owner of Pandamatenga, over some land at Pandamatenga and this seems to have turned Westbeeck against the Jesuits and frustrated their going to the Barotsi. Kroot continued: In Tati, Prestage is just a postmaster and in Bulawayo Croonenberghs can do no more than Prestage. At Pandamatenga, Lobengula blocks us and our relations with the white traders is precarious. And now Depelchin wants to buy Vleeschfontein at an inflated price and there is no



house, not even a tree and water is scarce in winter.

In 1885 his health deteriorated and he went to Bulawayo to recover but died there. His grave is near the original house and can still be seen there (photo).