

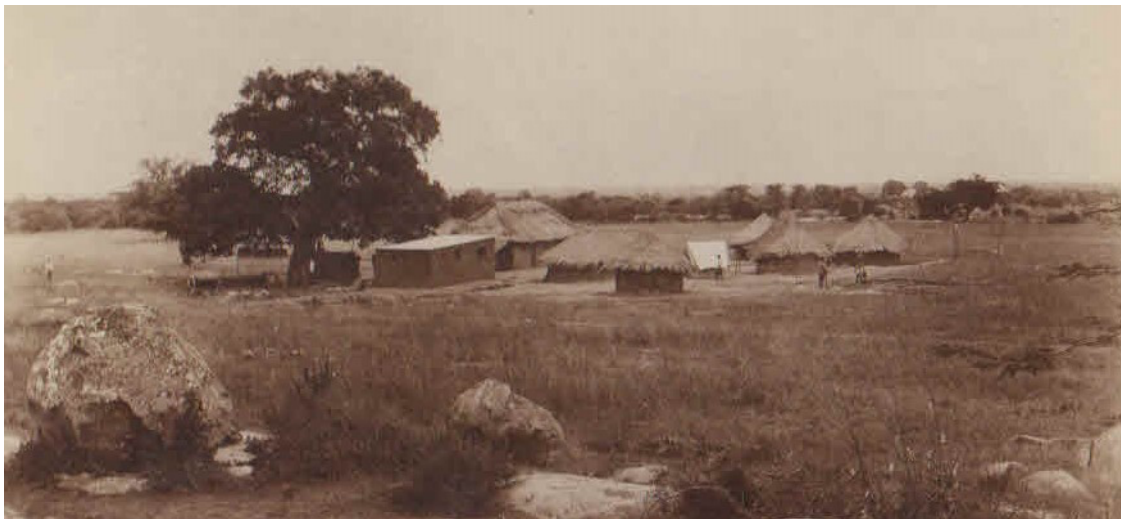
27 October

**Br JOHN BARBERA** 19 September 1860 – 27 October 1993



Born in Veruela, John Barbera heard of Fr Weld, sought him out and offered himself for the Zambezi Mission. He then joined the Society in Spain in 1882 and by 1885 he was in Mopea. But like with so many, his health began to suffer in the climate of the Lower Zambezi and he was sent to the healthier St Aidan's, Dunbrody and Keilands. In these three places he was 'kept busy' – that is all we are told - for twenty - three years. His training before joining the Jesuits was as a 'wood dyer', but he added all the skills brothers did in those days, usually described as 'everything', *ad omnia*.

In 1909, he crossed the Limpopo and spent the next twenty-four years in Gokomere with brief stays in Chishawasha. Mazondo was the first site of the mission that became Gokomere but as in so many places – All Souls Mutoko, St Michael's Mhondoro – the first site proved unhealthy. 'Sand, swamps and rock' were everywhere and the river ran dry in the dry season - and there were no people! The mission was closed in 1900 and a new site, three miles distant originally suggested by Prestage but rejected at the time, was chosen and Br Barbera was there from 1909 building the new mission. The picture shows the mission as it was in 1913.



27 October

18 September 1860 – 27 October 1933

**Br. António João BARBERA**

He was born on September 18, 1860 in Forcall, Castellón, Spain and entered the Society of Jesus on February 2, 1882. He worked in the mission of Mopeia (Mozambique) between 1884 and 1885 and then went to Grahamstown. He took his final vows on February 2, 1893. He died in Chishawasha, Rhodesia, on October 27, 1933.