

27 December

Fr ANDREW HARTMANN 16 December 1851 – 27 December 1928



Andrew Hartmann's family fled the autocracy of Frederick the Great's Prussia to settle in milder Salzburg, Austria, and he was born there in Lofer. He was ordained a priest in 1879 and applied three times to enter the Society before being accepted in 1884. His first posting was to Quilimane on the Mozambique coast, but he nearly died there of the fever

and was quickly sent to Dunbrody. When Prestage succeeded in establishing Empandeni, Hartmann joined him there in 1887. On arrival his large umbrella caused a sensation. Nothing like it had been seen before. But they had to withdraw at the beginning of 1890 until, six months later, he was appointed chaplain to the Pioneer column. One of his fellow columnists remarked on 'this little man (he was 5ft 4in) who looks like a trader but is a Jesuit.' Hartman got on well with them and some of them came to his funeral nearly forty years later.

As soon as they reached what they called Fort Salisbury, Hartmann built three large huts which proved invaluable as a hospital when some of the pioneers came down with fever. The Dominicans had not yet arrived but he did his best for the sick procuring milk, chickens, eggs and brandy for them. But he was not quiet in the east and the troopers had to go there and he went with them. During his time there, he thought of building the first mission at Mutoko but was later dissuaded. The people were disappointed as he had built up good relations with them in a short time. When things settled, he set out for Salisbury but the carriage broke down and they had to walk from Odzi. He suffered 18 attacks of fever and was sent to the Cape to recover. While there he saw through the press his *Outline of Shona Grammar*, possibly the first book ever in the country? He followed it up in 1894 with an *English Shona Dictionary*.

In 1896 he was again chaplain to the troops at the time of the Ndebele rising and when things settled Prestage 'kidnapped' him for the reopened Empandeni Mission. Prestage had persuaded the Ndebele chiefs in that area to keep out of the Rising. Once again in 1899 Hartmann was called to serve as chaplain when the Boer War broke out but he was soon relieved. He spent 28 years at Empandeni. Towards the end of his life he retired to Hartmann Hill where St

George's had relocated. His health deteriorated and he told those around him before Christmas, 'I am going, going - but not quite gone', as he did not want the Christmas season to be interrupted by his death. He waited for two days.

In the *Zimbabwe Mission Record* there are 10 segments spread over two volumes which record his reminiscences. There are ample sources for a life of Hartmann.

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Born in Lofer, Sazburg, Austria, on December 16, 1851, he entered the Society of Jesus on May 16, 1884. He was sent to the Zambezia Mission and arrived in Quelimane in 1886. Then, he was sent to the residence of Sena. He invited other Jesuits to the mission but when they arrived in Mopeia, he fell very ill and had to go to Cape Town. He took his final vows on August 15, 1894. He did remarkable work in the Upper Zambezia. He died on December 27, 1928, in Salisbury, Rhodesia.

(Cf. *Catalogus Defunctorum in renata Societate Iesu ab a. 1814 ad a. 1970*)