

21 December

Br HENRY MEYER

17 March 1858 – 21 December 1899



Henry Meyer was born in Buren in Westphalia, Germany, and was 32 when he joined the Society in 1890. He was part of the German group that came out to found Chishawasha and he worked there for seven years. He was an expert carpenter but

also a mason, gardener, cook and could help on the farm. When the Mission was attacked in the *Chimurenga*, the 1896 rising against the settlers, he nursed a wounded assailant back to health and also spoke to him about the Christian faith. In the confusion when the troops arrived from Salisbury to relieve the mission, this man was shot and killed and Henry and others were deeply shocked. The man asked for baptism before he died.

Henry Meyer was a tall strong man. There are stories of him moving beams and boulders that others could not shift. But he could not withstand the dreaded fever when he was moved to Mzondo, near Fort Victoria (Masvingo), to build the mission there. He brushed off concerns for his failing health but eventually it was obvious he was very ill. He was taken to the hospital in the town but there was nothing they could do. Blackwater fever claimed yet another of our early missionaries.

The picture is of the first chapel and community house at Chishawasha, built in Br Meyer's time.